



MONETARY & ECONOMIC REVIEW

Volume XXIV, No. 2

Winter 2009/2010

All-out Assault on Truth

By MER Editors

“Looking back on 2009 is not pleasant; it has not been a very good year . . . one notices a recurrent, even pervasive note of pessimism and something close to despair for a continued free America or the survival of Western culture” (Paul Schlichta, “Looking Back and Looking Forward,” AmericanThinker.com, 12/31/09).

Some would say the assault on the United States economy has been the major factor. I agree that an unprecedented attack on our economy is responsible for much of the despair we feel at this time. However, there have been other, very serious assaults that have troubling implications for the future of America. In an earlier article, I wrote that freedom of speech was the first casualty of this administration. At this point, having further observed the President and those who advise him and carry out policy, I would broaden my statement to say that I believe Truth was the first casualty.

Let’s go back a year.

Right out of the gate, the President and his advisors rushed to spend a trillion dollars to “save” our troubled economy, which—as he has been careful to point out at every possible opportunity—he “inherited” from George Bush. Never mind the inconvenient facts that Democrats controlled Congress for the last two years of the Bush years, and that Democrat policies governing the matter of credit and its enormous ramifications for the health of the economy were being put into place by Democrats, brick by brick, going back to the Carter years.

Democrats in Congress (plus three severely misguided Republicans, one of whom shortly thereafter jumped ship and joined the Democrat Party), blind-sided by misinformation and scare tactics, were stampeded into passing the near-\$800 billion stimulus package and a series of bailouts that quadrupled the U.S. deficit. President Obama assured the American people that the hundreds of billions in borrowed money would be the remedy for growing unemployment . . . TARP money for bank bailouts would “fix” the credit problem . . . and a bailout of gargantuan AIG would prevent a Wall Street disaster.

President Obama quadrupled the deficit, spending more in the early *weeks* of his presidency than President Bush spent during his *eight years* in office. As a result, our economy is now staggering under a debt load that credible economists tell us we will never be able to repay.

Did the President and his advisors tell us the truth about what was needed to set the country on the road to real recovery? Absolutely not.

Were the economic remedies presented by Obama and his advisors based on truth? No—because one aspect of Truth is common sense—and common sense tells us that an individual who is deep in debt cannot obliterate his debt by increasing his spending. It is no different with government. And yet, Obama and his advisors have tried to tell us otherwise with a continuous propaganda blitz. They are abetted by shameless media organizations that are either too incompetent to dig out and report the truth—or politically compromised to the extent that they refuse to do the critically important job of ethical, watchdog journalism.

Selling Us a “Bill of Goods”

The fact is, Truth was under political assault even before Barack Obama was elected. Most American voters did not know who Barack Obama was. The liberal media covered for him, suppressing information about his radical connections and his far-Left ideology. Candidate Obama presented himself as a blank slate, upon which everyone was free to draw a portrait of the leader he hoped Obama would be. The campaign was careful to portray him as a serious reformer who embraced non-partisanship, transparent leadership, an end to corruption in government, an improved image among the nations of the world . . . and on and on. “Hope and change” was the campaign mantra. It sounded good, and clueless millions bought it.

Fantasy Land

Now, many are wondering whether Barack Obama is deliberately devious—or dangerously delusional. He believes, apparently, that he has the power to speak things into existence. He bombards us with economic information that is demonstrably untrue: he tells us the stimulus has worked, the bailouts saved us from economic disaster, the economy is recovering, jobs have been saved or created, and our stature among nations has improved since he took office.

This “name it and claim it” mindset extends into Obama foreign policy, as well. His early obsession with personal diplomacy, by which he would persuade a fanatical Iranian regime to relinquish its aspirations to nuclear world power is one example. Another is his attempt to engage Russia’s Medvedev and Putin in his grand vision of diplomacy triumphant over the cold realities of hard-nosed expansionism. Obama supporters choose to view these amateurish forays as sincere attempts to mitigate hostility on the part of intransigent powers. Others see them as painfully embarrassing for the United States at best—but at worst, as troubling evidence of U.S. foreign policy that is dangerously out of touch with reality.

Clearly, respect for Truth has no place in this current administration. In their eyes, truth—with a small “t”—is whatever you say it is. Speak it into being. Say it often enough and the people will believe it. Change it if it becomes inconvenient. If a previous statement has been exposed as untrue, then it is possible to “erase” it by speaking a new “truth” over it in much the same way one erases an audio tape by recording over the old content. Thus have Obama’s campaign promises been overwritten time and again. He has reversed himself on various issues in the space of a few weeks—and in some cases, contradicted himself in the space of one speech.

Where Is Our Hope—Really?

We must not allow the clouds of darkness to obscure either our present blessings or the shining truths of past victories. We have known dark years and survived them. We still have more freedom than exists in many parts of the world; and rule of law still exists, despite the battering it has received over the years—especially over the past year, as many in this administration have chosen to ignore the obvious: By its very nature, Truth is unchangeable and indestructible.

Information, on the other hand, can be distorted, changed, and misrepresented. That is the basis for much of the trouble our nation faces as we look forward with a mixture of dread and anticipation to the year that lies ahead.

But there is hope: To the extent that the American people are willing to *demand the Truth*, there is hope that America will survive the current agonies of economic disaster—forced upon us by the rejection of economic truth—and the outrage of seeing traditional American values, rule of law, and the United States Constitution itself undermined by a calculated, wholesale rejection of moral truth.

We have the right to expect Truth from our government, our media, and our institutions of learning. But clearly, we are going to have to fight for it. Each of us will have to get into the battle and do our part. May God help us.