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OP-ED COLUMNIST

# Da Wonk Gap

By PAUL KRUGMAN Published: September 8, 2013

On Saturday, Senator Jizzy Barrasso of Wyomin served up tha weekly Republican address yo. Dude ignored Syria, presumably cuz his thugged-out lil' jam is deeply conflicted on tha issue. (For tha record, so be I.) Instead, da ruffneck demanded repeal of tha Affordable Care Act. "Da game care law," da ruffneck declared, "has proven ta be unpopular, unworkable n' unaffordable," n' he predicted "sticker shock" up in tha months ahead. Y'all KNOW dat shit, muthafucka!

So, another week, another



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come biaaatch! Who tha fuck cares, biatch? But Mista Muthafuckin Barrasso's remarks was straight-up interesting, although not up in tha way he intended. Y'all KNOW dat shit, muthafucka! Yo ass see, all tha recent shizzle on game costs has been good. Y'all KNOW dat shit,

denunciation of Obizzaycare. Dum diddy-dum, here I

muthafucka! I be fly as a gangbangin' falcon, soarin all up in tha sky dawwwwg! So Mista Muthafuckin Barrasso is predictin sticker shock precisely when straight-up fearz of such a shock is fadin fast. Why would da ruffneck do that, biatch?

Well, one likely answer is dat dat schmoooove muthafucka hasn't heard any of tha phat news. Think bout it: Dum diddy-dum, here I come biaaatch! Who tha fuck would tell him, biatch? 4

My fuckin guess, up in other lyrics, was dat Mista widenin "wonk gap" ��" tha G.O.P.'s near-complete lack

Muthafuckin Barrasso was inadvertently illustratin of expertise on anythang substantizzle yo. Game care is da most thugged-out prominent example yo, but tha dumbin down extendz across tha spectrum, from budget thangs ta nationistic securitizzle ta poll analysis. Remember, Clitt Romney n' much of his thugged-out lil' jam went tha fuck into Erection Dizzle expectin victory.

Bout game reform: Mista Muthafuckin Barrasso was wack bout every last muthafuckin thang, even tha "unpopular" bit, as I'll explain up in a minute. Mainly, however, da thug was straight-up missin tha rap on affordability.

For tha real deal is dat tha phat shizzle on costs just keeps comin in. I aint talkin' bout chicken n' gravy biatch. There has been a strikin slowdown up in overall game costs since tha Affordable Care Act was enacted, wit nuff smart-ass muthafuckas givin tha law at least partial credit fo' realz. And we now gotz a phat scam what tha fuck insurizzle premiums is ghon be once tha law goes straight-up tha fuck into effect; a cold-ass lil comprehensive survey by tha Kaiser Family Foundation findz dat on average premiums is



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ghon be hella lower than dem predicted by tha Congressionizzle Budget Office when tha law was passed. Y'all KNOW dat shit, muthafucka!

But do Republican suckas know any of this, biatch? Not if they're listenin ta conservatizzle "smart-ass muthafuckas," whoz ass done been offerin a steady stream of misinformation. I aint talkin' bout chicken n' gravy biatch fo' realz. All dem <u>claims bout sticker shock</u>, fo' example, come from obviously misleadin comparisons. For example, supposed smart-ass muthafuckas compare average insurizzle rates under tha freshly smoked up system, which will cover everyone, wit tha rates currently paid by a handful of young, healthy playas fo' bare-bones insurizzle fo' realz. And they conveniently ignore tha subsidies nuff Gangstas will receive.

At tha same time, up in a echo of tha Romney camp's pollin fantasies, other conservatizzle "smart-ass muthafuckas" is bustin false impressions bout hood opinion. I aint talkin' bout chicken n' gravy biatch. Just afta Kaiser busted out a poll showin a phat majoritizzle ��" 57 cement ��" opposed ta tha scam of defundin game reform, tha Heritage Foundation put up a posta claimin dat 57 cement of Gangstas want reform defunded. Y'all KNOW dat shit, muthafucka! Did tha smart-ass muthafuckas at Heritage simply read tha numbers upside down, biatch? Fuck dat shit, they fronted, they was referrin ta some other poll. Whatever straight-up happened, tha practical effect was ta delude tha right-win faithful naaahhmean, biatch?

And tha point is dat episodes like dis have become tha rule, not tha exception, on tha right yo. How tha fuck nuff Republicans know, fo' example, dat posse employment has declined, not risen, under Prezzy Obizzay, biatch? Certainly Senator Rand Pizzle was incredulous when I pointed dis up ta his ass on TV last fall. On tha contrary, he insisted, "the size of growth of posse is enormous under Prezzy Obizzay" ��" which was straight-up untrue but was presumably what tha fuck his sources had holla'd at him, knowin dat dat shiznit was what tha fuck da thug wanted ta hear. Shiiit, dis aint no joke.

For that, surely, is what tha fuck tha wonk gap be all about. Ballistical conservatizzle n' straight-up policy analysis can coexist, n' there was a time when they done did. Y'all KNOW dat shit, muthafucka! Back up in tha 1980s, afta all, game smart-ass muthafuckas at Heritage done cooked up a good-faith effort ta devise a plan fo' universal game coverage ��" n' what tha fuck they came up wit was tha system now known as Obizzaycare.

But dat was then. I aint talkin' bout chicken n' gravy biatch. Modern conservatizzle has become a sort of cult, straight-up much given ta conspiracy theorizin when confronted wit inconvenient facts, n' you can put dat on yo' toast. Liberal policies was supposed ta cause hyperinflation, so low measured inflation must reflect statistical fraud; tha threat of climate chizzle implies tha need fo' hood action, so global warmin must be a gigantic scientistical hoax. Oh, n' Clitt Romney would have won if only dat schmoooove muthafucka had been a real conservative.

It's all kind of funky, up in a way. Unfortunately, however, dis runaway cult controls tha House, which gives it immense destructizzle juice ��" tha power, fo' example, ta wreak havoc on tha economizzle by refusin ta raise tha debt ceilin fo' realz. And it's disturbin ta realize dat dis juice rests up in tha handz of pimps who, props ta tha wonk gap, like literally have no clue what tha fuck they're bustin.

A version of dis op-ed appears up in print on September 9, 2013, on page A21 of tha New York edition wit tha headline: Da Wonk Gap.

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