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## We miss you Where are our senators?

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"Who wants to deal with the great unwashed when you could be dining at the Capital Grille with a lobbyist?"

-David Boaz of the **Cato Institute**, a libertarian think tank

WHY AREN'T our two U.S. senators holding town-hall meetings on health care here in Arkansas the way other members of Congress are doing all over the country?

Blanche Lincoln, our senior senator, says she held hers months ago. Not exactly the same thing, is it? There weren't three actual bills floating around in various stages of creation, formation and general consternation back then-before both the weather and this issue turned mighty hot.

Senator Lincoln is to be commended for taking back that talking point about protests at such meetings being "un-American." After all, what's more American than political protest? This republic was born through it, though the subject back then was taxation without representation rather than health care plans without face-to-face explanation.

So when is Senator Lincoln going to show up and face the music, or rather the questions? You never can tell, she might actually enjoy it, being an articulate sort.

Mark Pryor, the junior senator, says he's planning a town-hall meeting on health care-but only via the phone. Not exactly the same thing, is it?

There's something about unfiltered questions at an open meeting that's a better fit for a small, wonderfully vocal state where so many of us know one another, and usually don't hesitate to say what we think. About health care or anything else.

Just look at the day's batch of letters to the editor. Nothing bashful about 'em, bless each and every contributor, especially those who give us at the paper holy ned. We especially like those, for we learn most from our critics.

Even U.S. senators have been known to learn a thing or two from the people. As in the people they're supposed to serve, not dodge.

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