



A Spoonful of Sugar The Socialization of the American Health System

The extremely resourceful nanny from the 1964 Broadway musical *Mary Poppins* could easily get her children to swallow their bad-tasting medicine by mixing it *with a spoonful of sugar, which makes the medicine go down*. It appears that President Barack Obama is preparing the American people to swallow his health care medicine with or without a mildly saccharine flavoring.

The Opium of Entitlement

The advent of ObamaCare is not occurring in an ideological vacuum. It is another step down that rocky road to a full-service servile state that began in Germany in the 1870s. Socialized medicine first appeared during the reign of Kaiser Wilhelm II and his Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. To quell the growing popularity of the socialists in the German *Reichstag*, Bismarck appropriated their agenda with the creation of the first socialized medicine system, based on government-backed compulsory insurance.

In the United States the idea for social health insurance evolved from same root as Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security System in 1935, which he adapted from Henry Rogers Seager's book *Social Insurance: A Program of Social Reform*. Seager's system, which he modeled on European socialism, was designed to addict Americans to what Mark Levin calls the *opium of entitlement*.

In 1942, Congress took its first step toward a *third-party* health system by granting a tax break to employers who provided their workforce with health insurance. Roosevelt used the crisis of a world war to justify this intervention into American health care. During the war employers couldn't attract better workers by offering higher wages because of wage controls but they were allowed to offer health insurance as an untaxed benefit. In 1965 President Lyndon Johnson used the Social Security umbrella to establish two new massive entitlement programs, Medicare and Medicaid. Both have deeply extended government's reach into the private sector of health care. In 2009 Obama has linked his plan for socialized medicine with America's economic crisis as part of his strategy to secure its swift passage.

Sicko Propaganda

ObamaCare needs a well-oiled propaganda machine to advance its socialized take-over of the health care industry. The alleged success of socialized medicine in other countries has been a key weapon in this strategy. Independent filmmaker, Michael Moore, is a major proponent of the British, Canadian and Cuban medical systems, as he demonstrated in his 2007 film *Sicko*.

Moore believes the leaders in Canada, Western Europe and Cuba are immensely more civilized than Americans because they have government-run health care. In Moore's twisted world, millions of Americans live precariously with little or no health care, all politicians are on the pharmaceutical industry's take, and insurance companies are at the root of all evil. If one travels to Canada, flu shots and prescription drugs are relatively inexpensive. What most Americans don't know is that Canadian drug prices are kept artificially low through price controls.

During Moore's travels to countries with socialized medicine, his myopic vision sees only clean, well-run hospitals, where treatment is efficient and compassionate and all doctors are delighted with their government-regulated salaries while their patients beam with happiness at the beneficence of socialized medicine. According to *Sicko*, Canada's single-payer system where all health care is free, serves as a paradigm that America should follow as a panacea for its medical ills.

Like so many of Obama's promises, *Sicko's* hodgepodge of anecdotal evidence is thoroughly misleading. Filmmaker Moore, the Oscar-winning provocateur behind *Fahrenheit 9/11* and *Bowling for Columbine*, painted a dismal picture of the American system which ranks 37th in the world according to the World Health Organization with millions of uninsured people. What *Sicko* does not say is that of the estimated 46.6 million uninsured Americans, the Census Bureau reported in 2006 that 9.5 million were not citizens. Another 17 million presumably could afford their own private coverage. Another 18 million were young and in good health and felt they did not need coverage.

The Fine Print

To fully understand the Canadian model one must read its fine print. *Sicko* fails to point out that the Canadian system could not survive without American medical facilities serving as a safety net for the thousands of Canadians who cannot endure the long lines for their medical care. Their untreated patients have flocked to the United States over the years to obtain the medical care that their own system denies them. Many have waited months or even years to get elective surgeries that would have spared them physical pain and in some cases saved their lives.

Canada's national health system was introduced in the late 1950s. By the early 1970s it was replaced by a more comprehensive health insurance plan. One immediate problem with Canadian public healthcare, as in most public systems, is adequate funding for an increased demand. Initially the Canadian government promised to provide 50% of all healthcare costs in Canada with their local provinces making up the difference. From 1970 to 1983 the Canadian government paid only 37% of all healthcare costs leaving the local provinces to pay the remainder.

