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OBAMA Thinks He's Won.



Oh boy: Romney health-care appointee leaving to work on ... ObamaCare?

posted at 7:50 pm on April 15, 2010 by Allahpundit

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Remember that [Newsweek piece](#) last month arguing that Mitt's the very best person available to oversee O-Care? Well, The One may be looking for the [next best thing](#). Philip Klein:

In a development that could have ramifications for the 2012 presidential race, Jon Kingsdale, the man who Mitt Romney appointed to help implement the Massachusetts health care plan, has stepped down. Though Kingsdale hasn't announced where he's moving to, a spokesman for his agency tells the Boston Globe that he will be "exploring opportunities to help with national health care reform."

What does this all have to do with 2012?

Well, Kingsdale was appointed by the Romney administration in 2006, and tasked with running the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority, which operates the state exchange on which Massachusetts citizens can use government subsidies to purchase government-designed insurance plans. This is the same basic infrastructure that Democrats just created at the national level, and Obama himself has repeatedly tied the two plans together in the past few weeks.

Doesn't mean Kingsdale's leaving to work for the feds — maybe he wants to be a lobbyist or some sort of liaison with the government for the insurance industry — but the [talking points](#) for Mitt's primary opponents sure do seem to be [mounting](#), don't they? If the administration is pursuing Kingsdale, it would be another clever move by Obama to hurt the GOP by poaching political talent. He [vacuumed up Jon Huntsman](#) by offering him a job he couldn't turn down just as the media was starting to chatter about him being the "great moderate hope" or whatever. Installing Kingsdale, a guy with a Romney pedigree, in a position of visibility vis-a-vis O-Care would create a perpetual thorn in Mitt's side ahead of the primary. I'm mighty curious now to see if that's what'll happen.

For your viewing pleasure, here's another video from the Cato Institute declaring ObamaCare the second coming of RomneyCare. My one quibble is with Boaz's description of the individual mandate, contra Romney, as an affront to personal responsibility. I take his point — by definition, a "mandate" limits free choice — but there's no true personal responsibility option on the table here. Americans aren't about to refuse emergency treatment to someone who's uninsured, even on grounds that they should suffer the consequences of being too irresponsible

to buy insurance, so those emergency costs are sunk. The question is how to bear them with the fewest limitations on personal responsibility generally.



Blowback

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Comments

Comment pages:

We need "Slick Mitts" about as much as we need hemorrhoids.

4/19/2010

Hot Air » Blog Archive » Oh boy: Rom...

cableguy615 on April 15, 2010 at [7:54 PM](#)

HAHAHAHAHAHAHA. Poor Mittens, he coulda been a contenda.

Amadeus on April 15, 2010 at [7:56 PM](#)

Didn't a court just rule that insurance companies in MA can't raise rates. Maybe this guy is jumping ship before MittensCare implodes.

farright on April 15, 2010 at [7:57 PM](#)

Romney has been damaged by his "experiment" into socialism. The One is certainly taking advantage of that now.

While Romney went into RomneyCare with noble intentions, he should have realized that whenever libs get ahold of a program, they can totally screw it up.

This doesn't say much to Mitt's business intelligence.

portlandon on April 15, 2010 at [7:57 PM](#)

Oy. I really like Romney but this will doom a presidential run.

[terryannonline](#) on April 15, 2010 at [7:59 PM](#)

He ~~vacuumed~~ SNORKELED up Jon Huntsman by offering him a job he couldn't turn down

portlandon on April 15, 2010 at [7:59 PM](#)

Hmmmmmm, something doesn't sound right.

[upinak](#) on April 15, 2010 at [7:59 PM](#)

"— but the talking points for Mitt's primary opponents sure do seem to be mounting, don't they?"

Death by a thousand paper cuts...

Seven Percent Solution on April 15, 2010 at [7:59 PM](#)

Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority

CHICA? Well that's interesting.

SoulGlo on April 15, 2010 at [8:00 PM](#)

Countdown until Palin supporters stick their tongue out at Romneybots while throwing the "self-inflicted" narrative back at them begins.....NOW.

Chrisin206 on April 15, 2010 at [8:03 PM](#)

And while everyone expects Sarah to lambaste Mitt for Romneycare, she shows him a lot of love. She sure knows how to kill her opponent with kindness.

technopeasant on April 15, 2010 at [8:08 PM](#)

This benefits Mike Huckabee and Sarah Palin. From PPP...

