

Health Care's Rope-A-Dope

FLASH:

Obama announces that he wants to reach across the aisle and work together on important issues. First up - overhauling our health care system with massive new legislation. Politicians from both sides enter the ring wearing heavily sprayed politician haircuts and suits. Here comes Obama, in good shape after his decisive presidential victory. Both sides acknowledge each other with a respectful look.

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ROUND 1:

Obama starts to move around with a healthcare plan. He reaches across the aisle and, bam, he's immediately hit from all sides.

ROUND 3:

Still reaching, Obama dances around, trying to show that he's still in command of the "reach across the aisle" strategy and asks both sides to work it out. But they come at him unrelenting.

ROUND 7:

Obama is cornered, unattractive deals are being made, concessions are being demanded of him. The left, agitated because the plan doesn't go far enough, comes at him hard. He takes uppercuts from the right, who are angry because the plan is too liberal. Some from the middle, wanting concessions, do some body damage. He takes it from the left. Pow! He takes it from the right. Bam! Is he going to go down? He leans against the ropes.

ROUND 8:

The flurry of attacks keep coming at Obama, who is just leaning against the ropes. He is being pounded away at from all sides. Why doesn't he fight!?

ROUND 10:

Obama is taking such a beating that the question now is - When is he going down?

ROUND 12:

The rights, the lefts and the middles are tired. Their punches lack a knockout. They're getting sloppy. Yet Obama is still the recipient of their attacks. Wow! Obama just threw a punch. He is fighting back. He's off the ropes and throwing rapid punches, with that angry look in his eye, like the one he had during the election when the other side went too far. The other side is tired out is surprised. One, two... bam, bam. Obama's punching away. The other sides are going down! They are down! Healthcare passes!

Using the rope-a-dope technique, mixing his Harvard education with the instincts from the streets of Chicago, he emerges a victor - while trying to keep his promise that he would try and work with those across the aisle.