912 Protest Washington DC – What Was It All About?

September 13, 2009
By Stephanie Jasky
www.FedUpUSA.org

Yesterday, something historic happened in our country. Average, every-day Americans came together of their own volition and gathered in Washington DC to make their voices heard. Despite efforts of both this administration and the left-leaning media to say the contrary, there was no organization bankrolling this gathering. There was no sponsorship and no one that participated was paid to be there. On the contrary, many people that have been seriously damaged by our economic situation further strained their limited budgets to do what they felt they must do: tell Washington DC politicians they have overstepped their boundaries.

People from every state in the union made their way to DC in however they could. They came by plane, they came by bus, and many people drove themselves. Whole families came, young and old, senior citizens, toddlers and teens. Their message was one of unity, not of divisiveness. While there were many issues they were angry about, they all had a common theme: our government is no longer adhering to the United States Constitution.

It isn’t a Republican issue and it isn’t a Democrat issue. It is an issue of American principles, most of which are embodied in our Constitution. Our founding fathers had one primary goal when they wrote our founding documents: protect the citizens from oppressive government rule. They took great pains to try to ensure that We The People would never become ruled by a small body of oligarchs. After all, that is from what they sought to free themselves. They knew firsthand what happens when the people begin to fear their government – and they wanted to make sure that our government would always fear We The People.

Over the past two hundred years, some people have lost sight of what our governmental structure gave to us; they’ve lost sight of what it means to be free. Call me an optimist (although I am rarely accused of such a thing) but I believe the principles upon which this country was founded were so strongly embedded in Americans that it is practically encoded in our DNA. In the past twenty years, our government has grown so large, so bloated, and so overbearing that people have truly begun to fear it. This is a culmination of events and government actions over a long period of time, not so much any one thing that has occurred in the past few months. Although, I think history will bear out that in the past
eight months, there has been more growth in government and more overbearing actions by it than at any time in America’s past.

There are no ‘czars’ in our governmental structure, according to the Constitution. We now have 34. All of them were appointed without vetting by Congress. The United States has always allowed companies, industries, and institutions to fail, if they’ve made irrevocable mistakes. In the past twelve months, our government has used taxpayer money to bail out insolvent banks (literally, hundreds of them). These are the very same banks that developed the ‘financial weapons of mass destruction’ that have contributed greatly to the financial catastrophe that continues to engulf the entire world. These creative investment vehicles weren’t just ‘part of the free market system’ – they were supposed to have been regulated, but just like many things in our country today, the rules only apply to ‘the little guy.’ The rules are applied to We The People, but never applied to the big and powerful. Bernie Madoff was a ‘little guy’ who made it big. The SEC only seems to be interested in the Bernie Madoffs, but looks the other way when it comes to the ones that are meaningful – how about JPMorgan, Bank of America, City Group, and Wells Fargo, SEC? They’ve ALL done the exact same thing as Bernie Madoff, but it seems that the rules don’t apply to them. The government is now rewarding failure and corruption, but even more importantly, is taking money from honest, hard-working taxpayers and giving it to the criminals! This is not the America we knew.

The government has used taxpayer money to bail out insolvent automobile companies, and at the same time turned over control of those companies to the very organization that lead to their demise, the unions. Unions were important in our history, helping forge basic human rights for workers. Today, many are nothing more than groups of people demanding more compensation than the market will bear, and therefore, destroying the hand that feeds them. The flipside of the argument is that many of these unions exist within the very companies that have been deemed ‘exempt from the rules’ by our government. In the case of the auto industry, we have another dynamic, which may shed light on why the automobile companies, once the shining light of the industrial production of America, became ‘the bad guys’ – that is, our government has made them compete with one hand tied behind their back for years.

