

Pat Robertson and the OxyContin makers By Don McNay

What did Pat Robertson know and when did he know it?

People were stunned that Pat Robertson endorsed Rudolph Giuliani for president. Rudolph's multiple-marriage personal life does not seem to jibe with Robertson's philosophies.

I was stunned at the endorsement because Giuliani was the lawyer who kept the makers of Oxycontin out of jail.

I've written a number of columns about Mr. Giuliani's representation of the company that makes Oxycontin. The Oxycontin people made a product that the company's top executive knew was addictive. They got their marketing people to push unsuspecting doctors to prescribe it to innocent patients.

A lot of people went to the doctor for backaches and came out drug addicts.

If a street dealer turns people into addicts, we lock them away. It didn't happen to the drug makers.

One of Giuliani's first cases as a prosecutor was locking up a drug dealer named Nicky Barnes. Barnes was the inspiration for the movie "New Jack City" and got a long prison sentence.

He had Rudolph as his prosecutor and not his lawyer.

Lots of people addicted to Oxycontin are in jail. None of the drug makers are.

For that, the drug makers can thank their well-connected lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani, the man the Rev. Pat Robertson wants to be president.

I watched the 700 Club for years. I thought that Reverend Robertson was sincere in his beliefs, even if they didn't always agree with mine.

I suspect Robertson is now out of touch. Still, it is dangerous for an out-of-touch person to make political endorsements.

I am willing to bet that Pat Robertson has never even heard of Oxycontin and doesn't know about Giuliani's involvement.

The mainstream media spends a lot of time talking about Rudolph's multiple marriages, and his friend who got indicted. They've ignored how Giuliani makes his living.

Helping a company that knowingly sold addictive drugs is worse than being married a few times.

Each issue is a reflection of a person's character, but Rudolph's divorces and affairs hurt him and his immediate family. Oxycontin has hurt thousands of families.

I have several friends with multiple marriages. I don't have any that market addictive drugs. If I can screen my friends to that level, Rudolph Giuliani can do the same thing. He's the one who wants to be president.

Before Pat Robertson bestows his endorsement on a candidate for president of the United States, he needs to do some screening, too.

I don't like ministers in either party endorsing political candidates. Ministers should push issues and ideals, but endorsing an individual candidate crosses a line.

I would think that Reverend Robertson would be opposed to marketing addictive drugs to unwitting patients. The practice goes against biblical principles.

Giuliani's post mayoral career has gotten scant attention and the horrors of Oxycontin has primarily been felt in rural states, such as Kentucky. Rudolph may march to the presidency, with Pat Robertson by his side, winning urban states and never having to atone for his part in the Oxycontin story.

If Reverend Robertson wants to have an impact on society, he could come to Kentucky. He could visit and see the wasted lives, the wrecked families and the absolute pain that the Oxycontin has caused.

His ministry might want to offer assistance to those seeking treatment.

After he has seen the horror of Oxycontin and has learned what Giuliani did to help its maker avoid punishment, I would like to look Reverend Robinson in the eye and ask him he could still thinks Rudolph Giuliani should be the next president of the United States of America.

It is the kind of background check that Robertson should have done before making an endorsement.

If Robertson wants to keep his hand in politics, he can use his political contacts to make sure that every drug company executive who markets addictive drugs can count on serious jail time.

He could preach to his television flock to give maximum sentences and record civil jury verdicts against drug companies that turn innocent people into addicts.

He could do a lot of stuff to help people.

Endorsing Rudolph Giuliani is not on that list.

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