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THE FOUNDATION

“We should be unfaithful to ourselves if we should ever lose sight of the danger to our liberties if anything partial or extraneous should infect the purity of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent elections.” --John Adams

EDITORIAL EXEGESIS

“The semiotic search for the racism beneath Newt’s food-stamp line. The dismissal of ‘the Constitution’ in haughty air quotes. The wasting of primetime minutes pondering which wife would make the best first lady. The obsessive deposing of Romney on the legality of condoms. The condescending identity politics of carting out a token Latino to ask an immigration question. The dings. The bells. The buzzers. The Google Chat notification tones. ... These are just some of the lowlights of the umpteen Republican debates thus far. And ... they were all brought to us by the mainstream media. That’s the same media that daily carry water for the Obama administration, approach the tea parties as anthropological curiosities, and persistently skew the public discourse leftward in ways large and small, conscious and unconscious. ... While dismantling the presuppositions of the political media is surely a skill a conservative president would do well to acquire, it does not rank with the ability to clearly and persuasively articulate a conservative policy vision for solving America’s most pressing problems, or with the ability to display fiscal sobriety, strategic acumen, and strong instincts toward liberty when presented with new challenges, foreign and domestic. These abilities -- and not the ability to cleverly parry liberal inanities -- are what the primary debates are meant to test. ... [W]e favor the plan recently floated by Hugh Hewitt. Come the 2016 election season, the RNC should set the number, dates, and locations of debates. They should be fewer in number than the 20-odd we will see before this year is out, so that they are not so unduly agenda-setting. And the party should partner with local party officials, conservative think tanks, alternative media, tea-party groups, and grassroots organizations to determine formatting and questions. ... The alternative is to hope MSNBC and CNN come into the flock between now and 2016. Don’t hold your breath.” --National Review

UPRIGHT

“The politicians are spending us into oblivion. But I can’t

blame only them. The American people are complacent. We like the goodies. We think we’re getting something for nothing. We are like alcoholics who know we have a problem but just can’t resist one last fix. One more infrastructure bill or jobs plan will jumpstart the economy. Then we’ll kick our spending addiction once and for all. But we don’t stop spending. Almost all budget categories grow, even when adjusted for inflation. ... So what do we do? We must cut. But I fear Americans aren’t up for that. People on the street told me that the budget is out of control. But when I then asked them, ‘What would you cut?’ most just stared ahead. ... We’re on the way to becoming Greece -- while our ‘leaders’ stand and watch.” --columnist John Stossel

“High tax rates in the upper income brackets allow politicians to win votes with class warfare rhetoric, painting their opponents as defenders of the rich. Meanwhile, the same politicians can win donations from the rich by creating tax loopholes that can keep the rich from actually paying those higher tax rates -- or perhaps any taxes at all. What is worse than class warfare is phony class warfare. Slippery talk about ‘fairness’ is at the heart of this fraud by politicians seeking to squander more of the nation’s resources.” --economist Thomas Sowell

“[I]n Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron has introduced a bill seeking to partially privatize the National Health Service (NHS). Why? Because the British government is ‘hoping to avoid a Greek-style financial meltdown.’ ... UK healthcare costs are currently \$194 billion per year and consume 18 percent of the UK’s budget. The projected ‘cuts’ in spending for 2013 that have people up in arms? As of now, a \$6 billion increase in spending to \$200 billion. Much of the animus likely stems from the fact that Britain has grown used to massive amounts of healthcare spending that can no longer be sustained: between 2000 and 2010, the NHS budget doubled in real terms. Furthermore, British debt as a percentage of GDP was almost 80 percent in 2010. Which brings us across the pond, so to speak, where America’s debt level reached 102 percent of GDP last year, long before the full effects -- and true costs -- of our own stab at government-run healthcare have yet to be realized.” --columnist Arnold Ahlert

INSIGHT

“We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.” --British prime minister Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

“To be controlled in our economic pursuits means to be controlled in everything.” --Nobel laureate economist Friedrich August von Hayek (1899-1992)

THE DEMO-GOGUES

Stunning hypocrisy: “Now, whenever Congress refuses to act, Joe and I, we’re going to act. In the months to come, wherever we have an opportunity, we’re going to take steps on our own to keep this economy moving. ... I do hope Congress joins me. Instead of spending the coming months in a lot of phony political debates focusing on the next election, I hope that we spend some time focusing on middle-class Americans and those who are struggling to get into the middle class.” --Barack Obama

Reducing the American Dream: “If you’re willing to put in the work, the idea is that you should be able to raise a family and own a home, not go bankrupt because you got sick, ‘cause you’ve got some health insurance that helps you deal with those difficult times; that you can send your kids to college; that you can put some money away for retirement. That’s all most people want. Folks don’t have unrealistic ambitions. They do believe that if they work hard, they should be able to achieve that small measure of an American dream.” --Barack Obama

