

January 16, 2013

The Stupid, The Corrupt, The Auto Response Tactic

More and more, over the past 40 years or so, agency appointments have become nothing more than political payoffs for high dollar fundraisers, less and less about qualifications for the position, or as reward for previous outstanding good works in the field.

It's been an insidious process wherein political "rewards" were doled out in seemingly unimportant, innocuous departments of agencies, some meaningless desk in an office that required no pens, paper or connected phone, while those who knew how to run the agency or department worked around the "appointee".

Slowly at first, and then more swiftly, the appointees, the 'rewardees' if you will, wanted bigger paychecks, better payoffs, more status, and began popping up in more and more strategically important strata of the agencies, making it more and more difficult for those who actually knew what was going on and who were doing the real work, to work around them.

They not only wanted to take credit for the good work of others, they wanted to be in a position to make the decisions as to what work would or would not be done... and more and more agencies became permanently infested with this virus of cronyism to the point that there are almost no positions, especially top level and immediately below, that are not completely taken over by the incompetent or the corrupt, leaving us with stunningly stupid or counter intuitive decision making that boggles the mind with their destructiveness and outright criminal behavior.

This is how the Department of Interior, which controls the BIA and several other agencies, as well as oversees which lands and resources are given to which corporations or individuals. That led to the 'scandal' of the "Coke, Hookers, Microwaves," in the agency responsible for collecting the royalties for our national resources: Oil, lands, minerals, water, etc. (See [New York Times Article, 2008](#))

Yes, the agency responsible for collecting trillions of dollars from the corporations that exploit our national resources, was selling us out for sex, drugs and sometimes as little as the cost of a hooker for the night. No one was fired. They were shamed, and some were 'transferred', but no one was fired, much less went to jail for such an egregious breach of the public trust. Oil, Gas, Mining Conglomerates had easy access and paid nothing for the leases, long term, still in force, in this 'oil boom', and we taxpayers and citizens got righteously screwed.

But, because so many involved were so tightly connected to both the big donors and to the Administrations, past and present, no one lost their job, much less went to jail.

Camouflage

The general perception of government is that it is too big and everyone in it is incompetent. “Must be a gubmit job” is the standard punch line and everyone shrugs their shoulders. We think of government as incompetent by nature.

It is not. There is a good structure, and there are really good people who have integrity and who work ethically at their jobs. They do their utmost, day in and day out trying to make the system work, despite the bigger, fatter, heavier obstacles of cronyism appointees making it tougher and more impossible to achieve any legitimate goals.

The problem is not the agencies, but the incompetent and the corrupt who are heading them. These are critically important to the safety, security, economic well-being of our nation, and they are jam-packed with people whose only ambition is to get appointed, collect a paycheck and either clueless as to how to function in their position, or who are, such as in the Department of Interior, there to deliberately sabotage and undermine the agency. (Many of the high fundraisers who became appointees were also lobbyists or worked for lobbying firms, for Oil/Chemical/Gas companies), so naturally, they sought out and were given positions that most profited those corporations.

We look at government agencies that fail to do their jobs as ‘incompetent’ and shrug it off. We should be looking at them as “Corrupt” and holding investigations and putting criminals in prison for their part in the corruption.

“Incompetence” is the disguise. Corruption is the problem. Weed out the corruption, penalize the corrupt, and we gain a government that is more cost efficient and just plain more efficient and effective.

But first we have to stop accepting “inept” and “incompetent” as excuses.

It’s true in every agency of government: SEC, which controls the rules that are supposed to govern Wall Street and financial institutions which robbed us blind and knocked our economy into circling the porcelain bowl back in 2008, was rife with appointees and the policies in place from previous administrations, almost all of whom were selected from those same institutions and lobbying firms that the SEC is supposed to ‘control’.

What we have in place to ‘fix’ the mess of that crash, were more appointees of The same crowd! (Because they broke it, they would know how to fix it).

The FCC, FEC, SEC, BIA, DOI, DOJ, HHS, IHS, etc. all riddled with politically rewarded Directors and Secretaries. Each White House Administration makes the top appointments and they in turn, lock in their friends to key positions below them.

All of this brings us again to the ACF top dogs and their unfathomable, inexplicable attacks on Thomas Sullivan as if he, by making reports about children being

systematically abused and placed in dangerous environments, is the enemy of their agency, rather than it's star player.

