

ANDREW BREITBART PRESENTS

BIG GOVERNMENT

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[Health Care, Hayek and Freedom](#)

by [Gary Wolfram](#)

“The constitution was thus conceived as a protection of the people against all arbitrary action, on the part of the legislative as well as the other branches of government. A constitution which in such manner is to limit government must contain what in effect are substantive rules... It must lay down general principles which are to govern the acts of the appointed legislature.”

So wrote Friedrich Hayek in *The Constitution of Liberty* a half century ago. He went on to say that: “A group of men normally become a society not by giving themselves laws but by obeying the same rules of conduct. This means that the power of the majority is limited by those commonly held principles and that there is no legitimate power beyond them.”



It is sad that Congress celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hayek's work by ignoring any pretense that its power is limited. It is clear the Obama administration and the Democrat majority in Congress does not feel that the temporary majority is to be bound by any general principle other than "do you have the votes." The 2000+page health care bill goes so far beyond what this country was founded on that it is difficult to know where to begin.

The bill is meant to involve the federal government in every nook and cranny of American life. Employers are told by their government what benefits they must provide employees. If we accept the proposition that the majority may tell employers and employees what their benefit package is, then where is the limitation that restricts this to health care?

If the auto insurance companies have sufficient lobbying power, then we will be told that our benefit package must include auto insurance as well. And why not require employers to provide membership in health clubs, or country clubs? I personally would prefer season tickets to University of Michigan basketball games.

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[Social Security Going Broke Faster than Expected](#)

by [Publius](#)

From today's *New York Times*:



The bursting of the real estate bubble and the ensuing recession have hurt jobs, home prices and now Social Security.

This year, the system will [pay out more in benefits than it receives in payroll taxes](#), an important threshold it was not expected to cross until at least 2016, according to the [Congressional Budget Office](#).

Stephen C. Goss, chief actuary of the [Social Security Administration](#), said that while the Congressional projection would probably be borne out, the change would have no effect on benefits in 2010 and retirees would keep receiving their checks as usual.

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[Coward Russ Carnahan Pushes Bogus Tea Party Lie to Media— Claims Prayer Service With Coffin Was a Violent Threat](#)

by [Jim Hoft](#)

Remember as you read this: There is nothing the democratic-media complex will not do to lie about the tea party patriots or to prop up these horrid leftists who are transforming our country into some kind of quasi-socialist state.

On Sunday night several members of the [St. Louis Tea Party Coalition](#) held a [prayer vigil at Russ Carnahan's office](#) for the millions of babies that will be slaughtered under the democrat's pro-abortion health care bill. We also prayed for the handicapped and the elderly who will be turned away as they face the death panels created by this bill. And, as we stood outside his office in the rain, we prayed for our country and for the democrats in Washington DC who were stealing away our freedom at that very moment.

We brought a coffin with us to represent the millions of Americans who will suffer from inadequate treatment and perish under Obamacare.



([KSDK](#) Photo)

Local reporters from KSDK News Channel 5 showed up to interview myself and others after our prayer service.

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[Forget All That 'Hope' and 'Change' Talk, Okay?](#)

by [Jason Mattera](#)

Let's play a quick word game, folks. Who said this?

I recognize there is a certain presumptuousness – a certain audacity – to this announcement. I know I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington. But I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change.

That's right – none other than Barack Obama, Dear Leader himself, on February 10, 2007, while announcing his

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intentions to run for president.

And, as I point out in my brand-new book, [OBAMA ZOMBIES](#), the promise to shake up the established political order if elected was a laser-targeted message that Barack Obama, David Axelrod, and David Plouffe used to lobotomize an entire generation.

But why let your staple campaign promise of “change” get in the way of a government takeover of health-care?

Take it away, Robert Gibbs:

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[Thursday Open Thread: Bogus Threat Edition](#)

by [Publius](#)

Democrats and the leftist media are all twitter about alleged threats of violence against Congressmen who voted for ObamaCare. We doubt these threats are actually real and, certainly wouldn't condone them. But, here's a tip: Hey Democrats, if you are worried about an angry public, how about not passing a sweeping government expansion opposed by 70% of the public. Just a thought.



