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Lingua publica

The good and the bad...presented with permission from [The Patriot E-Journal](#)

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"I doubt whether there are many Americans who think Congress has either the right or competency to choose where they live, what clothes they wear or what cars they drive. Yet many Americans stand ready to allow Congress to decide what doctors they go to and what treatments they receive. We forget that once we have government-sponsored health care, it can be used to justify almost any restraint on liberty." --economist Walter E. Williams

"The president claims that we must pass a government-run health insurance program -- possibly the most wide-ranging and intricate government undertaking in decades -- yesterday or a 'ticking time bomb' will explode. If all this terrifying talk sounds familiar, it might be because the president applies the same fear-infused vocabulary to nearly all his hard-to-defend policy positions. You'll remember the stimulus plan had to be passed without a second's delay or we would see 8.7 percent unemployment. We're almost at 10." --columnist David Harsanyi

"Even if the 'stimulus' package doesn't seem to be doing much to stimulate the economy, it is certainly stimulating many potential recipients of government money to start lining up at the trough. All you need is something that sounds like a 'good thing' and the ability to sell the idea." --economist Thomas Sowell

"[T]he unifying constant of [Obama's] domestic policies -- their connecting thread -- is that they advance the Democrats' dependency agenda. The party of government aims to make Americans more equal by making them equally dependent on government for more and more things." --columnist George Will

"While doctrinaire socialists might feel betrayed by liberalism's cozy embrace of big business, their betrayal pales in comparison to the bitterness of free-marketers who defend big business's freedom to operate, only to see these businesses use that freedom to hide behind the skirts of the nanny state. Real freedom means the freedom to fail as well as succeed. Big business wants to be protected from the former and deny competitors the latter. And their betrayal, more than anything, disheartens those who would defend both freedoms." --columnist Jonah Goldberg

"We can debate endlessly whether the Constitution authorizes any president to 'overhaul' the financial system. But I want to focus on a different matter: whether any president, with all his advisers, is *capable* of overseeing something as complex as the financial system. My answer is no, and it is ominous that a bright guy like Obama

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doesn't know this. He thinks he must regulate the system *because* it is so complicated and important. In fact, those are the reasons why he cannot regulate it, and should not try." --columnist John Stossel

"[T]he honeymoon is coming to an end for President Obama, but it's not personal, it's professional, as now the public appears to be judging the president on some of his actions. And right now, there's a growing concern about the budget deficit and some of this government interaction into the economy on things like GM. Five months into office, President Obama is now dealing with a public that is judging him more and more for the actions he's taking, and not just the promises he's made." --NBC's Chuck Todd

"It is not an infomercial. ABC News does not do that." --ABC's Diane Sawyer on ABC's health care infomercial for Obamacare last Wednesday night

"Howard Dean [is] the man who really laid out the path for Barack Obama. He was the St. John the Baptist, I'd say, leading for that fellow, not to make any further reference there to the Deity." --MSNBC's Chris Matthews

"In this fatherless world, where did you learn to love? ...[E]very parent in the country is watching your every move as a parent." --CBS's Harry Smith to Obama

"Now, the public [health care] plan, I think, is an important tool to discipline insurance companies. ...[I]f what the insurance companies are saying is true, that they're doing their best to serve their customers ... they should be able to compete." --President Barack Obama

"The international capitalist order is retreating... It is absolutely obvious that the age of empires has ended and its revival will not take place." --Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his own re-election

"What Obama needs is a rapid return to peace and quiet in Iran, not continued ferment. His goal must be to deflate the opposition, not to encourage it. And that, by and large, is what he has been doing." --Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Robert Kagan

"And then I saw the end of the [Vietnam] war. I saw us pull out, and then I saw the communists move in and slaughter two and a half million people in South Vietnam and Cambodia. And I saw the left that had precipitated this turn away, just walk away from it. ... They didn't take seriously the blood that they had been directly causing. ... But I must say programming is very, very deep. And I didn't really pull out of it for quite a while afterward. But that's where the dime dropped and things started to happen." --actor Jon Voight on why he became a conservative

"Having the government compete against the private sector is kind of like my seven-year-old daughter's lemonade stand competing against McDonalds." --Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI)

"You know, most people, when they read '1984,' were scared. When Barack Obama read it, he started taking notes." --radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh

"Whether it is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Weather Underground, Central Park rapists, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Jim Jones and the People's Temple, welfare recipients, Palestinian terrorists, murderers, abortionists, strippers or common criminals -- liberals always take the side of the enemies of civilization against civilization. In the view of The New York

Times, every criminal trial is a shocking miscarriage of justice -- except the ones that actually are shocking miscarriages of justice." --columnist Ann Coulter

"The polite explanation for Barack Obama's diffidence on Iran is that he doesn't want to give the mullahs the excuse to say the Great Satan is meddling in Tehran's affairs. So the president's official position is that he's modestly encouraged by the regime's supposed interest in investigating some of the allegations of fraud. Also, he's heartened to hear that OJ is looking for the real killers." --columnist Mark Steyn

"The Pentagon deployed missile interceptors to Honolulu on Friday after reports that the North Koreans are planning to fire a missile at Hawaii. The president's birthplace is safe. It'll take them ten years to build a missile that can reach Kenya." --comedian Argus Hamilton

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"I think the irony ... is that I actually would like to see a relatively light touch when it comes to the government." --Barack Obama

"If Obama candidly said he is trying to put America on the path to government-run health care, it would excite exactly the sort of massive national grassroots opposition needed to kill his plan. So what Obama is doing is paving a one-way street to a socialized medicine while expressly denying he is doing so -- and while accusing those who point out what he is doing of being untruthful." --columnist Terence Jeffrey

"It's hard to know whether President Obama's health care 'reform' is naive, hypocritical or simply dishonest. Probably all three. The president keeps saying it's imperative to control runaway health spending. He's right. The trouble is that what's being promoted as health care 'reform' almost certainly won't suppress spending and, quite probably, will do the opposite." --columnist Robert Samuelson

"A government bureaucracy controlling your medical care is likely to combine the efficiency of the post office with the compassion of the IRS. Imagine a trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles -- but to secure lifesaving treatment for yourself, a spouse or child, rather than simply to obtain a driver's license. What a nightmare." --columnist Carol Platt Liebau

"Only a Washington economist can argue with a straight face that providing quality health care to 46 million Americans who are now uninsured and assert it will save 'between \$75 billion and \$125 billion per year.' Folks, that's how government and deficits keep getting bigger." --columnist Debra Saunders

"The problem in the next four years will be not just that the president of the United States serially does not tell the truth. Instead, the real crisis in our brave new relativist world will be that those who demonstrate that he is untruthful will themselves be accused of lying." --columnist Victor Davis Hanson

"What can we expect as far as accuracy, because we have our own problems, Florida in 2000." --CNN's Don Lemon on the election mess in Iran

"I think the White House shouldn't say anything, and the reason being is because of what happened in 2000 when Bush stole the election. Who are we to judge Iran?" --radio talk-show host Warren Ballentine

"I think we should figure out how to make [health care] budget-neutral. But we can't let this argument about paying for it get in the way of getting the thing done."

--Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne

"What a relief to have an urbane, cultivated, curious president who's out and about, engaged in the world. Not dangerously detached, as W. was, or darkly stewing like Cheney. Not hanging with the Rat Pack like J.F.K. or getting bored and up to mischief like Bill Clinton. ... Date on and tee it up, Mr. President. It's O.K. if they're teed off."

--New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd

"Republicans are honing an attack line against President Barack Obama in an attempt to play on Americans' fears of government overreach and economic uncertainties, suggesting he is nationalizing American industry and socializing medicine." --Associated Press writer Tom Raum

"Barack Obama is not a socialist -- he's not even a liberal. ...[T]his country needs a left wing. It doesn't have it, and part of the reason is the media." --HBO's Bill Maher

"I really don't think fear of socialism is gripping Americans by the throat. I think there's a feeling in some ways that the government was asleep at the switch for the past eight years. I think people see steps taken by Obama as a healthy compensation for that inactivity." --Rutgers University political scientist Ross Baker

"With my academic achievement in high school I was accepted rather readily at Princeton and equally as fast at Yale, but my test scores were not comparable to that of my classmates. And that's been shown by statistics, there are reasons for that -- there are cultural biases built into testing, and that was one of the motivations for the concept of affirmative action to try to balance out those effects." --Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor

"I think [Dick Cheney] smells some blood in the water on the national-security issue. It's almost, a little bit, gallows politics. When you read behind it, it's almost as if he's wishing that this country would be attacked again, in order to make his point." --CIA director Leon Panetta

