

Mark Levin Schools Leftist Caller

Nate, Poughkeepsie, New York, the great WKIPE, go!

Hello, Mr. Levin, um, I've been listening to your show..

Are you talking through a sock or something? I could barely understand you.

No, that's a speaker phone. Um, I have been listening to your show for about a year. I am a leftist, I'm not a Democrat particularly, um, I listen to your show to gain perspective on the right, conservatives, and things of that sort. I was wondering ...

My goal is to defeat you, by the way.

No, I understand that, and you're entitled to your goals and stuff, of course, um..

What kind of a leftist are you? How would you characterize yourself?

I would characterize myself as someone who is radically disappointed by the Obama..

What...Ok. How would you characterize your leftism?

Ok, welp, I believe in government involvement in government-sized things, in this case, um..

Well, wait, hold on, slow down. "I believe in government involvement for government-sized things?" So you believe the government should be in charge of light bulbs, is that a government-sized thing?

Um, if there was large..

Do you believe the government should be involved in waterflow in your toilet, is that a government-sized thing?

I suppose it would depend.

You believe posters shouldn't be sold without an approved government official sticker on them, is that a government-sized thing?

Ah, no, I don't think ...

Ok, so what's not a government-sized thing?

Not a government-sized thing? Um..

In other words, what isn't the government involved in?

I suppose the government is involved in a lot of..

What, yes, so what is it not involved in?

Right now? I guess, not much?

So how much further do you want to take your leftism?

I mean, further to the left? I think I'm fairly comfortable where I am right now.

And where are you right now?

Ah, well, I...I do think that government regulation has its place.

You don't have any idea what government regulation's up in center right now. None, zero, you haven't read a single one.

No, I believe, I have not, um..

Well, then how do you know they have their place when you don't even know what they're proposing?

Well, what I meant is I believe they have their place where I think it's warranted. I ..

How many government regulations were issued last year?

Well, I have no idea.

Why not?

Um, I suppose I have not done my research enough.

So why do you support them when you don't even know what they are? You don't even know how many there are.

Well, in terms of what was done, or how many of it was done last year?

Either one. Answer either.

Ok, well, I'm not too sure of either, but ...

Do you wanna know why you're not too sure of either?

I'm sure..I'm sure..

Because the Federal Register last year was 85,000 pages long. Do you expect people to read 85,000 people—85,000 pages to know what to do?

Absolutely not. Um..

Let me ask you this. Do you think a puddle in somebody's back yard as a result of a storm should be defined as navigable waters by the EPA, and thereby regulated by the Federal Government?

I., man, that sounds pretty harsh.

So that's a regulation you haven't read that's been proposed, and you would oppose, correct?

Ah, yea.

Why?

Ah, it seems to be a bit over complicating a puddle.

It's over complicating the puddle?

Hmm, mm..

Let me ask you about this regulation. Do you think the government should regulate the amount of cinnamon sugar on a donut in a 7-11?

Well, see, that's where I think there is ...uh..room for debate, I mean, I think the larger issue with that is whether the government..

Well, how do we control what the Federal Government regulates once the door's thrown wide open? You say, "That's something that we should debate." Well, how do we debate this? I have no say in it. You have no say in it. The president's having a joy-ride on this. Congress is busy patting themselves on the back. The courts uphold virtually every single regulatory position that the bureaucracy takes. So how is it that you and I are gonna have any effect on this?

Well, to be honest, if it was up to me, we would start with a clean slate, kick everybody out, and then vote new people in.

Ok, but that doesn't fix the bureaucracy, which is permanent.

No, you're absolutely right.

So, why are you a leftist, you should be one of us.

I think I align more with..

Who invented electricity? Which government agency?

I'm sorry?

Which government agency invented electricity?

Invented electricity? Um. I'm afraid I'm not..I'm afraid I can't help you there.

Ok, which government agency invented the processing of steel for use throughout our country?

I'm not sure. ..

Which government agency invented the, hold on now, the production, the refinement, and the transportation of natural gas and oil?

Oh, not OPEC. Um..

Are all these things essential to our daily lives?

Oh yea.

Ok, that would be. Alright, that would be .. uh .. let's see, Edison, that would be Rockefeller, and that would be Carnegie. You hate them, don't you?

Ah, not particularly, no.

Those are "robber barons", you know. (??) the help of Morgan (??) and why are they robber barons? Why isn't it the Federal Government? ..and they're stealing trillions of dollars from the American people, pissing away hundreds of billions of dollars every year. Why aren't they the robber barons?

I think you have a good point, and I..

I don't want to lose you yet. How old are you?

I'm 27.

I want you to hold on, can you hold on?

Yep.

Alright, ladies and gentlemen, I'll be right back. ..So I wanna come back..I could do this for three hours, [but] unfortunately, we don't have enough time. Nades, you still with me, my friend.

I'm still here, yea.

First of all, you're 27, and I want you to know something. You're very respectful, and that's appreciated by millions of people who are listening to you right now, Ok?

I'm glad to hear it.

(9:30)

Now Nate, I have a question for you.

Shoot.

Do you believe that healthcare is a right?

Yes.

Do you believe that doctors should be forced to provide healthcare?

Ah, I suppose it would depend on the circumstance. Um..

Do you believe nurses should be forced to provide healthcare?

Yes.

So you believe doctors and nurses should be forced to provide healthcare?

If the circumstances warrant it, I would have to say..

No, no, but as a general matter?

As a general matter?

If healthcare is a right, then somebody has to provide the care, correct?

Correct.

What if the doctor doesn't want to provide the care. What if he doesn't even want to work for a particular hospital anymore? Should he be free to decide what he wants to do, or what she wants to do?

I believe you are right, and I think I do know where you're going, I think I know where you're going with this.

What about the nurses? They already work these ungodly hours. If healthcare is a right, and you have a limited number of nurses, should they be forced to work 60, 70 hours a week?

I would say that might compromise their..their work.

Well, what about people who work at pharmaceutical companies? Do you know, they're not all millionaires and billionaires over there, they actually have worker bees. People who invent

things, people who process things, people who clean the floors, who clean the windows, do all those things that are done at every other company. If people have a right to healthcare, do they have a right to free drugs?

Free drugs? Um..Well, for, you know, diabetics..and..

Well, did you not say you have a right to healthcare?

I did. You're right.

Ok, well diabetics, I have heart disease myself. Do you think people are going to invest in creating new drugs for diabetes, for heart disease, for whatever if they have to do it for free, or almost free?

I think that would lower the incentive, sure.

So we would have less cutting-edge drugs, and less quality-improving drugs as a result, would we not?

I think you might be right.

So we might have less doctors, less nurses, less drugs, less hospitals if it's a right, and it's free? You see, because the issue isn't whether health insurance is free, the issue is whether you're going to get quality healthcare, correct?

That is correct.

Well, let me throw this one at you. What if I propose a system to you where there's competition, where there's profit built in? But because there's competition, if somebody prices something too high, somebody will go somewhere else, somebody will start something else, they may create a different insurance policy, they may have a different drug, they may pay their doctors and nurses differently, maybe doctors and nurses will go out on their own. What if we had competition, opportunity, wealth creation, expansion? Wouldn't that really be better, Nate?

I think you're alluding to the system we had before ObamaCare was put in place.

I'm alluding to a system we had in the 1940s and 50s, where you paid 25 bucks, where today you pay 1500 bucks. I'll tell you what Nate, you're a good kid, don't hang up. We're gonna send you a copy of "Liberty and Tyranny." Thank you, young man, I shall return.