

In Defense of the TEA Party

By Tom DeWeese

Just a few years ago, some American citizens came together to demand change. They were fed up with decades of out of control government growth; confiscation of their hard-earned income through ever-increasing taxes and unending regulations invading every aspect of their lives. Things were racing out of control.

Every aspect of American society was changing and not for the better. Freedoms and rights that are guaranteed under the Constitution – the founding document of our nation and law of the land, were disappearing. Elected representatives turned a deaf ear to concerned citizens. It seemed those in power simply didn't care. No matter the outcome of elections, nothing changed. There was a sense of hopelessness, helplessness and frustration as concerned citizens saw the America they loved disappearing.

The answer? Enter the TEA Party – declaring “Taxed Enough Already.” It was time to make their voice heard. It was time to directly confront the government and demand that it stay within the confines of the Constitution that every single elected official at every level of government pledged to uphold.

They organized. They rallied. They confronted members of Congress at local meetings. And their voices were heard. The TEA Party movement spread across the nation like wild fire. Many people were excited that finally the national debate was about concerns over the ever-expanding government. Some officials embraced the TEA Party. Some feared it.

Most who participated were political novices,

experiencing their first direct activism. Concerned citizens, many were just parents who had spent their time raising the kids, and had been unaware of just how massive the government had gotten. They were about to get the shock of their lives.

- The Federal Reserve is a private organization that isn't officially part of the Federal Government. Yet it controls the money supply and controls interest rates. The TEA Party demanded that it be audited so we could all see its wealth, its holdings, and how it makes its decisions that directly affect our lives. Congress refused to demand such an audit. The TEA Party thought that was wrong and demanded that the Fed be held accountable to the American people. For that action the TEA Party was vilified for **rocking the boat**.
- The TEA Party demanded that out-of-control spending be reigned in, waste stopped and taxes lowered. Supporters of big government raced to the microphones to declare that such demands would hurt the poor and deny them programs that were necessary for them to live. **RACIST**, came the charge against the TEA Party.
- The TEA Party expressed opposition to immigration “reform” laws which would reward those who crossed our borders illegally, resulting in millions flooding into our nation, gaining free hospital care, education and welfare, while denigrating American culture and quality of life. The TEA Party thought that was wrong and simply demanded that Congress enforce the very laws it had created. Again came the charge against the TEA Party of **RACISM**.

- In communities across the nation, TEA Party activists began to oppose regulations designed to damage or even eliminate private property rights, usually under the excuse of protecting the environment. Many such policies are being enforced through the establishment of non-elected boards, regional governments, and local planning councils, denying citizen input. When local citizens attend public meetings to express opposition, as is done in representative governments, officials many times simply ignore them, refusing to engage in discussion, accusing them of perpetrating groundless conspiracy theories. Some citizens have even been removed bodily from such meetings simply for expressing opposition. When in frustration of not being heard, TEA Party activists show up in protest, the head of the federal Environmental Protection Agency labeled them, “**Jack Booted Thugs.**”
- One of the most recent fights in which the TEA Party has engaged is the nationwide enforcement of new federal education curriculum standards called Common Core. A study of the curriculum shows it contains a severe lack of history of the founding ideals of America and a negative focus on free enterprise. But Common Core contains a strong focus on diversity, social justice and Globalism. There is very little actual academic instruction in Common Core. Some critics describe it as being more about creating a cadre of social activists than an educated society. When TEA Party activists begin studying the curriculum and asking questions of school administrators, they are dismissed as **Far Right lunatic fringe nuts.**
- It is true that most activists in the TEA Party not only believe that the Constitution is the law of the land, but are also devout Christians. As such, they are very concerned by government actions to ban or shut down Christian activities. It started years ago with the banning of Christmas decorations or Manger scenes on public property. Many ministers are afraid to speak out about current events from the pulpit for fear of retribution from the government. Yet, there is a drive to teach Islam in the public schools, where children are actually given assignments on the subject. There seems to be few restrictions on that religion in public life. Naturally, the TEA Party thinks that is wrong and cries foul over the unbalanced situation. The charge against the TEA Party is **Intolerance!**
- And then there is Obamacare. Says Nancy Pelosi and other supporters of this monster, there are millions of uninsured people in this nation and we need to fix that. Their solution is to force most of those millions to buy government- sanctioned insurance at exorbitant rates. Of course, the reason most of those people are uninsured in the first place was because they can’t afford it. Now, under Obamacare, they must buy it or pay a fine – even though to do so means no food on the table, or perhaps outright bankruptcy. When you are a compassionate liberal on a mission, facts don’t matter. Companies that have decided not to hire new people, or only add part time people, because of the outrageous costs, are attacked as heartless. Of course, the Obama Administration changes the rules daily as they exempt labor unions,

