

## **My Two Cent's Worth**

By: Joseph Andalina

### **To be on the right**

As in Republican. I'm well aware that most coppers are probably conservative. Not all, mind you, but I know very few who are dyed-in-the-wool blue donkeys.

Even I, your humble essayist — once a strong Dem — now comfortably leans Libertarian and maintains some ideals for a traditional virtue. But by and by, I find trouble with the elephant in the room — excuse the pun.

It's not just the big business' slobbering love affair. Who doesn't want to be rich? Or like Obama, pull in \$400,000 for a one hour speech on Wall Street.

Nor is it the right's insistence that abortions are wrong. I can never be one to tell a woman what she should do in taking this step. It's her body, welfare, and mental outlook that justifies the act. However, in a perverse sense, I have always thought it to be somewhat hypocritical that abortion at any time is okay, but in 37 states, the killing of a fetus is a crime.

Illinois Comp. Stat. Ch. 720 5/q/1-2 et.al specifically states "The killing of an unborn fetus at any stage of pre-natal development is intentional homicide, voluntary manslaughter, or involuntary manslaughter or reckless homicide." Maybe somewhere in those statutes, an abortion is an exception, but the general inclusion of fetal homicide should not be lost on us.

And of course, we are all Second Amendment supporters.

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The problem with that elephant in the room is with their stuffy, anti-progressive disdain for the not-so-rich and the working class. Also, the snobbish way some want you to live, ranging from how much you should make, give, worship, and their belief that the old ways are the only ways.

But their anti-labor stance is simply annoying. Anti-unionism is sickening and it's blamed on businesses leaving Illinois, rich folks not getting richer, and they seemingly want poor or middle class people to work for crap money in order to get ahead and they reject all calls for better wages.

They particularly love to disgorge animus towards public workers. We are the reason for the state's saunter to junk bond status, that we are in debt here in Illinois, that our pensions are too rich and must be taken away, devalued, or changed to a 401(k) so the legislature can add more money from our pockets to theirs. Get rid of collective bargaining too. You should individually bargain with your boss and work for merit. Got that?

But it's health care that really struck a chord. Obamacare, Trumpcare, Health care — whatever moniker you use— is disgraceful for all. It's a tough system to be sure to provide protection for 350,000,000 people in the good old U.S. of A.

I can't answer it either, but when you have Republicans like Representative Mo Brooks R-Alaska of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, puke out this dandy “that people who lead good lives do not have pre-existing conditions.” It just illustrates their beliefs and their ignorance. A more ardent response from a legit doctor answered his stupidity in a recent *Chicago Tribune* article (Doctor Sarah Nadeem, Loyola University in Chicago).

But my own answer is — really? You're a moron, Representative Brooks. Is this a misguided attempt to throw Grandma off the cliff because she is ill? It's a fact that the last six months of your life is usually the most expensive health care time for many. Are Republicans trying to eliminate that very important feature from legislation — that we take care of the elderly when they get elderly?

I know this — many folks suffer from pre-existing conditions and lead good lives. I have (although a few chiefs and mayors may differ on this ) lived a good life. Proud son of wonderful parents, veteran police officer, wildlife rehabber, volunteer, church goer, union dude forever, and a cancer survivor.

I can tell you it was a brutal treatment with horrible side effects. And now, like millions of others, I have a pre-existing condition.

So screw you, Mo!

Vita é bella.