

November 3, 2013

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What exactly are the impressive achievements of President Obama? The revival of the American economy? Surging job growth? The success of the stimulus package and the number of "shovel ready jobs"? Moving us toward energy independence? Reducing the debt? Reducing poverty and the number of Americans on food stamps? His oversight of agencies like the IRS? The Fast and Furious program? Ending America's political divisions and unifying his countrymen? Perhaps his skillful handling before, during, and after the terrorist assault on the American diplomatic outpost in Benghazi? His successes in Syria? Egypt? Iraq? Iran? Peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis? And don't forget his signature domestic achievement, the Affordable Care Act, which may rank among the worst major government programs in modern American history, a failure in both conception and implementation.

So it may be that Jimmy Carter has a right to sit in judgment of Barack Obama. Which is among the worst things that could be said about America's 44th president.

Charles Krauthammer writes on the "affordable" care act laid bare.

Every disaster has its moment of clarity. Physicist Richard Feynman dunks an O-ring into ice water and everyone understands instantly why the shuttle Challenger exploded. This week, the Obamacare O-ring froze for all the world to see: Hundreds of thousands of cancellation letters went out to people who had been assured a dozen times by the president that "If you like your health-care plan, you'll be able to keep your health-care plan. Period."

The cancellations lay bare three pillars of Obamacare: (a) mendacity, (b) paternalism and (c) subterfuge.

(a) Those letters are irrefutable evidence that President Obama's repeated you-keep-your-coverage claim was false. Why were they sent out? Because Obamacare renders illegal (with exceedingly narrow "grandfathered" exceptions) the continuation of any insurance plan deemed by Washington regulators not to meet their arbitrary standards for adequacy. Example: No maternity care? You are terminated.

So a law designed to cover the uninsured is now throwing far more people off their insurance than it can possibly be signing up on the nonfunctioning insurance exchanges. Indeed, most of the 19 million people with individual insurance will have to find new and likely more expensive coverage. And that doesn't even include the additional millions who are sure to lose their employer-provided coverage. That's a lot of people. That's a pretty big lie.

But perhaps Obama didn't know. Maybe the bystander president was as surprised by this as he claims to have been by the IRS scandal, the Associated Press and James Rosen phone logs, the failure of the Obamacare Web site, the premeditation of the Benghazi attacks, the tapping of Angela Merkel's phone — i.e., the workings of the federal government of which he is the nominal head. ...

Craig Pirrong asks if this is the Sergeant Shultz presidency, or the second Hoover administration?

Both, actually.

The administration's response to every one of the mounting pile of FUBARs is "Obama didn't know." The latest: Obama didn't know about impeding Healthcare.gov fiasco. And he didn't know that the NSA was collecting electronic intelligence on Merkel and other foreign leaders. Add this to the IRS, Benghazi, etc., etc., etc.

This happens so frequently that it is becoming as regular a bit in the Obama Show as Sergeant Schultz's "I know nothing! I see nothing!" bit was in Hogan's heroes. Obama's denials are about as plausible as Schultz's. It's just not nearly as funny in real life.

As the fiascos mount, scapegoats must be found! It is going to get very, very crowded under the bus. ...

... of course scapegoats must be found! And you guessed it: the insurance companies are being rounded up and rounded on, [most notably by the loathsome, mendacious and incompetent Valerie Jarrett](#):

"FACT: Nothing in [#Obamacare](#) forces people out of their health plans. No change is required unless insurance companies change existing plans."

Get ready for the daily five minutes of hate. Where by "five minutes" I mean twenty-four hours.

Wherever you cast your gaze, your eyes light on a debacle. [Consider that Russia is exploiting Obama's inept handling of Egypt](#), where he managed the clever feat of getting everyone to hate him (no Cairo Speech II, I'm guessing-nor Brandenburg Gate II either):

Russian President Vladimir Putin is considering paying a state visit to Egypt to take advantage of frayed ties between Washington and Cairo and possibly gain access to Mediterranean ports, the Sunday Times of London reported.

Nearly 40 years of US policy up in smoke. The Choom Gang rides again.

The headline says it all: it emphasizes that Putin is exploiting the "US vacuum." That is the Obama foreign policy in two words: the second coming of the Hoover Administration.

Indeed, the appellation "Hoover Administration" is fitting in so many ways, because you know what vacuum cleaners do, right?

Roger Simon thinks the Fool should be indicted for cluelessness.

