

RAND PAUL

Opportunity, Freedom, and Prosperity

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CATO

One of our problems as Republicans in Washington is that Republicans have an insufficient confidence in free minds and free markets. When we're offering them Obamacare, but half as much, you're never going to win that debate. If the Democrats are Santa Claus, and we're 0.5 Santa Claus, do you think we're going to win that? We have to do something that is more difficult—and that's why you need Cato and think tanks to come up with the arguments, because inherently our argument is more difficult. We have to be able to argue about opportunity, freedom, and the prosperity that that brings.

most important debate we ever have is whether we send our kids to war—and we're not having it at all. What is the legal and constitutional justification for our presence over there now? I think it's zero. If you think we should be there, we should vote. We shouldn't just let a president—one person—have so much power.

ON COMPROMISE

One of the things that we hear in politics is that once upon a time, things were so much better. The halcyon days when politicians would hold hands, sing "Kumbaya," and everything was perfect, there was no disharmony at all—if only we had those times again! And I always wonder if

their shirt sleeves, people have canes and they know how to wield them.

The question is when to compromise and when not to. Henry Clay compromised over some things where I hope I would not have compromised. He compromised over slavery, and people said, "Oh, but he kept the Union together!" Well, he did, but maybe there was an inevitability to it being torn asunder by continuing the propagation of slavery and the fugitive slave law, and all of those things that he voted for in order to, supposedly, keep the Union together.

And we still have these debates: What do we compromise over? We have to fix entitlements. If you tell me the age needs



“On privacy and foreign policy, I think Cato has a perspective that most other think tanks in town don't have.”

—Rand Paul

ON PRIVACY AND FOREIGN POLICY

On privacy and foreign policy, I think Cato has a perspective that most other think tanks in town don't have, and if you weren't here wouldn't be represented. I think it's important that we have voices that will discuss a constitutional foreign policy, and that there needs to be debate before we go to war. In fact, I think the

these people have read any of our history. Because when you go back and read of the fights between Jefferson and Adams, they had a 30-, 40-year feud, with heated disputes. You look at Henry Clay from my state—he became Speaker of the House in his first election, 34 years old, and he gets there and there's mayhem, people have derringers that slide down from

to be 72 and I say it should be 70, will I split the difference? Sure. But it has to be going in the right direction to split the difference. We're having this big debate on Obamacare now. Should we split the difference? If people ask me, "What are you for?" I'm for 100 percent repeal. But if the Congress says they're for 80 percent

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 9

repeal, will I split the difference and vote for 90 percent? I probably would, but that's not what I'm being asked to do. We're being asked to repeal certain segments of it, leave certain segments in place, but then replace them with things that to me look a lot like Obamacare.

We will have in place, if the Republicans get their way, the same basic principle the Democrats had, which is that the government will pay money to insurance companies. And the problem I have with that is that insurance companies don't really need taxpayer money. They make \$15 billion a year, and they

made \$6 billion a year before Obamacare. Who here wouldn't love to have a business where the government forces people to buy your product, and then if 10 percent of them can't afford it, then the government will buy it for them—but you still get to keep all the profits? ■