## From the President A Tribute to AAPS

Thomas W. Kendall, Sr., M.D.

As I conclude my year as president of AAPS, I'd like to recapitulate the battles our organization has fought and continues to fight.

Our story began in 1943 with the Wagner, Murray, Dingell (the elder) Bill, the first formal legislative attempt to socialize American medicine. The AMA stood aloof, and the founders of AAPS engaged in a war for medical freedom.

Retreat by the forces of Marxism was only temporary. The utopian idea has been recognized by various names: national health insurance, universal coverage, universal healthcare, and single payer. The reality, however, remains the same.

First and foremost, universal means compulsory. This was for a time recognized by the AMA, which proclaimed in a 1950 pamphlet that "the <u>voluntary</u> way is the American way." Now the AMA and most other medical organizations, aside from AAPS, seem to have no problem with the idea of "everybody in, nobody out."

Progress toward the utopian goal has been incremental but relentless: Medicare and Medicaid were a great leap forward in 1965.

In 1992, the Clintons tried again to capture all of American medicine. Taking our battle to the courts, AAPS helped defeat "HillaryCare." But the backup plan, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), made it through. Much of the Clinton plan passed in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)—a bipartisan bill in a Republican-led Congress. In our lawsuit challenging the sham Privacy Rule, AAPS established the "country doctor exemption" for noncovered entities.

Then, in 2010, the single-party Affordable Care Act (ACA or "ObamaCare") plan was rammed through Congress, despite nationwide protests. Almost alone among medical organizations, AAPS stood against it, and filed suit against it three days after it was signed into law. Long delayed, our case, and another one filed by a long-standing AAPS member, still have the potential to void the entire law, if the Supreme Court has the courage to stand up to the executive branch and do its constitutional duty.

All of these changes aim to have physicians, now just another kind of "healthcare provider," sing a new refrain. They must be "team players," working not for the sick but for the system, which enslaves most Americans under the control of a powerful elite.

Deceit, lies, and empty promises fill the news of the day. When patients suffer the consequences, a scapegoat will be needed—physicians. The mechanics are already well established: sham peer review and licensure board abuse. Only AAPS is exposing these methods and standing up for physicians and their patients.

Changing the culture of our profession is necessary for the elite to clinch their control. What better way than to exclude, or marginalize, older, experienced physicians, or those with dissenting views, than to cloak the objective in the guise of "quality," through Maintenance of Certification? Only AAPS has challenged the certification monopoly in court.

In the new order, laws are man-made, positive laws, heedless of universal natural law. Professional ethics are being rewritten accordingly by those medical societies that serve as appendages of the state. Besides AAPS, what other organization is standing up for the Oath of Hippocrates? The ethic of contemporary culture has modernized a set of precepts that borrow the name but belie its principles.

AAPS is not accepting defeat at the hands of the Philistine giant. We are resolved to exercise our liberty and to thrive, not just survive. Our members opt out, think independently, innovate, create, and stand on principle. Our message is one of hope and freedom, not of despair and surrender. We do not put our trust in Washington's blandishments, lies, and bribes, but in eternal truths. We do not serve a master in the halls of temporal power, but our patients.

We know that freedom is not free. We must take courage from the example of those who have led the way in AAPS for 72 years, and stay the course to defend liberty and preserve the sacred patient-physician relationship.

I conclude this letter with gratitude to God, the leadership of AAPS, and the extant membership of this most esteemed organization for the privilege to have been its president. I am thankful for the heritage of AAPS as we stand on the shoulders of giants gone before.

I have often wondered why there are not 100,000 members of AAPS to lead contemporary medicine in opposing the socialization of the last 50 years. Then I remember that there were not many at the Cross who were committed to the One who died for the sins of man.

Thank you.

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