When I read Sunday evening in the Wall Street Journal that Barack Obama was "[unaware](#)" until last summer that the U. S. spied on thirty-five world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, I was frankly stupefied. (Well, maybe not entirely stupefied, but at least semi-stunned.)

No wonder Obamacare and practically everything else from foreign policy to energy policy is an unmitigated mess. This president and his administration have taken hands-off leadership and leading from behind to unprecedented levels.

What exactly does our president do for a living? What're we paying him for?

Either the administration officials who leaked this information to the WSJ are lying or Barack Obama should be impeached.

Forget "high crimes and misdemeanors." For those you have to do something and be conscious. Barack Obama should be impeached for cluelessness. ...

It would be funny, except the man lies. He lies like the Dems vote in Chicago; early and often. Jonah Goldberg on the president's really big lie.

... The burning question about Barack Obama is whether he was simply "playing to win" and therefore lying on purpose, or whether his statements about Obamacare were just another example of, as Obama once put it, "I actually believe my own bullshit."

"No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people," he told the American Medical Association in 2009. "If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health-care plan, you'll be able to keep your health-care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what."

No matter how you slice it, that was a lie. As many as 16 million Americans on the individual health-insurance market may lose their insurance policies. Just in the last month, hundreds of thousands have been notified by their insurers that their policies will be canceled. In fact, it appears that more Americans may have lost coverage than gotten it since Healthcare.gov went "live" (a term one must use advisedly). And when the business mandate finally kicks in, tens of millions more probably will lose their plans. ...

Jennifer Rubin turns our attention back to one of the president's lying minions - Sebelius.

In the semi-disastrous testimony of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius — with such doozies on Healthcare.gov as, "The Web site never crashed. It is functional, but at a very slow speed and very low reliability," with a split scene of the site down — there was more than a new batch of gotcha moments for the Republicans to gloat about. There is a fundamental assumption critical to not only Obamacare, but also to the liberal welfare state more generally, namely that it requires a sophisticated and competent bureaucracy. In its collapse and in the testimony of Sebelius, we saw that this assumption may simply be wrong. Forget ideology for a moment. If the liberal welfare state can't run its own creations, it is not sustainable.

Here are some specifics from the hearing:

1. *She claims not to know how many people have enrolled because the site is not functioning. This contradicts what insurance companies have said and suggests a systemic problem that, if not addressed, makes it impossible to determine basic information like whether HHS has enough young people enrolled to pay for the sicker, older people. ...*

Contentions

[A Truly Wicked Blow: Jimmy Carter Hammers Obama for Ineptness](#)

by Peter Wehner

I've been quite critical of President Obama over the course of his presidency. Earlier this week, for example, I wrote a [piece](#) in which I accused Mr. Obama of mendacity. So I take a back seat to no one when it comes to leveling harsh judgments against the president. But even I, an Obama critic, believe there are some lines one should not cross, some things that should never be said, some blows that are too brutal even for American politics.

I had in mind what Jimmy Carter, who ranks with James Buchanan and a few others as among America's worst and most inept presidents, said about Obama. When asked by [Parade magazine](#) how he would evaluate the Obama presidency so far, Carter said this:

He's done the best he could under the circumstances. His major accomplishment was Obamacare, and the implementation of it now is questionable at best.

This is, as Guy Benson [points out](#), a withering indictment from Mr. Malaise. And on first blush, I thought, an unfair one, at least given the source. Who is Jimmy Carter to indict *anyone* on grounds of incompetence. And yet the more I reflect on it, the more I think Mr. Carter may be on to something.

What exactly *are* the impressive achievements of President Obama? The revival of the American economy? Surging job growth? The success of the stimulus package and the number of "shovel ready jobs"? Moving us toward energy independence? Reducing the debt? Reducing poverty and the number of Americans on food stamps? His oversight of agencies like the IRS? The Fast and Furious program? Ending America's political divisions and unifying his countrymen? Perhaps his skillful handling before, during, and after the terrorist assault on the American diplomatic outpost in Benghazi? His successes in Syria? Egypt? Iraq? Iran? Peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis? And don't forget his signature domestic achievement, the Affordable Care Act, which may rank among the worst major government programs in modern American history, a failure in both conception and implementation.

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Washington Post

Obamacare laid bare

by Charles Krauthammer

Every disaster has its moment of clarity. Physicist Richard Feynman dunks an O-ring into ice water and everyone understands instantly why the shuttle Challenger exploded. This week, the Obamacare O-ring froze for all the world to see: [Hundreds of thousands of cancellation letters](#) went out to people who had been assured a dozen times by the president that “If you like your health-care plan, you’ll be able to keep your health-care plan. Period.”

