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know you have crossed the river into Cyberland when the guy coming your way has his head buried in the hand-held screen. He will knock into you unless you get out of his way, and don't expect an apology. It's as if you aren't there."

✓ **Implications**

All this has tremendous implications for government. First, most government agencies, when they mess up, will always say that they are underfunded and their technology is obsolete, despite having far more money and far newer technology than almost all companies in the private sector, which almost always do better jobs for and with less. Second, all this new technology and dependence on computers has caused far more paperwork and much greater use of energy. Third, it has made us less human, less helpful to others, more isolated. Civic clubs, veterans groups, and community organizations of all types are having trouble getting members, especially among the young. In the past these groups have contributed countless billions worth of public service that the government simply cannot afford to take over. I speak to many schools and groups of young people. I almost always

urge them to try as hard as they can to pull themselves away from these addictive screens and help out a live human being. I tell them their lives will mean more to them if they do. However, today it is not just the young who are addicted to the screens.

✓ **Interference**

Some people mistakenly think our present economic problems occurred because of too little government regulation of business. Actually, the exact opposite is true. Our recession was created by too much federal interference – both by forcing banks to make loans to

individuals and by totally dominating the mortgage market through the shaky government corporations Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. According to two leading economists writing in the *New Republic* magazine, the short-term fix – the too big to fail policy – could cause even bigger problems in the future. We could have a much more prosperous country over the long haul if we did not give mega-billion-dollar government subsidies to giant corporations.

**CONSTITUENT DAYS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**  
1:00 PM – HALLS SENIOR CENTER  
4410 CRIPPEN ROAD  
KNOXVILLE

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**  
9:00 AM – LOUDON VISITORS BUREAU  
1075 HIGHWAY 321 NORTH  
LENOIR CITY

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH AT**  
10:00 AM – CHEROHALA VISITORS CENTER  
225 CHEROHALA SKYWAY  
TELLICO PLAINS

**CONTACT CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN:**

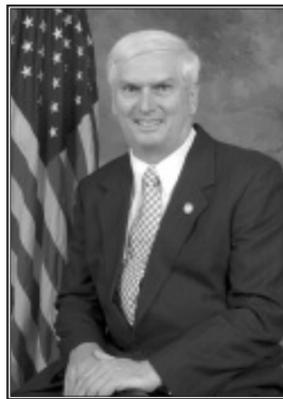
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Second District – Tennessee

CONGRESSMAN

John J. Duncan, Jr.

Washington Report

January 2010

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

✓ **The Economy**

While the economy hopefully is improving to some extent, most economists have predicted that it will be a "jobless" recovery and that unemployment will remain high throughout 2010. Underemployment is probably even higher, with far too many having to work at low-paying jobs for which they are over-qualified. Our environmental rules, regulations, and red tape have forced several million jobs to other countries over the last many years. Many young people have been brainwashed into believing that anytime some radical or extremist uses the word "environment" that it must be good. Then they do not understand why they cannot get good, high-paying jobs after they get their degrees.

✓ **Record Deficit**

The federal deficit for fiscal year 2009 tripled to \$1.42 trillion, a \$950 billion increase over 2008. This deficit was more than the entire economy of India, almost more than the entire economy of Canada, equal to \$4,700 for every man, woman, and child in the United States, and more debt than was accumulated during the first 197 years our Country existed. Congress, now or in the future, will never vote to reduce pensions, so the Nation will simply print more money. But all this will do is make social security and other federal and military pensions worth

about half or a third of what people were expecting. The only way to give our children, grandchildren and even people who hope to retire in the next 10 or 15 years a solid financial footing is to have very large reductions in spending by every Department, even those that are politically popular.

✓ **Red Ink**

A bipartisan commission of financial analysts said on December 15 that in just 12 years, U.S. government debt will reach 100% of GDP and would "reach such high levels, the United States would almost certainly experience a debt-driven crisis—something previously viewed as almost unfathomable in the world's largest economy." *Newsweek* magazine one week earlier had a cover article entitled "How Great Powers Fall," which said "steep debt, slow growth, and high spending kill empires—and America could be next." And Morton Kondracke, a liberal columnist, wrote in *Roll Call*: "Suddenly, it's occurred to liberals as well as wonky budget hawks that the nation's fiscal future is 'unsustainable,' but the chances of action—short of a crisis are near zero." This is why I vote against so many spending bills that I know are popular and that even I might vote for if we had surplus cash. But there are many things that families—and governments— simply cannot afford.