The government put all kinds of crazy environmental and economic standards and rules in place for the auto companies to follow. At the same time, they allowed ‘free competition’ into the United States from foreign automakers. Automakers in Japan, China, Mexico and elsewhere didn’t pay their employees the same level of wages as workers in the U.S. because their standard of living has been different than ours. This idea of ‘free trade’ merely served to import slave labor to America and export our jobs because companies needed to cut costs to compete. This system is precisely why we have lost our industrial base and why we make little to nothing in the United States any more. This is the loss of an entire sector of our economy, but just as important, this is the loss of millions upon millions of jobs for hard-working Americans that used to be proud of what they made. This is not the America we knew.

Cap and Trade, another Bill that passed the House of Representatives before they left for recess, is yet another example of government control that will lead to more losses of jobs, production, and essentially allow the government to put a tax on more hard-working American’s production, all in the name of
‘environmentalism.’ If we have to sacrifice all of our labor and all of our future in the name of the environment, what exactly is the point of existing? Shouldn’t we all just off ourselves now, for the good of the planet? There is a line that has been crossed here. ‘Environmentalism’ was supposed to be about keeping a clean, safe place for us and future generations to live. This is a noble and good goal. Now it has turned into fear mongering, and literally sacrificing PEOPLE and their livelihoods for the ‘sake of the planet.’ This is not the America we knew.

Then of course, we have health care. This was the last Bill up for debate before Congress left for recess. This bill seems to have been a catalyst. This bill was not the reason for the 912 Protest, but it was the ‘straw that broke the camel’s back,’ so to speak. We could stand idly by and watch some of these other things happen, but the thought of the government controlling such a personal thing as healthcare pushed many right over the edge into ‘angry mob.’ Make no mistake; for Washington, the healthcare debate is not about fixing the healthcare system (although it is about that for The People). It is about control. If Washington was serious about addressing the problems in our healthcare system, they’d identify each separate problem and address them individually. There is absolutely no reason to throw our entire system out the window. It may have a flat tire, but its engine is not dead. A link to HR3200 has been up on our site since it was made available on the Congressional website. I know many common Americans that have read this Bill. There are probably many more Americans that read that Bill before members of Congress did – if any of them did at all.

There are many things that can be done to repair what is broken in our healthcare system, however not a single one of them is addressed in HR3200. Not one. I have seen and read a myriad of proposals from different private organizations, individuals and just common people. (Just one example can be seen here: The Denninger Plan )

I’d have to say that any or all of them are much better than HR3200, and they would be far more effective at achieving the goals of bringing healthcare costs down. So, the only logical conclusion is that Washington DC doesn’t want to fix the healthcare system as much as they want to use it as a means of control over We The People. This is not the America we knew.

It used to be that our elected Representatives listened to us. After all, isn’t that what they are paid to do? Aren’t they working for US?! It appears that this is not the case anymore. It has become quite evident that most politicians in DC don’t think they need to listen to you or anyone else. They will listen to those that pay them the big money – the special interest groups like the bankers, the environmental groups, the powerful unions and industries in America (and yes, even from abroad) all of which have very deep pockets. These groups have paid lobbyists that line the pockets of our elected officials and essentially pay them for their votes. (You can see who really “owns” your Representative at: Open Secrets) The only time our elected officials listen to us is when they are up for re-election. They give us some nice-sounding, pretty promises, so we vote them back into office. How long will you fall for this ruse, America? If yesterday was any indication, it appears that many are not going to fall for it any more.
The bottom line is that our system has been corrupted from the top down. Criminals are allowed to prey on the American citizenry because it is profitable to those in our government. Law enforcement will look the other way as long as doing so lines their pockets. This is what happens when the government no longer fears the wrath of its people. I think yesterday was a first, unarmed, dry-run and the warning shot across the bow for our ‘Representatives’ in Congress. Washington DC should be put on notice. We’re looking for a few good men – 56 Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. To those of you in Congress right now: who will stand up and be our Re-Founders? We need people that will vote their constituents’ will; people that will stand up and at every turn and every opportunity expose the fraud and corruption. That is what we need. That is what we want. That is what we demand. That is the America we know.

‘Americans can always be relied upon to do the right thing, when all other possibilities have been exhausted.’ – Winston Churchill