



The Nose of the Camel ObamaCare as a Vehicle for Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Most children learn the 18th century nursery rhyme about *the old woman who lived in a shoe who had so many children...* Liberals see the United States government as that old woman. Her maternal instincts inspire her to assume her children's worldly burdens. When the reality of the situation impinges on her ability to provide for *all* her children because of her limited resources, she must rely on her survival instincts of birth control, abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide to keep her shoe in order.

Back to Bataan

The reality of *the old woman in the shoe* has put the country in a situation where any attempt at a grandiose scheme for American health care reform is more analogous to the *Bataan Death March* in 1942 where the Japanese forced a march of hundreds of miles that killed several thousand prisoners. The Japanese attitude toward human life was even more inhumane than that of the Nazis. They employed government programs to eliminate all of its *useless eaters* who drained the nation's limited resources.

Just as slavery was the most compelling moral issue of the 19th century and abortion the most divisive issue in the 20th century, euthanasia portends to be the most controversial issue of this 21st century. With the current debate over health care, all Americans, especially senior citizens, should give pause for concern. During the 2nd half of the last century, the U. S. underwent a subtle transformation from *one nation under God* to that of a diverse collection of rival special interests who relied more on secular principles than religious guidance. While religion had always supported traditional virtues, such as life, liberty, and patriotism, America's cultural and political leaders have relied more on the secular values of tolerance, expediency, and hollow compassion.

Since the 1930s, the federal government's profligate spending has been more the rule than the exception. With the advent of a federal aggrandizement of health care for over 300 million Americans, predicted expenditures are astronomical. Government is at a point where pragmatism has to enter so it can fulfill *some*

of its promises to *some* of the people and avoid bankruptcy. Since the elderly now account for 80% of medical expenditures, amoral logic dictates that their health care be severely reduced. This is not to suggest that America has become a den of Nazis but some of the seeds have been sown for what might lead to an embedded system of passive euthanasia for the elderly, so as to ease the medical burden of millions of *baby Boomers*. When the proverbial nose of the camel enters the American tent, it will not be too long before the entire camel, laden with active euthanasia and even assisted suicide, makes residence within the tent.

Architects of Rationing

The *big lie* in ObamaCare rhetoric is that it will not include any system of rationing. Much of what promises to be in a final bill was written with the advice of Tom Daschle, who failed to run Obama's Department of Health and Human Services due to his income taxes irregularities. His book *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis* explains rationing in a nutshell. *Seniors should sacrifice advancements in care so that resources can be spent on the young.* He believes that those who have received hopeless diagnoses should just accept them, echoing Obama during the 2008 presidential campaign when he answered a questioner by saying, *maybe you're better off, not having the surgery, but taking the painkiller.*

Democrats freely admit in ironic statements that their health care reform *will not be pain free*. The track record of socialized health care around the world in controlling costs has happened in only two ways--squeezing the provider by cutting reimbursements and denying or limiting care to the patients. That's why thousands of Canadians flock to America for surgeries.

Blogger Lee Siegel in his post, *Obama's Big Euthanasia Mistake*, links Obama with University of Chicago Law School professor Judge Richard Posner. Posner is an advocate of both euthanasia and eugenics. Cass Sunstein, who is Obama's regulatory czar, is a disciple of Posner. He believes in what *Time Magazine* describes as *the statistical practice of taking into account years of life expectancy when evaluating a regulation.* With the

compassion of an actuarial table, the former Harvard law professor thinks the lives of younger people are more *cost effective* than those of the elderly.

Another architect of rationing is chief White House health adviser, Ezekiel Emanuel, the brother of Obama's chief of staff Rahm Emanuel. According to John Goodman in the National Review, Dr. Emanuel has *meditated that if government-controlled rationing is necessary, young adults should be given priority over senior citizens because younger people have more years of life ahead of them.* He also faults doctors who take their *Hippocratic Oath too seriously... to do everything for the patient regardless of the cost...*

Pill Counters

In addition to ObamaCare rhetoric, there are also some subtle signs of rationing being orchestrated into the national debate. In the past year there has been a notable increase in the number of articles, reports and studies that question the cost effectiveness of many standard preventive care testing and screening for such common diseases as breast and prostate cancer. The *pill counters* argue that not many lives are saved relative to the amount of money that these tests cost. Some articles discourage the use of specialists who save or enhance the lives of millions because of their lack of *cost effectiveness*.

ObamaCare is youth friendly while it punishes the elderly who threaten their bottom line because of their disproportionate need and use of medical care. In a blog for the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform Gregg Cunningham reminded the American people that the Obama administration would be the ones deciding whether they or their family members *needed a specific medical procedure or not.* With government footing the bills, it is obvious their bottom line would dictate treatment for millions of Americans.