DeWeese Report

Vol. 19, No. 12
December 2013

Published by
The American Policy
Center

Editor
Tom DeWeese

Correspondence/
Fulfillment
Lola Jane Craig
Eve Craig

Graphics/Layout
CJ Scrofani
Jeff Craig

DeWeese Report
PO Box 129
Remington, VA
22734

Web Page:
www.deweese-report.com

Copy Right
2013 The American
Policy Center
Issn 1086-7937
All Rights Reserved

Permission to photocopy,
Reprint and quote articles
from the DeWeese Report
is
hereby granted, provided
full acknowledgment is
included. All reprinted
articles must say:
“Written
by Tom DeWeese, Editor
of DeWeese Report
(unless
another author is listed).
All reprints must carry the
DeWeese Report address
and phone number.
Samples of the reprint
must be provided to the
DeWeese Report

Congress itself, and certain companies who perhaps just happened to have donated to his campaign. The entire nation is in turmoil over this law that not a single member of Congress read before voting on it (because no printed copy existed). No wonder the TEA Party and about 70% of the rest of the nation oppose it. Yet, for that opposition, again the TEA Party faces the charge of **RASCISM**.

In the Congressional folly just witnessed by the nation over the government shutdown and debt limit, the news media vilified the TEA Party as the root of the problem. Senator Ted Cruz took the lead in trying to stop funding, and thereby enforcement, of Obamacare. He had very little backing from his own party. He was charged by the news media of trying to force a shutdown and thereby a default of the U.S. Government. The media referred to Cruz and other members of Congress who opposed Obamacare as a “TEA Party” fringe of the Republican Party.

It’s interesting to note that as the news media announces the latest polls showing the drop in popularity of the Republicans or the President over the shut down debacle, they are also detailing polls showing that the battle led to a drop in the popularity of the TEA Party. Apparently, even as the news media wants to bury the TEA Party, obviously what it says matters. And the media is doing all it can to change that. Editorials are pounding on the TEA Party, blaming it for forcing the nation to the brink of collapse. In social gatherings (even some Conservative gatherings) one hears negative comments about TEA Party nuts. “If only those nuts would get out of the way.”

Missing from most of these debates, polls and editorial charges so anxious to blame the TEA Party, are the facts that it was the Democrats who stonewalled while immediately labeling any new Republican proposal as dead on arrival. Obama refused to bargain.

Through the well-orchestrated charges against the Republican “fringe,” and the clinking of Democrat glasses as they celebrate their “victory” over the TEA Party “nuts,” almost unnoticed was an October 15th

report in the *New York Post*, which revealed that, behind the scenes in Democrat circles, close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett is being touted as the “architect” of the shutdown. Why? Because it was Jarrett who advised Obama that voters would mostly blame Republicans if the federal government was shut down. That fact would give the Democrats the perfect excuse to allow it to take back control of the House of Representatives. Bottom line- the TEA Party has been set up by professional operatives on the Left in both the Democrat and Republican parties, to take the fall.

As this debate over the TEA Party rages, it is vital that Americans understand what the issue is all about. Why is the TEA Party so vilified? Why are Democrats, main stream Republicans, the news media and the Washington, DC establishment so desperate to kill the TEA Party? Why do they fear it so?

Why? Because the TEA Party represents a dedicated force that could change the future of the nation away from their well-laid plans for bigger and more powerful government control. The TEA Party asks the hard questions and won’t accept the hot air coming out of government officials. The TEA Party actually believes that when a politician says something on the stump to get their votes – then he or she had better stick to those ideas when they get elected. What a concept!

