

Wednesday, November 25, 2009



# We Pay Them to Lie to Us

by John Stossel

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When you knowingly pay someone to lie to you, we call the deceiver an illusionist or a magician. When you unwittingly pay someone to do the same thing, I call him a politician.

President Obama insists that health care "reform" not "add a dime" to the [budget deficit](#), which daily grows to ever more frightening levels. So the House-passed bill and the one the Senate now deliberates both claim to cost less than \$900 billion. Somehow "\$900 billion over 10 years" has been decreed to be a magical figure that will not increase the deficit.

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Do you feel the leaked information from a global warming alarmist organization is meaningful?

- This was an illegal information leak that should be ignored
- It makes me question my belief in global warming activists
- It's an example of dangerous scientific politicization
- I haven't really heard about the controversy

It's amazing how precise government gets when estimating the cost of 10 years of subsidized medical care. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's bill was scored not at \$850 billion, but \$849 billion. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said her bill would cost \$871 billion.

How do they do that?

The key to magic is misdirection, fooling the audience into looking in the wrong direction.

I happily suspend disbelief when a magician says he'll saw a woman in half. That's entertainment. But when Harry Reid says he'll give 30 million additional people health coverage while cutting the deficit, improving health care and reducing its cost, it's not entertaining. It's incredible.

The politicians have a hat full of tricks to make their schemes look cheaper than they are. The new revenues will pour in during Year One, but health care spending won't begin until Year Three or Four. To this the Cato Institute's [Michael Tanner asks](#), "Wouldn't it be great if you could count a whole month's income, but only two weeks' expenditures in your household budget?"

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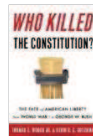


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