

The Age of Big Government In America

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More than 200 years ago, from May to September, 1787, the founders of our country gathered in Independence Hall in Philadelphia to create a constitution for governing the affairs of a new nation. Their goal was “to create a more perfect union” and to “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity”. With great difficulty and much debate they sought to create a republican form of government with limited, separated, and checked powers which secured the rights promised in the Declaration of Independence and reflected the consent of the governed. All of these great men, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and others recognized that individuals possess unalienable rights by Nature and that government can only derive its power from the consent of the governed. All of these men had suffered abuses at the hands of the British king and his monarchy and many had fought in the struggle for independence which had concluded a mere four years earlier. Now, they wanted to secure the fundamental human rights of mankind while providing for an unprecedented degree of individual freedom. John Adams observed that the convention was “the greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever see.” George Washington remarked that the outcome was “little short of a miracle.”

This year the federal government of America will grow to 2.5 million employees – the first time in history that the number has gone above the 2 million mark. The federal government is now the nation’s largest employer. The executive branch is comprised of the Executive Office of the President, 15 executive Cabinet departments, and about 70 independent agencies. There are now departments which administer hundreds of programs that greatly impact our lives: State, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Labor, Commerce, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Interior, Agriculture, Treasury, Justice, Homeland Security, Veterans’ Affairs, and Defense. There are also independent agencies which have some control over us and our families, including the Social Security Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration, NASA, and others. Wages and employment in the Federal Government is projected to increase by 10 percent over the next ten years. In fact, while employment in the private sector has declined during the recent recession, the number of federal government jobs has grown.

What is even more alarming is that the federal government now owns or controls more than 50% of the US economy. This has all come about in the last 18 months! The federal government now controls the financial industry, the mortgage industry, the auto industry, and the health care industry. There are more than 30 “czars” who have control over a wide range of US policy decisions, including compensation for automobile and financial industry executives. They determine who gets hired and who gets fired. They have control over our schools and they want to control the energy industry. The so-called “cap and trade” legislation has been passed by the House of Representatives and now awaits approval in the Senate. This bill, if passed, will hand over the energy industry to the federal government and will place onerous restrictions and taxes on private industry and the American consumer.

How did we get here? This is not the kind of government that the founders had in mind when they produced that miraculous document – the Constitution of the United States – more than 200 years ago. Today we are losing our freedoms to an ever-growing federal government. We must stop this devouring of our liberty and demand a smaller government and less intrusion into our lives. We must elect representatives who will battle this ever-growing governmental monster and “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity”. If we do not, a tyrannical government will once again rule the lives of all Americans.

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