Mitt Romney leads Obama 45-44 after tying the president at 44 last month. This is true despite Obama consolidating his Democratic support and narrowing his deficit among independents.

After trailing 44-46 to Obama in March, Mike Huckabee now leads the president 47-45.

Huckabee boosted his favorability numbers from 31-36 to 32-31 in a month by decreasing his disapproval among liberals, moderates, conservatives, and Republicans. Sarah Palin now lags Obama only 45-47 after showing deficits of eight or seven points in each of the last three months. Both Obama and Palin have increased their base support, but Palin now trails Obama among independents 39-46 versus 35-49 in March.

[SouthernGent](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:09 PM](#)

Chrisin206 on April 15, 2010 at 8:03 PM

Wow, 9 minutes before the first "Sensitive" Palin Martyr comments. You've set a record.

portlandon on April 15, 2010 at [8:09 PM](#)

Political SNAFU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

canopfor on April 15, 2010 at [8:09 PM](#)

Mittens should have gotten out waaaay ahead of this and denounced it as a failure, then tacked right and said plainly, "I fricked up".

[Tim Zank](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:10 PM](#)

Mitt Romney needs to pack it up and GO! Now. With Conservatives like these, no wonder why Turkmanbama and his Regime are taking over. Completely.

Romney, you have not one chance in hell. You are the text-book "evil conservative" that the left loves to hate (I admit that this is a fraudulent label and image, but they still run with it and it still works on the uninformed), you are by no means Conservative enough (Liberals should vote for you...they'd love you if they could get past said fraudulent label), you are a squish on illegal immigration, you're gonna get blasted by BOTH the left and right on Romneycare, you're flip-floppery on abortion will annoy the Right and your allowing of Gay Marriage in Mass gets the uber Conservatives going.

No chance in hell. The Conservatives who still support him ought to really look at what a disaster he is. He'd be better running as a Liberal.

[Gob](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:11 PM](#)

Too many will convince themselves Romney is different.

Yaaayyy, Huckabee!!! /sarc

Feedie on April 15, 2010 at [8:15 PM](#)

For someone who is already known as a flipfopper, he'll have to perfect a double black flip to spin out of this one.

With HC deform on the front burner for the foreseeable future this has to fatally wound his chances in 2012.

ontherocks on April 15, 2010 at [8:15 PM](#)

We need to get this straight once and for all. Just look at [this](#) to see what's wrong with the comparisons between Obamacare and Masscare. We can't fall into the trap the dems have laid for us in tearing down Romney and ripping the GOP apart when we have a golden opportunity to take our country back!

dnlchisholm on April 15, 2010 at [8:16 PM](#)

Oy. I really like Romney but this will doom a presidential run.

terryannonline on April 15, 2010 at 7:59 PM

Ron Paul has to declare soon and be ready to take the gloves off. He should be out there right now throwing red meat at the conservative base since he's the number 1 conservative candidate to defeat Obama (Palin can't recover from 30% thinking she's qualified).

Ron should call Obama a fascist and start hammering away at ~~Obama's second term~~Romney. Traditional conservatives have been approaching 2012 like we can't win even the primary (and therefore it should just be an "educational" run), but we CAN by starting now, declaring now, and starting to get the word out this year and build some excitement and funds from the donors. The political climate may never be better than this.

[The Dean](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:16 PM](#)

From the PPP poll today-the fallout from Romneycare in one month revealed in Romney's F/UF from March and April IN 4 CATEGORIES:

MARCH APRIL NET DIFF

CONSERVATIVES 56/17 49/25 -15

MEN 37/38 34/49 -14

GOP 57/20 52/25 -10

INDIES 37/34 30/41 -14

That is a huge dropoff over one month and obviously Romneycare is the cause.

technopeasant on April 15, 2010 at [8:22 PM](#)

Ron Paul has to declare soon and be ready to take the gloves off. He should be out there right now throwing red meat at the conservative base since he's the number 1 conservative candidate to defeat Obama (Palin can't recover from 30% thinking she's qualified).

LOL! Ron Paul...LOL!

I. can't. stop. laughing.

[terryannonline](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:24 PM](#)

Oh boy: Romney health-care appointee leaving to work on ... ObamaCare?

Not a good time for a Republican to be tied to the tyrant's statist health care.

