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and Surgeons**

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Doctors Need to Fight Back.

The article authored by Dr. Frank Polidora in the latest issue of the journal was marvelous.¹ His perseverance in such a culture of hate is inspiring, and I am glad to know that he is still practicing medicine.

Similar events happened to a local orthopedist, but he simply chose not to fight back, believing that his career could not and would not be ruined by fellow physicians. It was only after he lost his privileges that he realized his buddies were Quislings.

I am a refugee from Canada, where I practiced until I could no longer bear the oppression. But Canada did socialism the way socialists dream about. Central government regulation came in one fell swoop—all hospitals and health agencies became the property of the central government overnight. No due process was permitted. The Obama/Pelosi/Reid method is step-wise. Once ObamaCare puts private insurance companies out of business, government takeover of medicine will be the next step here.

My experience with our local hospital was also very confrontational, but as a family doctor I had the option of retreating to my private office. I am constantly amazed at the naiveté of most American doctors. Many seem to accept ObamaCare with scarcely a whimper, not knowing that the end result will be catastrophic for patients as well as physicians. When I tell them I feel like reporter Phil Connors in *Groundhog Day*, it is as if they don't hear me. I think the system, like Canada's, is doomed because the medical profession is so compliant. If only we had more members of the medical profession who understand what AAPS members understand about the value of freedom in medicine. Unfortunately, I believe the vast number of U.S. doctors are schooled but not educated.

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1 Polidora F. I remember lest we forget. *J Am Phys Surg* 2010;15:106-109.

A Window of Opportunity for Freedom

As Dr. Adam Dorin stated,¹ "The AMA...had more than enough money to position itself

as the stalwart defender of physicians and patients' rights but instead decided to stake out a...left-of-center position.... The AMA signed on the promises...of a permanent fix to...the SGR.... ObamaCare was sold disingenuously to the American people. The AMA was complicit in this act."

A *Wall Street Journal* editorialist observed:² "ObamaCare...attempted to buy off the AMA...with an endorsement by...past president (Dr.) James Rohack. In sum, Democrats deceived the AMA...and are now deceiving voters.... The AMA has been exposed as fools."

Once used to test typewriters is the phrase: "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." No better advice can without hesitation be given to all physicians, their societies, and organizations, for now is the time to withdraw any and all support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Thanks in part to the recent elections (and a demanded "change" in the direction of less big government intrusion in our lives), a window of opportunity has opened to make tangible advances in health insurance for all Americans. Also, it can be done without the socialist takeover of our profession, medicine, and society as a whole. Doctors can demand health insurance portability, insurance competition across state lines, and freedom of patients to contract with the physician of their choice irrespective of coverage by insurance or government program.

All medical organizations need to pull together for this unique moment of opportunity to protect the patient-doctor relationship and advance the cause of freedom in medicine. We need to encourage the new Republican majority to work with us to insure that freedom is preserved.

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1 Dorin A.F. How the AMA and local medical societies failed to serve their constituents. *J Am Phys Surg* 2010;15:85-86.

2 The doctor con. *Wall Street J*, Nov 22, 2010. Available at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704170404575624643400449172.html>. Accessed Nov 30, 2010.