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[Steny Hoyer: Members Are at Risk](#)

by [Publius](#)

Hand-wringing today in [Politico](#):



House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer is warning that some of his Democratic colleagues are being threatened with violence when they go back to their districts — and he wants Republicans to stand up and condemn the threats.

The Maryland Democrat said more than 10 House Democrats have reported incidents of threats or other forms of harassment about their support of the highly divisive health insurance overhaul vote. Hoyer emphasized that he didn't have a specific number of threats and that was just an estimate.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Capitol Police and sergeant at arms briefed Democrats behind closed doors today about the incidents of violence — the most high profile of which have been toward Democratic Reps. Thomas Perriello of Virginia, Steve Driehaus of Ohio and Louise Slaughter of New York.

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[Can We Constrain Bloated and Oppressive Government?](#)

by [Dan Mitchell](#)

The good news is that proponents of limited government are fired up and fighting for freedom. Obama's statist proposals on everything from health care to taxes have reinvigorated the leave-us-alone coalition. The bad news is that this rebirth of activism is not stopping the march to collectivism. The burden of government is much larger today than it was when Obama took office. Federal government spending is now consuming about 25 percent of GDP, but the really bad news is that the burden of federal spending is [projected to rise to at least 45 percent of GDP](#) in coming decades because of an aging population and programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. In other words, even if we stop the rest of Obama's agenda, we are doomed because of entitlement programs to become a European-style welfare state.

Is there a way to save America from becoming another Greece? What is our best strategy to prevent the left from creating a society where a majority of adults live off the state and consistently vote to rape and pillage the productive minority? There are no sure-fire answers to these questions, but part of the solution is that we need to make it more difficult for the statists to treat private sector workers, investors, and entrepreneurs as ATM machines to finance redistribution. This is why tax competition, as explained in this video, is a powerful tool for constraining government.



Unfortunately, high-tax nations have figured out that tax competition is a threat and want to interfere with the right of low-tax jurisdictions to maintain good policy. This campaign to undermine fiscal sovereignty is usually characterized as an attack on so-called tax havens, but that is just the first step. International bureaucracies such as the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development favor "global governance" policies. Other bureaucracies, including the United Nations and European Commission, also [favor one-size-fits-all global rules to benefit high-tax nations](#) such as France and Germany.

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[So This Is What Change Looks Like](#)

by [Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter \(R-MI\)](#)

So this is what change looks like. If he were here, Mr. Speaker, in this time of momentous national distress, I would remind the President of the United States that he is not the leader of a party or an ideology; he is the leader of our country—one founded, not to emulate others, but to inspire the world.



As families lose their jobs, their homes, and their dreams for their children; as our troops fight and sacrifice in foreign fields for our liberty and security, President Obama's obsessive-compulsive pursuit of an abominable government takeover of health care has defied the public's objections, despoiled this, "The People's House," and further alienated Americans from their representative government.

As President Obama's campaign mantra of "hope and change" has degenerated into "tax and hate," reputable surveys prior to this vote report: the public overwhelmingly thinks that the U.S. Government is broken. Only 21 percent of the public thinks it is being governed with its consent. Only 26 percent of the public trusts the Federal Government most of the time or always; 56 percent of Americans think the Federal Government has become so large and powerful that it poses an immediate threat to the rights and freedom of ordinary citizens; 70 percent believe the government and big business typically work together in ways that hurt consumers and investors; and 71 percent of Americans think the Federal Government is a special interest.

In the wake of this health care debate's despicable, dysfunctional process and product, it is clear: The most dangerous special interest is Big Government and President Obama is its lobbyist.

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[Three Reasons Health Care Reform Won't Cut The Deficit By One Thin Dime. But Will Add Massively to it.](#)

by [Nick Gillespie](#)

One of the main selling points of health care reform was that it would cut the federal deficit by a supposed \$143 billion over the next decade and a trillion-plus dollars in the one after that.

But not only will the legislation not cut one thin dime from the deficit, it will also certainly cost far more than the \$940 billion in new spending already on the table for at least three reasons.

