

money. Where has it come from? I don't know.

Remember, the United States Congress has not passed a single appropriations bill this year. We are running on the appropriations bills from last year under a continuing resolution that was passed on September 30, before we went home at the end of September. But the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight did not exist until June of this year, so where is the money appropriated that is responsible for running this agency?

Well, I am told it is reprogrammed from other places within HHS, and HHS has the money for this implementation. But I beg to differ. Those monies are supposed to be appropriated by the United States Congress. We are, by law, under the Constitution, responsible for the purse strings. We are supposed to be the ones that write the checks to the Federal agencies to allow them to do their work; and it is by that activity that the United States House of Representatives is able to keep a little bit tighter leash, as far as oversight is concerned, on Federal agencies.

But here we have a brand-new Federal agency that, as best as I can determine, was not called for in the law that was signed by the President. You have various offices, all of which will be employing multiple people. So every one of these places on the flowchart are going to have a number of people working there and answering to the director of that part of the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight.

Wouldn't it be great to have at least one hearing in the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, or the Health Subcommittee, to ask the folks who are in charge of this to come in to the committee and tell us what they are doing?

Who has been in charge? Just for an example, who has been in charge of looking at this to see if there was duplication? Surely all of these functions, some of them were probably already being performed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Have we got anybody looking at the duplication of effort that may now be occurring?

Everyone bemoans the growth of Federal Government. Everyone bemoans the rapid rise in Federal debt. But do we have anyone who is looking at where duplication may be occurring, where there may be cost savings?

If there is an Office of Insurance Programs and the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, maybe there is another office that can be closed in the Department of Health and Human Services. If there is a Division of Rules Compliance, maybe there is another office at either Health and Human Services or the Office of Personnel Management that is no longer necessary. Why have we not had the oversight hearing to understand where the duplication is occurring and where the additional costs may be being expended that are actually unnecessary?

What is the total employment for this entire flowchart? What is the total employment? What is the total salary information? Is there anyone who is being paid in excess of what would be the normal Federal pay level? We don't know the answer to any of these questions.

What is the background of the individuals who have come here? Are they basically people who have contributed to political campaigns in the past, or are these people who have brought with them particular expertise? And again I would argue, if there is particular expertise that they are providing, is that expertise then not necessary in another office that is currently in existence in the Department of Health and Human Services?

Look, let's be honest. This health care bill that was signed into law last March was not a bipartisan product.

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The only thing that was bipartisan about this bill was the opposition. Democrats crossed the aisle and voted with Republicans against this bill. No Republican voted in favor of this bill last March.

What have we seen as a result of this election? A profound, profound change in what the American people saw and did in regard to the United States Congress. There are six new doctors in the freshman class. Absolutely unprecedented, again, in my time in Congress, and I think it says something about the people who actually deliver the health care in this country, what their opinion is of Congress at this point. "My golly, if this is what they are going to do, maybe I better get up there and take care of it myself." After all, that is the way doctors are wired.

This is a flawed process that led to a flawed product. It must be repealed. I look forward to that day in January when that repeal vote is held. In the meantime, and after that, until we can actually get things under control, the oversight process and the funding for the implementation must be under strict scrutiny.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House:

Nov. 15, 2010.

Hon. LORRAINE C. MILLER,
*Clerk, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAME CLERK: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for deposition testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in connection with a civil case now pending before that court.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations re-

quired by Rule VIII of the Rules of the House.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House.

REDUCING THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, tonight, since we have heard over and over about how destructive the deficits are from the President, I thought we would discuss some of the ways we can work on that. There are plenty of good solutions.

We discussed yesterday the fact that this administration pushed through a \$400 billion land grab bill that would allow them to spend \$400 billion to just buy land. I like my friend from Utah Rob Bishop's proposal that before people from States that don't have much, if any, Federal ownership of land keep pushing through bills to buy up land in other States, that they should be required to sell land first to the Federal Government in those States, so that any State that has less than 20 percent ownership by the Federal Government needs to find out what it is like when the Federal Government takes over land in a State, deprives the local government of any tax base from that land, deprives the local area of any economic growth to speak of from that land.

Yes, there are parks in certain ones that are very active and provide money to the area, jobs, things like that. But more often, when the Federal Government comes in and grabs land and puts it off limits, it just starves the local schools, it starves the local government of any assistance.

Now, originally when the Federal Government started grabbing land and taking it away from local areas, yes, they paid something for some of it, but there was an agreement; look, we know we are taking away all of this revenue from local government, from schools, so tell you what: We will provide you with part of the revenue off of the land, whether it was from the trees, which are one of our greatest renewable resources, or whether it was from natural resources like oil, gas and minerals of different kinds.

But that all changed, and so many local governments and schools have been left high and dry, which is often the case. The Federal Government makes you promises, and you rely on those promises to your detriment, and unlike in the law with any individual who makes promises on which you rely to your detriment, raising the legal issue of promissory estoppel, you can't use it against the Federal Government. In fact, all that you get is a look from some people in Federal Government that, well, it is all your fault, because you trusted us. Did you not know you can't trust our Federal Government?