

# From the President: Freedom Is Not Free

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Good afternoon and welcome to a beautiful day here in Rockford, Illinois. I want to thank Mr. David Hale for bringing us together as we celebrate the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from the British Empire. My message today is to reinforce two important beliefs of our Founders:

1. Government cannot give you security by taking away your freedom.

2. Men of decency and honor debate issues openly and honestly and are not afraid to speak publicly.

Unfortunately, our President and many politicians in Washington do not believe in these core values, and the individuals who gave them to us so long ago would not recognize the mess that has been created today.

One of those men was Benjamin Franklin, and to him we attribute the following phrase: “Those who give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.” However, this concept was not new to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Many of you probably saw the 2007 movie *300*. The movie tells the story of Leonidas, king of the Greek city-state of Sparta in the year 480 B.C. Leonidas led a small band of Greek warriors against half a million Persians, led by their King Xerxes. Leonidas and his fellow Greeks made their stand at a place called Thermopylae in an attempt to help protect Greece against the Persian invasion. All were killed, yet these men did not have to die on that day. They chose death freely, because they did not want to be slaves.

You see, the Greek people had refused to take a loyalty oath to King Xerxes of Persia because it represented an offer of security over freedom. They knew that a population that gives away its ability to decide its own destiny is nothing more than a group of slaves. They wanted for their children and grandchildren the liberty that they enjoyed. To accept the peace offered by Xerxes was to leave themselves open to the whims of a dictator, where brothers could be killed, where wives and children could be kidnapped, and where property could be taken for no reason at all. Fundamentally, they would have given away all control over their lives.

Another man, a little closer to our own time, made a similar decision. In 1939, the German dictator Adolf Hitler offered the British a peace treaty. He was offering that false promise of security in exchange for freedom. Once again, a man of courage and honor stood up and recognized the false promise and said no. Winston Churchill was that man, and he promised to fight the Nazis anywhere, at any time. He also understood that selling your freedom in an attempt to acquire security was a bargain with the devil, and that in the end both freedom and security would be lost.

As this is the 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I'll note another important message included in the first paragraph of that majestic document:

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

In other words they believed it was right and proper for free people to explain the reasons for their actions. They did not sign the document in the middle of the night, or say, “Do not worry about what we are doing, just trust us.” They laid out their case for independence in the light of day with full transparency.

Unfortunately, that spirit of openness appears to be missing in Washington today. We have seen a constant stream of middle-of-the-night bills being voted into law without any discussion or a full reading by members of Congress.

Was the TARP bill debated in the open? No, President Bush had Congress pass it in a hurry to avoid openness. Were bailouts courtesy of the Federal Reserve voted on and debated in the open? No, money has been secretly given to all sorts of institutions with no accountability whatsoever. This is our money, not theirs, and it has been stolen and transferred in the dead of night so that we the people can be kept ignorant.

Just this week, “cap and trade” legislation was voted on by the House of Representatives before the bill was even fully written. This bill represents a massive increase in energy taxes on all of us, in the name of the liberal god “Global Warming.” It will destroy jobs and send them overseas. Again, this was one more bill passed in the dead of night with no time for public reading or comment.

President Obama campaigned on a platform of openness and transparency, yet all we get is darkness and shadows. This is not what our country was founded on. As is evident from the Declaration of Independence, men and women of honor do not carry on their business in the shadows; only men with deceit and fraud in their souls need to work this way. If the men and women running our government were in the private sector, they would all be in jail for their actions.

Now, these same criminals wish to take over our medical system, a full 17 percent of our economic output. President Obama wishes to do this by August. Does he wish to do this because he is a brilliant health planner? No. Does he wish to do this for any good reason at all? Of course not. The reason he needs to do this quickly is quite simply that the plan is so bad that the more people learn about it, the more likely an uprising will occur to end this monstrosity.

This Obama plan is Xerxes all over again, asking for your loyalty in return for an illusory safety. Our President is saying, “Give me all

your money, give me control over all your decisions, and I will provide for you.” But as you know, this is a false promise—the same false promise we have been hearing from Washington for 70 years.

In the 1930s Franklin Roosevelt said, “Give me all your money, and I will take care of you as you age.” But I do not see a care-free older population. In the 1960s Lyndon Johnson said, “Give me all your money, and I will end poverty.” But I do not see an end to poverty. Now in the 2000s Barack Obama says, “Give me all your money, and I will give you medical care.”

But what exactly will President Obama provide for you? Will President Obama give you those superior systems of Canada and Europe, where cancer victims are more likely to die than Americans? Where patients wait in agony as joint replacements take years to accomplish? Where patients die while waiting for heart surgery? Does this sound like freedom and safety? To me it sounds like slavery and bondage, where we beg for medical care from our government masters.

Make no mistake; the Obama plan for medical care in America is quite simple:

1. He wants to raise taxes on everyone. He wants the money and power to control your life.
2. He wants to destroy the practice of private medicine. He wants doctors who care more about what is good for the government than what is good for you.
3. He will ration your medical care if you have any chronic illness or are older than 70. Canadian Medicine works great if you are 23 and break an arm. They fix you up quickly and send you on your way. However, bring your 75-year-old father to a Canadian hospital because his hip is making it too painful to walk, and the picture changes quickly.

The result of the Obama plan is inevitable; loss of freedom and control over your medical care, for the promise of security that does not exist.

In summary, we are willing to stand and make our case in the sunshine, just like our forefathers. Our President and current congressional leaders, in total disregard of honor and decency, commit their treasons in the shadows and darkness of night. Bill Clinton did not know the meaning of the word “is,” and President Obama seems to have difficulty with the definitions of words such as “transparency” and “openness.”

Our message is clear and simple: through excessive regulation and taxation our government is destroying our freedom. We are told the government will take care of our needs in exchange for taking all of our money and property. But this is the same false promise of dictators and tyrants for the last 3,000 years. It is an illusion.

I have been to many Social Security and Medicare presentations. The room is never filled with individuals happy with their government-promised security. It is always filled with people who have given up their economic freedom their entire lives and now must beg for scraps from their government overlords.

“Freedom is not free” was the comment of Mel Gibson’s character William Wallace in the 1995 movie *Braveheart*. It is time to take action against President Obama’s vision of “health care reform.” Speak with your friends and neighbors. Write letters to the editor. Make calls to Congress.

Do you wish to be slaves to government bureaucrats? Do you wish to be slaves to politicians? Then go out now and fight for your freedom, fight for your liberty, and be certain that on your deathbed, with your last breath you can say, I stood when my country needed me.

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