

GEE, MR. WILSON, DID OBAMA LIE?

"Gee, Mr. Wilson, I hear you called the president a liar. My dad said the president likes to spin and talk like some guy Charlton Heston. Dad said you were right but you had to apologize. Gee, Mr. Wilson, dad said you busted house rules but ain't lying wrong in everybody's house and anyway, dad says it's my house, too."

Dennis is not the menace in this mythical conversation. Big government, power, privilege and simple wrongheaded thinking about the character of America are. Long campaign speeches for health care reform are also menacing when trying to spin a web of the soul-sucking silk and steel threads of socialism.

Obama drama has rewards, though. In its desperation to avoid a legacy below deity, it focuses our wariness. Thank you to the FCC for facilitating some presidential psychological nudity. But did he lie?

House and senate bills echo President Obama on illegals. However, without surveillance and enforcement against those already adept at using our asset for free, saying illegals cannot have health care is important. Democrats twice blocked Republican attempts to employ tools used by Medicaid and other entitlement programs to prevent fraudulent use by non-citizens. Hmm, one step closer to amnesty?

Obama said no federal abortion dollars. The House bill allows a "public option" to cover them and permits federal subsidies to purchase private insurance that covers them.

Competition is claimed under Obamacare. How so when one player owns equipment, referees, stadium, concession stands and parking.

Obamacare won't add "one dime" to the deficit? The independent Congressional Budget Office expects more than a trillion dollar price tag and massive cost overruns by year 10. Social Security, the postal service, fraud-ridden Medicare, and a \$55 trillion debt convicts us as genetically incapable of saving money while spending on massive new entitlements. Play or pay mandates raise prices, kill economic growth and hit low earners hardest.

Obama said 34 states' "insurance market" is controlled by five or fewer companies. That's true only of small group purchasers, not the whole market. He said he won't "require you or your employer to change your coverage or doctor." It is unavoidable as employers will pay penalties rather than premiums. Furthermore, if private insurance lapses, you lose it.

Insured allegedly pay \$1,000 per year carrying the uninsured. No. The CBO and Kaiser Foundation showed hospital profits were affected, not premiums. Under Obamacare, individuals will have more costs as quality outcomes fall and rationing commences.

Our health care is excellent. We are among the highest in quality of life, longevity, access and outcomes of care for the most common and expensive diagnoses. Elderly get more care. They are increasing at tenfold physician rate increases. As patents plummet and modest big pharma profits collapse, more physicians will retire, medical school applications will fall and rationing of inferior care will grow while the behemoth bureaucratic government's nose glides under the tent.

Doc Obama should also not be doling out anecdotes as antidotes against his adversaries. Systemic illness requires thoughtful analysis and you cannot anesthetize an awoken American public with mere drama. Finally, comparisons between auto and health insurance are silly.

Portability, exclusion of preexisting conditions, available coverage for all, more clinical trial enrollment and outcomes-based research, massive tort reform, curtailment of defensive medicine and possibly competitive employment of the private sector to police public fraud coupled with a systemic look at our global tax and entitlement structure is the right prescription.

Americans in a free market system can pull us from the brink of anything. Not Moses wannabees sticking roaming noses where they do not belong, like under our constitutional tent.

So, gee, Mr. Wilson, thanks after all for the reminder that the worst check we can write is the blank one of unchecked government power. Stay engaged.

Kevin Ryan is a retired Colonel, physician, musician and author who lives in Fairfield.