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04.11.11, 6:00 PM ET

He Promised Change ...

In more bad news for the Administration, the [Congressional Budget Office] sees ObamaCare costing more than originally anticipated, estimating the 10-year cost at \$1.45 trillion. That's an upward cost revision of about \$40 billion in just 12 months. According to the Joint Economic Committee, back when Mr. Obama was running for President in 2008, he promised his health care overhaul would cost no more than \$65 billion a year "when fully phased in." Now we hear the cost is going to be more than three times that much. The new health care spending is on top of the deluge of Medicare spending, which will nearly double over the next decade, exhausting the Medicare Part A trust fund by 2020.

--Stephen Moore, *Wall Street Journal*



"I wish they'd quit sending my financial statements."

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Ease Your Conscience

If you feel so strongly about [raising taxes], I invite you and your rich Democratic friends--like Nancy Pelosi, John Kerry and Jay Rockefeller--to send a check to the Treasury for the amounts you think you should be paying. You can do that, you know. If you all lead the way, I will cheer your honesty and consistency.

Raising taxes wouldn't mean a more responsible Congress. They'd just find new ways to spend it, and then when the money ran out, they'd cry for more. That's what they always do.

--Cal Thomas, *USA Today*

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Fiscal Fantasyland

The Pelosi Congress spent all the trillions that America couldn't afford, squandering our children's future on stimulus packages that didn't stimulate and a government takeover of the nation's health insurance system. Now Pelosi says, "Democrats are in the lead on fiscal soundness"--a statement that would be a real knee-slapper if it weren't so terrifying in what it reveals of the Democratic Party's economic policy psychosis.

After voters took House control away from Democrats last November, Obama promised, "There are going to be a whole bunch of areas we can agree on." The "overwhelming message that I hear from the voters," he said, "is that we want everybody to act responsibly in Washington." Meanwhile, President Obama vows to veto any and all Republican spending cuts and refuses to negotiate on the budget with the newly elected Republican leaders of the House of Representatives.

--*Investor's Business Daily*

Getting Rid of Bad Apples

Firing "a single teacher can take hundreds of thousands of dollars and several years," says Drew University professor Patrick McGuinn. "Except in the most egregious of circumstances," most school officials don't even go that route. But there is a work-around for those willing to use guile. The University of Chicago's Sara Ray Stoelinga recently interviewed 40 school administrators in Chicago and discovered that 37 of them had resorted to some form of harassment to pressure subpar teachers into leaving on their own. One moved a teacher who had trouble walking up stairs to a classroom on the fourth floor of a building that didn't have a working elevator; another reassigned a longtime eighth-grade teacher to a first-grade class. Such measures, said one respondent, are born of frustration with the onerous dismissal process. When "you are doing crazy things like messing with teacher room assignments and praying someone will leave," he said, "that is the mark of an insane system."

--*The Week*

Culture of Abundance, Not Scarcity

Tax reform should lead to higher revenues for government without having government consume a greater percentage of the nation's output. In other words, government gets more pie by baking a bigger pie, rather than just taking a bigger share of the same-sized pie.

But a number of those pushing tax reform have got the cart before the horse. They're looking to tax reform with the immediate goal of increased revenue for government--in other words, what they're really advocating is a tax increase in the guise of tax reform. A bigger serving of pie for government without growing the pie for everyone else.

--Tom Giovanetti, president, Institute for Policy Innovation

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Taxpayers' Rights

Watching the coverage of the big Wisconsin standoff, you could easily get the impression that it's all about the trampling of workers' rights. And individuals do, indeed, have the right to band together in pursuit of better wages and conditions. The problem is, the taxpayers who pay those wages also have rights, and those are the ones currently being trampled. Which highlights the real problem: When government does things, someone's rights are always crushed.

--Neal McCluskey, Cato Institute, *Philadelphia Inquirer*



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