The cancellations lay bare three pillars of Obamacare: (a) mendacity, (b) paternalism and (c) subterfuge.

(a) Those letters are irrefutable evidence that President Obama’s repeated you-keep-your-coverage claim was false. Why were they sent out? Because Obamacare renders illegal (with exceedingly narrow “grandfathered” exceptions) the continuation of any insurance plan deemed by Washington regulators not to meet their arbitrary standards for adequacy. Example: No maternity care? You are terminated.

So a law designed to cover the uninsured is now throwing far more people off their insurance than it can possibly be signing up on the [nonfunctioning insurance exchanges](#). Indeed, [most of the 19 million people](#) with individual insurance will have to find new and likely more expensive coverage. And that doesn’t even include the additional millions who are sure to lose their employer-provided coverage. That’s a lot of people. That’s a pretty big lie.

But perhaps Obama didn’t know. Maybe the bystander president was as surprised by this as he claims to have been by the [IRS scandal](#), the Associated Press and James Rosen phone logs, the failure of the Obamacare Web site, the premeditation of the Benghazi attacks, the [tapping of Angela Merkel’s phone](#) — i.e., the workings of the federal government of which he is the nominal head.

I’m skeptical. It’s not as if the Obamacare plan-dropping is an obscure regulation. It’s at the heart of Obama’s idea of federally regulated and standardized national health insurance.

Still, how could he imagine getting away with a claim sure to be exposed as factually false?

The same way he [maintained for two weeks that false narrative](#) about Benghazi. He figured he’d get away with it.

And he did. Simple formula: Delay, stonewall and wait for a supine and protective press to turn spectacularly incurious.

Look at how the New York Times covered his “keep your plan” whopper — buried on page 17 with a headline calling the cancellations a “prime target.” As if this is a partisan issue and not a brazen falsehood clear to any outside observer — say, [The Post’s fact-checker Glenn Kessler](#), who gave the president’s claim four Pinocchios. Noses don’t come any longer.

(b) Beyond mendacity, there is liberal paternalism, of which these forced cancellations are a classic case. We canceled your plan, [explained presidential spokesman Jay Carney](#), because it was substandard. We have a better idea.

Translation: Sure, you freely chose the policy, paid for the policy, renewed the policy, liked the policy. But you're too primitive to know what you need. We do. Your policy is hereby canceled.

Because what you really need is what our experts have determined must be in every plan. So a couple in their 60s must buy maternity care. A teetotaler must buy substance abuse treatment. And a healthy 28-year-old with perfectly appropriate catastrophic insurance must pay for bells and whistles for which he has no use.

It's Halloween. There is a knock at your door. You hear: "We're the government and we're here to help."

You hide.

(c) As for subterfuge, these required bells and whistles aren't just there to festoon the health-care Christmas tree with voter-pleasing freebies. The planners knew all along that if you force insurance buyers to overpay for stuff they don't need, that money can subsidize other people.

Obamacare is the largest transfer of wealth in recent American history. But you can't say that openly lest you lose elections. So you do it by subterfuge: hidden taxes, penalties, mandates and coverage requirements that yield a surplus of overpayments.

So that [your president can promise](#) to cover 30 million uninsured without costing the government a dime. Which from the beginning was the biggest falsehood of them all. And yet the free lunch is the essence of modern liberalism. Free mammograms, free preventative care, free contraceptives for Sandra Fluke. Come and get it.

And then when you find your policy canceled, your premium raised and your deductible outrageously increased, you've learned the real meaning of "free" in the liberal lexicon: something paid for by your neighbor — best, by subterfuge.

Streetwise Professor

[The Sergeant Schultz Presidency? Or the Second Hoover Administration?](#)

by Craig Pirrong

Both, actually.

The administration's response to every one of the mounting pile of FUBARs is "Obama didn't know." The latest: Obama didn't know about impeding Healthcare.gov fiasco. And he didn't know that the NSA was collecting electronic intelligence on Merkel and other foreign leaders. Add this to the IRS, Benghazi, etc., etc., etc.

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As the fiascos mount, scapegoats must be found! It is going to get very, very crowded under the bus.

