

November 16, 2014

The Gruber story has become a firestorm. Pickerhead doesn't consider it news that fans of government are liars and cheats. They know they are governing against the will of the people and they lie to hide their intent. Our favorites have comments and we'll go through them today. Charles Krauthammer is first.

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Craig Pirrong is next.

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Gruber's revelations makes it clear that Obamacare was a fraud, passed (by the thinnest of margins) using utterly dishonest means. ...

Roger Simon compares and contrasts the lies of Obamacare and the recently announced climate "deal" with the Chinese.

... So, as I said, Mitch McConnell should relax. Not that he shouldn't oppose the deal, but in the end this will be the least of his problems. Obama is only making a fool of himself, at least in the eyes of the Chinese and probably most people who see the reality of the situation.

But not as a big a fool as Jonathan Gruber, the MIT professor and putative architect of Obamacare, who has been caught on three videos explaining why it was necessary to overcomplicate and lie about the Affordable Care Act in order to pass it. (At least he read it. I doubt Obama did and I know Pelosi didn't.) Besides the professor's sleazy Gramscian elitism that doesn't do much for the reputation of MIT, Gruber has something unconscious and disconnected about him that suggests a personality disorder. He doesn't seem to quite get why people might be upset that his deliberate obscurantism completely undermines democracy and the founding documents of our country. After all, he means well. (The ends justify the means meets Asperger Syndrome)

In fact, it's actually quite fascist, reminiscent of Mussolini in a way. But that makes Gruber the perfect adviser for Barack Obama, whose approach to governing is becoming ever closer to Il Duce's statism. ...

The videos of Jonathan Gruber have been hiding in plain sight for more than a year. American Thinker posts on the man who found them.

The story about Rich Weinstein, an unknown investment advisor who poured through hours and hours of YouTube videos, radio interviews, and other media featuring Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber is both incredible and inspiring.

It is Weinstein who is responsible for ferreting out Gruber's toxic comments about the "stupidity of the American people" and, more importantly, Gruber's insistence that Obamacare subsidies were limited to state exchanges and should not be made available at the federal level. ...

Another post from American Thinker on private citizens doing the job that investigative reporters won't do. But then, Glenn Reynolds has said media types are just Democrat operatives with bylines.

As explained here yesterday, Rich Weinstein, an investment banker and private citizen, with just average computer skills and higher than average persistence, uncovered the video of MIT professor Jonathan Gruber admitting that voter stupidity and deliberate lack of government transparency were necessary for the passage of the (Un-)Affordable Care Act, aka ObamaCare, in which he was involved.

This revelation raises the question: why didn't any investigative reporter with access to the right people, a basic understanding of the problems involved with the ACA, paid for persistence and – most importantly – a chance for a career-making scoop undertake the investigative part of the job and make the discovery? And where were the fabled watchdogs – governmental and non-governmental – when they were so desperately needed? ...

National Review catches Dems trying to send Gruber down the memory hole. Jonathan Gruber? "I don't know who he is," Nancy Pelosi told reporters on Thursday.

To jog the former speaker's memory: Jonathan Gruber is, of course, the MIT economist widely hailed for his work as the "architect" of Obamacare. His sudden demotion comes after video

surfaced over the weekend of a 2013 interview with Gruber at the University of Pennsylvania, where he told listeners that a “lack of transparency” was crucial to passing Obamacare through Congress in 2010, given the “stupidity of the American voter.” Three more videos have followed, all showing Gruber making substantially similar remarks.

Nancy Pelosi’s ignorance of Gruber is odd for two reasons. First, she was speaker of the House at the time that the Affordable Care Act was passed. Second, she cited Gruber — by name — at a press conference in 2009: “I don’t know if you have seen Jonathan Gruber of MIT’s analysis. . . . ” Around the same time, his work was quoted and linked on her website.

In Pelosi’s defense, she may only have been following the lead of Maine senator Angus King, who told the hosts of Fox & Friends earlier this week, “I don’t know who this guy is.” ...

More on the memory loss from [Jonathan Tobin](#).

... Just to put this in perspective, here’s what Pelosi said today about Gruber while refusing to answer a question about his admissions:

I don’t know who he is and he didn’t help write our bill.

Here’s what she said in November 2009:

We’re not finished getting all of our reports back from CBO, but we’ll have a side by side to compare. But our bill brings down rates. I don’t know if you have seen Jonathan Gruber of MIT’s analysis of what the comparison is to the status quo versus what will happen in our bill for those who seek insurance within the exchange. And our bill takes down those costs, even some now, and much less preventing the upward spiral.

Judging by Pelosi’s convenient memory loss today, the conviction among those who foisted ObamaCare on the nation that they can always count on “the stupidity of the American voter” wasn’t just something invented by Gruber. ...

From [Pajamas Media](#), a fifth Gruber video has surfaced.

... In the 2011 video shot by TrueNorthReports.com and sent to Watchdog.org on Thursday, Gruber appears before the Vermont House Health Care Committee to present recommendations for a universal, publicly financed health care program. The recommendations were part of the 2011 “Hsiao Report” submitted to the Legislature by economist William C. Hsiao and co-written by Gruber.

As Gruber sits listening, the committee chair reads a comment from a Vermonter who expresses concern that the economist’s plan might lead to “ballooning costs, increased taxes and bureaucratic outrages,” among other things.

After hearing the Vermonter’s worries, Gruber responds, “Was this written by my adolescent children by any chance?”

The remark was met with uproarious laughter....

... Contrary to Gruber's snarky insult, the comment was not written by an adolescent.

"It was actually written by a former senior policy adviser in the White House who knew something about health care systems," said John McClaughry, a two-term Vermont state senator and adviser to President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. ...

Daily Caller finds Gruber in a PBS Frontline interview saying one of the deceptions was crafted in a meeting with the president.

