

Republican Perspective

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by Ed Manning

ODYSSEY OF A CONVERT

*“The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”
Marcel Proust, French author*

Well, a couple of weeks had gone by and my staunch Democrat friend Harry, called. “Hey, you said you would buy lunch and answer my questions about Trump.” So we ended up at his favorite Thai spot, enjoying curry with cold beer.

“Where do you want me to start?” I asked. “Start with Obamacare”. Trump wants to “repeal and replace,” I offered. He wants Congress to modify existing law that inhibits the sale of health insurance across state lines. Allowing full competition in this market, insurance costs will go down. Under Obamacare, insurance costs have been rising every year.

Trump also is proposing that individuals, instead of businesses, be allowed to deduct the full amount they pay for health insurance from their taxes. Also, he wishes to expand the opportunities for Health Savings Accounts where contributions are tax-free and allowed to accumulate until needed. Trump wants to block-grant Medicaid to the states where local governments should be able to administer it better than federal bureaucrats.

“Trump’s position makes more sense than Hillary’s, Harry said. She wants to insure illegal aliens under Obamacare! How are my kids going to pay for that? I can’t believe how much they are paying now for their family plan under Obamacare.”

“Immigration is another issue that interests me,” said Harry. Trump has been vocal about not admitting individuals from locations that are hotbeds of radical Islamists. His central viewpoint is that leaders of our own intelligence community have publicly stated that adequate vetting cannot be done. As you know, from day one of his campaign, he has said that he will build a wall on our southern border. He has stated that a nation without borders is not a nation.

His immigration plan addresses other areas. He wants a nationwide e-Verify system to insure that employer’s are not hiring illegals. A visa tracking system is a must. Individuals enter the U.S. under a temporary visa and millions have overstayed their welcome. Trump wants to end federal aid to cities that fail to comply with existing immigration law. He agrees with Harry Reid that we need to end birthright citizenship. Your Senate minority leader has said: “no sane country” would give automatic citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants.

“Tell me about his economic plan,” Harry queried. First, he proposes tax reform that would simplify the existing, complicated behemoth. Three rates: if you make less than \$75k - 12%; more than \$75k but less than \$225K - 25%; over \$225K - 33%. Trump wants to expand the earned income tax credit for childcare. All taxpayers would be able to establish Dependent Care Savings Accounts. Low income families would get a 50% match from the government on the first \$1,000 saved.

Trump wants to reign in the regulatory state that has grown under Obama. He believes many of these regulations are impacting business investments and thus contributing to our anemic economic growth as a nation. He will require each federal agency to rank all of their regulations imposed on business from most critical to health and safety to least critical. The least critical will be reviewed for repeal. He will place a temporary pause on new regulations. Trump understands that unelected bureaucrats are stifling the American economy and moving us to European socialism.

“Where is Trump when it comes to gun control?” Harry continued. Trump has received the endorsements of the National Rifle Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Border Patrol. He is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and believes the right to keep and bear arms protects all our other rights. Trump wants to see our existing laws enforced. Chicago has one of the strictest gun control laws in existence, yet over 3000 people have been shot this year and most were young black males. He has no illusion of trying to disarm law abiding American citizens.

“It does me no pleasure to admit that Trump has better policies to address the issues facing the average American,” Harry opined. “Clinton put our national security at risk through using multiple personal email servers. She lied to us about Benghazi. The Democrats continue to preach class and race divisions. Truthfully, I’m ashamed of their promises to minorities trapped in inner cities with failed schools. Democrats have ruled these cities for decades. I watch Isis growing in the Middle East and committing genocide against Christians. I watch my Party targeting energy companies to satisfy their environmental mega-donors. I voted for Obama twice and don’t want to see a continuation of his lead from behind policy and his view that climate change is the most important issue facing this country. For the first time in my voting history, I’m voting Republican!”

With that admission, I bought Harry another beer.