

IN OUR VIEW

Sen. Paul vs. Dr. Fauci

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has been chasing Dr. Anthony Fauci for at least six years. Fauci is only the second Chief Medical Adviser to the President. He was appointed this position by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Fauci led the nation’s efforts against the COVID-19 virus. He and President Trump were on television every day during the outbreak which occurred in 2019. We give Trump high marks for fast-tracking the approval of a vaccine. Normally, approval takes several years but Trump successfully steered the vaccine development and approval in less than a year.

Nearly 7.1 million deaths occurred in the world from the Covid-19 virus. It wrecked the American economy causing closure of schools, some businesses, and it sharply reduced public gatherings.

Sen. Paul, who is an ophthalmologist by training, is perhaps the most outspoken American regarding the government’s decision to curtail public gatherings and vaccinate as many as possible.

Fast-forward to now, the Covid virus is not as feared as in 2019. The medical profession better understands the virus, which started in China, and fine-tuned the vaccine and created other treatments.

Fauci was a disliked figure by some conservatives who insist curtailing public gatherings and all of us wearing masks was unnecessary. The blame game seemingly never stopped but it slowed down as the economy recovered, Americans resumed traveling and enjoying their lives.

President Biden issued a blanket pardon to Fauci only hours before leaving office. Trump and others pledged to criminally charge Fauci for urging President Trump to curtail public activity during his first term.

Paul summoned Fauci to appear before his Senate committee this week. Fauci appeared on Capitol Hill with several lawyers who apparently advised Fauci to invoke his Fifth Amendment right not to answer senators’ questions. That’s when friction occurred.

But why did a man (Fauci) who seemed to enjoy being on television take the Fifth Amendment more than a hundred times? Receiving a blanket pardon only applies to any crime permitted before the pardon. Lying to Congress is a felony. Had sharp-minded senators, who are also lawyers, tripped up Fauci on a simple question such as what color is the carpet — which was an actual question — he’d be charged with lying to Congress if he said the carpet was navy blue instead of light blue. Fauci is an 85 year-old man and his lawyers didn’t want him to risk legal charges.

So, nothing came from the hearing other than a few windbag senators like Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, who dropped several F-bombs in the hearing knowing television cameras were broadcasting the hearing live.

Moreno was the biggest looking fool during the hearing. No wonder Washington politicians have such a low approval rating. Now, they’re going on a six-week vacation.

Letters invited

The Daily Independent invites readers to submit In Your View letters on public issues.

Letters must not exceed 300 words and must include the name, address and telephone number of the author.

Words of Thanks letters are limited to no more than 150 words. *The Daily Independent* cannot guarantee a day of publication for letters, but makes an effort to publish letters in a timely manner.

The newspaper is not obligated to print every letter it receives.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievance.



The case for capitalism

I’ve failed! I make the case for free markets ... young people elect socialists!

What are they thinking? Do they even think? Do they pay any attention to history? Or economics? Socialism always fails. Only markets create environments that let people prosper.

“Getting the right environment — this country’s done it better than anyone else,” says Steve Forbes in our full interview. “Give people a chance to be creative, experience liberty, and humanity moves forward.”

His magazine has made that point for years.

“You and I are failures,” I tell him. “We’ve tried to convince people about the benefits of free enterprise ... (Yet) they embrace socialism,” believing “posts from people like actor Mark Ruffalo: ‘Capitalism today is failing us, killing us, and robbing from our children’s future ...’”

“Capitalism has done just the opposite!” replies Forbes. “Deaths from famines are down 99% in the last 60 years. Standard of living, 10 times better than it was 50 years ago around the world.”

Progressives call capitalism “immoral.”

“Capitalism, free enterprise, free markets, whatever you call it,” replies Forbes, “is a moral system because success comes from meeting the needs and wants of others... Go to the old Soviet Union, to Cuba, North Korea and compare opportunities. It’s a reason people want to come here. They can flourish here whereas they get crushed by regulation elsewhere.”

Free markets are also moral, he says, because capitalists don’t get rich by forcing people

to hand over money. Only governments, employing police, tax collectors, etc. can do that.

Capitalists get rich only if customers voluntarily choose them.

Unless, of course, government gets involved. If politicians grant favors or give handouts to politically connected

companies (known as crony capitalism), the market system breaks down.

Real free markets rely on mutual benefit.

“Capitalism is also humane,” adds Forbes. “You may not love your neighbor, but you sure want to sell to your neighbor. It gets people working on a common objective, even if they don’t realize it.”

We have food on our table because farmers, engineers, truck drivers, computer programmers, retailers and countless others voluntarily cooperate to grow it, ship it, refrigerate it and bring it to us.

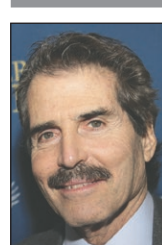
Most will never meet, but markets encourage cooperation between strangers. Together they create the abundance of goods we take for granted.

“(Is it) a perfect system?” asks Forbes. “No. (But) it’s a way of enabling humanity to move forward. It enhances life standards of everyone.”

Governments only rarely do that. Entrepreneurs do it all the time.

Forbes gives examples like John Deere.

“He was a blacksmith in Vermont, had a hard time making it.”



JOHN STOSSEL

So he moved to Illinois, where he noticed farmers struggling with thick soil that stuck to their iron plows. Every few feet they had to stop and scrape dirt off.

Remembering polished steel needles his seamstress mother used, Deere experimented with steel blades until he invented the steel plow.

“Turned what seemed like worthless soil into a breadbasket for the world,” says Forbes. “When markets are allowed to operate, they turn scarcity into abundance.”

Photography in the 1880s was expensive, complicated and available mainly to professionals.

Then George Eastman developed the Kodak camera, making photography simpler and cheaper.

“He created this global company and everyone became a photographer.”

Loading cargo onto ships was slow, expensive and prone to theft. A North Carolina trucker, Malcolm McLean, grew so bored waiting for cargo to be loaded that he invented the shipping container.

“Sounds easy,” says Forbes, “but the design took a lot of effort. The cost of shipping items fell as much as 95%. That made it possible to develop elaborate supply chains. That makes it possible for people to have supercomputers in the palm of their hand.”

Capitalism, despite its occasional greed and excess, is the only system that lets people prosper.

Every Tuesday at JohnStossel.com, **JOHN STOSSEL** posts a new video about the battle between government and freedom. He is the author of “Government Gone Wild: Exposing the Truth Behind the Headlines.”

IN YOUR VIEW

Profanity uncalled for during questioning of Fauci

I am writing to condemn the profanity used by Sen. Bernie Moreno during his questioning of Dr. Anthony Fauci on Wednesday, July 29, before the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

I have emailed Sen. Rand Paul, our senator and the committee chairman, to that effect. As the chairman, Sen. Paul should have censored Sen. Moreno for this act. However, he nor anyone else on that committee addressed that issue. This profane word is used extensively in our cur-

rent culture in all settings by some and degrades the standards to which we all should be trying to achieve.

As an 81-year old man, when I was growing up, if a man used that word in public, especially when a woman was present, it was considered an insult and disrespectful not only to the woman but also to the man she was with and could lead to a fight.

Just for the record, I am of the same party as both Paul and Moreno but will hold them accountable when they are wrong.

Doug Spillman
Flatwood