... The Gateway Pundit highlighted a clip from Gruber's 2012 interview with the PBS program Frontline in which the professor admitted that he worked together with the president in the Oval Office to conceal the political impact of their plan to get more tax revenue out of employer-sponsored health insurance plans by imposing a new "Cadillac tax" on companies. The Gateway Pundit also confirmed that Gruber checked into the West Wing for a meeting with the president on July 20, 2009, according to White House visitor logs.

"And Obama was like, 'Well, you know' — I mean, he is really a realistic guy. He is like, 'Look, I can't just do this.' He said: 'It is just not going to happen politically. The bill will not pass. How do we manage to get there through phases and other things?' And we talked about it. And he was just very interested in that topic," Gruber continued.

"Once again, that ultimately became the genesis of what is called the Cadillac tax in the health-care bill, which I think is one of the most important and bravest parts of the health care law and doesn't get nearly enough credit," Gruber added. ...

Ed Morrissey says it's true Gruber was paid \$400,000 by the feds for his work crafting the Democrat subterfuge. That's just the feds. States paid him \$1.6 million.

Or, if you prefer a more acerbic conclusion, taxpayers paid Jonathan Gruber in the mid-six-figures to lie to them, and then brag about it to all of his friends and fans later. Glenn Kessler fact-checked an assertion made by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) about Gruber's paid involvement with ObamaCare while Nancy Pelosi et al kept claiming amnesia about the man called the "architect" of the law. Normally, Kessler jumps in to correct factually lacking claims, but this one gets the rare check mark.

The story begins in February 2009, when HHS signed Gruber to a contract to provide a micro-simulation model for four months at \$95,000. They later added an eight-month contract for \$297,000, bring the total known value of "almost \$400,000," exactly what Barrasso stated. For his year or so on the job — which would have been just a little more than the ObamaCare legislative effort lasted (June 2009 – March 2010) — Gruber received roughly what the President of the United States makes in a year. That's not too bad for an MIT professor. ...

Last, but not least, we get liberal **Ron Fournier's** Gruber take.

... Gruber's remarks struck a nerve with me.

Appearing on an academic panel a year ago, this key Obamacare adviser argued that the law never would have passed if the administration had been honest about the fact that the so-called penalty for noncompliance with the mandate was actually a tax.

"And, basically, call it 'the stupidity of the American voter,' or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing to pass," Gruber said.

He called you stupid. He admitted that the White House lied to you. Its officials lied to all of us—Republicans, Democrats, and independents; rich and poor; white and brown; men and women.

Liberals should be the angriest. Not only were they personally deceived, but the administration's dishonest approach to health care reform has helped make Obamacare unpopular while undermining the public's faith in an activist government. A double blow to progressives.

On top of that, Gruber has helped make the legal case for anti-Obamacare lawyers. In July, a year-old video surfaced in which Gruber said Washington legally withholds money from states that don't create their own health care exchanges. That could be construed by the Supreme Court to buttress the case against health insurance subsidies.

Last year, The Post helped document how Obama and his advisers knowingly misled the public during his 2012 reelection campaign by repeatedly saying that, under Obamacare, people could keep their doctors and keep their health plans. To knowingly mislead is to lie. ...

Washington Post **The Gruber Confession**

by Charles Krauthammer

It's not exactly the [Ems Dispatch](#) (the diplomatic cable Bismarck doctored to provoke the 1870 Franco-Prussian War). But what the just-resurfaced Gruber Confession lacks in world-historical consequence, it makes up for in world-class cynicism. This October [2013 video](#) shows MIT Professor Jonathan Gruber, a principal architect of Obamacare, admitting that, in order to get it passed, the law was made deliberately obscure and deceptive. It constitutes the ultimate vindication of the charge that Obamacare was sold on a pack of lies.

"Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage," said Gruber. "Basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing to pass." This was no open-mic gaffe. It was a clear, indeed enthusiastic, admission to an academic conference of the mendacity underlying Obamacare.

First, Gruber said, the [bill's authors manipulated](#) the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which issues gold-standard cost estimates of any legislative proposal: "This bill was written in a tortured way to make sure CBO did not score the mandate as taxes." Why? Because "if CBO scored the mandate as taxes, the bill dies." And yet, [the president himself openly insisted](#) that the individual mandate — what you must pay the government if you fail to buy health insurance — was *not* a tax.

Worse was the pretense that Obamacare wouldn't cost anyone anything. On the contrary, it's a win-win, insisted President Obama, promising that the "typical family" would save \$2,500 on premiums every year.

Skeptics like me pointed out the obvious: You can't subsidize 30 million uninsured without someone paying something. Indeed, Gruber admits, Obamacare was a huge transfer of wealth — which had to be hidden from the American people, because “if you had a law which . . . made explicit that healthy people pay in and sick people get money, it would not have passed.”

Remember: The whole premise of Obamacare was that it would help the needy, but if you were not in need, if you liked what you had, you would be left alone. Which is why Obama kept repeating — [PolitiFact](#) counted 31 times — that “if you like your plan, you can keep your plan.”

But of course you couldn't, as [millions discovered](#) when they were [kicked off their plans](#) last year. Millions more were further shocked when they discovered major hikes in their premiums and deductibles. It was their wealth that was being redistributed.

[As NBC News](#) and others reported last year, the administration knew this all along. But White House political hands overrode those wary about the president's phony promise. In fact, Obama knew the falsity of his claim as far back as [February 2010](#), when, at a meeting with congressional leaders, he agreed that millions would lose their plans.

Now, it's not unconstitutional to lie. Nor are laws enacted by means of deliberate deception thereby rendered invalid. But it is helpful for citizens to know the cynicism with which the massive federalization of their health care was crafted.