Scary: “Let me let you in on a secret. I am the senior-most person serving on the Financial Services Committee. Barney Frank is about to retire and guess who’s shaking in their boots? The too-big-to-fail banks and financial institutions and all of Wall Street, because Maxine Waters is going to be the next chair of the Financial Services Committee!” --Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Way over the top: “On Immigration policy and reform [Republicans] are on the wrong side of the track. ... They would have you believe that if they get into office, they are going to make sure that they are going to get rid of everyone in our society who was not born in America.” --Maxine Waters

DEZINFORMATSIA

Framing debate: “Isn’t any Republican nominee going to have a problem, and that is, by all indications, the

economy is getting stronger. So if you’re the Republican nominee, how do you run against a recovering economy? How do you say, ‘I’m not up with that?’” --NBC’s Matt Lauer

Um, what? “When I first heard the discourse of the Tea Party, as much as I wasn’t in agreement with it, I kind of like populist movements that are asking for jobs and worrying about the effects of big government. But the shift now has moved towards this so-called moral, ethical, racially problematic and now this contraception language. You know, jobs are simply not located in my uterus. Like, wherever they are, wherever they might be created, that’s just not where they are. So, why is so much policy language around that?” --MSNBC’s Melissa Harris Perry

Nothing to fear: “Despite the fact that Obama hasn’t made the slightest feint toward regulating guns, firearms enthusiasts have whipped themselves into a paranoid frenzy, convinced that this is all just part of some elaborate conspiracy. ... Note the twist: It’s no longer Obama’s election that poses a mortal danger to the liberty of Americans who want to assemble arsenals -- it’s Obama’s re-election. I’m no financial analyst, but you’d have to imagine that that line of reasoning isn’t going to do anything to depress gun sales.” --BusinessWeek blogger Joshua Green

Well duh: “By saying ... that the president of the United States is running over the Constitution ... you seem to be saying that the president is not patriotic. You seem to be questioning [his] patriotism.” --CBS’s Charlie Rose to Newt Gingrich

Non sequitur: “If you’re really anti-gay, you become a Catholic now.” --MSNBC’s Chris Matthews

Newspulper Headlines:

Sounds More Like a Republican Slogan: “Obama’s Slogan: Looking to Replace Hope and Change” --Reuters

Shortest Books Ever Written: “Why China’s Political Model Is Superior” --The New York Times

Answers to Questions Nobody Is Asking: “Why I Both Love and Hate the Occupy Movement” --Huffington Post

Too Much Information: “Ron Paul: Why Can’t We ‘Put Into Our Body Whatever We Want?’” --KIRO-TV website (Seattle)

(Thanks to The Wall Street Journal’s James Taranto)

VILLAGE IDIOTS

Revisionist history: “[George Washington] began the political tradition that produced a Union victory in the Civil War, the Federal Reserve Board, Social Security, Medicare and, more recently, Obamacare.” --historian Joseph Ellis in Time magazine

Down with capitalism: “While we believe that capitalism is fundamentally superior to any other system for organizing economic activity, it is also clear that some of the ways in which it is now practiced do not incorporate sufficient regard for its impact on people, society and the planet.” --Global Warming spokesperson Al Gore

Disturbing dismissal: “[Occupiers] can be as filthy and they can rape people -- if you want to make stuff up -- but the fact is nobody really cares about it because that message isn't about the messengers, it's not about who's delivering the message, but the message itself which really resonates at a very core emotional level with people who are suffering in this economy.” --Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas

Blame the GOP: “And the fact is, is that because Republicans decided to play politics with Keystone, their action essentially forced the administration to deny the permit process because they insisted on a timeframe within which it was impossible to appropriately approve the pipeline. ... So the fact that the process ended the way it did in terms of that permit request is wholly the responsibility of the Republicans who insisted on playing politics with the payroll tax cut extension back at the end of last year.” --White House Press Secretary Jay Carney

Clueless: “And people in America are very practical people across the political spectrum. Very conservative women want their kids, their daughters taking birth control.” --former DNC head Howard Dean

SHORT CUTS

“We conservatives, we want to make jobs as readily available as condoms in this country.” --radio talk-show host Mark Levin

“President Obama reversed himself on forcing churches to give women contraceptive coverage. He also reversed his opposition to campaign PACs and started one for himself. Back when he lived in Hawaii flip-flops were shoes, now they are career extenders.” --comedian Argus Hamilton

“Harry Reid took a cheap shot at Marco Rubio, saying he ‘supposedly represents Hispanics.’ No, he represents his constituents. You should try it some time, Harry.” --Fred Thompson

“Black Eyed Peas singer Will.I.Am said president Obama is not a magic man. But Obama is magic -- he makes businesses, homes and jobs all disappear.” --NewsBusted's Jodi Miller

“Italian authorities seized \$6 trillion worth of fake, worthless U.S. Treasury bonds. Pretty good counterfeit job, too. They look just like the genuine, worthless Treasury bonds.” --comedian Jay Leno

Semper Vigilo, Fortis, Paratus et Fidelis! Nate Jackson for *The Patriot Post* Editorial Team. Read online at <http://patriotpost.us>

(Please pray for our Armed Forces standing in harm's way around the world, and for their families -- especially families of those fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, who granted their lives in defense of American liberty.)