✓ **Constituent Letter**

Larry Henry, one of my constituents, has written a letter to the Editor of the *Maryville Daily Times*, which expresses the way many millions feel today: "One hundred forty banks failed this year, thousands of businesses went bankrupt, and millions of Americans are losing their homes." He primarily blames Congress, saying all it gives us is "more rules, more red tape, more taxes, and more government, more welfare, and more money for Congress. We The People matter for nothing. We're here to pay their taxes and promote the lifestyles of these pontiffs and potentates in Smoke and Mirrors Land." He also blames "Wall Street, the Media, Academia, Hollywood, and our Judiciary System..." I try never to miss a vote, but I spend more time in Tennessee than in Washington. Everywhere I go, people express similar opinions to me. I do not take Mr. Henry's criticism of Congress personally, because I have disagreed with most of what the Congress has done for my entire time in office.

✓ **Job Creation**

Robert Samuelson, a moderate economics columnist for the *Washington Post*, wrote that "the much-ballyhooed 'economic stimulus' hasn't done much stimulating." The Administration claimed it would bring unemployment down

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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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Washington Report

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to around 8%. Instead it has remained at 10% nationally, and much higher many places. Samuelson wrote that the stimulus “was mostly a partisan exercise, designed to claim credit for any recovery, shower benefits on favored constituencies, and signal support for fashionable causes” and did not “concentrate on reviving the economy’s most depressed sectors.” The main problem is that small businesses, according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, are too uncertain about what the costs will be of all the new taxes, fees and regulations that are being imposed by those now in power. Instead of allowing the federal government to spend most of the \$862 billion on itself and spread some of the rest to state and local government agencies, many more jobs would have been created if we had given this money in tax breaks to businesses that increased their U.S. employment. However, no such plan would have passed the current Congress in place of the government controlled stimulus.

### ✓ **Jobs Stimulus**

Some people mistakenly believe that the federal government should pass another “jobs bill.” The quotes are used because actually the federal government kills more jobs than it produces through over-taxation, over-regulation, and especially through its wasteful, inefficient use of money. A private-sector business that continually wastes money will soon go out of business, with the exception of a few very large, well-connected federal contractors. The free market (capitalism) forces people and companies to work hard, waste little, and continually improve—pressures that are not present in government agencies. Thus, the best way to create jobs and keep prices low is to leave more money in the private sector where it will be spent more economically and

efficiently. The \$862 billion stimulus bill the Congress passed last year did create some jobs, but primarily in federal agencies and at an estimated cost of \$646,214 per job created. A CNN poll reported only seven percent said the stimulus bill had helped them.

### ✓ **Guantanamo**

The President recently announced the closing of the prison at Guantanamo, Cuba, and the plan to try the worst terrorists in Federal Court in New York. I spoke against this on the floor of the House. This adds all sorts of security, transportation and court costs and risks that are not necessary. These people are not U.S. citizens and should not be given the same rights and privileges as if they were. To have them tried by military tribunals at the prison in Cuba would have given them more rights and fairness than any other country would have. One news report said that these prisoners have been fed so well that their average weight gain during incarceration was 18 pounds. The Guantanamo Prison cost over \$50 million to build and is still very new compared to most U.S. prisons. The Federal Bureau of Prisons estimates that purchasing the Thomson Prison in Illinois would cost about \$120 million up front and \$65–\$85 million annually to operate.

### ✓ **Immigration**

We allow far more immigration than any other Country ever has or probably ever will. But while legal immigration is one thing, illegal immigration is another thing altogether. Because half the people in the world want to come here, we have to have some type of system, and it has to be enforced, or our schools, hospitals, jails, roads, and everything would just be over-run. Two stupid, unnecessary problems: (1) environmental laws have blocked construction of a vir-

tual fence designed to stop some illegal crossings, and (2) the Interior Department has charged the Homeland Security Department \$10 million over the last two years for damage Interior says border patrol agents have caused chasing illegal immigrants. We need to use more common sense in our immigration practices and not grant this privilege to anyone who has even a remote connection to or sympathy for terrorist groups.