It gets even worse, thanks again to Gruber. Last week, the [Supreme Court agreed to hear a case](#) claiming that the administration is violating its own health-care law, which clearly specifies that subsidies can be given only to insurance purchased on “exchanges established by the state.” Just 13 states have set up such exchanges. Yet the administration is giving tax credits to plans bought on the federal exchange — serving 37 states — despite what the law says.

If the plaintiffs prevail, the subsidy system collapses and, with it, Obamacare itself. Which is why the administration is frantically arguing that “exchanges established by the state” is merely sloppy drafting, a kind of legislative typo. And that the intent all along was to subsidize all plans on all exchanges.

Re-enter Professor Gruber. On a separate video in a different speech, he explains [what Obamacare intended](#): “If you're a state and you don't set up an exchange, that means your citizens don't get their tax credits.” The legislative idea was to coerce states into setting up their own exchanges by otherwise denying their citizens subsidies.

This may have been a stupid idea, but it was no slip. And it's the law, as written, as enacted and as intended. It can be changed by Congress only, not by the executive. Which is precisely what the plaintiffs are saying. Q.E.D.

It's refreshing that “the most transparent administration in history,” as this administration fancies itself, should finally display candor about its signature act of social change. Inadvertently, of course. But now we know what lay behind Obama's smooth reassurances — the arrogance of an academic liberalism, so perfectly embodied in the Gruber Confession, that rules in the name of a citizenry it mocks, disdains and deliberately, contemptuously deceives.

Streetwise Professor

Gruber Gone Wild!, or, Gruber Pyle, PhD

by Craig Pirrong

For someone who has, at times, shot off his mouth (“you don’t say!” I can hear you saying), I am agape in amazement at MIT’s Jonathan Gruber’s lack of a filter between his brain and his trap. But this is a good thing, for we learn a lot when he unburdens himself.

He first came to the attention of most of us when he was caught on video saying that Obamacare had been deliberately written to limit subsidies to those buying insurance through a state-run exchange. This became an issue because few states set up exchanges, and people have been receiving subsidies through Federal exchanges. This is the reason for a legal challenge to Obamacare that has reached the Supreme Court.

The legal embarrassment this caused led Gruber to claim, subsequently, that the letter of the law regarding state exchanges was a typo, and that his statement had been a “speak-o.”

The latest episode in the Gruber Gone Wild video collection is his performance at a conference at U Penn, [where he said that key elements of the ACA had been written in a misleading way to conceal deliberately their true intent and effect](#). Gruber said that the law was written in a “tortured” way to ensure that CBO would not score it as taxes, and to hide the fact that the healthy would be subsidizing the sick. If these things had been transparent, the bill never would have passed. But fortunately, sayeth Gruber, American voters are too stupid to see through this.

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Gruber’s revelations makes it clear that Obamacare was a fraud, passed (by the thinnest of margins) using utterly dishonest means.

Hopefully, SCOTUS is paying attention and will consign the whole thing to the ash heap of history.

[But of course the New York Times fawned over Gruber for his role in driving forward Obamacare](#). Another revealing thing, that. The NYT uses unethical and shoddy journalistic practices to heap outrageous slurs on academics who dare take positions that contravene its agenda, but gives journalistic tongue baths (I cleaned that way up-way up) to those who say anything-anything-that advances the progressive cause.

Update. The videos are from the collection of one Rich Weinstein, an investment advisor infuriated at paying higher premiums under Obamacare, who decided to investigate what happened. [The good Mr. Weinstein says that there are many more videos in his collection](#). Great! Drip. Drip. Drip.

Roger L. Simon

'Climate Change' in the Land of Gruber/Obama

Soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is "[distressed](#)" by the new deal on "climate change" (*née* "global warming") made between China and the U.S. on Obama's trip to Beijing.

I know McConnell is from Kentucky and takes energy policy seriously, but he should relax.

There's about as much chance of this agreement being honored as I have winning next year's Derby... as the horse. The reason is so simple I will abandon propriety and put it in caps: NO ONE BELIEVES IT!

And there are so many reasons for that I could fill several posts but I'll give just a few. You can add more.

1. Most Americans don't think Obama tells the truth about anything, let alone something as controversial as climate. They just made that clear by voting him down in about 237 elections, if you believe Obama's own assertion that his own policies were on trial.
2. No one really knows if "climate change" exists or, if it does, whether its danger is remotely worth the money to correct it, although we do know that "global warming" has not occurred for eighteen years and counting and there is, if anything, global cooling with record lows being set everywhere, the Antarctic ice cap also at record levels, etc. (Yes, yes, climate is not weather, blablabla. Climate is... anything you want to say it is.)
3. Anyone who still believes in "climate change" is likely to be: a. a profiteer (like the financial wizards who put together those "carbon exchanges" a few years back, making off with billions before they went belly up), b. a scientist looking for a handout, c. a bureaucrat or official of a Third World country looking for a handout, d. an official of the UN (virtually the same as c), e. a moral narcissist, preferably rich, who thinks he knows better than us idiots, scientific training not required (cf. Tom Steyer, this year's George Soros wannabe), f. a true-believing liberal camp follower of the sort that doesn't care when Nancy Pelosi says you have to pass Obamacare in order to know what's in it (this is the largest group), or g. a journalist blinded by panic about losing their job if they dare to tell even part of the truth or wander off the reservation.

How do the Chinese figure in all this? Since they break into practically every computer we own, we can assume they also read our newspapers and watch Fox News (maybe even MSNBC, Heaven help them). Besides Obama's being a lame duck who was clobbered in the last election, they are fully aware of his myriad lies and prevarications from "If like your plan..." to red lines in Syria. No one trusts him, even members of his own party.

The Chinese therefore know any deal with Obama is just for show, meaningless. But to make doubly sure, they arranged for the language in the agreement to say "intend" to reduce their emissions by such-and-such by 2020 — "intend," the mother of all wiggle words. (I "intend" to win the Oscar in 2016, even though I have not written the script yet.) Actually, the Chinese, as usual, did a brilliant job of using Obama for their own propaganda, knowing full well that he was desperate to be back in the news for something positive, preferably as far from D.C. as possible.