"I hope my old friend Leon was misquoted. The important thing is whether the Obama administration will continue the policies that have kept us safe for the last eight years." --former Vice President Dick Cheney

"Governments can't even count votes accurately -- or deliver the mail efficiently. Yet now, somehow, government will run auto companies and guarantee us health care better than private firms? And the public seems eager for that!" --"20/20" co-anchor John Stossel

"The first thing is not to call it socialized medicine. Reform is much easier on the ear. The second thing is to get it enacted fast. The third thing is to call opponents naysayers. The fourth thing (although not officially recommended) might be to regret the first three things. But then it will be too late." --columnist Jack Markowitz

"On a more serious front, I sincerely hope that when the president goes in for his annual check-up, the doctors at Bethesda will do a brain scan. Surely something must be terribly wrong with a man who seems to be far more concerned with a Jew building a house in Israel than with Muslims building a nuclear bomb in Iran." --columnist Burt

Prelutsky

"One notes that, even in Somalia, which still has high childhood mortality, not to mention a state of permanent civil war, functioning government has entirely collapsed and yet life expectancy has increased from 49 to 55. Maybe if government were to collapse entirely in Washington, our life expectancy would show equally remarkable gains. Just thinking outside the box here." --columnist Mark Steyn

"Let me also address an illegitimate concern that's being put forward by those who are claiming a public option is somehow a Trojan Horse for a single-payer system. I'll be honest: There are countries where a single-payer system works pretty well. But I believe -- and I've taken some flak from members of my own party for this belief -- that it's important for our efforts to build on our traditions here in the United States. So when you hear the naysayers claim that I'm trying to bring about government-run health care, know this: They're not telling the truth." --President Barack Obama to the American Medical Association

"It's hard to know whether President Obama's health care 'reform' is naive, hypocritical or simply dishonest. Probably all three. The president keeps saying it's imperative to control runaway health spending. He's right. The trouble is that what's being promoted as health care 'reform' almost certainly won't suppress spending and, quite probably, will do the opposite." --Washington Post columnist Robert Samuelson

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"The reckless fiscal policies of the past have left us in a very deep hole. Digging our way out will take time and patience and tough choices." --Barack Obama, who is simply quadrupling the reckless fiscal policies of the past

"Let me be very clear: A lower job-rate loss [sic] is not our goal. 'Less bad' is not how we're going to measure success. ... To sum it up: Encouraging signs, but a long, long way to go." --Joe "Tell it like it is" Biden

"America identifies with the underdog, and you've been an underdog many times in your life, but always the top dog."--Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to Judge Sonia Sotomayor

"I looked around our world and I thought, you know, we are in just so many deep holes that everybody had better grab a shovel and start digging out."--Hillary Clinton explaining why she took the job as secretary of state

"'Saved or created' has become the signature phrase for Barack Obama as he describes what his stimulus is doing for American jobs. ... Of course, the inability to measure Mr. Obama's jobs formula is part of its attraction. Never mind that no one -- not the Labor Department, not the Treasury, not the Bureau of Labor Statistics -- actually measures 'jobs saved.' As the New York Times delicately reports, Mr. Obama's jobs claims are 'based on macroeconomic estimates, not an actual counting of jobs.' Nice work if you can get away with it. And get away with it he has." --columnist William McGurn

"The idea that fewer people are losing jobs than might otherwise have because of the stimulus is, well, silly -- and in no way based in any kind of rational or serious analysis of the labor market or any other economic discipline I ever studied." --Institute for Liberty senior fellow Peter Roff

"[President] Obama's rhetoric brims with inconsistencies. In the campaign, he claimed he would de-emphasize partisanship -- and also enact a highly partisan agenda; both couldn't be true. He got a pass. Now, he claims he will control health-care spending even though he proposes more government spending. He promotes 'fiscal responsibility' when projections show huge and continuous budget deficits. Journalists seem to take his pronouncements at face value even when many are two-faced." --columnist Robert Samuelson

"Washington's 'rescue' of GM began because GM is 'too big to fail,' and bankruptcy is (well, was) 'unthinkable.' Big? GM's market capitalization, \$375.8 million on Wednesday, is about the size of California Pizza Kitchen's (\$340 million) -- is *it* too big to fail? -- and one-eleventh that of Harley-Davidson (\$4.3 billion). Fail? If GM has not already failed, New Coke was a success." --columnist George Will