These include:

1. Legislative Trickery. Congressional Democrats have pledged support for “the doc fix,” a permanent upward adjustment to the rates at which Medicare providers are reimbursed. As Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said, “[We have made a commitment to do this. This is very important.](#)” The cost of the “doc fix”? Some [\\$247 billion over the next 10 years](#), wiping out any deficit reduction from health care reform.
2. Higher Premiums. In 2006, Massachusetts passed health care reform very similar to what President Obama just signed. [The result?](#) The Bay State now has the highest premiums in the country and cost about 33 percent more than expected.

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[Big Government Has Never Been Bigger!](#)

by [Rep. Michele Bachmann \(R-MN\)](#)

Yesterday, President Obama signed into law the Democrats’ trillion-dollar health care takeover, meaning that one-sixth of the United States economy has now come under the purview of the federal government.



Keep in mind Arizona State economics professor William Boyes has estimated that the government already owns or controls about one-third of U.S. economic activity through the takeover of General Motors, the partial ownership of two of the country's largest banks in Bank of America and Citigroup, and the seizure of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as well as AIG. Combine those two numbers, and we're looking at roughly half of the U.S. economy.

This is not the direction we want to be heading.

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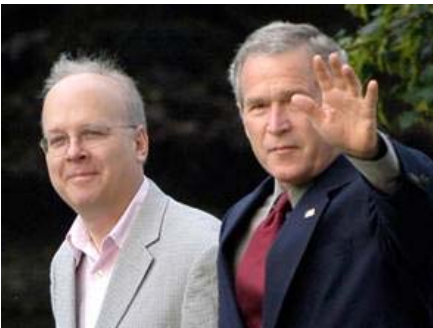
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[An American Liberal Reviews Karl Rove's Account of the Iraq War](#)

by [Jeffrey Scott Shapiro](#)

Former Bush Senior Aide Karl Rove deserves credit for vindicating President Bush in his new auto-biography, "Courage and Consequence: My Life as a Conservative in the Fight."



As one of the few liberals in America who has supported the war in Iraq (See www.honorfreedom.com) I found deep historical value in Rove's account of what actually happened in the White House during the months leading up to the war, and I was inspired by his willingness to call out those Democratic senators who voted for the war, but later abandoned the president once it became unpopular.

On January 5, 2007 ABC News reported that 28 of the 77 senators who originally voted for the war said they would have voted differently. Not surprisingly, Evan Bayh, Joe Biden, John Edwards, John Kerry and Hillary Clinton, all of whom challenged Bush for the presidency eventually turned against the war.

Of course, Bush's post-9/11 popularity was 90 percent, the highest of any president in American history, and Democrats knew the only hope they had of winning was to undermine the morality of the war. Undermining the morality of the war meant that it didn't matter if America achieved victory in Iraq.

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[Beware of Greeks Bearing Bailout Plans](#)

by [Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers \(R-WA\)](#)

As the Greek Debt Crisis [continues](#), President Obama needs to stand firm: American tax dollars should not be used to bail out Greece – or any country – that engages in reckless government spending and deficits. And yet, a bailout paid for by U.S. taxpayers remains a real possibility.



This week, leaders of the European Union [will be meeting](#) to consider aid for Greece. But instead of using their own money to bail out Greece, it's more likely the EU [will adopt Germany's proposal](#) to use money from the International Monetary Fund. That way U.S. taxpayers – not just the European Union – will be on the hook for an international bailout.

U.S. tax dollars already pay for 17% of the IMF's liquidity. And any bailout by the IMF would have [to be approved](#) by the U.S. government. According to the IMF's rules, major decisions require an 85% supermajority. And the U.S. is the only country with the power to block a supermajority on its own.

Therefore, President Obama has the power to either approve or reject a bailout of Greece. So far, he has been quiet. But instead of waiting while storms gather, the President should be vocal that U.S. taxpayers will not bail out Greece. The European Union may be tempted to pass the buck to the U.S. by requesting IMF "help." If the Presidents tells them ahead of time that such "help" will not be forthcoming, he will make it more likely that the E.U. will meet its responsibilities.

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[On The Streets Of Chicago: 'People Wanted Change, This Is Change. They Need To Shut Up.'](#)

by [Andrew Marcus](#)

Founding Bloggers' Michael Kadela hit the streets of Chicago yesterday to document people's reaction to the passage of socialized medicine in the USA.

He spoke with people young and old alike, and the reactions were both varied and interesting.