Now, WWII was not a good time to be of German heritage in America, however, Eisenhower rose to become Supreme Allied Commander and later President of the United States, but he did it by being anti-Nazi and not by trying to keep one foot in each camp.

MB4 on April 15, 2010 at [8:25 PM](#)

Let the [freefall](#) begin.

[OhioCoastie](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:25 PM](#)

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at 8:16 PM

Wow, a full blown Ron Paul nut, right here on HotAir

Buford Gooch on April 15, 2010 at [8:26 PM](#)

Go Mitt ! Go !

The best conservatives have to offer !

/s

4/19/2010

Hot Air » Blog Archive » Oh boy: Rom...

BowHuntingTexas on April 15, 2010 at [8:27 PM](#)

Mittens should have gotten out waaaay ahead of this and denounced it as a failure, then tacked right and said plainly, "I fricked up".

Tim Zank on April 15, 2010 at 8:10 PM

He could have taken on the role of a fervent anti smoking ex-smoker, or a fervent anti drinking ex-drinker. He could have made lemonade out of lemons. It's probably too late now. He's scroomed.

MB4 on April 15, 2010 at [8:31 PM](#)

(~~Palin~~ BozObama can't recover from 30%55% thinking she's qualified).

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at 8:16 PM

FIFY. It amazes me how many peeps still say this when the election of ZerObama has lowered the standard to as low as it can go. From now on, it's only **UP!**

[Gob](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:31 PM](#)

LOL! Ron Paul...LOL!

I. can't. stop. laughing.

terryannonline on April 15, 2010 at 8:24 PM

I can't stop laughing about the future tears from you, "jp" and MadConservative when we win the nomination! Sweet, sweet baby tears.

[The Dean](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:32 PM](#)

I can't stop laughing about the future tears from you, "jp" and MadConservative when we win the nomination! Sweet, sweet baby tears.

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at [8:32 PM](#)

Pass the Hopium, man.

[OhioCoastie](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:35 PM](#)

Two words:

[Allen West](#).

In a phrase: "If it's about the lives of my men and their safety, I'd go through hell with a gasoline can."

The GOP, if its ever going to *lead*, needs a fresh shot of life. Mitt Romney is just more makeup on the corpse.

Thanks, Mitt, but no thanks.

spmat on April 15, 2010 at [8:38 PM](#)

I take his point — by definition, a "mandate" limits free choice — but there's no true personal responsibility option on the table here.

Hmmm... I wonder if statements like that and the recent spotlight on CK Macleod's troll posts are what's finally making me feel so out of place here, lately.

FloatingRock on April 15, 2010 at [8:38 PM](#)

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at 8:16 PM

Wow, a full blown Ron Paul nut, right here on HotAir

Buford Gooch on April 15, 2010 at 8:26 PM

This Ron Paul crap has to be nipped in the bud and quickly.
As bleak as things look with Oliar the commie at the helm,
Paul as a solution would be like jumping from a plane with engine trouble, without a parachute – not helpful.
Crazy is a relative of commie, not an antidote.

ontherocks on April 15, 2010 at [8:40 PM](#)

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at 8:16 PM

I like Ron Paul's economics. I'm not much on his dalliance with cranks. Regardless, the man is no executive.

spmat on April 15, 2010 at [8:41 PM](#)

I suspect that our national health care rationing will make Mass look like small potatoes.

[tarpon](#) on April 15, 2010 at [8:47 PM](#)

The Dean on April 15, 2010 at 8:32 PM

I hope you're right. In fact, I hope Ron Paul wins the presidency, because after 4 years with crazy uncle ronnie libertarianism will finally die the death it should've died ages ago.

Darth Executor on April 15, 2010 at [8:50 PM](#)

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Darth Executor on April 15, 2010 at 8:50 PM

Unfortunately, Paul will close all of our overseas bases, bring the troops home, and usher in World War 3 during the 1st year of his presidency.

BPD on April 15, 2010 at [8:53 PM](#)

That video is exactly why Romney needs to quietly go back to just being a businessman. We can't Repeal, Reform and Cut with Romney anywhere near the ticket.

Goodbye Romney!

texasconserv on April 15, 2010 at [8:53 PM](#)

Romney 2012!!!!

wooops, wrong thread...*ducking*...

ted c on April 15, 2010 at [8:56 PM](#)

paging herman cain. your country is calling, sir.

ted c on April 15, 2010 at [8:57 PM](#)

I know people are still holding out hopes for Mitt but ...

