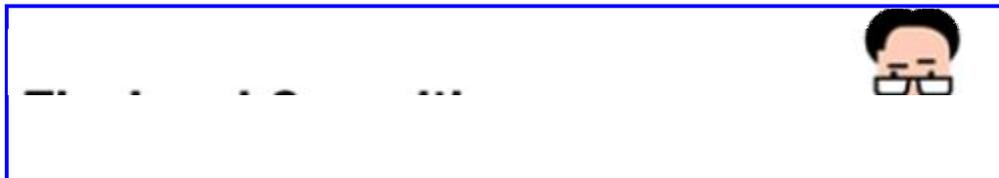


Barry Reitman/Memory Shock

From: Barry Reitman/Memory Shock [barry@memoryshock.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:10 PM
To: GerryEgan@ForEquipmentLeasing.com
Subject: Rosenthal/BR/Monica
Attachments: Monica Draft.doc

OK. Three things.

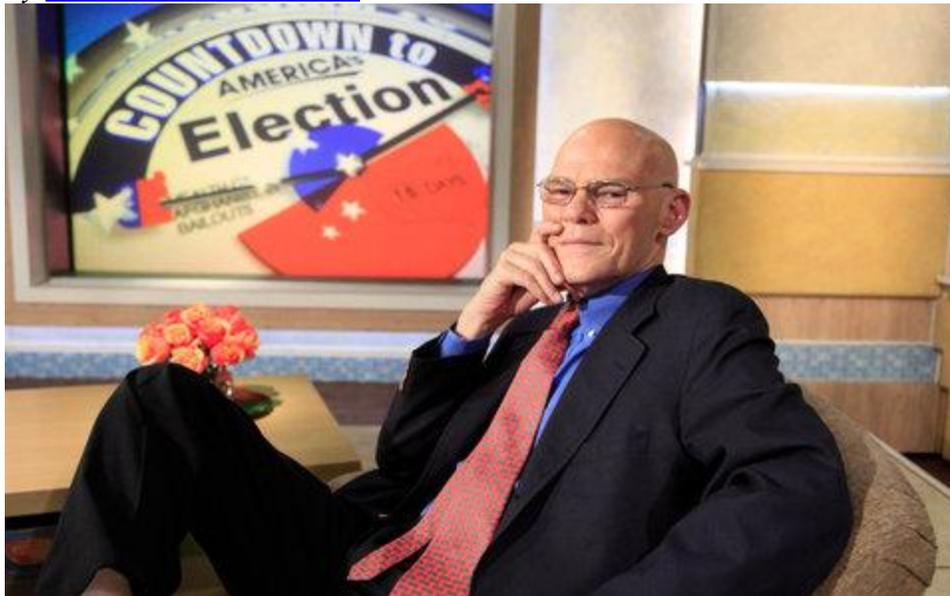
1. Andrew Rosenthal's column (Below)
2. My response (Below)
3. My draft for Monica's newsletter. (Attached)



March 28, 2012, 2:46 pm

The Best Thing for the Democrats?

By [ANDREW ROSENTHAL](#)



James Carville on

Good Morning America in October, 2010

Now that the conventional wisdom on the health-care hearing has shifted—from a 6-3 or even 7-2 ruling in favor of the individual mandate's constitutionality [to a 5-4 ruling against](#)—the Democrats have to be thinking, if nothing else, about a public relations plan.

Cue James Carville, the veteran Democratic strategist, who [told CNN's Wolf Blitzer yesterday](#) that overturning the mandate “will be the best thing that ever happened to the Democratic party because health care costs are gonna escalate unbelievably.”

He added: “You know what the Democrats are going to say – and it is completely justified: ‘We

3/28/2012

tried, we did something, go see a 5-4 Supreme Court majority'... the Republican Party will own the health care system for the foreseeable future."

That's spin—even though Mr. Carville said twice that it wasn't. It's a purely political and cynical way of understanding policy; if health care costs "escalate unbelievably" that's not good for anyone. (It's comparable to Republicans thinking they should stall the economic recovery so as to hurt the president's chances at re-election.)

It is true, however, that if the Supreme Court strikes down all or part of the Affordable Care Act, the burden of figuring out how fix the American health care system should by rights shift to the Republican Party.

Nearly 50 million people, or one in six Americans, do not have health insurance, and premiums for those who do are climbing ever higher. The classic liberal solution to that problem is single-payer, and that's certainly the most cost-effective way to make sure everyone has access to basic care. But during the legislative debates a couple of years ago it wasn't considered politically feasible, so the Democrats compromised with the individual mandate.

The Democrats, as Mr. Carville said, have tried. Do the Republicans plan to try, too, or do they expect Americans to accept the grossly inadequate status quo?

Barry Reitman · Blooming Grove, NY

Are you really saying that Democrats' SAYING something about what happened is "comparable to Republicans thinking they should stall the economic recovery so as to hurt the president's chances at re-election." That might be analogous if the Democrats had ACTED to cause the defeat of the law -- as the Republicans ACTED to stall the economy.

But wait! Then you say "if the Supreme Court strikes down all or part of the Affordable Care Act, the burden of figuring out how fix the American health care system should by rights shift to the Republican Party." That's akin to saying that the burden of fixing the hole in the hen-house shifts to the foxes.