

# C STREET'S WATERLOO

If we're able to stop Obama on this, it will be his Waterloo. It will break him. And we will show that we can—along with the American people—begin to push those freedom solutions at work in every area of our society.

About a million people have commented on Jim DeMint's prayer to "break" our first African-American President by thwarting his attempts to reform and extend health care. But few—at least that I've seen—have connected it with another lingering news story: the role of C Street in pushing hyper-capitalist policies.

DeMint is the most senior C Street resident not currently embroiled in a sex scandal (or the cover-up of it, in Tom Coburn's case). And while his roomies all scramble to keep their jobs in the aftermath of being proven utter hypocrites, DeMint has taken the lead attacking health care and—significantly—counterposing it to "freedom solutions."

This is what C Street is really about—fighting back any check on hyper-capitalism. As Jeff Sharlet explained in a recent interview,

**Sharlet:** Exactly. However you look at it, The Family is effectively a union busting organization. They're particularly concerned about the Teamsters and the Longshoremen. They thought they were run by some sort of devils. The Family was instrumental in the breaking of the spine of organized labor.

One of the things that makes them different from other Christian conservative organizations, and I think even upset some Christian conservative organizations, is that the issues for them are not abortion or morality or

same-sex marriage. The important issue to them is what they call Biblical capitalism, and I think what even some conservative observers looking at them call crony capitalism.

That needs to be the story here: the loudest opponent to health care reform is advocating the position of a morally discredited fascistic cult, that he's interested in defeating a wildly popular policy so as to replace it with Orwellian "freedom solutions."

Sure, the opponents of health care reform are partly people—like Ben Nelson—being spoonfed honey by the insurance industry's bean counters. But there are others—notably this loudmouthed and unrepentant member of the Family—who are opposing it as a rallying cry to some fundamentally authoritarian whack-jobs.

DeMint is going to continue to get face time for his outrageous comments. We would do well to emphasize that he's a morally hypocritical cult member just like Ensign and Sanford.