It's worth noting that the Chinese do have a bad pollution (not "global warming" or whatever anti-science [Lysenkoist](#) junk term Obama and his cronies want to concoct) problem. But my guess is they will get around to solving it themselves for selfish reasons. Beijing air quality is horrible. The Politburo can't stay inside at the Ritz Carlton *all the time*. Obama's will have nothing to do with it.

So, as I said, Mitch McConnell should relax. Not that he shouldn't oppose the deal, but in the end this will be the least of his problems. Obama is only making a fool of himself, at least in the eyes of the Chinese and probably most people who see the reality of the situation.

But not as a big a fool as Jonathan Gruber, the MIT professor and putative architect of Obamacare, who has been caught on three videos explaining why it was necessary to overcomplicate and lie about the Affordable Care Act in order to pass it. (At least he read it. I doubt Obama did and I know Pelosi didn't.) Besides the professor's sleazy Gramscian elitism that doesn't do much for the reputation of MIT, Gruber has something unconscious and disconnected about him that suggests a personality disorder. He doesn't seem to quite *get* why people might be upset that his deliberate obscurantism completely undermines democracy and the founding documents of our country. After all, he means well. (The ends justify the means meets [Asperger Syndrome](#))

In fact, it's actually quite fascist, reminiscent of Mussolini in a way. But that makes Gruber the perfect adviser for Barack Obama, whose approach to governing is becoming ever closer to Il Duce's statism. No doubt the professor is very concerned about "climate change." I wouldn't be surprised if he would like to see all "denialists" removed from the MIT faculty. Fortunately for [Richard Lindzen](#), he has already retired.

American Thinker

[Meet the guy who found all those Jonathan Gruber Obamacare clips](#)

by Rick Moran

The story about Rich Weinstein, an unknown investment advisor who poured through hours and hours of YouTube videos, radio interviews, and other media featuring Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber is both incredible and inspiring.

It is Weinstein who is responsible for ferreting out Gruber's toxic comments about the "stupidity of the American people" and, more importantly, Gruber's insistence that Obamacare subsidies were limited to state exchanges and should not be made available at the federal level.

[Bloomberg:](#)

A few days ago, Weinstein [pulled a short clip](#) from Gruber's year-old appearance at a University of Pennsylvania health care conference. As a crowd murmured with laughter, Gruber [explained](#) that the process that created the ACA was, by necessity, obfuscated to pull one over on voters.

"This bill was written in a tortured way to make sure the CBO did not score the mandate as taxes," said Gruber. "Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the America voter, or whatever."

Weinstein's scoop went around the world in a hurry. American Commitment, a conservative 501(c)(4) founded by Americans for Prosperity veteran Phil Kerpen, published the clip on its YouTube channel. Kerpen promoted it through tweets, which quickly became live coverage of the media outlets discovering Gruber.

The University of Pennsylvania actually pulled the clip for a few hours before a Tsunami of outrage forced them to put it back up.

Weinstein's activism is the result of him losing his insurance in 2013:

Weinstein dates his accidental citizen journalism back to the end of 2013 and the first run of insurance cancellations or policy changes. He was among the people who got a letter informing him that his old policy did not meet ACA standards.

“When Obama said 'If you like your plan, you can keep your plan, period'—frankly, I believed him,” says Weinstein. “He very often speaks with qualifiers. When he said 'period,' there were no qualifiers. You can understand that when I lost my own plan, and the replacement cost twice as much, I wasn't happy. So I'm watching the news, and at that time I was thinking: Hey, the administration was not telling people the truth, and the media was doing nothing!”

So Weinstein, new plan in hand, started watching the news. “These people were showing up on the shows, calling themselves architects of the law,” he recalls. “I saw [David Cutler](#), Zeke Emanuel, Jonathan Gruber, people like that. I wondered if these guys had some type of paper trail. So I looked into what Dr. Cutler had said and written, and it was generally all about cost control. After I finished with Cutler, I went to Dr. Gruber. I assume I went through every video, every radio interview, every podcast. Every everything.”

His second shot across the bow of Obamacare was an even bigger coup:

Weinstein dug and dug and eventually discovered the first Gruber quote, known in conservative circles as the “speak-o.” Gruber had been on TV arguing that the case against subsidies in non-exchange states was ludicrous. Yet [at a January 2012 symposium](#), Gruber seemed to be making the conservatives' argument. “What's important to remember politically about this is if you're a state and you don't set up an exchange, that means your citizens don't get their tax credits—but your citizens still pay the taxes that support this bill,” said Gruber. “So you're essentially saying [to] your citizens you're going to pay all the taxes to help all the other states in the country.”

The investment advisor e-mailed this around. Nobody cared. Nobody noticed the clip until after the D.C. circuit [ruled 2-1 in favor of plaintiffs](#) who were suing to stop the subsidies. Weinstein clicked around for articles about the decision, and left a comment on The Washington Post's Volokh Conspiracy blog, pointing to the clip. In short order, Ryan Radia of the conservative Competitive Enterprise Institute noticed the clip and promoted it. Within hours, Gruber's “speak-o” had greatly muddied the liberal argument.

SCOTUS now has not only evidence of congressional intent to limit the subsidies, but also evidence that the people who wrote the law had the same intent. It's going to be very hard for John Roberts to finesse this one, which probably means SCOTUS will uphold *King* and the subsidies gotten through the federal website will end.

That doesn't mean the end of Obamacare. It is possible that many states without exchanges will set them up to prevent the disruption in coverage for those in their states who got insurance through healthcare.gov. But Weinstein's efforts have thrown a monkey wrench into Obamacare's inner workings and whether the program can survive is open to question.

