

“Echoes of the Heart”

Reflections on Life and Community Living

Contact Dr. Frantz on the web at www.mlcchurch.com

Common sense any one? In a week featuring President Obama’s uplifting speech to school children and youth across America, topped off last night by a well-crafted address to both houses of congress on Health Care Reform, many are left wondering, with all the misinformation and rush-to-judgment surrounding these events, what ever happened to *common sense*?

It is one thing to criticize and express dissent as a responsible citizen; but it is another thing altogether when our dissent transmutes into fear-mongering which smacks in the face of *common sense*.

Our *common sense* is something given to us at birth. Built into the rational construct of the human mind, simply put, it makes sense. It is an innate transparency of logic and reasonable behavior.

In biblical terms, it is perhaps best captured by the well-known *Golden Rule* announced in Matthew 7:12: *In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you*

It is *common sense*, for example, that because I don’t like being hit or yelled at, that I don’t hit or yell at others. It is *common sense* that if I lose my wallet and the person who finds it returns it in tact, that another person would appreciate a similar response if I should find their lost wallet.

Common sense and our children. When we apply *common sense* to some of the recent controversies sweeping across our land, beginning with the President’s speech to school children and youth, we begin to wonder, what’s up with us?

Does it make any sense that the President of the United States, a hands-on parent of two young girls, a man who has a pattern of cautious deliberation in everything he does, would suddenly go off track and say something inappropriate for school-age children/youth? Again, is there even a trace of logic in such a fear?

Why would the President use such a center stage occasion to promote his personal ideological bent or any aspect of his domestic or foreign policy? Politically, it would be a disaster—the White House’s worst nightmare—providing endless grist for right-wing talk radio and those opposed to the President’s policies in general.

Isn’t it curious how we don’t seem overly concerned about our children stifling their social, learning skills through over exposure to TV, computers and a whole list of electronic games, but thousands of parents across America apparently fear the impact of a Presidential message on *study hard, pay attention, listen to your parents, and never forget that your nation needs you and the potential person you can become?*

Again, *common sense* anyone?

Common sense and health care. In the national debate on Health Care Reform, where is the *common sense* in the outrageous misinformation over *death panels*? Do people really believe this? Or is this merely more politicized fabrication, born out of frustration and anxiety over the prospect of change?

There is also the concern over Health Care Reform including coverage for undocumented immigrants. Where is the *common sense* in this baseless claim? Obviously, such a policy would egregiously contradict our nation's immigration laws and serve as even more enticement to cross our borders illegally. Again, politically, such a policy would be untenable.

What *does* make sense about health care is that every American citizen would want it. And if we want it for ourselves and our loved ones, shouldn't we want it for others?

And where is the *common sense* in the swelling fear of a public option for health coverage? A public option is simply a means of providing health care to those who can't afford the rising costs. It allows for competition with insurance companies, thereby encouraging improved services at lower costs.

While everyone agrees that *status quo* health care in our country is broken, and in particular with regard to rising costs, why does there continue to be so much resistance to reform? Again, where is the *common sense*? Fear and anxiety are understandable; but let's hope, at some point, that our innate *common sense*, built into our human nature at creation, will rise up and win the day.