The NSA situation is the worst, with Obamacare running a close second. [Sources within the NSA have claimed that the White House and the State Department gave permission for the surveillance of Merkel and others.](#) The White House denies, denies, denies, and [points to a statement from the NSA to support the denial:](#)

With the issue mushrooming into a major diplomatic headache between the U.S., Germany and other allies, the administration stepped up its insistence that Obama knew nothing, though it has yet to explicitly acknowledge that the snooping occurred in the first place. An NSA spokesperson said Sunday that agency head Gen. Keith Alexander "did not discuss with President Obama in 2010 an alleged foreign intelligence operation involving German Chancellor Merkel, nor has he ever discussed alleged operations involving Chancellor Merkel. News reports claiming otherwise are not true."

Spare me. That denial is so narrowly drawn that an amoeba could run laps around it in seconds. Taking it at face value, Alexander has never discussed this with Obama. Fine. What about any of the thousands of other NSA employees? CIA employees? His briefer (when he deigns to have a briefing)? His briefing books (which Valerie Jarrett assures us that he peruses with god-like discernment). Hasn't been a mention of anything that Merkel said not from a public source that would make even the slow witted ask: "How do we know that"? The specificity and narrowness of the denial seems to be a lawyerly evasion by the agency, and may in fact be so specific and narrow as to signal that yes, indeed the NSA informed Obama: what is left out is the elephant in the room.

This is a horrible situation. Political survival instinct and Capitol Hill outrage and cowardice will produce a battle between the political branches and the intelligence community, from which the intelligence community will not back down, and in which it has some substantial advantages. Information is power. The Bush administration was wounded deeply by the CIA's war against the White House. This is a battle that Obama fights with extreme handicaps, but it's a battle we don't need period. [Better to just tell the Europeans to grow up](#), or to ignore them until the storm passes. (The Schaefer piece provides an analysis of the reasons to monitor Merkel even before she became PM that echo those I made over the weekend.)

The health care situation is not much better. Today's storm, overtaking the ongoing website farce, is that the Obama administration knew that millions would lose their individual coverage once Obamacare went into effect. The administration-sit down, because this may shock you-denies. The know nothing! They see nothing!

So here's the choice: either the people responsible for implementing and designing Obamacare failed to anticipate this consequence, which is devastating for millions of people, despite the fact it was eminently predictable, or it is lying. Great to have choices, ain't it?

With respect to predictability, it's clear as day. To "work" (on its own terms, not that working on its own terms is a good thing), healthy individuals have to be attracted to-or forced onto-the exchanges so they can be charged premiums that exceed the costs that they will incur, in order to subsidize those who impose more costs than they will pay in premiums. Due to the nature of the individual insurance market, those who are able to buy on this market are likely to be healthy, low risk individuals: indeed, the inability of high risk individuals to get coverage was one of the reasons given for the need to implement Obamacare in the first place. So the privately, individually insured represented a pool of people tailor made to force onto exchanges.

And how was that done? By a bait-and-switch. The Obama promise of "if you like your health insurance policy you can keep it" was supposedly implemented by grandfathering existing policies. But the grandfathering rule was written so narrowly that any change in the policy-coverage, deductible, co-pay, etc.-negated the grandfathering. So even modest changes that occur with regularity in these policies have led to mass cancellations of policies that are not grandfathered and do not offer the coverage mandated by the ACA, thereby creating a population of sheep to be sheared on the exchanges.

And speaking of ruminants, of course scapegoats must be found! And you guessed it: the insurance companies are being rounded up and rounded on, [most notably by the loathsome, mendacious and incompetent Valerie Jarrett](#):

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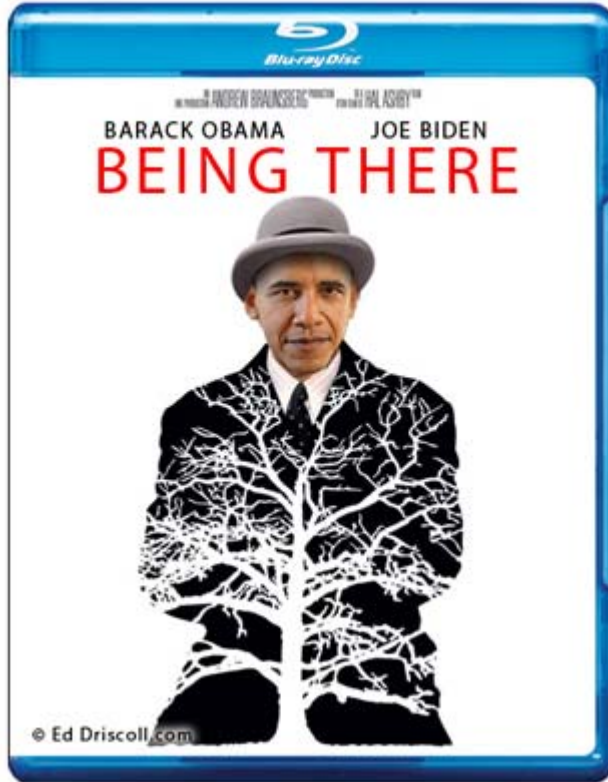
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Roger L. Simon

