

Kochs Strike Again

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July 10, 2017

Politically, the USA is a smoldering ruin. There is hair, eyes, and teeth all over the floor. And it can't go on, it simply can't. You can't run a country like this.

I've wracked my brain trying to understand how we got here. Finally, on the front page of the June 25th Daily Republic my quest was partially rewarded. The article read, "Koch chief says health care bill insufficiently conservative." Wow. It's "insufficiently conservative."

Like it or hate it, Obamacare has proved one thing to just about everyone. People now accept that healthcare is a right. The taking away of Obamacare has proved that beyond doubt.

So where does the Republican war on this obvious fact come from? There on the front page was the answer: the Koch brothers and their 400-person network of super-rich. They don't want to be taxed for the likes of us. Simple as that.

"Hurry up and die," they say in effect, "but keep yer mitts offa my \$74 billion net worth." Republicans, don't deny it; it's right there in front of your eyes. It's ugly.

That lickspittle spokesman of Charles Koch actually said that the Senate version of the Republican health care "reform" is "immoral." Taxing the rich to benefit the likes of "us" is immoral? No wonder this country is in trouble.

It's like the Kochs earned every cent of their vast fortune and it's all theirs? No, like the Kushners and Trump, they're silver spoon inheritors who inherited a huge fortune. The father was a true rags-to-riches fellow who was strict, ruthless, but who also had some admirable values.

The father forced all the sons to give to charity as a condition of inheritance. That's pretty remarkable, so the brothers are not exactly curmudgeons. New York City museums and culture have had a lift. They didn't ignore Public Television. But their influence on the Republican Party has more than offset these comforting analgesics.

Because two of the brothers swindled the other two brothers out of the lion's share of daddy's inheritance, law suits were filed. We know from these court cases that the Kochs broke about

every law in their quest to expand their wealth. This, too, is a familiar case with the super-rich. We know that for those who have much, much is never enough.

They polluted exuberantly. They cheated both Oklahoma Indians and the Feds of oil royalties. They committed multiple frauds. They cast their worn out employees off with nary a compunction.

Are you a libertarian? An “independent”? Then you are probably a product of a twenty-year full-court Koch press to influence the American people to adopt libertarianism and distrust all things “government.” They formed think tanks like the Cato Institute, took over whole departments of universities like George Mason University, formed countless tax-exempt “foundations” that pretended that they were for the public’s benefit, and funded countless political campaigns, all with the same objective: discredit “government” and lower taxes.

Obamacare outrages them because it showed that government can solve problems, before, that is, the Republican congress and president began to kick the legs out from under it.

The president, who once said to repeal and replace Obamacare with something better; now says to repeal and replace it “sometime.” Thoughtful plan, Mr. President.

The Koch long-range plan has worked. They and their network of super rich donors are largely responsible for the huge Republican majorities we see today.

The latest Koch prank is to fund efforts to call a full Constitutional convention to rewrite that document to dump the Seventeenth Amendment, the income tax. How convenient! They’ve also promised Republicans \$400,000,000 in the 2018 election cycle.

Now their crusade is aimed at Obamacare.

Soulless, money-grubbing people are in charge of our country. Resist.