### ✓ **Overreaction**

Sometimes it seems that the only thing the federal government is good at is over-reacting to some highly publicized problem. An airport in Los Angeles was shut down for a few hours after a man brought honey in some Gatorade bottles to the security checkpoint. This inconvenienced several thousand people. Political correctness seems to prevent the use of common sense in our security procedures. TVA has over-reacted in placing giant sandbags along the dam in Lenoir City. Apparently, one TVA official said the elevation of the dam had to be raised as a safeguard against a flood so unlikely it might come only once in 750,000 to 1,000,000 years. Talk about ridiculous overkill. Over 600 people turned out in opposition to these sandbags in a meeting at the Tellico Community Church.

### ✓ **Baghdad Embassy**

Finally, at least someone is starting to show a little sense about our lavish and ridiculously wasteful spending in Iraq. The Inspector General of the State Department has issued a report saying that the embassy in Baghdad, our largest and most costly with 1,873 employees, “is overstaffed and must be reduced to a size more in keeping with the evolving U.S.-Iraq relationship and budget constraints.” The report said the embassy should have “significantly fewer staff” and the reduction “has to begin imme-

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that now: “Irreversible measures are being charted, draconian statutes are being passed, perpetual bureaucracies are being established, all dikes of restraint are being burst through, and a flood of debt is being loosed that... threatens to snuff out the lights of our city on its hill.”

### ✓ **Money and Land**

You can never satisfy government’s appetite for money and land. It always wants more. Government at all levels already owns about half of the land, and yet millions more acres go under some type of public or non-private ownership each year. Newspapers all over the Country are filled with glowing stories about some individual or couple or corporation donating land or selling it at a greatly reduced price to some land trust or conservancy. Much of this land eventually goes to the government, but even if it does not, the main problem is that it keeps shrinking the tax base. This makes it harder for education and law enforcement to be funded and for roads to be repaired, and so forth. It ensures that taxes on remaining private property continue to go up and up. It leaves less land for private development, meaning young people have a much more difficult time buying homes and more people are jammed into apartments and condominiums. Private property is important to our freedom and our prosperity, yet we have less and less of it with each passing year.

### ✓ **Aviation Woes**

From 2001 through September of 2009, the Aviation Industry as a whole lost \$58.5 billion. Fulltime employment went from 542,300 to 384,400. Fifteen small airlines went into bankruptcy, the latest being Mesa on January 6, 2010. Yet, the industry still pays over \$18 billion a year in taxes of one type or another. Both commercial

aviation and general aviation are so important to our entire economy that we have to turn this around. There are many things we can do, but two of the most important are we need to make it less of a hassle to go through airports and we need to lower the cost of doing all types of business here so that we stop sending so many jobs to other countries.

### ✓ **Ineptitude**

Several weeks before the latest aviation security incidents, the *Washington Times* wrote this in an editorial: “The problem-plagued Transportation Security Administration is a study in bureaucratic ineptitude. Since 2002, TSA has spent more than \$795 million on new air-passenger screening technologies. Despite this massive expenditure and the passage of seven years, the agency has not deployed the technology and isn’t even sure any of the 10 new systems can address the greatest threats. According to a recent investigation by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), there may not be any benefit from any of this any time soon.” Now, this latest attempt on the plane coming into Detroit will cause us to waste even more money. We need to be more careful about people coming into this Country, and apparently specially-trained dogs can do much better at much less cost than these overpriced machines can in the first place.

### ✓ **Big Bonuses**

Almost everyone has gotten justifiably upset over the huge salaries and bonuses paid to executives of some of our largest corporations. While I do not think government should be involved in setting compensation levels for purely private companies, I did vote to restrict bonuses in the companies that received government aid. We did not have these ridiculous salaries and bonuses anywhere close to the scale we do today

until government got too big. As government has gotten bigger and bigger, at the federal and state levels, small businesses have found it harder to survive (unless they work for a big government contractor.) The big giants in every industry have been the primary beneficiaries of government contracts, favorable regulatory rulings, tax breaks, free land in industrial parks, special government bond financing, and on and on. Thus the big keep getting bigger, and you have this big government-big business duopoly. I am very pro business unless it is making excessive profits and getting sweetheart deals at the expense of the taxpayer. I believe there are many with a liberal ideology who have claimed to be for the little guy, but have seemingly become the best friends extremely big business has ever had. Only in a true free market system does someone without tremendous capital have a fair chance to succeed.