Obama Should Be Impeached... for Cluelessness



When I read Sunday evening in the *Wall Street Journal* that Barack Obama was [“unaware”](#) until last summer that the U. S. spied on thirty-five world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, I was frankly stupefied. (Well, maybe not entirely stupefied, but at least semi-stunned.)

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Forget “high crimes and misdemeanors.” For those you have to do something and be *conscious*. Barack Obama should be impeached for cluelessness.

He was in the White House for an entire term and many months more *without* knowing what his biggest intelligence agency was doing to thirty-five of the most important people on Earth? Chance the Gardener from Jerzy Kosinski’s [Being There](#) lives — and he lives on Pennsylvania Avenue at our expense. It’s not fiction anymore. (Well, there is one difference. Chance was kind of sweet and passive while Obama is vindictive.)

From the WSJ:

The National Security Agency ended a program used to spy on German Chancellor Angela Merkel and a number of other world leaders after an internal Obama administration review started this summer revealed to the White House the existence of the operations, U.S. officials said.

Officials said the internal review turned up NSA monitoring of some 35 world leaders, in the U.S. government's first public acknowledgment that the U.S. government tapped the phones of world leaders. European leaders have joined international outrage over revelations of U.S. surveillance of Ms. Merkel's phone and of NSA's monitoring of telephone call data in France.

The White House cut off some monitoring programs after learning of them, including the one tracking Ms. Merkel and some other world leaders, a senior U.S. official said. Other programs have been slated for termination but haven't been phased out completely yet, officials said.

The account suggests President Barack Obama went nearly five years without knowing his own spies were bugging the phones of world leaders. Officials said the NSA has so many eavesdropping operations under way that it wouldn't have been practical to brief him on all of them.

[itals mine]

Not practical to brief him on spying on Angela Merkel, et al? Do you believe that? If it's true, it's worse. The president is so incurious he might as well be playing golf all the time.

If there is one investigative journalist left in Washington, D.C. who is not a court eunuch for this abysmal administration, he or she should be jumping on that last line immediately. What we will soon have before us is a circular firing squad of historic proportions as the administration attempts to blame a rogue intelligence agency for the decline of America's world reputation and vice versa.

This isn't funny. It's quite horrifying and depressing. What we are witnessing is the disintegration of our country under the governance of an absolutely incompetent president and administration.

Beyond that hopeless administration, however, is the larger question of what to do about the NSA and its mammoth spy capabilities. This is no simple question, considering the reality of murderous Islamic terrorism is still very much with us, perhaps even growing.

It's no easy task, but all of this will have to be worked out and rationalized so that private citizens can feel as if they are indeed private citizens — and our allies can again feel as if they are our allies.

Toward that end, according to the same *WSJ* report, a government review is underway. As with most of these reviews, the committee consists of familiar names who can be relied upon not to rock boats and to protect the president:

Its members include Richard Clarke, who was a counterterrorism chief for former Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush ; former Central Intelligence Agency Deputy Director Michael

Morell ; University of Chicago Law School professor Geoffrey Stone ; former White House regulatory official Cass Sunstein ; and former Clinton and Obama administration economic and privacy official Peter Swire.

Speaking of the president, and also in the *WSJ*, according to a spokesperson, “a report in the German newspaper *Bild am Sonntag* reporting Mr. Obama personally authorized the tapping of Ms. Merkel in 2010, and was briefed on it by Gen. Alexander, was false.”

Well then, I say, impeach him for cluelessness.

National Review

Obama's Big Lie

The president was deceiving either himself or the rest of us about Obamacare.

by Jonah Goldberg

All we've been hearing the last three years is if you like your policy you can keep it. . . . I'm infuriated because I was lied to,” one woman told the *Los Angeles Times*, as part of a story on how some middle-class Californians have been stunned to learn the real costs of Obamacare.

And that lie looks like the biggest lie about domestic policy ever uttered by a U.S. president.