This is the situation ...

Mitt Romney is in the best position right now that he'll ever be in for the 2012 elections – and it's not a very good position.

Once the campaign begins – the “long knives” come out and the other GOP hopefuls are going to carve his ass up with all of this RINO flip-flop Karma he’s earned.

It’s not going to work folks.

I guess that’s okay though – many people thought Evel Knievel could jump the snake river canyon ...

until he actually tried.

[HondaV65](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:00 PM](#)

this continues the long term strategy of picking off R’s to work in the Obama admin...R’s that have some chance of damaging the O.

as in Chicago, these guys like to run both the D and the R party. gives rise to post-partison, united front, image.

[r keller](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:01 PM](#)

Shall we all here once and for all agree to skip the intellectual and salon/parlor discussions about the “particularities” about Romneycare and agree that ROMNEY IS F*CKING TOAST FOR 2012 and that, *should* the GOP be SUICIDAL ENOUGH TO TAKE THE B*STARD ON,

AMERICA AS WE KNOW IT IS DEAD.

[Lockstein13](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:03 PM](#)

Romney is tarnished. He can split hairs anyway he wants but he owns the precursor to Oh-care.

Damaged goods.

Romney has even given a modicum of praise to Obama....he shouldn’t do that! Obama’s self praise is more than enough.

We need a general ready for political combat not a negotiated settlement.

[R Square](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:06 PM](#)

Please not Romney...Please no!!

[Tasha](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:44 PM](#)

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[Lockstein13](#) on April 15, 2010 at 9:03 PM

No, we shouldnt....not by a long shot. However, I can speculate as to why you wish to “skip...the intellectual discussions”.

That approach rather reminds me of a certain 1/2 of one term governor.

By the by, have you considered anger management counseling?

FlickeringFlame on April 15, 2010 at [9:47 PM](#)

Apparently, Romney has realized that the disaster of 'Romneycare' due to Democrat meddling has been forever pinned to **him** in the minds of the moronic masses. So since he can't go back...he might as well go full steam ahead.

Not the wisest of tactics, perhaps, given the failure that Obamacare will become. But he didn't have that many options.

Dark-Star on April 15, 2010 at [9:54 PM](#)

All our candidates suck.

[therightwinger](#) on April 15, 2010 at [9:59 PM](#)

He vacuumed up Jon Huntsman by offering him a job he couldn't turn down just as the media was starting to chatter about him being the "great moderate hope" or whatever.

As if a "great moderate hope" was ever going to go anywhere. I thought McCain was the great moderate hope.

ddrintn on April 15, 2010 at [10:46 PM](#)

Lockstein13 on April 15, 2010 at 9:03 PM

I'm with you! Those who like Romney are NOT conservatives and just don't get it.

If he's the best we can do, than we have more problems than the Liberals!

[Gob](#) on April 16, 2010 at [12:08 AM](#)

Maybe if more conservatives and moderates can suppress their imaginary testosterone levels long enough, they will quit bashing the "little lady" from Alaska and get over these RINOs who they try oh so hard to pretend actually embrace conservative political values, then we can get someone into the White House who will *really* make a difference.

But, I'm not holding my breath on that one.

Dr. ZhivBlago on April 16, 2010 at [12:26 AM](#)

All our candidates suck.

[therightwinger](#) on April 15, 2010 at 9:59 PM

So do your opponents' candidates, unfortunately. And even worse still the hope of a 3rd party finally beating the both of you is slim-to-none so far. (unless Rand Paul REALLY takes the political scene by storm.)

Dark-Star on April 16, 2010 at [12:48 AM](#)

What is a RINO? Are those the people that all voted no in unison against ObamaCare. And yet, you insist on calling them Repub in name only? Like..they are all the same?

how silly

FlickeringFlame on April 16, 2010 at [12:52 AM](#)

This will leave the door wide open for Governor Mitch Daniels, a supernerd. He is a better Romney, and a better Newt. He is boring but Boring might be good in 2012.

BroncosRock on April 16, 2010 at [1:13 AM](#)

Who is Mitch Daniels? Is he a baseball player or something?

FlickeringFlame on April 16, 2010 at [1:31 AM](#)

Two words:

Allen West.

In a phrase: "If it's about the lives of my men and their safety, I'd go through hell with a gasoline can."

The GOP, if its ever going to lead, needs a fresh shot of life. Mitt Romney is just more makeup on the corpse.

