

One word for this reporting

Dan Hammes/St. Maries Gazette-Record

Irony is not the right word. But a quick scan of a thesaurus finds none that provides the appropriate fit. That could be, perhaps, because nothing really fits since what happened last week is so surreal.

Then it occurs. Surreal is not the right word either.

Whatever the word, whatever the explanation, whatever we call it – whatever happened last week - should not go unnoticed.

But largely, it will.

It will because the media, largely, are a cheering section for this president instead of serving their role as watchdogs.

Last week, in a piddling blog post no less, the Obama Administration announced that it would delay, by a full year, the implementation of the major piece of its signature legislation. After telling us for years what a wonderful thing Obamacare is, President Obama was forced to admit it isn't all that wonderful just yet.

Employing a no-name, low-level surrogate to dispatch the news, President Obama decided that he could not implement the \$2,000 fine (per employee) against any firm with more than 50 employees that did not provide government-approved health insurance for its employees. Well, not right now anyhow. At least until after the next election.

This is a big deal because the fine is the cornerstone of this utopian system of medical care as devised by bureaucrats. Without the fine, without the hammer to force people to buy medical insurance, all the projections about how supporters claim Obamacare will function are meaningless.

But the point here is not to debate Obamacare. That debate is ended. Obamacare is the law of the land.

The audacious aspect of the 'Obamacare is a really, really good thing – except just not right now' announcement from our president is *when* the announcement was made.

July 3.

The day before this country celebrates its independence from a king, President Obama issues a royal-like edict changing the law of the land.

No matter what critics, or supporters, think of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, it was approved by elected representatives and that legislation stipulates that on January 1, 2014 any company with more than 50 employees must provide government approved medical care or face a \$2,000 per-employee fine.

That's it. End of discussion.

The legislation does not say 'if the politics look really, really bad President Obama can delay parts of this bill.' There is no language that stipulates that 'if the economics look really, really bad President Obama can ignore part of this bill.' There is nothing in the legislation that dictates that 'if this stuff about fining businesses will hurt Democrats in the next election then President Obama can delay matters.'

None of that stuff is written in the bill. Yet President Obama did just that and the media were largely silent.

There is a word for that. Unbelievable. – *Dan Hammes*