In 1990 this was reduced to 25%. Since then there have been so many cuts in funding that Canada, with a population of 21 million, has spent less on health care than Washington D.C. which has a population of under 600,000. The same scenario has appeared in the United States under Medicare and Medicaid. Many states have been forced to break their budgets to meet the federal shortfall in reimbursement payments. Universal health insurance in Canada is not universal in the care it offers. Their system is over-burdened by a serious lack of doctors, nurses, beds, supplies, and long waiting periods for medical attention.

Medical Roulette

President Obama's grandiose plan for *reforming* what amounts to 16% of the American economy, threatens to bring sweeping change that will require all Americans to have insurance. The linchpin of ObamaCare is its *public option*, which is just another government entitlement. When Medicare was created in 1965, its medical benefits were relatively limited and retirees paid a substantial percentage of the costs of their own care. But as the number of retirees increased so did government funding, which was summarily passed on to the shoulders of younger workers.

According to the Wall Street Journal the reality of ObamaCare's expansion of Medicare is that it will quickly crowd out private insurance as people gravitate to a taxpayer underwritten public option. Obama knows that most employers will be willing to drop their health care coverage for their employees, since it will probably be taxed as regular income. ObamaCare will also create a government health plan with a new National Health Insurance Exchange to serve as a clearinghouse for people who buy insurance. His plan would have the government decide what type of coverage the private plans may offer. In effect the government would referee the game in which it was a player.

Consequently it will not take long for the entire country to be enrolled in the government's plan. This will lead to a single-payer system by eliminating the private option, leaving the government's *medical roulette* as the only game in town.

A Brave New World

According to the Wall Street Journal, the result of ObamaCare will be that *the next great health care argument to engulf the political system is going to be over how and when to ration care*. If and when ObamaCare becomes law, the government will determine that the only realistic way to bring down health care costs is to limit the medical services they provide. In anticipation of the Solomonic decisions of ObamaCare countless Americans will stand in lines that may stretch years into the future for relief from medical problems that, even in today's flawed system, would have taken just days. Patients also can expect long waits for appointments and treatment, as meager reimbursements squeeze doctors.

ObamaCare will invariably establish a system that will ration health care that will favor only the most needy and perhaps those who have politically supported their Democratic health guarantors. The situation may be akin to a time of war where only the patients with the most to gain from medical care will receive treatment. Life-prolonging operations for the elderly could be denied because of their low prospects for the future, with Medical decisions being made by politicians and economists and not by doctors and patients. (See Item p. 3)

Rationing medical services is a possibility because Medicare is bankrupt, even before the advent of ObamaCare. In May of 2009 its trustees reported that it had nearly \$38 trillion in promised benefits that were not covered by revenues for the next 75 years. In light of this, Democratic illogic has dictated that the best way to close this insurmountable deficit is to create a new universal health insurance entitlement with additional medical expenditures of trillions of dollars.

The *brave new world* of ObamaCare will resemble a dystopia where passive euthanasia will pervert a system that used to care for all its patients. Physician income declines will be accompanied by regulations that will make practicing medicine more costly, creating a double effect of lower revenue and higher overhead for most doctors. This will eventually lead to an even greater shortage of primary care doctors.

Private Reforms

While the American health care system is deeply flawed, it is not broken. There are many things that can be done to reform the existing system. Rather than remake the American health care system in the image of European countries, Obama should focus on increasing the payment schedule to align incentives with improved care. According to Dr. Scott Gottlieb of the Enterprise Institute, these private plans already pay doctors more than Medicare because they compete to attract higher quality providers into their networks. This gives incentive, as well as added leverage, to reward good doctors when penalizing and excluding the bad ones.

American medical bills are extremely high because a third party, namely employers, insurance companies, or the government pays most of them. Americans have little incentive

to monitor their personal medical expenses. It is as if a third party was picking up their tab at a luxurious restaurant, so the consumer can dine on steak and lobster every night. Were the consumer paying the bill, he would probably *be more* frugal.

