

## FairTax and Transparency

We've heard a lot about transparency over the last few months. But promises to "open up" government have disappeared faster than New Year's resolutions, and watching the parliamentary manipulations of Congress to hid the dirty deals, special interest pandering, and outright bribery associated with the so-called Healthcare bill turns the stomach of any self-respecting adult. I say so-called because after more than 40 new taxes, plus dozens more "special exemptions", the only ones with improved coverage and better health will be members of Congress and their newly-rich lobbyists friends.

The blatant manipulation of the tax system to curry favor with supporters, and punish opponents has gone beyond mere politics and has now descended to a level that threatens the very concepts of Republicanism and Rule of Law. The shining ideals of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness enshrined by our Founders have been replaced with the bribery and corruption ethos of Banana Republics. And, evidenced by the smug pride portrayed by some members of Congress, it is only going to get worse!

Now, imagine the impact of the FairTax. Instead of being able to write punitive tax laws punishing those with "cadillac" health insurance, those who don't wish to buy health insurance, medical appliance manufacturers, and a host of other targets who failed to hire effective lobbyists, Congress would have only the choice of raising taxes on everyone, or learning to live within their means.

Instead of members of Congress hawking their votes like the Ladies of Amsterdam's Wallenwinkel district, trading votes for exemptions, there would be no exemptions to barter. Party leaders would have to craft good legislation to get it passed, rather than relying on kickbacks and backroom inducements to garner votes for incomprehensible blather.

Instead of providing members of Congress, who obviously aren't strong enough to resist a Temptation, with endless opportunities to disgrace themselves, harm American businesses, and erode the fundamental underpinnings of a once-vibrant national economy, all while hiding behind closed doors, anonymous earmarks and turgid legalese, the FairTax forces them into simple up or down, yes or no votes when it comes to taxes. Votes which can be understood by their constituents, and for which they can not deny responsibility.