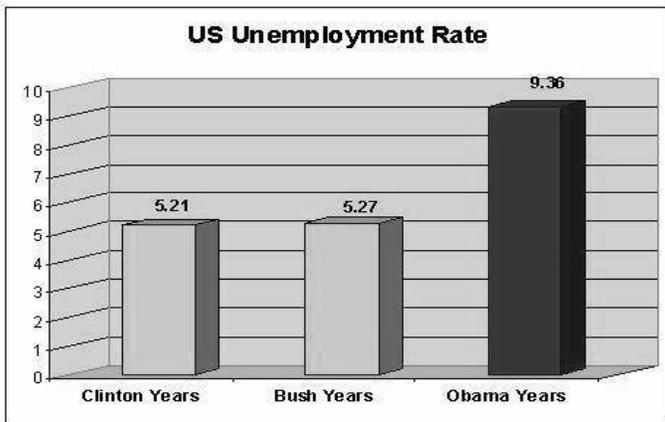
The TEA Party is a throwback to those who founded this nation on the principle that individuals are born with their rights rather than being granted by government. And that government’s job is to protect those rights at all costs. Such ideas in today’s world are a threat to the drive for a well-ordered, well-controlled society. Individuals running amok are a threat and must be kept in their place.

And so, the attack dog media constantly picks at the TEA Party, trying to show its dark side. Who is its leader, they demand. Who speaks for the TEA? In doing so, the TEA Party is then defined by that so-named leader. Is it Sarah Palin or Michelle Baughman? Then every negative thing that could be said about those two could be said about the TEA Party. It’s a divide and conquer strategy. Destroy that so-called leader and you destroy the whole movement.

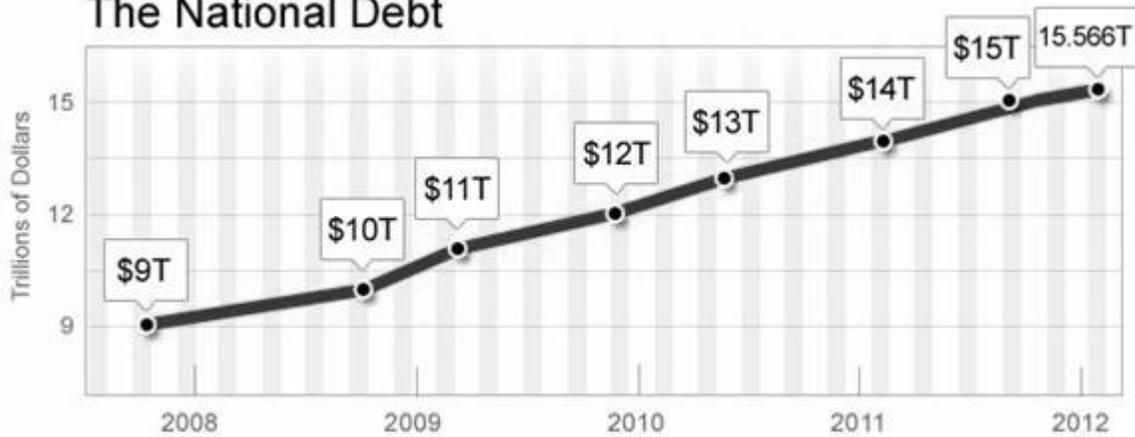
Records Set on Obama's Watch

1. U.S. sovereign debt downgrade: first in American history
2. Federal spending (25% of GDP): highest since World War II
3. Budget deficit (10% of GDP): highest since World War II
4. Federal debt (67% of GDP): highest since just after WWII
5. Employment (58.1% of population working): lowest since 1983
6. Long-term unemployment (45.9% of total): highest since 1930s
7. Increase in nonfarm payroll employment (0.5%) since recovery began 26 months ago: slowest job growth 26 months after a severe recession since World War II
8. Home ownership rate (59.7%): lowest since 1965
9. Percentage of taxpayers paying income tax (49%): lowest in modern era
10. Government dependency (47%), defined as the percentage of persons receiving one or more federal benefit payments: highest in American history

