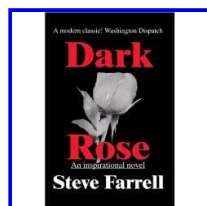


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[Paul Ryan's Path to Prosperity, Part 2](#)

April 10, 2011

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By Ellie Velinska

Harry Reid's cherry blossoms are another man's pollen allergies. There is nothing partisan about it. People are different.

Some people do not want to pay any new taxes until the federal government shows ability to balance a budget. Some Americans are not ready to deal with entitlement reform until they see the corporate welfare gone. Before they tax us or take away our benefits Washington DC bureaucracy should get their act together.

Paul Ryan's 2012 budget proposal has already been called 'Reaganomics', which is strange because most of it was inspired by Alice Rivlin who is a great economist, but she was famous for attacking the Reaganomics at the time. So forgive my skepticism about the label. Reagan was for smaller, less intrusive federal government and Ryan's Path does cut some bureaucracy, but the best plan so far for downsizing the Gov comes from [Cato Institute](#). They analyze department after department, identifying waste and problematic practices. To qualify as Reaganomics the plan should be less Rivlin, more Cato.

The progressive solutions for the Social Security referred in the Ryan's plan will further incentivize the people to expect their dream retirement to come from the government instead of planning for it. David Cameron's reform of the British pensions makes much more sense. He killed bunch of bureaucracies that were asking the seniors to produce tons of paperwork and created a flat pension instead. Everybody of certain age, rich or poor will get the same pension that is enough for people not to starve but not big enough to pay for cruise vacation. Simple is the enemy of the bureaucracy.

Americans can't even find out if there is money in the Social Security trust fund. Ryan's idea of tailoring the social security checks according to the individual's wealth and specific needs seems like a dream come true for bureaucrats demanding proof of income, calculating how much you need, what your targeted help might be and since Obama keeps moving down the threshold for 'who is rich' many may be surprised that the government views them as wealthy.

Paul Ryan makes an attempt to save Medicare in his Path. The real problem with the program is not financial, but moral. Long time ago many women stayed home taking care of kids and the elderly. After the ladies claimed their 'freedom' and the government invented Medicare Part A (that covers 100% of any hospital stay) Americans began to outsource the care for the elderly to professionals. Today all the revenues collected from the Medicare payroll tax are gobbled by the Part A program. Politicians are looking for a polite way to push the families to participate with greater share where possible in the care for America's seniors.

Glenn Beck would probably say: America, it is time to make room for mom and dad at home again. Everybody would say that he is crazy, racist, hates women, children and planet Earth. Instead, half of the nation is applauding President Obama. ObamaCare is creating five billion dollar bureaucracy with the goal to scientifically prove that [more care does not make seniors happier](#) and 60 % of the people prefer to die home, not at a hospital. Health care providers who keep too many seniors on dead bed will not meet the scientific standard of quality care. Nobody calls Obama crazy.

Paul Ryan's Path repeals ObamaCare, but the end result for the seniors is the same. Instead of making-up new bureaucracy to ration care Ryan is counting on the insurance companies that have decades of tradition in denying services. They are so experienced – they almost found humane ways to send people home. Ryan's plan will subsidize the free choice of private insurance plans. The health care providers will receive higher reimbursement in this scenario which will make them cooperate better than in the case of the Obama rationing police.

Ryan's Path to Prosperity transfers some programs that deal with the poor (like Food Stamps and Medicaid) to the states, which is something many governors have been asking lately. When faced with limited budget the states that tolerate high levels of poverty will be forced to actually do something about it.

Ryan's tax-reform is not inspiring either. Although he brings the tax-rates down, he is mumbling on deductions and loopholes. When a plan says 'deductions will be eliminated or modified' it is an invitation to the lobbyist to show up and negotiate the 'modifications'.

Ryan's Path to Prosperity has a lot of fresh ideas, but the most difficult part – on tax-reform and entitlements – is a flop, in my opinion, which I share for the only reason that I read the proposal suffering to see some sense through the bulk of empty rhetoric.



The Moral Liberal Contributing Editor, Ellie Velinska, is the editor of the excellent blog: [Big Bureacracy.com](http://BigBureacracy.com). A naturalized American citizen, she lives in North Carolina and is registered as a non-affiliated voter. Ellie attended and completed high school in the USSR and has Masters Degree in Psychology from Sofia University, Bulgaria. In 2000 Ellie and her husband moved to America after winning the Green Card Lottery. She says, the 'New Media' is a perfect challenge and quite convenient for her now that she is a mother of two boys.

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