

# OCPA FaxLine Report

a public policy information service for members of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc.

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Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Happy New Year! This is the year for free-market conservatives. It appears that the powers that be are overreaching in their attempt to “fundamentally transform America.” Problem is most Americans don’t want their country transformed. They might want some public policy improvements but not at the expense of their personal liberties. In other words, while they know it’s not perfect, they still like America a lot.

In a recent interview entitled, “The Next 100 Years,” Marvin Olasky, editor in chief of *World* magazine, asks Arthur Brooks, president of the American Enterprise Institute, if there is any good news for conservatives? Brooks says, “Seventy percent of Americans agree that the free enterprise system is the best way to organize the economy despite severe ups and downs.” Brooks adds, “That comes from the Pew Research Center, not some right-wing data source.”

However, what he says next makes the greatest impact. “Every question along those lines suggests that we’re a 70 / 30 nation: 70 percent free enterprise; 30 percent against free enterprise. In other words, if you want left-wing principles and social democracy in the United States, *you have to change American culture.*” [*Italics, mine.*]

So it’s not just about politics. It’s about culture. They have to change the way Americans perceive themselves in order to affect a radical transformation of America. They have to convince us that the foundational principles of America are wrong. But Americans aren’t buying it and they know it. That’s why they are forcing issues like “nationalized health care” despite the public’s repulsion of such grand socialistic schemes. Quite simply, they have decided to risk it all rather than wait any longer.

These “elites” have been about as subtle as a Mack truck driving on a sidewalk. And their strategy has been so transparent. First, by ignoring taxpaying citizens who come out in indisputably large numbers across the nation to countless “tea party” gatherings -- and secondly, by finally acknowledging the protesters but ridiculing and marginalizing their motivation and intelligence. These members of Congress’s “ruling class” seriously misunderstand both the character and tenacity of their opposition.

As Brooks further tells Olasky in the interview, “We’re not working for one year or two years or 2012, but for the next hundred years. We’re working for the free enterprise system that’s going to benefit our kids and grandchildren and generations to come. The free enterprise system is a gift to America and America is a gift to the world . . . Those of us who believe these things need to hold our colleagues’, friends’, and leaders’ feet to the fire.”

Meanwhile, with terse smiles the elitists in Washington D.C. attempt to mask their nervous realization that the taxpayers haven’t had their final say. Unless they figure out a way to suspend the 2010 elections, the people are certain to speak loud and clear come November. And like a tidal wave approaching shore, there is going to be change when it hits. Big change. Just not the type they were bargaining for . . .

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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