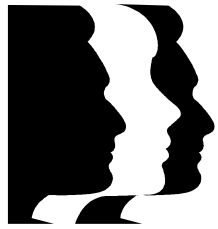


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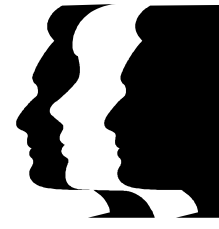


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President-Elect Attacks First Amendment

Democrats want to bring back the Fairness Doctrine to stifle conservative talk radio's criticism

By Jack Thompson
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Obama's New 'Fairness
Doctrine'

Get ready for an unpre-
cedented government assault
upon the First Amendment.
President Obama will be at
the heart of it using his ver-
sion of the "Fairness Doc-
trine."

In 1949, the Federal Com-
munications Commission
created the "Fairness Doc-
trine," which mandated that
federally-licensed radio and
television stations "provide a
reasonable opportunity for
the presentation of contrast-
ing viewpoints" on "vital-
ly important controversial is-
sues." Rather than be del-
uged with demands for air-
time by aggrieved listeners,
the broadcasters generally

opted not to cover controver-
sial issues, thereby leaving
the public less informed.
In 1987, President Rea-
gan's FCC jettisoned the
Fairness Doctrine, and con-
servative talk radio grew like
topsy, unencumbered by the
logistical nightmare of deter-
mining what is
"controversial" and what is
"fair." Rush Limbaugh's me-
teoric, syndicated rise is di-
rectly attributable to this re-

peal, as radio stations were
freed to air what listeners
wanted to hear without airing
what few wanted to hear. If
you think that's unfair, check
out how Air America is do-
ing.

Limbaugh even today cor-
rectly says, "Don't ask me for
equal time; *I am equal time*. I
am the rebuttal to the liberal,
mainstream, drive-by media."

With the Democrats now
set to control the Presidency
and both houses of Congress,
Speaker Pelosi and Majority
Leader Reid say they want to
bring back the Fairness Doc-
trine to stifle conservative
talk radio's criticism of the
Democrats.

Barack Obama, however, in
June 2008, stated that he op-
poses bringing back the Fair-
ness Doctrine, through his
Press Secretary Michael Or-
tiz: "He considers this debate
to be a distraction from the
conversation we *should* be
having about *opening up the
airwaves and modern com-
munications to as many di-
verse viewpoints* as possible."
[emphasis added]

Obama knows that exhum-
ing the Fairness Doctrine
would be a frontal assault
upon the First Amendment
that would evoke a Boston
Tea Party-like response from
listeners of Limbaugh, Han-
nity, Ingraham, Beck, and
other conservative talk hosts
who would be dropped
rapidly from many if not all
stations. Glenn Beck has
warned that if the Fairness
Doctrine comes back, he'll be
off the air.

Obama is way smarter than

that. What he has in mind is
an indirect and far more
means to accomplish the
demise of conservative talk
- America's last town hall.

The analogy is to the
proverbial frog in the pot of
water. Put him into boiling
water, and out he'll hop.
Instant Boston Tea Party.
Here, then, is the Obama
plan to slow cook the First
Amendment:

Charles Benton is Chair-
man of the Benton Founda-
tion, with offices in
Obama's Chicago as well as
in Obama's Washington.
Benton proclaims at his
Foundation's web site,
"[O]ur number one national
communications policy pri-
ority must be the *eradication*
of racial and gender discrim-
ination in media and
telecommunications. Our
shared goal: seeing the day
when all Americans possess
the tools to compete in com-
merce, to contribute to and
enjoy the fruits of democ-
racy, to receive *unbiased*
and uncensored news and
information, to *create our
culture*." [emphasis added]

The Federal Communica-
tions Commission has a
vague rule called
"localism," which requires
stations to serve the interests
of their local communities in
order to hold onto their
broadcast licenses. Obama,
who gets to replace FCC
Chairman Kevin Martin
right away, needs only three
votes from the five-member
FCC to define localism his
way.

Jim Boulet, Jr., the head of

English First in Washing-
ton, D.C., one of whose
projects

www.keeprushontheair.com
has been studying and
warning for months about
the morphing of FCC local-
ism. Boulet notes to Human
Events the following:

- On September 20, 2007,
Obama submitted a pro-
localism written statement
to an FCC hearing at the
Chicago headquarters of
Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.'s
Operation Push. One month
later, an insistent Obama
sent a public letter to Chair-
man Martin stating, "The
Commission has failed to
further the goals of diver-
sity in the media and pro-
mote localism."

- The head of Obama's
transition team is John
Podesta, President and
CEO of the Center for
American Progress. In
2007, the Center issued a
report, *The Structural Im-
balance of Political Talk
Radio*, which concluded
there were too many con-
servatives on the radio be-
cause of "the absence of
localism in American radio
markets" and urged the
FCC to "[e]nsure greater
local accountability over
radio licensing.

- Podesta's choice as head
of the FCC transition team
is Henry Rivera, a Director
and General Counsel of the
above-noted Benton Founda-
tion and chairman of the
Minority Media Telecom-
munications Council,
which has stated:

...continued on page 4.



Merry Christmas

Christmas Entertainment... page 3

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