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[Uppity Women and Morons Part II: Dr. Flowers Challenges Economist Reinhardt](#)

By: [montanamaven](#) Saturday January 16, 2010 12:11 pm



Dr. Margaret Flowers already entered into the pantheon of the goddesses of uppityness with her appearance as one of the Baucus 8 in his hearings on health care. And this week she struck another blow at the Cato Institute's discussion of the new book by Timothy Carney "Obamanomics: How Barack Obama Is Bankrupting You and Enriching His Wall Street Friends, Corporate Lobbyists, and Union Bosses (Regnery Books, 2009). She challenged Princeton economist Uwe Reinhardt to explain why he advocated for a single payer health care system for Taiwan, but not the U.S. His answer was very interesting (twirl mustache here). [Economist Reinhardt Says "Interest Groups Own the Government](#)

Even more interesting are the boards of directors that Prof. Reinhardt sits on.

What Professor Reinhardt didn't tell his audience yesterday at Cato – and what he doesn't tell his readership at the New York Times – is that he sits on the board of a health insurance corporation – Amerigroup – and at last report controls 144,000 shares of Amerigroup stock worth roughly about \$4 million.

He also sits on the board of Boston Scientific – a medical device company.

And he sits on the board of two health care funds – Hambrecht and Quist Healthcare Investors and Life Sciences Investors Funds.

He also sits on the board of Triad Hospitals Inc.

This again leads us to the discussion going on in [lennonist's diary](#) on Glenn Greenwald's disclosure of the insidious ideas of Cass Sunstein that involve planting information on blogs and in op eds by "well-intentioned" elites. And just the very idea that elites know better than the great unwashed and so should not get bogged down with fake scandals. So Margaret and Marcy should just STFU and sit down, Little Ladies.

Sorry, but we must defend Margaret Flowers and Marcy Wheeler's right to ask simple questions. Russell Mokhiber over at Physicians for a National Health Plan asks the same ones:

Professor Reinhardt has a legal obligation to maximize the profits for the shareholders of Amerigroup, Boston Scientific and the others.

A single payer national health insurance system would significantly impact those profits.

So, when someone asks you, Professor Reinhardt – why don't you support single payer for the United States, given that you favored it for Taiwan – you should be right up front and disclose your conflicts.

You say your answer "has nothing to do with my board memberships."

Maybe yes.

Maybe no.

The heart of Glenn Greenwald's piece on Cass Sunstein is the way propaganda infests our media and he calls out Sunstein for believing that it is okay to manipulate the masses if you are part of the "well-intentioned" elites both governmental and academic. No it is not okay to create "an infinite feedback loop" to promote your "good" ideas like this nifty health care bill. There are different opinions out there and they didn't get a voice. That's wrong. Silencing dissent whether overtly or covertly is what Sheldon Wolin in "Democracy Incorporated" calls "managed democracy and "inverted totalitarianism".

There are many ways to silence opposing views. But thanks to uppity women like Dr. Margaret Flowers and Marcy Wheeler with a little help from some guys like Glenn, we will not be told to STFU even by Princeton profs Reinhardt and Krugman.

NOTE: My original post on Brooksley Born was posted in October of 2008. [Uppity Women and Morons \(Free Market Preachers\)](#) The use of the term "moron" is from a discussion Daniel Ellsberg had with Henry Kissinger in 1968. Ellsberg had served as a combat officer in Vietnam and was at the time of the meeting working on the Pentagon Papers. (credit: Rick Perlstein's brilliant "Nixonland" p.578)

Ellsberg had lectured Henry Kissinger in that hotel room, lectured him about the narcotic effect of secrets: "It will become very hard for you to learn from anybody who doesn't have clearances. Because you're thinking as you listen to them: 'What would this man be telling me if he knew what I know?' You'll become something of a moron...incapable of learning from most people in the world, no matter how much experience they may have." ...

American Legion counter protesters would say, "All of a sudden, you guys on the streets, you know more than the secretary of state."

[My post on Greenwald and Sunstein today.](#)

My post on Sunstein in 2008; [Nudgonomics: The Repackaging of Feudalism One More Time](#)

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