American Thinker

Private citizens doing the job investigative reporters won't do

by Ethel C. Fenig

[As explained here](#) yesterday, Rich Weinstein, an investment banker and private citizen, with just average computer skills and higher than average persistence, uncovered the video of MIT professor Jonathan Gruber admitting that voter stupidity and deliberate lack of government transparency were necessary for the passage of the (Un-)Affordable Care Act, aka ObamaCare, in which he was involved.

This revelation raises the question: why didn't any investigative reporter with access to the right people, a basic understanding of the problems involved with the ACA, paid for persistence and – most importantly – a chance for a career-making scoop undertake the investigative part of the job and make the discovery? And where were the fabled watchdogs – governmental and non-governmental – when they were so desperately needed?

Peter Igemi of [Da Tech Guy Blog](#) provides one answer.

It's not the suggestion that lawmakers were trying to hide the true meaning and costs of the law. After all lawmakers have spun or twisted law for the sake of personal power, pandering or achieving particular ends since before [Daniel was tossed into the Lion's den](#) but something more subtle.

What is implicit is the idea that said deception would be entirely successful. Why? *Because he understood that the media would not reveal and/or report on it.* (italics in original)

There is a specific reason why the Bill of Rights after explicitly protecting freedom of speech specifically mentioned the freedom of the press, it's because the press has the power to amplify that freedom far beyond the individual. While one might be able to downplay or defame an individual making a claim such tactics are considerably less effective when applying them to a press organization (although in fairness the administration has done their best when it comes to Fox News).

Because of that explicitly granted privilege the press has an obligation to honestly and accurately report the goings on of government in order that the people deciding who shall rule them can make their decision based on the merits.

That the press didn't do their job in reporting on this deception is despicable *but the fact that the administration and their allies took it as rote that said press act in that fashion should be a matter of personal disgrace to any person who claims the Constitutional protections of a journalist.* (italics added)

Postscript. That being said, this report was [almost a given](#):

Since the video was uploaded, the major English and Spanish broadcast networks of ABC, CBS, NBC, Univision, and Telemundo have chosen not to cover this devastating video on either their morning or evening newscasts. (italics in original)

Nothing to see here; move along.

Igemi then links to Glenn Reynolds of [Instapundit, who asked](#) (italics in original):

If the Gruber video had come out before the election, would the GOP have picked up Virginia and New Hampshire? Quite possibly.

As Reynolds is fond of noting, reporters, investigative ones included, are merely Democrat operatives with bylines.

But now, with contemporary electronic tools available to everyone and just about everything videoed, recorded, and accessible online, it is time for non-bylined Democrats, such as presumed amateurs Weinstein and [James O'Keefe](#) proved can be done, to expose even more.

And as Weinstein has shown, with ObamaCare, there is much to be exposed.

National Review

[Gruber Who?](#)

Democrats do their best to erase their many links to Obamacare's "Mr. Mandate."

by Ian Tuttle

Jonathan Gruber? "I don't know who he is," Nancy Pelosi told reporters on Thursday.

To jog the former speaker's memory: Jonathan Gruber is, of course, the MIT economist widely hailed for his work as the "architect" of Obamacare. His sudden demotion comes after video surfaced over the weekend of a 2013 interview with Gruber at the University of Pennsylvania, where he told listeners that a "lack of transparency" was crucial to passing Obamacare through Congress in 2010, given the "stupidity of the American voter." Three more videos have followed, all showing Gruber making substantially similar remarks.

Nancy Pelosi's ignorance of Gruber is odd for two reasons. First, she was speaker of the House at the time that the Affordable Care Act was passed. Second, she cited Gruber — by name — at a [press conference in 2009](#): "I don't know if you have seen Jonathan Gruber of MIT's analysis. . . ." Around the same time, his work was quoted and linked on her website.

In Pelosi's defense, she may only have been following the lead of Maine senator Angus King, who [told the hosts of Fox & Friends](#) earlier this week, "I don't know who this guy is."

But it is difficult to imagine that either of these illustrious personages were unfamiliar with Gruber, particularly given that "the White House lent [Gruber] to Capitol Hill to help Congressional staff members draft the specifics of the legislation," as John McCormack [wrote](#) in the *New York Times* in 2012, in an article in which he called Gruber "Mr. Mandate." "Congressional staff members from both parties trusted him because he was seen as an econometric wonk, not a political agent."

But "he didn't help write our bill," Pelosi declared Thursday. "So let's put him aside."

Ms. Pelosi and Mr. King are both getting up there in years, so perhaps we ought to be forgiving. Vox's Sarah Kliff has no such excuse. "Jon Gruber, the health economist who pretty much wrote Obamacare, owns 8 parrots," she [tweeted](#) in March 2012. Yet in a Gruber-related [Q&A with herself](#) at Vox on Thursday, Kliff asked: "What role did he play in developing the Affordable Care Act?" Her answer: "Mostly number-crunching."

Of course.

Gruber's comments have been much-remarked-upon, particularly on the right, not only for confirming what Obamacare critics have said for five years but also for capturing at least in part the ethos of modern progressive liberalism: smarter-than-thou zealotry masquerading as for-the-greater-good pragmatism. (That he did it at sound-bite length is simply an added perk.) But for a movement that touts its stratospheric intelligence, the response to Gruber's comments from his longtime supporters, both on Capitol Hill and in the media, reminds observers of something else: that liberalism tends to handle its PR nightmares with an iron first.

Consider what is happening to Jonathan Gruber: In frantic damage control, many liberals have reflexively indulged their despotic inclinations and try to "disappear" him. The University of Pennsylvania pulled the original video of Gruber's remarks from its website. No doubt if it were possible, Democratic staffers, Politburo-style, would be scrubbing him from photographs.

They can't, of course. Within hours of Nancy Pelosi's purported memory lapse, bloggers had unearthed her previous comments. Similarly with Kliff. An actual "memory hole" is notoriously difficult to come by.