The most famous presidential lies have to do with misconduct (Richard Nixon's “I am not a crook” or Bill Clinton's “I did not have sexual relations”) or war. Woodrow Wilson campaigned on the slogan “He kept us out of war” and then plunged us into a calamitous war. Franklin D. Roosevelt made a similar vow: “I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”

Roosevelt knew he was making false promises. He explained to an aide: “If someone attacks us, it isn't a foreign war, is it?” When his own son questioned his honesty, FDR replied: “If I don't say I hate war, then people are going to think I don't hate war. . . . If I don't say I won't send our sons to fight on foreign battlefields, then people will think I want to send them. . . . So you play the game the way it has been played over the years, and you play to win.”

The burning question about Barack Obama is whether he was simply “playing to win” and therefore lying on purpose, or whether his statements about Obamacare were just another example of, as Obama once put it, “I actually believe my own” spin, though he used another word.

“No matter how we reform health care, we will keep this promise to the American people,” he told the American Medical Association in 2009. “If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period. If you like your health-care plan, you'll be able to keep your health-care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.”

No matter how you slice it, that was a lie. As many as 16 million Americans on the individual health-insurance market may lose their insurance policies. Just in the last month, hundreds of

thousands have been notified by their insurers that their policies will be canceled. In fact, it appears that more Americans may have lost coverage than gotten it since Healthcare.gov went “live” (a term one must use advisedly). And when the business mandate finally kicks in, tens of millions more probably will lose their plans.

Ah, but they’ll get better ones!

That appears to be the new rationalization for Obama’s bait-and-switch. “Right now all that insurance companies are saying is, ‘We don’t meet the requirements under Obamacare, but we’re going to offer you a better deal!’” explained Juan Williams on *Fox News Sunday*.

A better deal according to whom? Say I like my current car. The government says under some new policy I will be able to keep it and maybe even lower my car payments. But once the policy is imposed, I’m told my car now isn’t street-legal. Worse, I will have to buy a much more expensive car or be fined by the IRS. But, hey, it’ll be a much better car! Why, even though you live in Death Valley, your new car will have great snow tires and heated seats.

This is what the government is saying to millions of Americans who don’t want or need certain coverage, including, for instance, older women — and men — who are being forced to pay for maternity care. Such overcharging is necessary to pay for the poor and the sick signing up for Obamacare or for the newly expanded Medicaid.

At least Darth Vader was honest about his bait-and-switch: “I am altering the deal. Pray I don’t alter it any further.” Obama won’t even admit he lied.

At the 2008 Democratic National Convention, Obama talked at great length about the middle class and not once about the poor. His critics on the right said he was lying, that he was really more interested in income distribution. Such charges were dismissed as paranoid and even racist. But the critics were right. Obama was lying either to himself or to the rest of us — because he was playing the game to win.

Right Turn

[Eight Sebelius takeaways](#)

by Right Turn

In the semi-disastrous testimony of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius — with such doozies on Healthcare.gov as, “The Web site never crashed. It is functional, but at a very slow speed and very low reliability,” with a split scene of the site down — there was more than a new batch of gotcha moments for the Republicans to gloat about. There is a fundamental assumption critical to not only Obamacare, but also to the liberal welfare state more generally, namely that it requires a sophisticated and competent bureaucracy. In its collapse and in the testimony of Sebelius, we saw that this assumption may simply be wrong. Forget ideology for a moment. If the liberal welfare state can’t run its own creations, it is not sustainable.

Here are some specifics from the hearing:

1. She claims not to know how many people have enrolled because the site is not functioning. This contradicts what insurance companies have said and suggests a systemic problem that, if not addressed, makes it impossible to determine basic information like whether HHS has enough young people enrolled to pay for the sicker, older people.
2. She says the president was given updates. She either knew so little that she conveyed false information or she informed him of problems but he continued to tell voters it was 100 percent ready to go.
3. Neither she nor the president seem to understand that the “grandfathering” provision was not going to let all people keep the insurance plans they had. In the administration’s own regulations the [qualifications for grandfathering](#) were so rigid that millions, as we now see, are not going to keep their plan.
4. The Democratic Party, which has long claimed the mantle of compassion, now stands for refusing to grant hardship waivers to those people who tried but couldn’t get on the Web site. When asked if the waivers would be granted, Sebelius sternly replied, “No.”
5. Democratic members of Congress now resort to arguing that Obamacare has been undermined by Republicans. No Republicans voted for it. A Democratic administration wrote the regulations. A Democratic administration is implementing it. Good luck with that one, guys.
6. There is considerable doubt about the privacy/security arrangements. If Healthcare.gov didn’t get the requisite testing to make sure it worked, it didn’t get the requisite testing to protect personal information, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Mich.) argued. The [Associated Press](#), meanwhile, released a report referencing an internal administration memo that stated that insufficient testing created “a level of uncertainty that can be deemed as a high risk.”
7. Sebelius claimed she was “accountable,” but this means little. She isn’t resigning. She still insists contractors were at fault. It’s a kind of no-consequences accountability, I suppose.
8. She vindicated entirely the Republican objections to the shutdown. Nothing up to this point could be more devastating to the public image of Obamacare. The GOP is not the issue; the Obamacare mess is.