This thinking also reasons that if you are elderly the technology, used during the last years of one's life is too expensive and not cost efficient. Dr. Emanuel spoke of health care rationing by age, as well as limiting health care to those incapable of civic participation. It is a given that ObamaCare will reduce benefits for seniors and put them on a government-controlled treadmill that will encourage them to die sooner rather than burden society with their illnesses.

A National Triage System

Democratic leaders want to impose a *global budget* on Medicare, which will have radical implications for U.S. medicine and the elderly. As Americans read the fine print in ObamaCare, they will see that former Alaska governor Sarah Palin's claims of *death panels* in the bill were not so far-fetched. To insure an additional 30 million people Democrats feel compelled to reduce Medicare spending by a half trillion dollars. Like most of socialized Europe, ObamaCare will stipulate that Congress can arbitrarily decide how much to spend on health care for seniors every year.

Section 1233 of the original ObamaCare bill is the focal point of Palin's accusations. At the request of Congressman Earl Blumenauer, an Oregon Democrat who is an assisted suicide advocate, it provides for *advance care planning consultations* as an optional Medicare-covered benefit. Blumenauer's Advance Care Planning Consultation would coalesce with Posner and Sustein's eugenics-based approach to health care.

Section 1233 mandates that all senior citizens receiving government medical care would be required to undergo these counseling sessions with a physician or other health care professional every five years or more often if the patient's health worsens. The latter is not confined to a fatal illness, but encompasses a broad spectrum of conditions described as *chronic, progressive, or life limiting.* It also requires an explanation by the practitioner of the continuum of end-of-life services and supports available, including palliative care and hospice, and benefits for such services and supports that are available under this title.

Though nothing in 1233 even hints of suicide or assisted suicide, given all the economic and psychological parameters of this issue, it is not obvious that the option of ending one's life would be vigorously promoted. Columnist Charles Krauthammer warns about the *subtle pressure* from one's doctor that is *intended to gently point you in a certain direction, toward the corner of the sick room where stands a ghostly figure, scythe in hand, offering release.* According to House Minority Leader John Boehner and Michigan Representative Thaddeus McCotter, *this provision may start us down a treacherous path toward government-encouraged euthanasia, if enacted into law.*

A Veterans Death Book

For a preview of what ObamaCare might mean for the elderly, one need only look to the nation's veterans' hospitals. With two long wars in the Middle East, and thousands of casualties, the Veteran Administration hospitals have been under intense scrutiny. Since the Clinton administration the VA has been promoting a booklet that was written to help veterans and their families make important *end of life decisions.*

The 51-page booklet, *Your Life, Your Choices* was written in 1997 by VA ethicist Robert Pearlman, a euthanasia advocate schooled in the George Soros *Project on Death in America.* Pearlman has also received guidance from the Hemlock Society, which openly encourages euthanasia. Now known as Compassion and Choices, they clearly have ambitions to become the *Planned Parenthood of death.* On their website they boast about their role in ensuring that *end of life counseling* is embedded in the ObamaCare.

In 2007 after a careful review the Bush administration discontinued the pamphlet only to see Obama revive it last year. News of Your Life's return, prompted blogger Jim Towey, the president of Saint Vincent's College and the founder of the non-profit *Aging With Dignity* to expose the booklet in an op-ed

piece for the Wall Street Journal. In *The Death Book For Veterans* Towey exposed Obama's VA directive, which mandates that all primary care physicians must proactively discuss *end of life planning* with all their VA patients, not just those nearing death. In effect Your Life is a bold attempt to induce frail veterans to feel guilty about staying alive. It is obvious that Obama is using the VA hospitals to practice the end-of-life counseling that may soon be required of all America's elderly and infirmed.

Death Therapy

The passage of ObamaCare will unquestionably serve to advance the Oregon-like assisted suicide legislation. Government will impress upon elderly Americans their duty to die for the good of their families and the country. Assisted-suicide and euthanasia advocates continue to make their presence known in state legislatures around the country. For 14 years Wisconsin legislators have introduced an assisted-suicide bill. While all have failed in committee, their 2007's version is still pending. California, Hawaii, Arizona and Vermont have repeatedly rebuffed assisted-suicide proposals, but each state is increasingly vulnerable because of their budgetary woes.

The poster state for assisted suicide is Oregon, the only state to have legalized assisted-suicide at the ballot box. Oregonians who have been diagnosed with six months or less to live, can request a prescription from a physician for lethal drugs for ending his or her life. With most of these bills, the consulting doctor within reasonable medical judgment determines the diagnosis of terminally ill while a second doctor is sometimes required to confirm the diagnosis.

However, Oregon's doctors have the freedom to loosely define what terminally ill means, leaving the door open for a broader interpretation, including mental depression. Additionally, some bills ignore conscience rights and force doctors, who refuse to write lethal prescription to refer patients to a doctor who will, making them unwilling accomplices in their patients' suicide.