But it is astonishing — is it not? — that the impulse of Pelosi and Kliff and others has been to suppose that they can comment on the matter as if it were *tabula rasa*, as if no one had heard of Jonathan Gruber, or that, if they had, they would allow Democrats' pronouncements to pass unchallenged. How to account for that degree of arrogance? And if it is not arrogance, if they actually believe what they are saying and writing — how much more troubling.

Political actors are constantly at war over the past, because they know that it defines the present. Pelosi and her ilk, though, are not interested in discovering the past, but in controlling it — and in having the leisure to reshape it whenever convenient.

Who? Said what? Well, that was a long time ago, and, besides, it never happened anyway.

Contentions

[Pelosi's Bad Memory and ObamaCare Lies](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

Reacting today to the furor caused by the revelations about the administration's ObamaCare lies, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi did her best to dismiss the controversy. As far as the woman who rammed the Affordable Care Act through Congress on a party-line vote was concerned, Jonathan Gruber is a nobody who had no role in its passage. But unfortunately for her, [a C-Span archival tape from 2009](#) was quickly uncovered that shows the former speaker citing Gruber as an authority on the bill. Ouch. But after we're done chuckling at Pelosi's chutzpah and calculating the impact of this latest Democratic fib on the course of the debate, this might be another moment for us to ponder just how much damage the cynical push for ObamaCare did to the fabric of American democracy.

Just to put this in perspective, [here's what Pelosi said today](#) about Gruber while refusing to answer a question about his admissions:

I don't know who he is and he didn't help write our bill.

Here's what she said in November 2009:

We're not finished getting all of our reports back from CBO, but we'll have a side by side to compare. But our bill brings down rates. I don't know if you have seen Jonathan Gruber of MIT's analysis of what the comparison is to the status quo versus what will happen in our bill for those who seek insurance within the exchange. And our bill takes down those costs, even some now, and much less preventing the upward spiral.

Judging by Pelosi's convenient memory loss today, the conviction among those who foisted ObamaCare on the nation that they can always count on "the stupidity of the American voter" wasn't just something invented by Gruber.

But as with Gruber's comments, there will be plenty of people on the left who will dismiss this as nothing but a minor kerfuffle, a footnote to the achievement of the great liberal dream of a national health-care act. But words and deeds have consequences.

The problem with ObamaCare was, as Gruber has acknowledged, that if the voters or even the Congress that voted on it had understood what was in the bill, it could not have succeeded in gaining a majority, even one without a single Republican vote. Throughout the debate over the bill and its implementation, the one consistent theme has been dishonesty. From Pelosi's own statement that the law had to be passed for members to know what was in it, to the president's lies about consumers keeping their coverage and doctors, to the delay in enforcing the individual mandate and other provisions, to the current debacle over Gruber, advocates of the misnamed Affordable Care Act have never stopped lying or talking down to the American people.

In the last 60 years, we have seen confidence in government and politics decline bit by bit to the current situation where politicians of both parties are about as well respected as street walkers. This was the result of a series of unfortunate decisions and scandals that started with Vietnam, continued with Watergate (and every other subsequent scandal that generally is referred to by adding the word "gate" to something), was compounded by the distorted debate about Iraq, and now seems to be reaching a crescendo with ObamaCare.

One doesn't have to hold a particular position on any of these issues to understand that when the American people perceive they have been deceived, it hurts more than the party caught lying. It hurts confidence in democracy and the rule of law. President Obama came into office and even reelected in 2012 buoyed by a wave of optimism about the nation that his historic election as our first African-American president created. But instead of building on the confidence placed in him, he resorted to the lowest and most cynical tactics to get his way on health care. Like Gruber and Pelosi, he undoubtedly felt the ends justified the means and that if it took a few lies to get his bill passed, it would be worth it. In the course of that campaign, he and his supporters called their Tea Party opponents who had raised up in protest against this massive expansion of federal power every vile name in the book and branded them as racists. Now today, unashamed, they look back on the lies they told and tell us to just move on since the debate is supposedly over.

But whether or not it is over—and, as I argued earlier, it is far from over—the damage they've done to the country and the government will live on. Leader Pelosi doesn't have amnesia but she and everyone else who took part in this disgraceful episode should be deeply ashamed.

Pajamas Media

Grubered Again! Fifth Video of Liberal Mastermind Surfaces

This time Republicans are stupid, per the architect of perhaps the worst legislation in American history.

He switches it up this time, showing that he is not only the precise embodiment of the far-left, Woodrow Wilson-style mastermind who believes it's his moral duty to lie his sub-mental followers towards a better life, but that he is also the precise embodiment of the far-left Woodrow Wilson-style mastermind who can bedazzle his sub-mental conservative opponents with his theoretical intellect.

From watchdog.org:

In the 2011 [video shot by TrueNorthReports.com](#) and sent to Watchdog.org on Thursday, Gruber appears before the Vermont House Health Care Committee to present recommendations for a universal, publicly financed health care program. The recommendations were part of the 2011 "Hsiao Report" submitted to the Legislature by economist William C. Hsiao and co-written by Gruber.

As Gruber sits listening, the committee chair reads a comment from a Vermonter who expresses concern that the economist's plan might lead to "ballooning costs, increased taxes and bureaucratic outrages," among other things.

After hearing the Vermonter's worries, Gruber responds, "Was this written by my adolescent children by any chance?"

The remark was met with uproarious laughter.

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you. It continues:

Contrary to Gruber's snarky insult, the comment was not written by an adolescent.

"It was actually written by a former senior policy adviser in the White House who knew something about health care systems," said John McClaughry, a two-term Vermont state senator and adviser to President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

McClaughry, who wrote the comment in an op-ed weeks before the 2011 committee meeting, told Vermont Watchdog he did not know Gruber made the condescending insult. However, he was aware of other videos discovered this week in which Gruber boasted of writing deceptive policies to trick "stupid" American voters.