Ramesh Ponnuru, the senior editor at the *National Review* thinks that the goal of any reform should start with making health insurance more affordable and portable. The cost of health care can also be lowered by meaningful tort reform. This is unlikely under ObamaCare because of the president's vital support from the legal lobby. Doctors and hospitals have exorbitant malpractice insurance fees that they pass along to their patients and their insurance companies. The threat of a career-ending lawsuit also forces some doctors to run many expensive unnecessary tests to protect their careers more than their patients.

The Good Samaritan

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has long advocated universal health care. In their pastoral letter, Health and Health Care, the bishops called for a *comprehensive health care system that will ensure a basic level of health care for all Americans*. Pope John XXIII, in his encyclical Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth), listed health care among those basic rights, which flow from the sanctity and dignity of human life.

The papal encyclicals on social justice have made it clear that Catholics are obliged to ensure that the poor are not left without adequate medical care. However it is also apparent that the Church leaves it up to the citizens as to how their support materializes, according to The Wanderer columnist, James Fitzpatrick. To understand the Church's position one must place it against a backdrop of its traditional opposition to socialistic governments, such as those that ravished Europe during the early 20th century.

Church leaders should know that government controls will inevitably lead to rationing. As Pope Benedict XVI writes in Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love), *We do not need a state that regulates and controls everything, but a state that, in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity, generously acknowledges and supports initiatives arising from the different social forces and combines spontaneity with closeness to those in need.*

In an article for The Wanderer George Kendall reminds Catholics that the concept of health care for the poor emanates from the Church. The idea that someone was entitled to medical care only came into being with the Christian belief that all men were made in the image and likeness of God. The Biblical story

about the Good Samaritan defined this idea so that to love one's neighbor included attending to his health needs. But this was strictly an interior mandate that was not designed or meant for a government to confiscate another's wealth to pay for the health care of others.

A Sad Irony

Catholics and other *Good Samaritans* can be assured that everyone in America who needs it has health care. This health care safety net includes emergency departments, community health centers, public hospitals, charitable clinics, and in some areas, teaching and community hospitals that people turn to when faced with barriers to obtaining medical care elsewhere. Emergency departments have the only legal mandate to provide health care from the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. EMTALA ensures that anyone who comes to an emergency department, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay, must receive a medical screening exam and be stabilized.

Abortion and euthanasia are considerations that might make the health care debate a big question for Catholics. On July 17, 2007, Senator Obama told the annual conference of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of his plans for health care reform including *reproductive care*, which he thinks is *basic care* and *right at the center of the plan that I propose*. National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) Federal Legislative Director Douglas Johnson warns that the structure of a federal health-care law is an opportunity *to make abortion on demand accessible in every region of every state, paid for by taxes and by government-mandated private insurance premiums.*

In a recent article for Human Events, Michelle Malkin reports that if one looked at the funding behind the ObamaCare campaign, one would find the financial fingerprints of the familiar leftist billionaires, especially George Soros and his Action Committee MoveOn.org, as well as union bosses and partisan community organizers pushing the socialized medical agenda. If these scions of wealth have their way, Americans may witness the total collapse of what is arguably the best health care system in the world. Should this be the case, it will underscore the sad irony that under ObamaCare America will change from a system where everyone has health care but not everyone has insurance, to one where everyone has insurance but not everyone has health care.

William A. Borst, Ph.D. can be contacted at PO Box 16271; St. Louis, MO 63105 or write BBPROF@sbcglobal.net

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Eleanor Schlafly, *Publisher*
William A. Borst, Ph.D., *Feature Editor*
e-mail: info@mindszenty.org
web site: www.mindszenty.org

The Church Teaches Forum Louisville, KY – July 17, 18

Eternal Life presented its 2009 The Church Teaches Forum on July 17 and 18 in Louisville, Kentucky and I was delighted to staff the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation's Information table. Excellent talks were given by Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop Raymond Burke, Bishop Thomas Doran, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Fr. Roger Arnsparger, and the Forum's moderator and President of Eternal Life, Fr. Edmund McCaffrey.