### ✓ **Screen Addiction**

According to a recent *Washington Post* story, people now spend about three hours a day interacting with computer screens and five and a half hours watching television. Add to this the addiction to Blackberries and other forms of technology, and the *Post* story called it a “retreat from the natural world... most evident in the young.” Elizabeth Berg, in the novel *Home Safe*, has a character say at one point: “Oh, how does one meet anyone these days? It seems to Helen that people have given their real lives over to virtual ones, that they spend most of their time asleep or interacting with screens.” And Suzanne Woods Fisher, in a new book entitled *Amish Peace*, says we are now “addicted to technologies that are supposed to make our lives easier but really make them far more complex.” The *Post* story said “you

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that means anything you want it to.” Apparently, a majority in Congress feel the Constitution is meaningless, too.

✓ **Medical Programs**

The two main medical plans in the U.S. are Medicaid and Medicare. As of December 15, Medicaid had approximately 58,715,000 people enrolled nationally and 1,482,300 in Tennessee (TennCare.) Medicare had 44,831,000 enrollees, with 995,254 in Tennessee. The U.S. Military medical system covers 9,465,228, and the Veterans Affairs Department takes care of 7,834,764. The Indian Health Services have 1.5 million enrolled. The biggest problem is that these programs now cost 10 to 20 times more than was predicted when they were started. Some people have said we should simply have Medicare for everyone. Well, we cannot even come close to affording that. And one of several reasons people are so skeptical about the low-ball cost estimates of the new health plan is that part of the staggering cost is to be paid for by cutting Medicare. Dr. David Grutzer, in a December column in the *New York Daily News*, wrote: “It’s that time of year again: Washington is talking about cuts to Medicare. President Obama’s healthcare reforms depend on them—up to \$400 billion worth over 10 years. As a psychiatrist, I’ll break the news gently: Medicare cuts are often talked about, never actually seen.”

✓ **New Regulations**

Several years ago I read an article that said half the advice the IRS gives out is wrong. Now, the IRS plans to require tax preparers to pass a test and register with the federal government “to better police a largely unregulated industry.” These unregulated tax preparers already give better advice than the IRS does, if you can even get ahold of the agency in the first place. All

the federal agencies make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to call them on the phone. Now, the IRS will ask for a huge increase in funding to administer the new test and to require annual training and enforce penalties. This will end up making it more expensive for average citizens to get their tax returns prepared.

✓ **Appraisal Rules**

I have written to Secretary Cuomo of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) to ask that he reconsider new rules about appraisals. I had one constituent who had to close her five-employee appraisal business because of these new regulations. The more any business or industry is regulated, the more difficult it is for small businesses to survive and then costs go up for the little guy. These new HUD regulations, if left in effect, are going to cause the cost of appraisals to go way up and ultimately will lead to the appraisal business being dominated by a very few very big national firms.

✓ **Red Light Cameras**

Red light cameras are popping up all over the Country simply because government always wants more money. And three of the four major red light camera manufacturers are foreign, so most of this revenue is going to other countries. In 2008, the City of Knoxville received \$1,179,352.44 from these cameras, while the vendor revenues were \$2,007,831.34. A 2005 story in the *Washington Post* reported that crashes at locations with cameras had more than doubled. A six-month study in 2004 by the Virginia Transportation Research Council found a definite decrease in crashes directly attributable to running a red light, but a definite increase in rear-end crashes and an increase in total injury crashes. Over a 57-month period in Greensboro, N.C., red-light cameras resulted in a

40% increase in accident rates and injury crashes and no decrease in severe crashes. If these cameras are really about preventing injuries, then let those who are fined donate these fines to private charities where the money will do far more good.

✓ **Big Boondoggel**

The House voted 321 to 114 to pass a \$2.43 billion bill called the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009. This Act primarily funds the FreedomCar and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Truck Programs and has received hundreds of millions already. The Congressional Budget Office has recommended four times since 2003, under two different administrations, that the FreedomCar program be eliminated. The last recommendation came just the month before the House vote. The FreedomCar got \$190 million this past fiscal year, and hundreds of millions in previous years, and has produced nothing. One national transportation expert told me that 21<sup>st</sup> Century Truck Program has been a wasteful, unproductive one, too. A Senate subcommittee held a hearing on this bill December 8, but it is almost certain to pass in spite of its tremendous waste.

