

LISTEN: Rush Likes America's Leftiest Health Care

A wave of concern rolled tsunami-like over conservative America this Christmas holiday with news that Rush Limbaugh had been hospitalized with chest pains while vacationing in Hawaii with his much, much younger fiancée. That concern was quickly followed by relief.

LIMBAUGH: Yesterday morning I had an angiogram--which is a catheter treatment through the heart--and they found absolutely nothing wrong; it was a blessing!

Yes, it appears that America's leading spokesman for ignorant intolerance has dodged a bullet--or at least a big ol' gas ball--but, having stared down the grim reaper--or an overly-spicy hoagie sandwich--Limbaugh dispensed some sage advice.

LIMBAUGH: And I think for everybody out there--I'm 58, will be 59 in a couple of weeks--and you start thinking about these kinds of things: don't mess with it. If you have a chest pain and you have no idea what it is and it's something you've never experienced before, turn it over to professionals right off the bat. Don't tough it out, don't try to make it go away on your own because it's not worth the risk.

In a nutshell: if you think you're having a heart attack, don't reach for that mail-order CPR kit that came with the Sham-Wow. Dial 911. You're better off in the hands of trained medical professionals.

Also--and for some reason Limbaugh didn't mention this--if you're prone to heart trouble, you might not want to take high doses of Viagra.

Now, Limbaugh being Limbaugh, he couldn't let a little thing like satisfaction to be alive deter him from delivering an ill-considered political message at his post-heartburn press conference.

LIMBAUGH: The treatment I received here was the best the world has to offer. And based on what happened to me here, I don't think there is one thing wrong with the American Health Care system. It is working just fine, just dandy.

And, Limbaugh being Limbaugh, he once again demonstrated what you might call a lack of situational awareness. The medical system he was praising was, of course, Hawaii's, which is perhaps the most progressive in the nation--mandated employer health coverage, a market dominated by non-profits--just the sort of stuff Limbaugh likes to rail against on his radio show and that's why we on the left are glad to see him back in the saddle--no one is quite so fun to ridicule.

That there are still people who listen to this guy and/or take him seriously is truly a mystery. Proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that PT Barnum was right on the money.

Anybody ever consider that maybe the doctors lied to him?

I can just imagine after his heart pops the radio waves carry 'Rush The Martyr' snippets on health care reform, endlessly. And didn't this happen when President Obama was vacationing there too? Oh my God! The conspiracy theorists would be all over this until, well, forever.

I'm surprised Rush doesn't come out in support of Obama care. It was written by insurance companies, will increase their roles, increase the cost, and invade our liberties like another patriot act. It's a neocon dream!

Limbo's gushing praise is no surprise. He fails/refuses to mention that he's among the fortunate elite in this nation who can easily afford health insurance. He also addresses "the health-care system," claiming it's just dandy. Sure, the science and tech and doctors are good, but again, he ignores the problem between haves and have-nots in this country. Finally, we're talking about a guy who's a shill for Korporate Amerikkka, including drug & insurance co's. So he's all thrilled that he got his fat, rich ass taken care of. Bully for him, stout fellow. Tell that to the terminally ill, unemployed (perhaps fired due to illness), single mother of three; I'm betting she has a different opinion of Limbo's "just dandy" system. Thanks, Rush, for yet another worthless opinion from a corporate shill.

Conservatives seem to be able to accept any level of government intrusion in the name of national security. (At least, up until last year.) Personally I'm not worried about my miniscule chance of encountering terrorism -- I'm worried about getting sick or injured and not being able to pay for treatment. If only there were some way the federal government could help with that.

(And, seriously, guys -- hire a goddamned proofreader for the website. It's embarrassing.)

After going thru cancer treatment at the University of Edinburgh's Medical School's hospital, I too am enamored of "progressive" healthcare (viz. the NHS). I received excellent medical care, excellent doctors and great nursing care - and follow through! And, absolutely no "co-pay", no deductible. In fact, no paperwork whatsoever! Total cost: 0.00 GBP!

Not so when, a year later, I had open-heart surgery at home in Oregon. Even with Medicare, I ended up with a bill over \$2000. And lots of after-surgery paperwork. Mind you, the medical care was excellent. No complaints with that. Just with the cost.

He hasn't seen all those bills yet, and when he sees that he is charged for everything from the ambulance ride, to every specialist who took his blood pressure and told him to turn his head and cough, and sees the overpriced cost of aspirin, and every single test, test taker, test taker doctor consult, then let's see how good he'll think the system is.

Now who would go to that hospital where they found nothing wrong with hillbilly heroin junkie Limbaugh?

Limbaugh and people like him should be just ignored--much like a pig farting in the woods where there is no one there to hear it--did the fart actually happen?

The cost of Doctor consultation, testing, performing the Angiogram, post procedure consultation and potential prescribed meds can reach into the thousands of dollars. What advice does Rush Bimbaugh have for the uninsured in America?

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