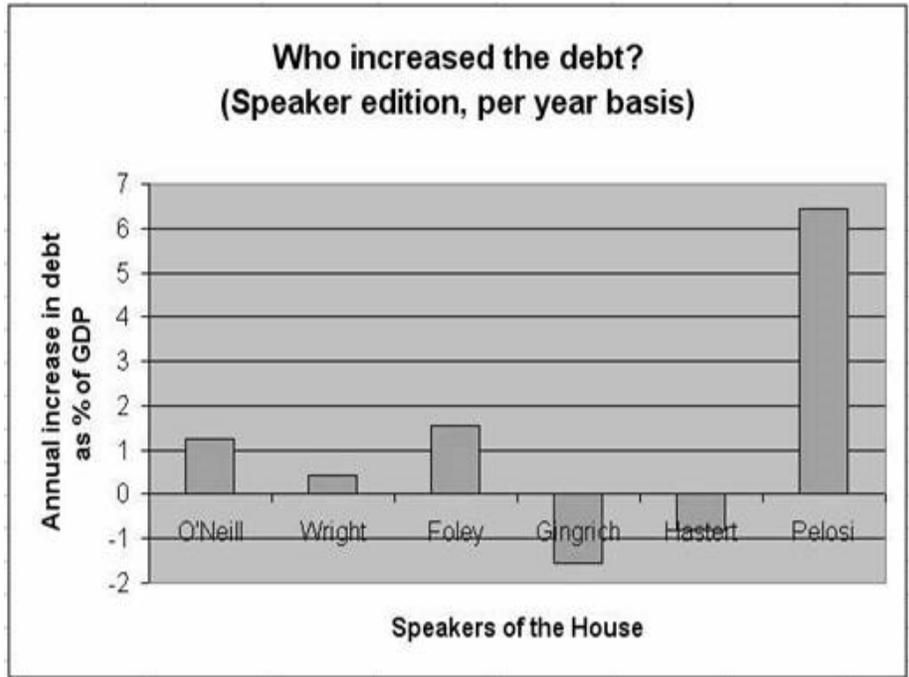
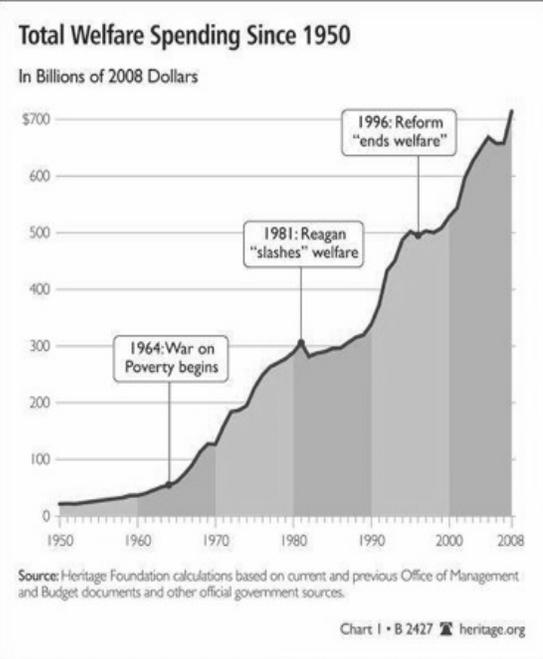
Sources: Standard & Poor's, Office of Management and Budget, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Morgan Stanley, Joint Committee on Taxation, and the U.S. Census