✓ **Defense Bill**

Each year, the bill that contains the most earmarks is the Defense Appropriations bill. Among the hundreds of earmarks in this year’s bill was \$5,000,000 for the Information Manufacturing Corporation, a company no longer in existence. The two top Senators in charge of defense appropriations earmarked \$212 million and \$208 million respectively. One of these earmarked \$132 million in military spending for his campaign donors. Over and above the earmarks, which are a very small percentage of the bill, were several things the Defense Department did not request, and this is a Department that does not hold back on requests. The bill added \$1.7

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billion for an extra destroyer the Department did not request and \$2.5 billion for 10 C-17 cargo planes it did not want. Most members feel they cannot vote against this bill or against unnecessary wars for fear of being labeled as unpatriotic. I have tried to help hundreds of veterans and those on active duty and have great respect for them. But it makes no sense and really is unpatriotic and a disservice to the taxpayers to not criticize billions in waste if it is done by the Defense Department or the Veterans Administration.

✓ **Triple Dippers**

*USA Today* reported on its front page on December 29 that the Durango Group has 59 former high-ranking military officers advising clients on how to get defense contracts, while many are also being paid by the Defense Department to give it advice. And they are drawing huge pensions, with some getting \$15,000 a month or more plus free healthcare. Some even serve as corporate directors or paid advisors to the defense contractors in addition to their pay from Durango. The founder of Durango, a former Air Force Chief of Staff, refused to be interviewed. But he received \$180,000 in 2009 from one defense contractor, \$127,000 from another, served on the board of four other defense contractors that do not disclose compensation, board member of another company that buys and sells defense companies, and a consultant to three other defense giants. He has been described as a “military-industrial legend” by one columnist. In addition to pensions as high as \$220,000 a year, many retired admirals and generals are paid up to \$1,600 a day to be Defense Department “mentors.” Eighty percent of these mentors have ties to defense contractors in what one observer described as an “amazing conflict of interest.”

✓ **Environment**

For six years, starting in January of 2001, I chaired the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Some of the strongest environmentalists in the Congress complemented me for being fair and for some of the actions we took. However, some environmental groups have gone very far to the left in recent years, and this will destroy environmental progress if we are not careful. The reason is that only free enterprise generates enough money to do good things for the environment. Most socialist and communist nations have trouble even feeding their people. Charles Krauthammer, one of the most respected columnists in this Country, wrote about part of the danger this way: “Socialism having failed so spectacularly, the left was adrift until it struck upon a brilliant gambit: metamorphosis from red to green. The cultural elites went straight from the memorial service for socialism to the altar of the environment. The objective is the same: highly centralized power given to the best and the brightest, the new class of experts, managers, and technocrats.” The problem is that the government becomes ruler rather than servant, and the little guy and the smallest farms and businesses get hurt the most.

✓ **Copenhagen**

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, as the representative of all of Africa, said he would accept \$30 billion in the short term, rising to \$100 billion by 2020, to help poor countries fight global warming. This is an international shakedown that our government is apparently going to go along with. This was all agreed to at the climate meeting in snowy, frigid Copenhagen. In addition, our Secretary of Agriculture very generously agreed to send another billion each year to developing countries to help protect their forests – money that we will have to borrow. It is easy to be generous with other peoples’ money.

✓ **Big Money**

One news report said that Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, and representatives of the world’s largest multi-nationals had over 100 lobbyists working the halls in Washington and at Copenhagen promoting the global warming agenda. While environmental overkill drives many small and medium-sized businesses out of existence, it lessens competition and means big money for some of the world’s largest businesses. Author Brendan O’Neil wrote that “going green has become big business, and there are buckets of cash to be made from ‘saving the planet.’ In fact, we are witnessing the emergence of a Green-Industrial Complex—an alliance between national governments, enormous corporations, and powerful individuals that uses the politics of fear to procure public money.” It is not only on the environment, but all government bureaucracies exaggerate the problems they are facing and their accomplishments so they can keep getting increased funding.

✓ **Tax the Rich**

When the federal income tax was first started, there was little opposition to it because it was applied only to a very tiny percentage of the wealthiest people. The lowest tax bracket was only 1% of all income over \$3,000 at a time when very few people made that much money. But look what happened to it over the years. When Tennessee first started the sales tax, it was only 3%. Now look at it. Over the last couple of years, many businesses have gone under or had to reduce spending, and many families have had to cut back. The federal government has greatly increased spending and has hired tens of thousands of new workers.

