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"Do as I say, not as I do." — Orrin Hatch

Well, no, the senior U.S. senator from Utah didn't literally say that the other day as he was trying, for a moment at least, to be the voice of experience and reason on the floor of the Senate.

But what he did that day did not match what he said.

During an unusual, and unusually hostile, Sunday session, [Hatch expressed](#) some understandable exasperation over the behavior of some of his younger colleagues. He was particularly bothered, as were many other senators, by the display put on by presidential candidate Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, who openly accused Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of lying to him about plans to vote again on the controversial Import-Export Bank.

"In recent times, the Senate floor has too often become a forum for partisan messaging and ideological grandstanding rather than a setting for serious debate," Hatch said.

Hatch said that the same day he engaged in a clear act of "partisan messaging and ideological grandstanding" by voting for a motion by his fellow Utahn, Sen. Mike Lee, to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The motion failed to win the necessary 60 votes, as everyone knew it would. And even if it had passed, the chances of a bill cancelling what is widely known as Obamacare surviving a veto by President Obama are non-existent.

Hatch continues to call an act that has provided health care access for more than [16 million](#) previously uninsured, and uninsurable, Americans, that stands to [reduce the federal deficit](#) by an estimated \$154 billion over the next decade, "a disastrous law."

Saying that is partisan puffery of the most blatant kind.

Constant efforts to repeal Obamacare, about the only thing Republicans in Congress have to offer, do nothing to solve the problem the ACA has set out to address.

Phony [alternatives offered by Hatch](#) and others alternate between mimicking some of the more popular aspects of the ACA — no lifetime limits, coverage on a family policy up to age 26 — and dodging the hard truth of the parts — the individual mandate and guaranteed access — that are necessary to keep the system afloat.

Sen. Hatch had some wise words for some of his more hot-headed colleagues the other day. They, and the nation, would benefit more if Hatch would set an example of taking wise actions, mostly by dialing back the partisan Obama-bashing and trying to really solve some of the problems facing America and the world.