When Oregon's voters passed their Death With Dignity Act in 1994 with a 2% margin, the only vocal opponents were the Catholic Church and pro-life groups. After its passage, disability rights activists, typically liberal on many issues, became active opponents when they realized that these laws posed a serious threat to the disabled. With three states now in the fold--Washington by voter referendum and Montana by court ruling--it is only a matter of time until it becomes *death therapy* for many Americans.

A Camel of Death

The Catholic Church has historically opposed all forms of euthanasia and assisted suicide, including the removal of a feeding tube unless death was imminent. Pope Benedict XVI has called euthanasia a *false solution* to suffering. In 2007 the Pope condemned American Terri Schiavo's death as *arbitrarily hastened* and called the removal of her feeding tube a violation of the principles of Christianity and civilization.

He also added his voice to a bitter debate in Italy over the fate of a comatose woman whose father wanted to remove her feeding tube. Benedict didn't mention Eluana Englaro by name, but it was clear he was referring to her case which has made headlines in Italy for months. After several years of litigation, the father prevailed and her feeding tube was removed. She died of starvation in February of 2009.

Similarly to counteract the Catholic Church's opposition to the life issues in ObamaCare, the president has taken to his pulpit with the fervor of a 19th century revivalist by accusing his detractors of *bearing false witness* against him and his policies. It is apparent Obama is using the same approach to wooing Catholic support of his health care policies that he did to attract 54% of their vote in the 2008 election. For faithful Catholics it is very disheartening to see that Catholic Charities, the Catholic Health Association and many Catholic hospitals are now on board for Obama. It is more discouraging to read that some parish priests and bishops are vigorously supporting ObamaCare. While the American Catholic Bishops are opposed to any health care bill that pays for abortions or encourages euthanasia, they remain neutral otherwise.

At this stage it is uncertain as to the final outcome of ObamaCare. Whatever shape it may eventually take, the push for some form of euthanasia, dignity in dying, terminal sedation, and even assisted suicide will not vanish. Someday Americans may have to learn to adapt to a full-bodied camel of death residing in their tent with its twin humps of abortion and euthanasia conspiring to further chase God from American shores.

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William A. Borst, Ph.D. can be contacted at PO Box 16271; St. Louis, MO 63108 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

Father Jerzy Popieluszko Priest, Martyr, Saint June 6, 2010 Rome

In the early 1980's, Poland's growing Solidarity workers movement (against the Communist government) was given a Spiritual Director, Father Jerzy Popieluszko who stayed with the striking workers day and night for fifteen months. In the factories he offered daily Mass, Confession, the rosary, consolation, help for the workers' families, and hope. The workers relied upon him. Warsaw's Cardinal Glemp supported him. And Father's homilies continued to acknowledge Christ in public, to profess loyalty to the Catholic Church, and to the right to have religious freedom. Soon the Communists threatened, persecuted, and targeted him as the enemy.

On October 19, 1984 Father Popieluszko was kidnapped, beaten, and murdered by three Communist police officers. His body was thrown into the reservoir on the Vistula River 100 miles from Warsaw. The people of Poland and the free world were shocked.

Eight months later in June 1985 Anne Schlafly Cori and Eleanor Schlafly traveled to Poland and the first evening in Warsaw they taxied to St. Stanislaw Kostka Church to learn of Father Popieluszko, as it had been his parish. They entered the parish gated grounds and found Father Jerzy's grave in the front lawn. Two young men stood at attention at the burial site which was aglow with dozens of candles. Anne and Eleanor knelt on the ground beside them and prayed to Father Jerzy for the same courage, piety and love that he had shown in his short life. Since that evening, an estimated 15 to 20 million pilgrims have visited Father's burial site at St. Stanislaw Kostka Church.

At his last Mass it is reported that he said, "We must fight evil by doing good." One of the truly great modern heroes of Poland of the Communist era, Father Jerzy gave up his life for his brothers, and his brutal execution brought about the downfall of Communism in Poland. Father Jerzy was born on the Feast of the Triumph of the

Cross. He would prove to be a super strong catalyst in bringing about the Triumph of the Cross in Poland, six years after his Martyrdom. It is reported that 250,000 people were present at his funeral.

Pray to this anticipated Saint Father Jerzy Popieluszko—for his intercession for your family, youth, elderly, and our beloved United States of America.



The Most Important Person on Earth is a Mother

Cardinal Mindszenty's respect for Mothers was deep and abiding. Below is the Cardinal's quote on a 5 1/2" x 3" card.



The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body ... The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation ... What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?

—Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

Order a supply of colorful cards with the beautiful pro-life message. Insert with your letters, bills; give out at church and meetings.

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