✓ **Estate Tax**

A big majority on both sides of the aisle in Congress have voted to reduce these death taxes. Many of us

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think the economy would be much stronger if they were eliminated entirely. Al Neuharth, the founder of *USA Today*, writing in that publication on December 31, blasted these taxes as “a double dip on earnings on which you’ve already paid an assortment of taxes...” He and many others have noted that these taxes have forced many families to sell family farms or small businesses. Mr. Neuharth summed up in this way: “If Congress quit spending hundreds of billions trying to build nations in ungovernable places like Afghanistan and Iraq, we could afford to let our old or sick and well-to-do die without the additional suffering financially for their families.”

### ✓ **Afghanistan**

It should have come as no surprise that President Karzai of Afghanistan told ABC News recently that the U.S. needs to stay there for 15 to 20 more years (spending mega-billions, of course.) He wants our money, and he wants to stay in power. Columnist George Will has now changed his position and has written about Afghanistan that the budget will not support an expansion there, the military “will be hard-pressed to execute it, and America’s patience will not be commensurate with Afghanistan’s limitless demands...” This will not end well.” A very small but powerful group called neo-conservatives, who are not really conservative at all, have almost totally controlled U.S. foreign policy for many years. They are supported by very large companies and government officials who benefit from perpetual war and the billions of spending it requires. George Will wrote that neo-conservatives are “magnificently misnamed” and that they are really “the most radical people in this town.” The Pentagon now says it costs one billion dollars per year for each 1,000 troops there. We

have 68,000 troops in Afghanistan already, and the President is sending 30,000 more.

### ✓ **Foreign Policy**

We should have trade and tourism and cultural and educational exchanges with other countries and help out to a limited extent in humanitarian crises. It is not isolationist to believe in a more neutral, less interventionist foreign policy. Our foreign policy elitists, so arrogant they apparently want to run the whole world, have caused our people all sorts of problems and cost this Nation hundreds of billions. Columnist and television commentator Pat Buchanan recently summed it up this way: “We ran Saddam out of Kuwait and put U.S. troops into Saudi Arabia. And we got Osama Bin Laden’s 9/11. We responded by taking down the Taliban and taking over Afghanistan. And we got an eight-year war with no victory and no end in sight. Now Pakistan is burning. We took down Saddam and got a seven-year war and an ungrateful Iraq. Meanwhile, the Turks, who shared a border with Saddam, have done no fighting. Iran has watched as we destroyed its two greatest enemies, the Taliban and Saddam. China, which has a border with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has sat back. India, which has a border with Pakistan and fought three wars with the Country, has stayed aloof. The United States, on the other side of the world, plunged in. And now we face an elongated military presence in Iraq, an escalating war in Afghanistan and potential disaster in Pakistan, and being pushed from behind into a war with Iran.”

### ✓ **Foreign Aid**

Most of our foreign aid today is done through the Defense Department. While this is being done all over the world, two examples involve Iraq and Yemen. The Army Corps of Engineers put out a press

release on January 13th proudly announcing that it has completed 5,257 projects in Iraq since 2004, worth \$9.1 billion, and has 350 more projects ongoing. These are mainly water projects. Last year the U.S. spent \$70 million to equip the Yemen military and wants another \$150 million for it this year.

### ✓ **Federal Salaries**

A front-page story in *USA Today* reported that the average federal employee now makes \$31,000 a year more than the average private sector employee. The newspaper reported that “federal workers are enjoying an extraordinary boom time—in pay and hiring—during a recession that has cost 7.3 million jobs in the private sector.” The report said the “highest-paid federal employees are doing best of all,” with the Defense Department leading the way. Defense Department civilian employees making \$150,000 or more increased from 1,868 in December of 2007 to 10,100 by June of 2009.

### ✓ **Government**

I am not against government, but I do believe it should be small and local, not huge, elitist, and far removed from control by the people. I am not against government but rather for freedom, privacy, free enterprise, and private property, all of which get slowly snuffed out when government gets too big. Today, our federal government has become one that is of, by and for the bureaucrats and federal contractors instead of one that is of, by and for the people. President Reagan’s most famous words were that America should be a “shining city on a hill,” a beacon of freedom. Reid Buckley, writing in the February *American Conservative*, said that all over the world, if you ask does government work, the only ones who will say yes are those “who stand to gain from the state.” Unfortunately, he wrote

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diately.” However, the State Department will ignore this report, and there are not enough fiscal conservatives in the Congress to demand that it be followed. This embassy is 21 buildings, on 104 highly secured acres, and the cost was almost \$750 million.