Thanks, Mitt, but no thanks.

spmat on April 15, 2010 at 8:38 PM

Post of the Week!

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Once the campaign begins – the "long knives" come out and the other GOP hopefuls are going to carve his ass up with all of this RINO flip-flop Karma he's earned.

It's not going to work folks.

I guess that's okay though – many people thought Evel Knievel could jump the snake river canyon ...

until he actually tried.

HondaV65 on April 15, 2010 at 9:00 PM

Damn close second!

Sarah Palin/Herman Cain 2012 FTW!

gary4205 on April 16, 2010 at [1:31 AM](#)

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But, I'm not holding my breath on that one.

Dr. ZhivBlago on April 16, 2010 at 12:26 AM

You said it brother.

Absolutely no one can deny that Sarah Palin was one of the most successful Governors in the country, and had, by far, they highest approval ratings (among some seriously independent voters)

Pretty much everyone agrees with Sarah on her stances on the issues, and how she would Govern.

It all boils down to what's between her legs.

Makes me ashamed to be known as a conservative with schmucks these amongst us.

Sarah Palin is for Liberty and Freedom.

Sarah Palin is for smaller government and less spending. (and she's already a proven leader in this area. Not just a crap talker)

Sarah Palin believes in energy independence. You won't see use sending a trillion dollars a year overseas if she gets her way, and there won't be any cap and tax BS on her watch.

Sarah Palin believes in peace through strength. Trust, but verify. Her philosophy on the bad guys? "We win, they lose."

You won't see her bow and apologize for a damned thing. And she doesn't do "nuance" What you see is what you get.

Oh, and she doesn't have a single episode of epic stupidity in her nearly 20 year public career that she must explain away, or try and apologize for. (Unless you think sending a bunch of corrupt Republicans packing)

Sarah Palin doesn't have a "RomneyCare" blooper on her highlight reel.

There is simply no one else who can get the job done. No one else with the track record of actually GETTING the job done.

Girls rule baby!

gary4205 on April 16, 2010 at [1:48 AM](#)

FlickeringFlame on April 15, 2010 at 9:47 PM

This is a thread on Romney.

If your "defense" of Romney is a public panty-wetting of yours about Palin:

A) it doesn't offer up much hope for Romney

B) you are an embarrassment, and are invited to get your sorry butt on the last train out of town to *reach-across-the-aisle-to-Socialists-RINoland*.

Lockstein13 on April 16, 2010 at [3:30 AM](#)

Americans aren't about to refuse emergency treatment to someone who's uninsured

I'm sure that thought comforts criminals as they go about their mayhem. Sometimes, progress isn't.

rhodeymark on April 16, 2010 at [6:30 AM](#)

All good reasons for the *media, the left, rinos, and soros to give us Romney.

It is another mclame....

romney loses the base on the most important issue of campaign... "repeal"....

They *the above, are passing out the tongue depressers now.

Can't be trusted on amnesty either....

nondhimmie on April 16, 2010 at [7:24 AM](#)

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It is another mclame....

4/19/2010

Hot Air » Blog Archive » Oh boy: Rom...

romney loses the base on the most important issue of campaign...”repeal”....

nondhimmie on April 16, 2010 at 7:24 AM

ah, so in your tinfoil hat world, George Soros and the left is pushing Romney. Got it. Sounds wonderful. Its a conspiracy. Let me guess...they are afraid of Palin, right?

Sooooo, George Soros and the left cant read polls either I take it. Polls show that even republicans, let alone independents, realize that Palin is not ready to be POTUS. Or is that part of your tin foil hat conspiracy also???

FlickeringFlame on April 16, 2010 at [8:31 AM](#)

Huckabee, Palin, Romney, Paul and others all have serious issues that will not work to fill Obama’s shoes. Perhaps the well heard conservative, talk radio, tv, blogs, papers should get together behind one guy they can agree on who would be a good contender for campaigning and the oval office.

shick on April 16, 2010 at [8:56 AM](#)

I forgot McCain. LOL

shick on April 16, 2010 at [8:57 AM](#)

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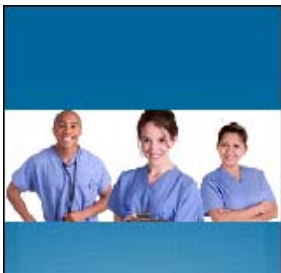
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