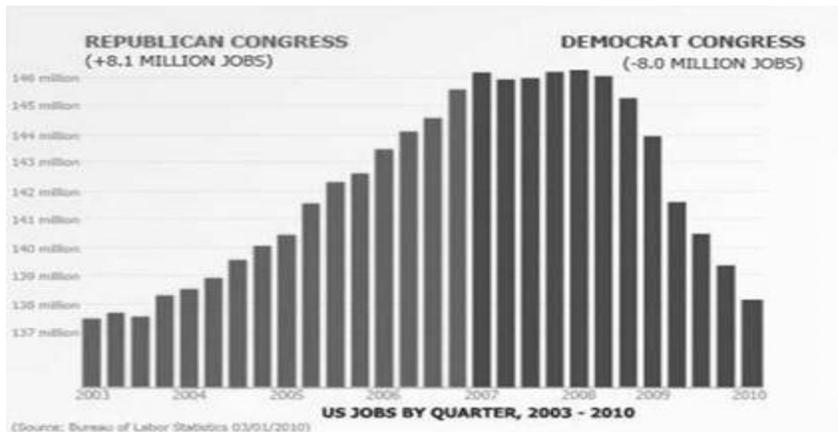
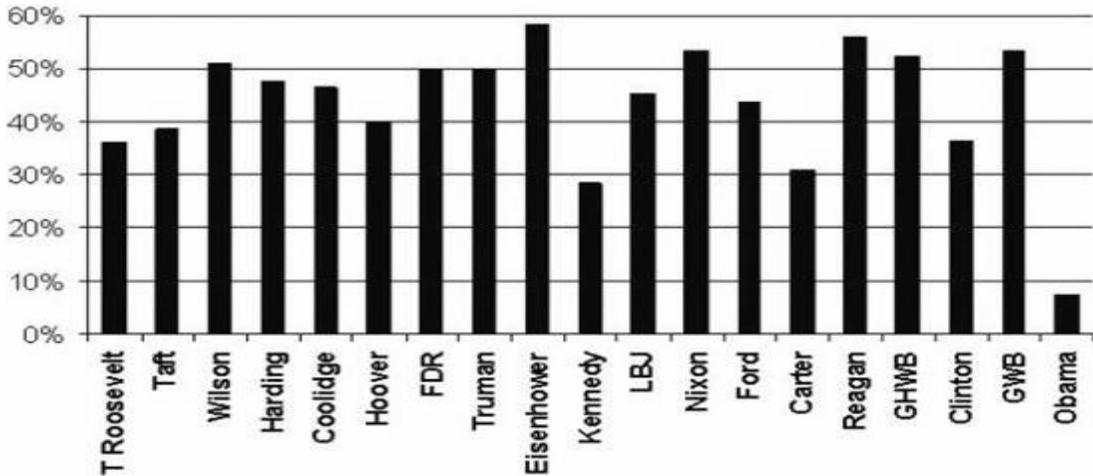
The National Debt



A proud moment if you're a socialist. Why work when its free.



Cabinet Appointments: Prior Private Sector Experience, 1900-2009



TEA Party *Continued from Page 3*

Democrat candidates do the same thing in their campaign ads against any conservative opponent. And so, for a news media that can't seem to find any negative facts about a single government program or Democrat, it digs and digs into the TEA Party to find who leads it? Who funds it? Where did it come from? What does it really want? All questions designed to destroy it.

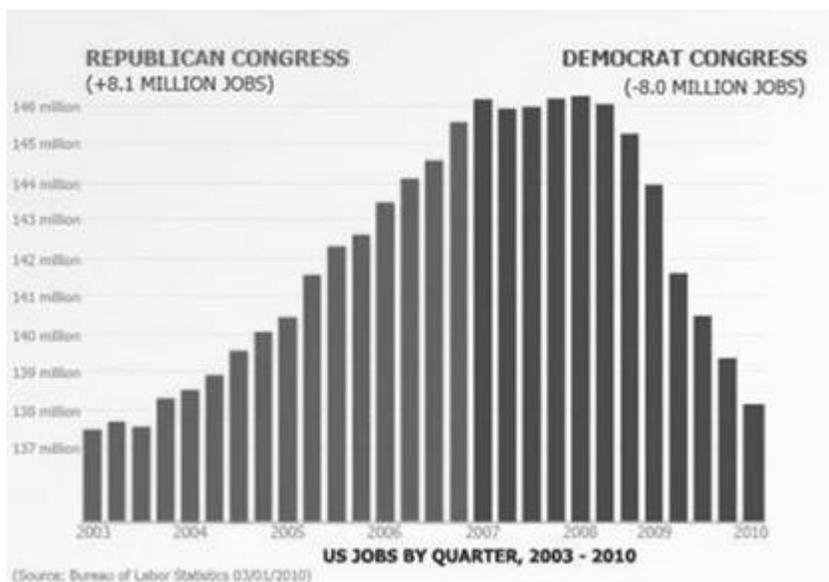
Here's the fact that frustrates the media and the Washington establishment: **there is no one leader of the TEA Party**. That is its strength. There are many individuals and local groups. It is a true grassroots movement with individual members and groups focused on a variety of issues depending on their location and concerns. There is only one connecting issue for every TEA Party group – a belief that the Constitution of the United States, the document that every elected official pledges to defend, is the law of the land and must be the deciding factor in every action taken by Congress and the federal government. It's as simple as that.