This was the sort of hearing that Republicans would not have had the nerve to imagine. In a few short hours, Sebelius, now the face of Obamacare just as much as the president, portrayed just about every quality people hate about big government — incompetent, cold-hearted, blame-casting, uninformed and unrealistic. It’s hard to imagine she won’t be the star of many 2014 GOP ads.

From Instapundit

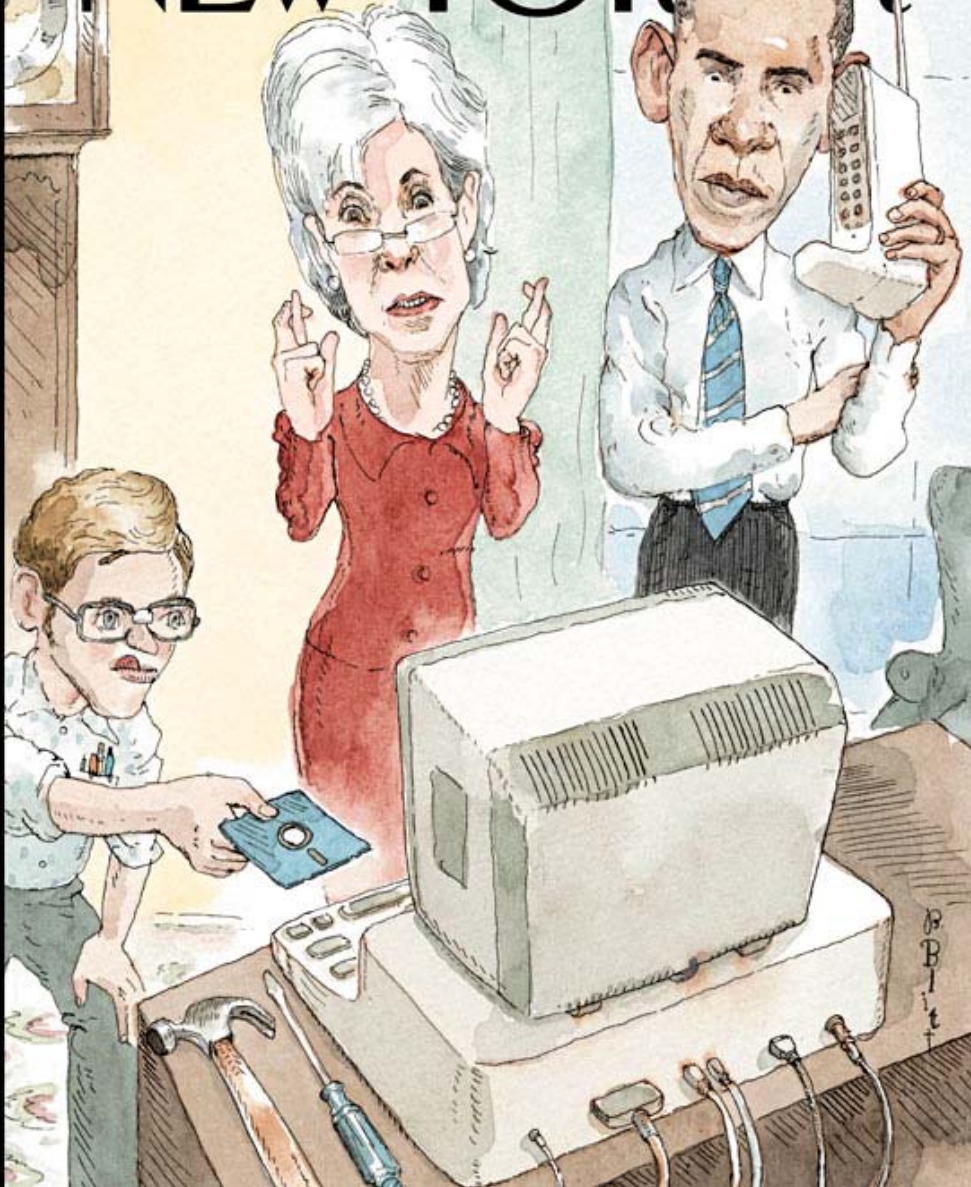
PHOTO OF THE WEEK: [Check out the book a Republican state senator in TN gave Kathleen Sebelius today in Memphis. Hilarious!](#)
She appears to be unamused.