At :35 seconds, an older immigrant from Sweden says: "I left the old country because I didn't like the system over there. The Parliamentary system with the government running your life, you know. So I came here a few years ago. And now they are trying to implement the same system over here, which aggravates the devil out of me. I can't understand where America is going. The spirit, they are trying to wipe out the American spirit."

2:43 "I think a minor increase in our income taxes won't be such a big deal."

3:06 "Let's face the facts for gods sakes. If you can count money you know this isn't going to work out."

4:00 "People wanted change, this is change. So they need to shut up. They voted for it."



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[SEIU Renews Attack on Its \\$94 MILLION Creditor](#)

by [Kyle Olson](#)

You've got to give Enforcement Czar and SEIU boss Andy Stern credit: he's got a major set of *cojones*.



Fresh off his health care reform victory, he's renewing his attack on Bank of America, one of the banks SEIU and ACORN targeted during the foreclosure crisis and bank bailouts. Bank employees reportedly received a memo saying "that SEIU is ramping up a big attack on the banks again about derivatives," according to sources.

What makes Stern's attack particularly audacious is that, according to SEIU's [latest LM-2 financial report](#) filed

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with the federal Department of Labor, the union currently has an outstanding loan of **\$94,578,779** from Bank of America. It has repaid a paltry \$1,740,250.

In true SEIU (and ACORN) fashion, we're willing to bet the union will be use its public besmirching of Bank of America to attempt renegotiate the terms of its loan, or better yet, have a bit of the massive debt waived.

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[Native American Child Molesters Are People Too!](#)

by [Jason Mattera](#)

If only we had a real press corps in this country, then Alan Grayson (D-FL) and the other 219 Democrats in the House of Representatives who voted for HR 3952 would've been asked this question:

Please explain to me why you voted for a health-care bill that allocates money to fund the rehabilitation of Native American child molesters?

No joke, people: If Grayson and company had their way, the House bill [that passed back in November](#) would've mandated that our taxes go toward treating "perpetrators of child sexual abuse who are Indian or members of an Indian household." (It's on page 1950, section 713. [See for yourself](#))

That's one of the main reasons why there were so many drone-like youth out there who get suckered by Team Obama's and the Democrats' hope-a-dope mantra, as I explain in my brand-new book: [Obama Zombies: How the Liberal Machine Brainwashed My Generation](#).

So Alan Grayson got off the hook, eh? Not exactly. I caught up with the Congressman. Hey — somebody had to do it:

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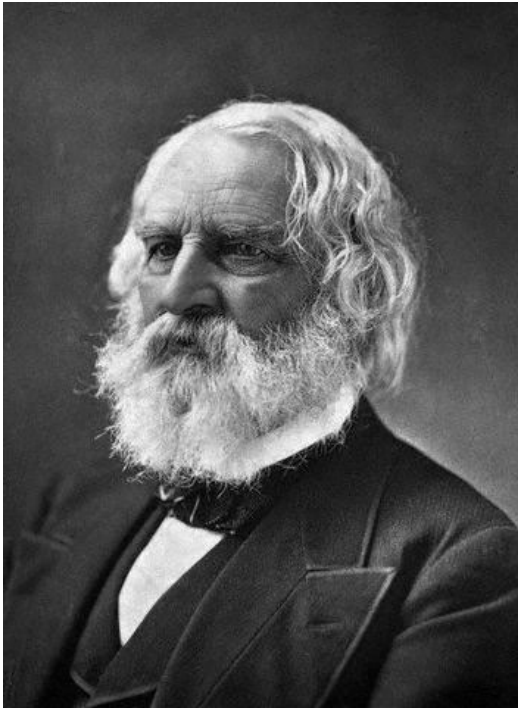
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[Wednesday Open Thread: Longfellow Edition](#)

by [Publius](#)

Today, in 1882, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow died. He chronicled the early American experience in a way that still resonates today.



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[Obama's Transparency Haze](#)

by [David A. Keene](#)

When I came to town in the early seventies “transparency” was a photographic rather than a political term. Legislation was written in back rooms by Congressional grandees, votes were traded for bridges, highways and no one outside Washington was much the wiser.



