

OCPA FaxLine Report

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

Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

The idea for National Health Care is not really that new at all. It has been around a very long time. Proponents have merely changed the name from “socialized medicine” to make it more palatable for public consumption. Forty-seven years ago, long before he ever ran for elected office, Ronald Reagan spoke about his concerns on this still timely issue on a LP record. Entitled “Ronald Reagan Speaks Out Against Socialized Medicine” the recording was widely distributed and his points hold up very well today. You can find the actual recording on youtube.com . Below are a few excerpts. . .

“Back in 1927, and American socialist, Norman Thomas, six times candidate for president on the Socialist party ticket said the American people would never vote for socialism. But he said under the name of liberalism, the American people would adopt every fragment of a socialist program . . .

“One of the traditional methods of imposing statism or socialism on a people has been by way of medicine. It’s very easy to disguise a medical program as a humanitarian project; most people are a little reluctant to oppose anything that suggests medical care for people who possibly can’t afford it. Now, the American people, if you put it to them about “socialized medicine” and gave them a chance to choose, would unhesitatingly vote against it. We had an example of this under the Truman administration. It was proposed that we have a compulsory health insurance program for all people in the United States and of course the American people unhesitatingly rejected this . . .

“Now in our country under our free enterprise system, we have seen medicine reach the greatest heights that it has in any country in the world. Today, the relationship between patient and doctor in this country is something to be envied any place: the privacy, the care that is given to a person, the right to choose a doctor, the right to go from one doctor to the other. But let’s also look from the other side at the freedom the doctor looses . . . First, you decide that the doctor can have so many patients; they’re equally divided among the various doctors by the government. But then the doctors are equally divided geographically, so a doctor decides to practice in one town and the government has to say to him, ‘You can’t live in that town; they already have enough doctors; you have to go some place else.’ And from here, it’s only a short step to dictating where he will go. This is a freedom that I wonder whether any of us have the right to take from any human being . . .

“In this country of ours, took place the greatest revolution that has ever taken place in the world’s history, the only true revolution. Every other revolution simply exchanged one set of rulers for another. But here for the first time in all the thousands of years of man’s relation to man, a little group of men, the Founding Fathers, for the first time, established the idea that you and I have within ourselves, the God-given right and ability to determine our own destiny.” Now, 47 years after Ronald Reagan spoke these words, I hope we have the wisdom *and courage* to defend such liberties.

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

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