"No one should trust this man. ... Based on the rest of the stuff that's come out on the videos, nobody can trust this guy. He has no use for transparency, he thinks people are stupid, and he'll do anything to get this thing through and pocket his \$400,000. That's not in the interest of the people of Vermont," McClaughry said.

Daily Caller

[President Crafted Obamacare Deception With Gruber At White House Meeting](#)

by Patrick Howley

President Obama personally crafted a major Obamacare deception with Jonathan Gruber at one of Gruber's numerous White House meetings, [according to a 2012 Gruber interview with PBS](#).

MIT professor Gruber, who served as a top Obama administration consultant during the writing of Obamacare, garnered national condemnation this week after [The Daily Caller published a video](#) in which he credited a lack of transparency for Obamacare's passage. Gruber said the law survived an existential threat posed by "the stupidity of the American voter."

Gruber had a powerful partner in his effort to spin or conceal politically vulnerable aspects of Obamacare from the public: the president of the United States.

[The Gateway Pundit highlighted a clip](#) from Gruber's 2012 interview with the PBS program Frontline in which the professor admitted that he worked together with the president in the Oval Office to conceal the political impact of their plan to get more tax revenue out of employer-sponsored health insurance plans by imposing a new "Cadillac tax" on companies. The Gateway Pundit also confirmed that Gruber checked into the West Wing for a meeting with the president on July 20, 2009, according to White House visitor logs.

"And Obama was like, 'Well, you know' — I mean, he is really a realistic guy. He is like, 'Look, I can't just do this.' He said: 'It is just not going to happen politically. The bill will not pass. How do we manage to get there through phases and other things?' And we talked about it. And he was just very interested in that topic," Gruber continued.

"Once again, that ultimately became the genesis of what is called the Cadillac tax in the health-care bill, which I think is one of the most important and bravest parts of the health care law and doesn't get nearly enough credit," Gruber added.

The White House stated its disagreement with Gruber's remarks Thursday, but its attempt to distance itself from Gruber should prove futile. Gruber attended five of the 12 White House meetings with top experts to design Obamacare in 2009, according to [a 2011 transcript](#) of an MSNBC program that Gruber appeared on. Gruber was present at the Oval Office planning meeting that Obama attended on July 20, 2009. Gruber's "objective analysis" showing that Obamacare would lower premiums was [featured on the White House blog](#) in November 2009.

Hot Air

[WaPo fact check: Yes, Gruber got \\$400,000 for ObamaCare work](#)

by Ed Morrissey

Or, if you prefer a more acerbic conclusion, [taxpayers paid Jonathan Gruber in the mid-six-figures to lie to them](#), and then brag about it to all of his friends and fans later. Glenn Kessler fact-checked an assertion made by Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) about Gruber's paid involvement with ObamaCare while Nancy Pelosi *et al* kept claiming amnesia about the man called the "architect" of the law. Normally, Kessler jumps in to correct factually lacking claims, but this one gets the rare check mark.

The story begins in February 2009, when HHS signed Gruber to a contract to provide a micro-simulation model for four months at \$95,000. They later added [an eight-month contract](#) for \$297,000, bring the total known value of “almost \$400,000,” exactly what Barrasso stated. For his year or so on the job — which would have been just a little more than the ObamaCare legislative effort lasted (June 2009 – March 2010) — Gruber received roughly what the President of the United States makes in a year. That’s not too bad for an MIT professor.

However, the fact check on Barrasso is hardly the most interesting part of Kessler’s review. What exactly did this micro-simulation model do to help Democrats craft ObamaCare? Kessler offers this explanation:

The model, the Gruber Microsimulation Model, is the coin of the realm, in large part because it is similar to the model used by the Congressional Budget Office. That means administration policy-makers could predict with reasonable certainty how CBO would score legislation. Given that legislation in Washington often falls or rises depending on the CBO score, that made this model a very powerful tool for administration officials.

Reeeeeeeeeaaaaaallllly. [Let’s recall what Gruber had to say about CBO scoring:](#)

“This bill was written in a tortured way to make sure CBO did not score the mandate as taxes,” Gruber tells the audience with a smile. “If CBO scores the mandate as taxes, the bill dies.” ... “Lack of transparency is a huge political advantage,” says the MIT economist who helped write Obamacare. “And basically, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical for the thing to pass.”

Gruber bragged about gaming the legislative language in order to fool the CBO, and the mandate-tax issue was hardly the only issue in which CBO got snookered. The supposed deficit neutrality of the ACA was a house of cards that rapidly collapsed after passage, too, as well as the wealth transfers from the young to the old and the healthy to the sick, as Gruber explicitly mentions in the video. No wonder HHS extended Gruber’s contract for another eight months; they needed his model in order to keep cooking CBO’s analysis as the bill went through a number of changes in Congress through the fall and winter.

Gruber didn’t limit his deception to CBO, either, Kessler notes. When speaking to journalists, Gruber made a habit of not disclosing his connection to the ObamaCare effort in order to pose as an “independent” expert — a deception in which the White House participated:

Gruber’s consulting was largely unknown at the time, and eventually it became [an issue](#) as he had been frequently quoted by journalists and lawmakers who may not have known of his connection to the administration; he also generally did not disclose his connection when writing opinion articles.

In one especially fishy circumstance, Nancy-Ann DeParle, at the time the director of the White House Office of Health Reform, [wrote about Gruber’s work](#) on the White House blog on Nov. 29, 2009. “MIT Economist Confirms Senate Health Reform Bill Reduces Costs and Improves Coverage” was the headline on the post.

DeParle made no reference to the fact that Gruber had already earned hundreds of thousands of dollars working for the administration. She described him as “a MIT economist who has been closely following the health insurance reform process.”