### ✓ **Medical Care**

My staff and I spend an unbelievable amount of time each year meeting with medical providers and working out problems people are having with Medicare, Medicaid, the V.A., hospitals, insurance companies, and so forth. Our healthcare system is far too expensive and far too complicated already. Unfortunately, the Congress has now passed separate bills in both the House and Senate that over the next few years will make things worse. The bills will go to a conference committee to iron out the differences, but even a compromise version will make medical care dictated by the federal government and thus slowly even more bureaucratic and expensive. The only way to achieve medical care that is of higher quality, less expensive, and more accessible is to make every change more toward the free market, such as the way the great majority pay for food, clothing, and housing.

### ✓ **Senator Alexander**

We are very fortunate to have a man like Senator Lamar Alexander representing us in the Senate. He has provided great leadership on many different issues. On the healthcare bill, he said while the Congress “set out to reduce healthcare costs,” the bill which passed will “do the exact opposite.” He added that this “bill will increase health insurance premiums, raise taxes, cut Medicare and dump millions into Medicaid.” Governor Bredesen said this mandated expansion of Medicaid could cost Tennessee as much as three billion when fully implemented and many

believe it could force Tennessee to enact a state income tax. The final bill was over 2,000 pages, and Senator Durbin, one of the Senate leaders, said on the floor of the Senate even he did not know all that was in the bill. Almost none of its supporters really could have known.

### ✓ **Medicaid Monsters**

Almost all state governments are facing the most severe financial difficulties ever because of four things: 1) they have expanded too much on their own; 2) they have had too many federal mandates forced on them; 3) their pension plans are too expensive; and 4) the poor economy. Now, the healthcare plan is going to force them to expand Medicaid to cover millions more people. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, ten states would have to expand coverage by more than 50%, and 33 states would have to expand by more than 30%. Tennessee, because it already covers more than most states, would nonetheless have to expand its Medicaid coverage by 25.5%. The Heritage Foundation described this part of the healthcare bill as “Medicaid Monsters.” The percentages listed here are based on the Senate bill requiring coverage of all those up to 133% of the poverty line. The House bill, requiring coverage of up to 150%, would be even more expensive for the states.

### ✓ **Canadian Healthcare**

Some people have said that socialized medicine works well in Canada or in some other countries. Always these other countries have about five or ten percent of the population of the U.S., have much higher taxes, and do not have nearly the crime or illegal immigration problems that we have, so the comparisons are meaningless. Even in Canada, so many doctors have left or young people have entered other fields that

Canada now ranks 26<sup>th</sup> out of 28 developed nations in its ratio of physicians to population. Because of waiting periods for colonoscopies and other procedures, the cancer death rate in Canada is 16% higher than in the U.S. The sad thing is that even as good as U.S. medical care is now, it would become much better and much less expensive if we could move more in the direction of a free market for medical care (which we certainly do not have now) instead of in the direction toward more government control and more bureaucracy.

### ✓ **Illegal Reform**

Two lawyers from one of the Nation’s most prominent law firms wrote a column for the *Washington Post* entitled “Illegal Health Reform.” David Rivkim and Lee Casey wrote: “Without the young to subsidize the old, a comprehensive national health system will not work. But can Congress require every American to buy health insurance? In short, no. The Constitution assigns only limited, enumerated powers to Congress and none, including the power to regulate interstate commerce or to impose taxes, would support a federal mandate requiring anyone who is without health insurance to buy it.” Anyone who doubts what these lawyers have written should ask themselves if they believe it would be constitutional for Congress to order the purchase of any other kind of product. It would quickly be seen as ridiculous if Congress ordered that everyone purchase a shirt, for example, and more and more people are beginning to realize how unconstitutional this is. The problem is, as Jeffrey Toobin, the CNN legal analyst who is liberal himself, said in a speech at the Free Library of Philadelphia last September 27: “The risk of a liberal Supreme Court is that the Constitution becomes a meaningless document