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Jun 28 2009

[Cato Institute analyzes Obama's health care town hall meeting](#)

Published by [C. J. Summers](#) under [Nation/World](#)

The Cato Institute, a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C., takes a look at the President's health care town hall meeting that was broadcast on ABC recently:



With the nationalization of some of our largest companies, the recently-passed Waxman-Markey bill, and Obama's health care proposal, it sounds like we're well on our way to socialism in America, and I'm not throwing that term out lightly. How else can it be described?

[11 responses so far](#)

11 Responses to "Cato Institute analyzes Obama's health care town hall meeting"

1. [#Themison 28 Jun 2009](#)

By libertarians and conservatives, there is no other way to describe it. Their vocabulary seems to be stunted. But then that's all they've been saying since January 21. Can we invade Iraq again?

2. [#Jonon 28 Jun 2009](#)

Hmmm, a libertarian think tank surprisingly questions a health care plan that involves the government. The government's controlling interest in GM is seemingly unprecedented – one would think that never before in times of crises has the government nationalized a private company, never to allow it to return to the private sector. (Ok, you got me on Amtrak – pity that there is no way it could run profitably without government assistance). Cap and trade will seemingly be a disaster, just like it was in 1990 in reducing acid rain. Suddenly, "we're well on our way to socialism in America"!!!

Oh, I wish for the good old days of the past eight years of continued deregulation, less government involvement (except when making war, of course), when private markets brought us to a near collapse of the world financial economic system.

How else can it be described? How about a reversal of the past eight years of mistakes?

3. [# C. J. Summers](#) on 28 Jun 2009

Themis — You're barking up the wrong tree. I have no love lost for Bush. He signed a \$787 billion bailout before he left office.

And here's a standard definition of socialism, regardless of one's political persuasion:

socialism — *n.* Any of various theories or systems of social organization in which the means of producing and distributing goods is owned collectively or by a centralized government that often plans and controls the economy.

An economic system in which the production and distribution of goods are controlled substantially by the government rather than by private enterprise, and in which cooperation rather than competition guides economic activity.

Jon is unwittingly making my point for me. Look at all the nationalization and bailouts that have occurred in the past 100 years. This is only the latest and most expensive in a long string of them since the Federal Reserve System was established. Have these actions not resulted in the gradual transfer of more and more control to the government?

4. [# Jonon](#) 28 Jun 2009

CJ, if I look at those nationalizations of businesses in the past 100 years, didn't they all get returned to the private sector (excepted Amtrak) – just as Obama is saying now? Isn't this just the typical ebb and flow between more government and less government? I'd say we have a long ways to go before socialism.

5. [# Billy Dennis](#) on 28 Jun 2009

Themis: Setting aside asshat neocons who call themselves "libertarians at heart" you will not find many people of the libertarian bent clamoring to invade Iran.

And this small-L libertarian favors the following: Either legalize all health insurance or provide government paid insurance for everyone, with controls over costs.

6. [# Precinct Committeeman](#) on 29 Jun 2009

Government provided insurance for all citizens – sounds like socialism lite to me. It would destroy all private insurance companies talk about wielding a big stick. Government should not be decider of winners or losers in any sector.

7. [# Themis](#) on 29 Jun 2009

Private health insurance companies are the winners, PC, NOT the patients nor the doctors. Doctors and hospitals have been turned into nothing but businesses because of those glorious health insurance companies. I see the downfall finally came with HMOs.

Call it what you will, but capitalism is NOT the be-all end-all and government is not always Satan. Unless of course you want to get rid of the military and hand it ALL over to Halliburton & Co. and pay out the wazzoo, get rid of the police, the courts, the fire departments, the parks, etc. Your theory seems to be "if it's broke, don't let the government fix it!" See, this is not soviet Russia nor communist China. We are a democracy, The PEOPLE voted for change and damn it, things better change! (Oh crap, I always forget about the power of the lobbyists.)

You can define 'socialism' all you want. That still doesn't make it a dirty word. I happen to cherish my child and grandchild and want to see a better future for them than what has been layed at their feet. CILCO and ILAWC have already asked (announced) a rate increase. Which would you prefer, the status quo of their unsubstantiated rate increases forever, or to pay \$175/year more to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create new jobs to boot? Cap

and Trade is a horrible name for this policy. It should rather be called Energy Freedom.

The long-term brainwashing sure runs deep from Fox News and their pure capitalistic bent. And before you all complain and groan, which cable news do you watch and have you watched for the past 15 years?

(And PP, I never mentioned Iran. I mentioned Iraq because I never heard a single word from the right the past 8 years over anything Bush & Co. did, despite CJ's little statement above.)

8. [# Themison 29 Jun 2009](#)

Oh, and CJ, wasn't the Fed Reserve created so that these kind of bank failures and economic collapses would NOT happen? That's what happens when you 'privatize' the monetary system. So much for all that privatization!

9. [# Rixon 29 Jun 2009](#)

I still don't understand why American's are having this conversation. The American health care system is broken. Those who work in the health care profession will tell you, those who have lost their homes and filed bankruptcy will tell you. It's broken. Those who continue to advocate the status quo or "minimal" changes are either working for private insurance, big pharma or have never had a significant medical emergency. We practice "socialism" in nearly every other sector of our lives...fire protection, police protection, streets and sanitation, water, schools. Single payer healthcare will not be the demise of our country...not doing something about the current situation WILL be.

I have children whose medical care costs more than \$300,000 per year...and that's just for their medicine. Who sets the price for their medicine? Pharma and insurance. The system is broken and ruining families every single day.

Further, we already support single payer health care for the sick, the elderly and the government. Medicaid and Medicare are good programs but because they must function within the "private" insurance arena we see inequities. It is a MYTH that our health care is the greatest in the world. An absolute MYTH.

Single payer health care should be accessible to everyone.

10. [# Mahknoon 29 Jun 2009](#)

It's only the greatest health care system in the world if you have LOTS of money.

11. [# Mahknoon 29 Jun 2009](#)

The Federal Reserve is not privatized banking. We have had privatized banking before and it was a disaster.

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