

Money, Fox and Citizens United decision fuel right-wing campaigns

Mitchell Jackson | *Rocky Mount* | August 6, 2012

A supporter of my recent letter concerning health care called and asked how to go about refuting the information reprinted from a couple of "think tanks." Basically, I told her, you can't. They have the edge. (Actually you can go to factcheck.org and get correct information on a lot of statements.)

To call the Heritage Foundation or the Cato Institute "think tanks" is a stretch, a misnomer at best. Any group of like-thinking people can form up, give themselves a catchy name and tweak facts and figures all day long. That this information came from these two groups is enough for me to ignore it. They have no credibility.

The problem is, the vast amounts of money the right wing has to push their agenda, from an entire "news" company (FOX), the Citizens United decision that allows billionaires to donate unknown amounts of money into politics, to the Koch brother financing the Tea Party and campaigns nationwide. The richest 400 people in this country control the lives of everyone else.

President Barack Obama has been charged with inciting class warfare into this election. The rich drew first blood.

Class warfare has been waged against the masses for centuries. Kings, despots and aristocracies have ruled and had their way with us. The rich have an unfair advantage. They now have the best Congress money can buy to further their agenda.

Bruce Harris reminded me that name-calling and incivility were not the ways to have a meaningful discussion on these matters. I agree. I am not the poster child for this type of discussion.

Maybe the verbal venom spewed forth by Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Michelle Bachman and Ted Nugent are more to his taste.

This will be my last letter on these subjects. I have said all I can say. I understand there is an ongoing debate at the Telegram's website. I hope sharper minds will continue to contribute.

This country is in dire straits. We have to decide in our hearts whether we want to continue down this path or move forward. (Remember ... the rich have good health care. They don't want you to have it.)