They have gone so far as to literally forbid him from making or having access to any reports generated by his agency, division or in relation to any of the 13 Mandated reports he has made thus far.

Marrienne McMullen takes a breezy attitude to his urgent requests for a response to reports detailing horrific child sexual abuse, and in one email, where he repeats that he has not had a response from her in over 4 months, she delivers this vague, unconcerned response:

-----Original Message-----

From: McMullen, Marrienne (ACF)

Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2014 1:25 PM

To: Sullivan, Thomas (ACF); Greenberg, Mark (ACF)

Cc: Murray, James (ACF); McCauley, Mike (ACF); Chang, Joo Yeun (ACF)

Subject: RE: Spirit Lake

Hi Tom:

Apologies for not getting back to your previous email; it was an oversight on my part.

As I've communicated before, though, the Children's Bureau is leading this effort for ACF and is actively managing work with both the Tribal leadership and Tribal social services. CB is also working with the state of North Dakota and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to address child protective issues at Spirit Lake. I'm sure the CB staff in your own office can give you updates about these ongoing efforts.

As I think you know, an assessment is underway that will help provide a roadmap for policies, practices, procedures and staffing levels that the Tribe needs to establish successful child protection services.

As always, specific knowledge of incidents of abuse should be reported using the appropriate hotline.

Marrienne

It was an 'oversight'. I guess there were other, more important matters on her desk other than the detailed reports of ongoing, unrelentingly brutal child abuse and retaliation against the children who reported the abuse, by the BIA and the Tribal Social Services as well as the Tribal Chairman and Tribal Council.

She's talking about an 'assessment' that is underway.

She was informed of criminal abuse and she is talking about an assessment, not an investigation, and not anything about rectifying the situation with any sense of emergency.

She is told that children are being raped, forced to live with sexually abusive adults who are also known drug dealers, and to her, there is nothing urgent about any of this.

Mr. Sullivan, as we have seen from last year's email threads of those above him in the ACF, is an annoyance.

Even after the brutal beating/stomping death of a child that had been listed in one of Sullivan's 13 Mandated Reports, and left in that same dangerous home, there is nothing urgent enough for Ms. McMullen to actually take an active interest in say... doing her job? Apparently, not.

Further, upon Ms. McMullen's orders, all of this pesky business of hundreds of children being raped, beaten, neglected or murdered, has been handed over to a woman named Marilyn Kennerson of the Children's Bureau.

Even more surprising, Ms. Kennerson has had this responsibility for over a year now... and has not issued a single report, nor has she investigated a single case. Ms. Kennerson knows who butters her bread. She won't do anything to rock that boat, so that's the way the ACF likes it.

It's not about protecting children--- it's about political payoffs. And anyone that tries to do their job is a threat to the entire corrupt and inept operation, and they must, at all costs, be isolated, frozen out, and forbidden. There is a multi-billion dollar system of corruption, and Ms. Kennerson's Children's Bureau gets over \$8Billion a year--- to make sure no one interferes with the system of money coming from government to corrupt agencies and tribal governments, flowing back into the campaigns, charities and foundations which also pay these same politicians and their donors; all of it dependent on the number of children they can keep in the system and generate Federal and State dollars based on 'head count'.

The more damage to children, the more money. The more damaged children survive to damage children of their own, the more the cycle of payout and payoffs grows.

Ms. McMullen and her cronies are skilled at the art of disinterested in safety or well-being. To her, the problem is not children being raped, abused, neglected or murdered... the problem is people trying to prevent it. Those pesky types and their integrity are moved into isolated positions while more cooperative, more politically savvy players such as Marilyn Kennerson, are moved into position to do 'assessments' on what you and I would call "Criminal Acts Against Children".

What is there to 'assess'? Is child rape something that requires assessment? Or does it require the law to step in and make arrests and perform investigations?

They would like to mask this as government incompetence and we all walk away shaking our heads in disgust. But it is more than that. It is a criminal conspiracy. These agency heads are covering up reports about criminal acts against children. They are siding with the abusers and the corrupt in other agencies to do this. There is no other explanation.

They can't say they did not know.