"At a stroke, the administration has endorsed 'the Muslim world's' view of those non-Muslims who happen to find themselves within what it regards as lands belonging to Islam: the Jewish and Christian communities are free to stand still or shrink, but not to grow. Would Obama be comfortable mandating 'no natural growth' to Israel's million-and-a-half Muslims? No. But the administration has embraced 'the Muslim world's' commitment to one-way multiculturalism, whereby Islam expands in the West but Christianity and Judaism shrivel remorselessly in the Middle East." --columnist Mark Steyn

"Mr. Obama's revelation of his 'inner Muslim' in Cairo reveals much about who he is. He is our first president without an instinctive appreciation of the culture, history, tradition, common law and literature whence America sprang. The genetic imprint writ large in his 43 predecessors is missing from the Obama DNA. ... The great Cairo grovel accomplished nothing beyond the humiliation of the president and the embarrassment of his constituents, few of whom share his need to put America on its knees before its enemies. No president before him has ever shamed us so. We must never forget it." --columnist Wesley Pruden

"I would not be surprised if the official end of the U.S. recession ends up being, in retrospect, dated sometime this summer. Things seem to be getting worse more slowly. There's some reason to think that we're stabilizing. ... [Even with a recovery], almost surely unemployment will keep rising for a long time and there's a lot of reason to think that the world economy is going to stay depressed for an extended period." --New York Times columnist and former Enron advisor Paul Krugman

"What can the Israelis learn from your visit to Buchenwald and what should they be thinking about their treatment of Palestinians?" --NBC's Tom Brokaw to Barack Obama

"I mean in a way Obama's standing above the country, above -- above the world, he's sort of God." --Evan Thomas

"But then came the economic crisis of 2008 and 2009, and it became clear that the new Western model was an illusion that benefited chiefly the very rich. Statistics show that the poor and the middle class saw little or no benefit from the economic growth of the past decades. ... The model that emerged during the final decades of the 20th century has turned out to be unsustainable." --former Soviet dictator Mikhail Gorbachev

"What a torture it must be for such pretty people to have to see such ugly things. That's

what happens when you view the world and apparently hear the world through s**t-colored glasses." --Comedy Central's Jon Stewart on viewers of Fox News

"Democrats brazenly take policy positions -- think government services and even amnesty for illegal immigrants -- not because they are the right thing to do, but because they are time-tested demographic bribes. Forget cigarettes and beer, Democrats would distribute needles, methadone, medical marijuana and biscotti in voter goodie bags if they could get away with it." --columnist Andrew Breitbart

"The global political class has always suffered from an excess of immaturity, but every generation or so, political immaturity explodes like a star in its death throes and vaporizes everything in its vicinity." --Cato Institute senior fellow Richard W. Rahn

"Washington mandates that Detroit build cars for which there is much less demand than Washington demands that there be." --columnist George Will

"On the eve of the GM bankruptcy filing an enterprising reporter called around to some big New York ad agencies and asked, 'If you were pitching the GM account, what would be your suggested slogan?' My favorite was: 'You own the company. Why not drive the car?'" --political analyst Rich Galen

"President Obama left his family in Paris Sunday and returned to Washington. He said he wanted to put his personal touch on the health care legislation. That means getting every person to merge with Fiat, run on batteries, and bleed cash." --humorist Argus Hamilton

"You created a situation where you cannot be wrong. If the economy loses 2 million jobs over the next few years, you can say yes, but it would've lost 5.5 million jobs." -- Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on the administration's claims to have "saved jobs"

"Them Jews aren't going to let him talk to me. I told my baby daughter that he'll talk to me in five years when he's a lame duck, or in eight years when he's out of office. ... They will not let him to talk to somebody who calls a spade what it is." -- Jeremiah Wright on whether's he spoken to Barack Obama recently

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"Difficult days lie ahead. More jobs will be lost. More plants will close. More dealerships will shut their doors and so will many parts suppliers. But I want you to know that what you're doing is making a sacrifice for the next generation." --Barack Obama, who promised hope and change

"This man is extremely smart -- he can communicate. But the best part of Barack Obama is his heart is bigger than any heart in the world." --Sen. Harry Reid

"This week, the president [declared], 'What we are not doing -- what I have no interest in doing -- is running GM.' It was during the same speech in which he announced that the federal government was forcing GM into bankruptcy, deciding what creditors should get (regardless of what bankruptcy law says), and taking a 60 percent stake in the company." --columnist Jacob Sullum

"Obama is fond of calling upon Americans to make sacrifices -- or rather, he is fond of forcing Americans into sacrificing themselves at a time and place of his choosing.