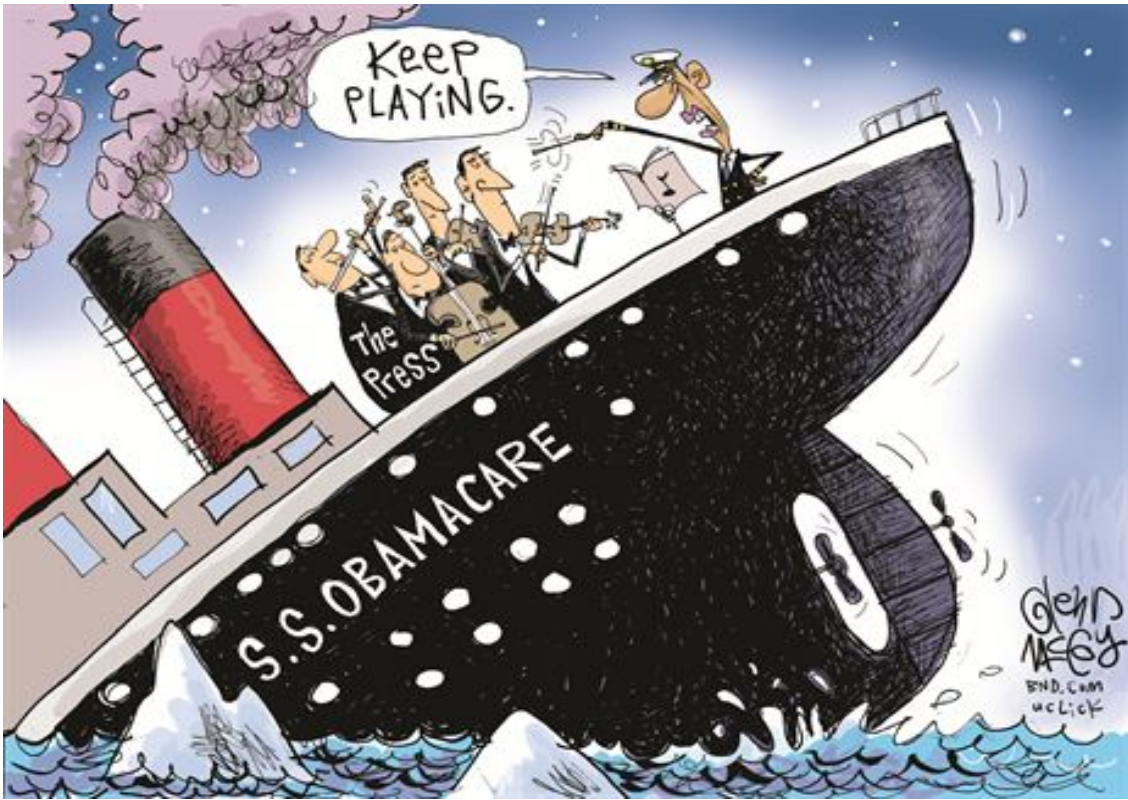
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NOV. 11, 2013

THE NEW YORKER







"OBAMACARE WEBSITE CONTRACTORS DESIGNED THE WHITE HOUSE PUMPKINS."

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WHAT HE SAID

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WHAT HE MEANT

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YOU CAN KEEP YOUR
HEALTHCARE PLAN.
ASTERISK.



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Rope n' Chains

DougM at SondraKistan.com, don't confuse with
HopeNChangeCartoons.com by Stilton Jarlsberg

OBAMACARE WEENIES
CLAIM THEY'LL HAVE
THE WEBSITE FIXED BY
CHRISTMAS



SO, OBAMA MIGHT
COME OUT OF THIS
LOOKIN' LIKE SOME KIND
OF SANTA CLAUS ?



BUT HE COULD ALSO
END UP LOOKIN' LIKE
THE GRINCH, I THINK