The Forum's theme was **MARY: MEDICINE FOR A SICK AMERICA AND WORLD**. Attendance was extraordinary with 500 to 600 persons during the two day event. Friday began with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with Archbishop Raymond Burke as the main Celebrant and Homilist, followed by the Banquet and Keynote Address by Reverend Benedict Groeschel. The Celebrant for Saturday's Mass was Archbishop Joseph Kurtz and his homily was "Mary Our Hope". The program continued with superb presentations by Fr. Groeschel and Fr. Arnsparger, Bishop Doran, and Archbishop Burke. With these beautiful teachings presented we become more aware of the importance of our Blessed Mother in helping to overcome the evils within our society and the world.

I was privileged to represent the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation at this inspiring and motivating Forum. Even though I am fairly new to the Foundation, meeting and talking to hundreds of attendees and well-wishers allowed me to truly sense how well-respected and appreciated the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation has become over the past 50 years of service. Our materials were eagerly picked up by the enthusiastic attendees, thus showing how important the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation is for society.

Many people approached me singing the praises of the Foundation and all offering their kind words and prayers for continued programs to build Faith, support Family Life and work for Freedom for those people still suppressed. The Honorable Archbishop Raymond Burke and Abbot Edmund McCaffrey were among the leaders who sent warm wishes and God's blessings on the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation!

To purchase the CD Talks for this year's Forum, contact the Church Teaches Forum, 902 W. Stephen Foster Ave. Bardstown, KY 40004, (800) 842-2871, wjajmi@bardstowncable.net.

Wishing you Christ's Blessings,
Kay Stewart, CMF Representative

Enshrining History

Several proposals are pending in the U.S. Congress to engrave the words "In God We Trust" and the Pledge of Allegiance in prominent areas of the new \$620 million Capitol Visitor Center, which opened last December. Not surprisingly, the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation has sued in U.S. District Court to stop the engraving, claiming it is a Judeo-Christian endorsement and is unconstitutional. Congressional backers of the project say "what we're doing is making a specific historic reference...we're not trying to change history, we're trying to enshrine history in the Capitol Visitor Center."

-Excerpted from St Louis Post-Dispatch 7-20-09

Does Obama Support Liberty or Tyranny?

The 2009 coup in Honduras was a successful effort by Honduran patriots to protect their constitutional system of government from an international alliance of communists and socialists. The ouster of President Manuel Zelaya was ordered by the Supreme Court, approved by Congress and supported by the people. Zelaya is considered a puppet of Venezuela's communist ruler, Hugo Chavez.

Yet, this bloodless transfer of power in a sovereign nation is adamantly opposed by President Obama who is demanding that Zelaya be returned to power. Hondurans are mystified that an American president would want to return this Chavez puppet to power in Honduras. *- Accuracy in Media 7-08-09*

Obama Supporting Euthanasia?

President Obama suggested at a Town Hall Meeting in June that one way to shave medical costs is to stop expensive and ultimately futile procedures performed on people who are about to die and don't stand to gain from the extra care. In a nationally televised event at the White House, Obama said "families need better information so they don't unthinkingly approve additional tests and additional drugs that the evidence shows is not necessarily going to improve care." He added, "maybe you're better off not having the surgery but taking the painkillers."

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The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians 3:14,16

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Do you not know that you are the temples of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE GREEN MONSTER: SOCIALISM AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT Cites the political-socialist-neo Marxist theories that have created today's radical environmentalism. Fear mongering, government coercion, junk science and "a green" president have propagandized the American people. Several good books with accurate scientific info are recommended. *Ask for 7/09*

THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR: THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND ITS MUSCULAR SOCIALISM Traces the history of creeping socialism under FDR when the Great Depression was prolonged and America was de-railed from free enterprise; Pres. Obama has accelerated socialism, quickly establishing the elements of European-style welfare state. *Ask for 6/09*

ANGELS AND DEMONS: A NEW CINEMATIC ASSAULT ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH Still another anti-Catholic film presented by the "tag team of distortion", producer Ron Howard and author Dan Brown, is dissected. The film's melding of fact and fiction, the historical and scientific inaccuracies, the curious warnings about the Church's involvement in conspiracies and secret societies, all suggest "Stay away from this movie!" *Ask for 5/09*

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20 copies	\$5.00	500 copies	\$85.00
50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00