

Letters

Prof. Blinder Is Wrong About the Ryan Budget Plan

Is it not possible that Rep. Ryan genuinely and honestly believes in the tradition of Adam Smith, Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman and many others that market processes will prove best for everyone, including the poor, in the long run? And isn't there substantial evidence that central planning and price controls have failed everywhere?

Prof. Blinder says the Simpson-Bowles plan is far superior. That commission's report says that, "the Commission recommends setting targets for the total federal budgetary commitment to health care and requiring further structural reforms." That is no plan at all. The Obama plan? When the administration released its budget in mid-February, even the Washington Post's lead editorial started out by saying, "THE PRESIDENT PUNTED" (Caps in original). The Washington Post is not a right-wing newspaper.

Price controls in health care are having predictable effects. I suggest that Prof. Blinder do a little personal research. He should call 20 primary-care physicians, identify himself as a Medicaid patient, and see how many physicians are accepting new Medicaid patients. By holding down reimbursement rates and promising more of the same in the future, federal policy is especially discriminating against the poor. That is the course we are on and which Prof. Blinder professes to admire.

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