Barrasso was right about the \$400,000 or so Gruber got from taxpayers, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. That money appears to have been spent by the executive branch in a deliberate attempt to deceive Congress' own analytical organization on a massive social-engineering experiment, and then aided and abetted by lack of disclosure of Gruber's relationship to the project when dealing with the media. That's dishonesty on an industrial scale, and goes way beyond Gruber himself.

The hearings on this should be *fascinating*.

National Journal

Obamacare's Foundation of Lies

There is only one kind of lie, it's apolitical, and it cripples the best of intentions.

by Ron Fournier

A lie is apolitical, or at least it should be. If there is one thing that unites clear-headed Americans, it's a belief that our leaders must be transparent and honest.

And yet, there seem to be two types of lies in our political discourse: Those that hurt "my party" and "my policies"; and those that don't. We condemn the former and forgive the latter—cheapening the bond of trust that enables a society to progress.

This truism came to mind when I read a *Washington Post* story headlined, "[Who Is Jonathon Gruber?](#)" It was an important and workmanlike report on the Obamacare adviser who bragged about the political advantages of deceiving voters, whom Gruber called stupid.

"Those comments have struck a nerve *on the right*," wrote Jose A. DeIReal (emphasis added), "with some of the law's critics pointing to Gruber's comments as evidence that the administration intentionally deceived the American public on the costs of the programs."

My first reaction was, "*No! No! Not just on the right!*" I strongly support bipartisan efforts to expand the availability of health coverage to the working poor, and bending the cost curve that threatens federal budgets for years to come. While I think President Obama and congressional Democrats helped contribute to the 2009 standoff over what became the Affordable Care Act, I've openly rooted for Obamacare's success. I've denounced the knee-jerk opposition from the GOP, a party that once embraced key elements of Obamacare. My ideology is amorphous; I am not "on the right."

All of that, and yet: Gruber's remarks struck a nerve with *me*.

Appearing on an academic panel a year ago, this key Obamacare adviser argued that the law never would have passed if the administration had been honest about the fact that the so-called penalty for noncompliance with the mandate was actually a tax.

"And, basically, call it 'the stupidity of the American voter,' or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing to pass," Gruber said.

He called you stupid. He admitted that the White House lied to you. Its officials lied to all of us—Republicans, Democrats, and independents; rich and poor; white and brown; men and women.

Liberals should be the angriest. Not only were they personally deceived, but the administration's dishonest approach to health care reform has helped make Obamacare unpopular while undermining the public's faith in an activist government. A double blow to progressives.

On top of that, Gruber has helped make the legal case for anti-Obamacare lawyers. In July, a year-old video surfaced in which Gruber said Washington legally withholds money from states that don't create their own health care exchanges. That could be construed by the Supreme Court to buttress [the case](#) against health insurance subsidies.

Last year, The Post helped document how Obama and his advisers knowingly misled the public during his 2012 reelection campaign by repeatedly saying that, under Obamacare, people could keep their doctors and keep their health plans. To knowingly mislead is to lie.

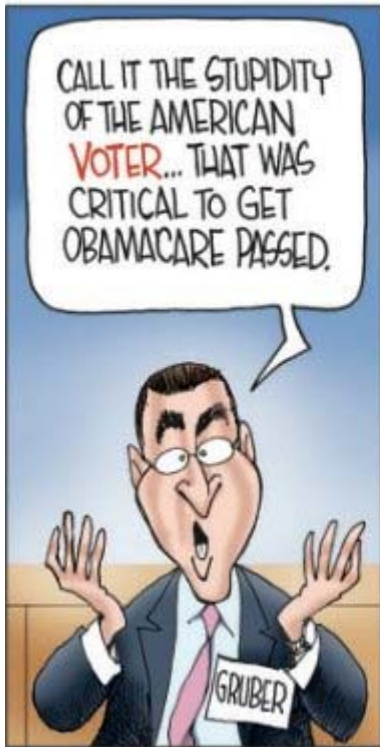
"It's hard to know what might have happened if the truth had won the day," writes [Post](#) columnist [Kathleen Parker](#). "But we do know that truth squandered is trust lost."

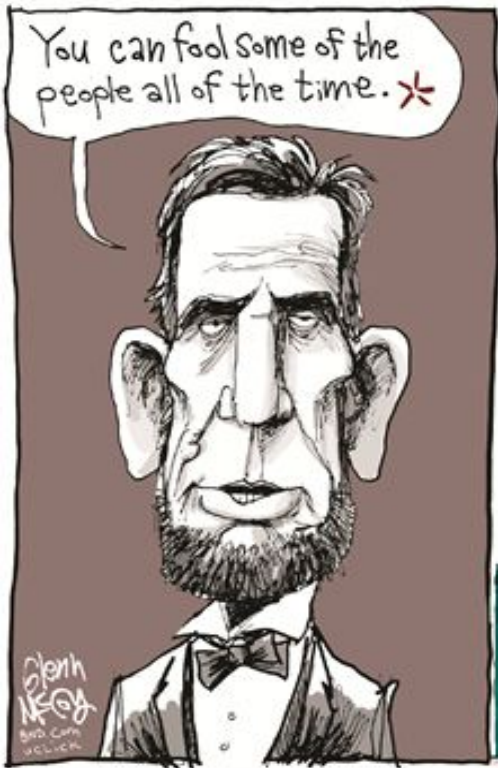
And so even I have to admit, as a supporter, that Obamacare was built and sold on a foundation of lies. No way around it, unless you're willing to accept a political system that colors its lies—the reds, the whites, and the blues.





The Voters





* some of the people



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**JONATHAN GRUBER
OBAMACARE
ARCHITECT**



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TO '12**

Eric Allie
CARTOONIST'S
PUNNY SHIRTS

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THE STUPIDITY
OF AMERICANS
TO PASS THIS
THING!

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE
MY M.I.T. PROFESSOR
FRIEND, HE'S A LITTLE
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