They would like to say they didn't know. They'd like it if you never knew their names. They never have to stand in front of the cameras and do the "fell through the cracks", "we are studying how this happened to insure it will never happen again," "blah, blah, blah..." that we all know by heart now, and which means "nothing will be done, get over it, let's argue over birth control, or guns, or just have the media focus on the latest celebrity meaningless gossip. (*Expect the next 4 weeks to be filled with "Justin Bieber arrested for drugs" as if anything Justin Bieber does has any effect on any of us as individuals or as a nation. Media is complicit in the art of distracting us from anything relevant to our daily lives or our real issues with government. Media is a corporate monopoly.*)

If you want to know how deep the contempt runs within the ACF for Mr. Sullivan's urgent reports, just know this: Each time he has written to Marriane McMullen he has received this response:

Hello Tom: Thank you for this information. Marilyn Kennerson with the Children's Bureau is working with the BIA and the tribe to make sure that all appropriate measures are being taken to assure this child's safety.

Marriane

Ever wonder what those 'appropriate measures' are? We are going into the third year of these reports with not a single case being investigated, nor a single witness interviewed.

It's an auto response. He's received it to a series of detailed emails/reports of abuse and of both children who are at high risk of suicide due to the abuse as well as a report of 3 suicides in December of children who had hung themselves due to both the abuse and the lack of any law enforcement investigating their claims.

Marriane likes to write them off. Ms. Kennerson likes to 'assess'. No one wants to answer the questions, or respond as they are legally obligated to the Mandated reports.

So, let's take a look at Ms. Kennerson and those who work with her, shall we?

marilyn.kennerson@acf.hhs.gov ask her what these appropriate measures are and what progress she has made in the past year or so, and when does she think she

can actually investigate any of the 13 Mandated Reports. Ask her why she has not interviewed or spoken with anyone mentioned in any of those reports. I'll wait.

You can phone Marilyn at **(303) 844.3100**

Glenda Lacey is the one under Marilyn that has the North Dakota beat... let's ask her the same questions. Just what has she done and why are these same children, who have been reported on for over a year, still in danger?
glenda.lacey@acf.hhs.gov I'm sure she'll love hearing from you. Phone Ms. Glenda Lacey at: **(303)844.1174**

If these all powerful agencies and their top dogs can't save one child from being stomped and murdered, raped and abused, despite all the reports and warnings, what good are they? Why don't we demand they be fired and replaced by those who will do their job and who will, at the very least, take the concerns of those who have reported criminal abuses against children by predators and corrupt officials, seriously.

Above all, let's replace them with someone who will not silence the only man who dares to do his job and who cares about the safety and well-being of these children. Let's replace Ms. Auto-responder with someone who will actually read these reports and not filter them as 'spam'.

A Note On The Storm

There was a huge freeze that hurt a lot of Good People in Spirit Lake last week, and there is another, more huge, more fierce storm moving in and it is expected to last for 2-3 days.

The Tribal Council, which was able to find hundreds of thousands of dollars to 'back pay' Justin Yankton who was fired for stealing from the LIHEP program, and James Yankton who was fired from the surveillance job at the casino for failing multiple drug tests.... And a few others managed to get 'back pay' illegally. It was no problem for the Tribal Council.

But for some reason, the Elders and the poor running out of fuel during this time and asking for fuel assistance is brushed off with "Sorry. No funds left in the LIHEP/Elders programs. You have to wait," is a disgrace.

I know people who can't afford the heat are suffering and getting sick and some will die. Nor can they afford the ruptured pipes and broken windows that will surely result from these past two freezes.

This Tribal Council cares nothing for the people they are supposed to represent. I am sick of these reports of them traveling all over the country. It is not necessary. If they can afford back pay for criminals, they can afford fuel for those who need it.

If they can't afford fuel for the Elders and the poor, they can't afford to travel to every conference on the freaking map!

Shame on the Tribal Council, every single one of them. Shame on Russell McDonald as Tribal Chair!

I grow more disgusted by the day. People, the people in your community are suffering and dying and no one will lift a finger to help them.

Clarice got back in and ripped off the families on their Christmas bonus/ Economic Impact Payments, allowing only a measly \$300 for adults and a pittance of \$100 per child. For that, families were supposed to buy warm coats, boots, for themselves and their children and fuel for their homes?

You can bet that Clarice's home is nice and warm... as are the rest of the Tribal Councilors'.

Good People of Spirit Lake, you have to look out for one another, check in on those in your family, and those who live by you. You're on your own. And it's getting worse.

We have to stick together, work together, help one another and not allow those who are elected or appointed, wallow in the rewards of their corruption.

Keep telling me what you know. Keep sending me documents. We keep fighting because quitting is not an option; not for us, and not for the children.

You know where to find me.

~Cat