

Washington

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Real reform requires

a 'public option'

Leave it to a disciple of the conservative Cato Institute ("A true count of the 'uninsured,'" Thursday) to claim that a major overhaul of our health care industry isn't needed.

Did Michael Tanner propose with a straight face that "eliminating costly benefit mandates" would decrease costs? Of course, costs to insurers would decrease, as they would be cut loose from some of their current obligations while hanging Not Covered signs on more services.

As someone who pays for my own health insurance, and has had to deal with skyrocketing premiums every year, I can tell you that a bit of tinkering around the edges will do little to solve the debilitating health insurance problems so many Americans face.

We need changes that would include allowing people to purchase their health insurance from any private company they select, or from a government-run program called a public option that would act as a benchmark to contain costs.

Beverly Hahn

Blue Bell

Good reason to delay

prison demolition

Re: "Knock the jail down," Wednesday:

Your editorial said "Johnny-come-lately" State Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D., Union) had not provided a "valid reason" for delaying demolition of Riverfront prison.

This is a state prison, not a Camden County or Camden city prison. The Delaware River Port Authority is giving away \$3 million, as a grant, to pay for the demolition of the state prison. The \$3 million came from bridge fares paid mostly by South Jersey drivers, and should be used to maintain the bridges, not for knocking down state property.

Since it is a state prison, shouldn't the cost to tear down the demolition be paid for by the state of New Jersey? Maybe that is the reason for the holdup?

Robert Esposito

Cherry Hill

Buzz this story.

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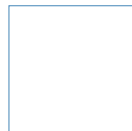
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Posted by **Comrade Xi** back from reeducation 09:07 AM, 08/25/2009

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What doesn't fall under the 'general welfare' phrase? What nonsense. Talk about a free flowing interpretation of the preamble.

Comment removed.

Posted by **Sam D** 11:40 AM, 08/25/2009

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Xi, I can tell you what doesn't fall under the "general welfare" phrase. One: spending over a trillion dollars on an illegal war while lying about the relationship of Saddam to 9/11 and other things (and no, that doesn't fall under the "common defence" phrase, either - we had no need to "defend" ourselves against Iraq; they weren't about to attack us). Two: Putting a horse-show manager in charge of FEMA before Katrina to help out a friend, and ending up actually harming the general welfare. Three: spending taxpayers' money on subsidies to big business, including big pharma - remember that under the law passed by the Republicans under Bush, Medicare is not allowed to seek quantity discounts from drug companies, thereby increasing your taxes. Four: well, I could go on for a long time.

Posted by **Sam D** 11:44 AM, 08/25/2009

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David Martosko: It would have been nice if you had mentioned that your "Center for Consumer Freedom" is supported by 100 businesses, as your web site says. Then we might have realized, without having to look up your benefactors, that you're shilling for big corporations. As I tell my statistics students, "always see who's reporting on the results of studies, as well as who conducted the studies."

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