There is one question every American must now ask after having witnessed Obama and Harry

Reid refusing to consider any proposal offered by the Republicans. **Is there room in modern America for anyone to object to those in charge?** Do Americans have a right to speak out and say no? Do Americans have a right to take action against those policies they oppose? Obama, Reid and others of their kind across the nation say no. Blind acceptance to their policies and ideas are the only acceptable way in their world. The technical term for such a state is tyranny.

If it frightens you that America, the land of the Free, has come to such a state, then take a good hard look. Realize what you face in the future if it is allowed to continue. Regardless of whether you agree with the issues or positions of the TEA Party, this is one movement that is protecting the right of opposition and freedom of speech for every American. They have been attacked, called lunatic fringe, racist, and just plain nuts, simply because they believe they have a right, as Americans, to speak out against policies enforced on them by an out of control government. And they don't buckle in the face of overwhelming opposition – because to do otherwise means the end of freedom. The TEA Party. ●

Who is going to pay for the food stamps, health care, illegal immigrants, and the rest of the free stuff when more people are taking than working?



The infographic compares current tax rates with Obama's proposals. It includes a photo of Barack Obama in the bottom right corner. The source is cited as Wall Street Journal.

	Current	Obama Proposal
Income Tax rate	35%	39.6%
Income/Payroll	37.4%	52.2%
Capital Gains	15%	28%
Dividends	15%	39.6%
Estate Tax (2010)	0%	55%

Source: Wall Street Journal

Obama's intransigence *Continued from Page 8*

since President Obama had repeatedly said “there will be no negotiations” and a Park Service ranger said he and his colleagues had been told “to make life as difficult for people as we can.”

It gets worse. Jarvis and his Park Service rangers have even closed off access roads and parking lots at Mount Vernon and the Claude Moore Colonial Farm Park in Virginia, just outside of Washington. These are *privately owned sites* that get no federal money and depend on tourism and special events to keep their doors open and serve the American public. October is their busiest month, and they will lose tens of thousands of dollars because of these perverse lockouts. They will likely never replace that money.

Jonathan Adler, professor of law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, asked: “On what authority can the NPS or another federal agency order the closure of a facility run by a private concessionaire or tenant? Do the relevant lease or concession agreements provide for this? And if there is no clear authority for ordering a closure in this sort of instance, might the federal government be liable for the subsequent losses?” Excellent questions.

The dictators' excuse? Some of the land or access roads or parking areas are on federal land. Therefore, they have a right to lock them up, bar access and wreak havoc. They could easily use the same bogus excuse to close down thousands of roads and highways in western states, where the federal government owns and controls 34 to 86 percent of all the acreage, including land that these roads cross.

The furloughed federal workers will eventually get paid. The tourists Jarvis, Obama and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are shafting will never get their money back for flights and fees already paid; hotel and concession operators will never be able to recoup money they lost because the public was barred from their events and facilities.

Amador added, “National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands are likewise

closed. Hunters are finding their expensive permits and tags are worthless in the middle of deer season. Some of my friends have been booted out of Forest Service campgrounds. Public land volunteer cleanups by the Off Highway Vehicle community have been cancelled. Rangers are giving tickets to recreationists on roads that have not been gated.”