Heroic sacrifice requires volunteerism, or at least an element of extraordinary choice; Obama's sort of sacrifice ... names the time and the place, and you are expected to put your neck on the altar." --columnist Ben Shapiro

"The Constitution of the United States set out to limit the powers of the federal government, but judges have greatly eroded those limitations over the years, and the dispensing of bailout money has allowed the Obama administration to exercise powers that the Constitution never bestowed." --economist Thomas Sowell

"By definition, government that works will be limited because government will not reach into areas in which it has no constitutional business." --columnist Cal Thomas

"When government gets this intertwined with the private sector, when it makes decisions not based on neutral economic criteria but by what is at best guesswork about the allocation and valuation of vast amounts of capital, bailout favoritism and crony capitalism are inevitable." --political analyst Michael Barone

"We are a nation of laws. Lawless violence breeds only more lawless violence. ... By word and deed, let us teach that violence against abortionists is not the answer to the violence of abortion. Every human life is precious." --Princeton University professor Robert P. George

"The anti-abortion group Operation Rescue denounced the killing, but today its founder, Randall Terry, fueled the fire. ... On the Internet, questions from critics of commentator Bill O'Reilly about his blunt remarks regarding abortion and Dr. Tiller." --NBC's Janet Shamlian

"It takes about two months for [law] students to figure out that judges make law, and the next two and a half years to figure out how and why to make the best case for your version of it. But don't tell anyone that around Supreme Court confirmation time." --columnist Susan Estrich

"The White House says that the stimulus plan is already starting to have an effect on job creation. And they listed a bunch of the jobs in their new report, '100 Days, 100 Projects.' ... Critics have long said the administration overstates the impact of the stimulus. ... Without question, the stimulus is having an affect on some job creations." --ABC's Jake Tapper parroting the White Hosue

"I think that President Obama is the greatest president in the history of all of our presidents and that he can do no wrong in my book. ... Everything you ask me about President Obama I'm just going to say it's the greatest thing ever. I love the guy!" --actor Denis Leary

"The president has the right to select who he wants [for the Supreme Court]. [He] doesn't have to get it cleared from Congress, Senate or anybody... No president before this has come under this kind of scrutiny ... before the committee hearings even begin." --Air America radio host Montel Williams

"The great thing about not being president anymore is I can say whatever I want, about anything. Of course [now], nobody really cares what I say. And now I have the worst of all worlds -- my wife has become the secretary of state, so no one really cares what I say -- unless I mess up." --Bill Clinton

"President Obama said Monday the U.S. won't be involved in GM operations. He swore he doesn't want to run a car company. The next day the dashboard warning light in my Buick came on telling me to check the engine and turn off Rush Limbaugh or else."
--humorist Argus Hamilton

"Ever since last November, many Americans have been ready for free health care, free day care, free college, free mortgages -- and, once you get a taste for that, it's hardly surprising you're not ready for gainful employment." --Mark Steyn

"I believe [Osama bin Laden is] still out there someplace. I'm sure the current administration will continue to search for him. ... The important thing is that I don't think he can have much impact in terms of managing an organization because that link between Obama [sic] and the people under him is pretty fragile. I don't think he has the capacity to do as much harm as he did at one point, but we ought to still continue to chase him." --former Vice President Dick Cheney confusing (wink, wink) Obama with Osama

"Dick Cheney clearly drives the liberal media nuts. As much as they'd like to bask in the glow of the new and glorious Obama Era, they simply cannot achieve that requisite state of Nirvana with Cheney around. They spent eight long years packaging Cheney as some evil and deadly combination of Darth Vader and the Ebola virus. Now they can add to the descriptors a new title: Count Dracula. The man refuses to die." --Media Research Center founder and president Brent Bozell

"At a fundraiser in Beverly Hills, people paid \$30,000 to attend a dinner and a discussion with President Barack Obama. The subject of the discussion? The struggling economy." -- Jay Leno

"Congress gave broad authority to the administration to use TARP funds and specifically authorized them to be used with respect to the automobile companies."
--House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), who back in March stated, "The administration clearly believes it does have the authority to use some of the remaining TARP funds for the automobile industry. ...I don't know technically where that authority would be."

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