In those days, more than a few Congressional and Senate offices had three basic “robotyped” letters to send to constituents concerning pending legislation. The first went to those who supported it and assured the writer that the Congressman or Senator shared their views and supported them. The second said virtually the same thing to those who opposed the bill except that it assured them that the signer shared their objections and was opposed as well. The third sympathized with those who had questions and were undecided on the wisdom of the pending legislation and assured them that their elected representative too was agonizing over how to best represent them when the legislation came up for a vote.

Since there were multiple votes before final passage, these letters often cited votes reflecting the member’s basic agreement with the constituent and allowed him to vote pretty much as he wanted without fear that anyone would skewer him for the hypocrisy that allowed him to be for or against pending legislation before he finally voted the other way on final passage.

Those letters don’t work any more.

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[Deceiver in Chief: Peter Orszag](#)

by [Lurita Doan](#)

An unlikely power figure has emerged in the Obama Administration. He’s not a great orator, nor trendy, nor well-known. But, if the ability to influence national leaders, shape a national agenda and influence public opinion are indicators, then, [Peter Orszag](#), the Director of the [Office of Management and Budget \(OMB\)](#), is, arguably, the most powerful and, potentially, most dangerous, man in Washington, DC.



As Director of OMB, Peter Orszag is the arbiter of all financial information shared with Congress. A series of little-known, OMB “circulars”, such as [A-11](#), have established the rules, and repercussions if violated, by which Executive branch agencies communicate with Congress, especially regarding budgets, funding and agency priorities.

OMB, the President’s gatekeeper for budget matters, executes a complicated juggling act, balancing Obama Administration priorities and budgetary spin, against agency needs. Frequently, to secure a critical vote, an elected member may be rewarded with a pork project for the folks back home, and, often, it’s the OMB director that has to figure out how to avoid the appearance of a bald-faced bribe, while manipulating [CBO scoring on infrastructure projects](#). Orszag, as the former head of CBO, understands exactly how this game is played. Thus, most of the project and budget information that Congress reviews have been shaped by OMB’s preferences.

Peter Orszag controls much of the content and quantity of the data flow to Congress, to the President and to American citizens. Orszag has oversight over most of the federal government’s critical data reporting structures. Apart from the ineffective and error-prone Stimulus reporting sites ([data.gov](#), [recovery.gov](#)), OMB oversees [federal contract opportunities](#) and [federal grants](#).

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We Must Repeal The Health Care Bill!

by [Rep. Michele Bachmann \(R-MN\)](#)



My friends,

I am proud to introduce a bill today, that would repeal the monstrosity that passed yesterday. The bill that barely passed, can only be described as a killer bill.

It kills jobs, it kills opportunity, it kills promises that taxes wont rise, and we all know it will be a killer to the

unborn. Sadly, the only bipartisan aspect of yesterday's voting was the opposition to the legislation. Dozens of brave Democrats, stood up and voted against Pelosi's wishes.

However, the fight is far from over.

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[ObamaCare Is the Democrats' New Kansas-Nebraska Act](#)

by [Michael Zak](#)

Has the Democratic Party ever enacted a law as atrocious as its government takeover of the American people's healthcare? Has the Democratic Party ever enacted a law so unpopular? Yes and Yes.



In 1854, Democrats controlled both houses of Congress and the presidency. Their top priority was to repeal the Missouri Compromise prohibition of slavery in the northern territories. The author of this infamous legislation, the Kansas-Nebraska Act, was Stephen Douglas, a Democrat Senator from Illinois and owner of a slave plantation in Mississippi.

Senator Douglas claimed the law would be a final solution to the slavery question, so that Congress could move on to other issues. In fact, the Kansas-Nebraska Act sparked a political firestorm. Opponents of slavery – and the police state and economic stagnation that went with it – understood that, if unchecked, the slave system would expand throughout the territories and then the entire nation.

As the Democrat-controlled Supreme Court would soon prove with its 7-2 *Dred Scott* decision (both Republicans dissenting), pro-freedom Americans feared that the judiciary would uphold the expansion of slavery. Many Democrats were already touting slavery (not for themselves, of course) for poor whites, too. "Free Society!" declared a prominent Democrat newspaper, "We sicken at the name!"

Every American was forced to choose sides. One was either for the free market system or against it; there was no middle ground.

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