Hunters were barred from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Alaska, after spending thousands of dollars, and without being given any notice of the closures until they arrived. This outrage violates laws that require notice before areas can be closed to the public.

“But the largest single group of federal land users is the off-highway vehicle community, calculated by federal land managers at 21 percent of the total American population – more than 60 million people who have made at least one off-road trip in the past year,” Amador noted.

These recreationists are being turned away at popular sites that support thriving local economies from the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area to the Gulf Islands National Seashore off Florida and Mississippi, and Vermont's snowmobiling favorite, White Rocks National Recreation Area.

I wouldn't be surprised if hundreds of these rightfully infuriated people wrote these big losses off on their taxes, as donations or business losses – and I'd vote “not guilty” if the IRS went after any of them and I were on the jury.

Amador summed up the situation: “The White House is overplaying its hand. Its no-compromise stance is not about Obamacare or the budget, it's about politics and power.

“President Obama could stop this shutdown with a word. He's not doing it. His autocratic intransigence is losing the goodwill of tens of millions of fellow Americans.”

RON ARNOLD, a Washington Examiner columnist, is executive vice president of the [Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise](#). ●

Ron Arnold's article below, was written during the recent shut down. I reprint it here to give my readers the full story on how Obama used and abused his power to create an unnecessary crisis designed to make the nation "feel the pain" and blame Republicans for the mess. It's a story every American needs to fully understand. TAD

Obama's intransigence closed America's natural wonders

He wants to make the impasse painful and personal – while blaming Republicans

By Ron Arnold

For anyone who doubts that President Obama and his minions are trying to make the government shutdown as painful as possible, remember that it's a decades-old White House ploy with a revealing name: "the Washington Monument Strategy."

It works like this: Turn visitors away from our great national memorials to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln, then point up the Mall toward Capitol Hill, yell "Congress made me do it" – and hope the public falls for it.

This president is taking the tactic far beyond what his predecessors ever did – and it almost backfired the morning of October 1, when a group of 92 veterans arrived at the barricaded World War II Memorial, guests of a citizen sponsored "Honor Flight" from Mississippi. A National Park Service policewoman wouldn't let them in.

A group of Republican congressmen who had come as greeters defied the NPS and shoved the barriers aside. The valiant veterans, some in wheelchairs, took the memorial like it was Iwo Jima or Normandy Beach. Park police sensibly let them tour to their heart's content – but then shut things down again after the veterans left.

There's a storm looming over this "make it hurt" strategy outside of Washington, says Don Amador, activist for motorized outdoor recreation and founder of TrailPAC.

"This shutdown will affect America in ways that you would never have imagined," said Amador. "All 401 national park units – 84 million acres (an area nearly the size of Montana) – are closed. Maybe worse, the National Park Service website is not operating, leaving no way to check conditions, before they leave

home. Visitors already in the parks were given 48 hours to leave," even if they had booked hotels and tours months in advance, and even paid for them.

Thousands of tourists are unexpectedly finding parks closed, nobody there to help, and hotel and campsite reservations useless at Yosemite, Sequoia, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, Big Bend, Acacia, Denali, and 394 other NPS destinations. They're being told to stay in their hotels, until they are evicted from them too, and aren't even allowed to walk or drive to view the geysers, mountains or gorges from a distance. The personal disruptions and financial losses will be horrendous.

Groups of Grand Canyon river rafters are being stopped at Lee's Ferry, Arizona, by armed park rangers and banned from floating down the Colorado River through the national park. One group from Philadelphia spent over \$30,000 for the non-adventure and faces hundreds of dollars more for flight-change fees, to go home angry and disappointed.

House Natural Resource Committee Chairman Doc Hastings urged legislation to reopen and fund the national parks. However, the Democrat-controlled Senate rejected the Washington Republican's proposal, suggesting powerful political motives are at work.

I asked a congressional source whether National Parks Director Jonathan Jarvis had said anything about the park-closure decision.

I was told that Jarvis had assured officials the decision was his alone. But further inquiry revealed that the White House Office of Management and Budget had ordered Jarvis to close the parks. That's not surprising,

Continued to Page 7