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Inside Track

Ron Paul Will Head Congressional Subcommittee to Monitor the Fed



AP Images

It's official: Texas Congressman Ron Paul will be the Chairman of the House Subcommittee for Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology when the 112th Congress convenes in January. Rep. Spencer Bachus of Alabama, who is slated to be the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, of which the Monetary Policy Subcommittee is a part, [announced](#) Paul's appointment as chairman of that subcommittee on December 9.

Paul himself had made an unofficial announcement of his appointment on the previous day's *Freedom Watch* with Judge Andrew Napolitano on the Fox Business Network. Napolitano jested that "the blood pressure is going up as we speak over at the Federal Reserve" as a result of Paul's appointment, which he termed "great news for those of us who want to find out what the Fed has really been doing."

Indeed, a quick glance at the policies over which Chairman Paul will have jurisdiction, as listed in Bachus's announcement, should gladden the heart of anyone who cares about sound money and the future of the U.S. economy. They include: "Domestic monetary policy, currency, precious metals, valuation of the dollar, economic stabilization, defense production, commodity prices, financial aid to commerce and industry." The Fed, of course, has its crooked fingers in every one of these. Who better to have in a position to oversee them all, with the power to subpoena testimony from Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, than the author of *End the Fed*?

This is the fourth time Paul has been up for the post but only the first time he has actually been appointed. On previous occasions the Republican leadership in the House employed various underhanded schemes to deny him the chair. What was different this time? In an interview with *The New American* Paul attributed it to several factors, including the passage of time; changes in the political environment; "current economic events"; and, perhaps especially, "the growing support of people outside of Washington at the grass-roots level" who "have now learned more about the Fed," want it to be audited, and recognize that House Republicans had supported his Audit the Fed bill. He



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pointed out also that “others in the Congress now are starting to talk about the Fed and why we should have more oversight.” “I think conditions have just changed,” he explained, “and so it looks like everything is falling into place now.”

Virginia Judge Finds ObamaCare Individual Mandate Unconstitutional



AP Images

Score one for the Constitution. U.S. District Court Judge Henry E. Hudson, in Richmond, Virginia, ruled December 13 that the ObamaCare individual mandate and its related penalties are unconstitutional, a welcome change of pace from two earlier rulings in favor of the Obama administration. Hudson’s ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican, seeking to have the individual mandate ruled unconstitutional.

ObamaCare both proscribes and penalizes an individual’s choice not to purchase health insurance. The earlier judges (in [Detroit, Michigan](#), and [Lynchburg, Virginia](#)) had bought the administration’s argument that such a choice has an effect on interstate commerce and is therefore within Congress’ power to regulate under the Commerce Clause. But Hudson would have none of it. Noting that the administration was relying on precedents such as *Wickard v. Filburn* (1942) that affirmed Congress’ authority to regulate “a self-directed affirmative move” that “voluntarily placed the subject within the stream of commerce,” Hudson agreed with the Commonwealth of Virginia that under ObamaCare Congress was instead trying “to compel an individual to involuntarily enter the stream of commerce by purchasing a commodity in the private market,” a power that could not be supported by any previous federal court rulings. Furthermore, he wrote, the administration’s argument that the individual mandate could be enacted under the Necessary and Proper Clause was bogus because the mandate provision “is neither within the letter nor the spirit of the Constitution.”

The judge opined that “the final word will undoubtedly reside with a higher court,” almost certainly the Supreme Court. This ruling will be appealed, and the two previous rulings are already in the appeals process. But regardless of whether the Supreme Court ultimately rules that the individual mandate is unconstitutional, it must be kept in mind that there is much more to ObamaCare than the provisions related to this mandate. As Art Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society, explained: “Simply getting



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rid of the mandatory aspect of a citizen purchasing medical insurance gives the impression that the remainder of the law is constitutional. It does not address the issue of assisted suicide, euthanasia, and the mandate for the government to come into the homes of America to find out if your children are being educated correctly and living in a government approved environment.” Thompson believes that the entire law needs to be repealed at the federal level or nullified at the state level.

Obama Claims Progress in Afghanistan, Looks to Welcome Taliban Back

President Obama gave a speech December 16 about the supposed “progress” being made in Afghanistan, citing a recently completed annual report on the undeclared war as proof that America’s “core goal” was within reach. But incredibly, he essentially admitted that the United States has been doing it wrong for years and that, eventually, the Taliban would be brought back into the fold.

“Indeed, for the first time in years, we’ve put in place the strategy and the resources that our efforts in Afghanistan demand,” Obama announced without offering specifics about what was wrong before. The reduction of American forces in Iraq, he said, provided more leeway for waging the war in central Asia’s notorious “graveyard of empires,” as Afghanistan came to be known after defeating countless invading regimes including the British empire and the Soviet Union.

In another startling announcement, Obama made clear that the Taliban, who have been killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan for almost a decade, would be welcomed back into the political process if they agreed to stop attacking. “We will also fully support an Afghan political process that includes reconciliation with those Taliban who break ties with al Qaeda, renounce violence, and accept the Afghan Constitution,” said Obama, flanked by a nodding Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden.

Of course, since the U.S.-imposed constitution incorporates Islamic sharia law, getting the Taliban to come on board would not seem to be difficult at first glance. However, the Afghan government has become known among natives and internationally for rampant corruption, fraudulent elections, extortion, and terror, making the regime difficult to accept for the Afghan people, and especially the Taliban.

“I want to be clear — this continues to be a very difficult endeavor,” Obama said at the press conference. “But I can report that, thanks to the extraordinary service of our troops and civilians on the ground, we are on track to achieve our goals.” He said the objective was not to defeat threats to the security of Afghanistan, “and it’s not nation building.” The purpose, he finally claimed, was “defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

Yet, when Obama [announced](#) the “surge” in December of 2009, there were reportedly fewer than 100 members of al-Qaeda in the entire country of Afghanistan. In fact, even Obama’s National Security Advisor Jim Jones admitted to CNN in October 2009 that the “maximum estimate” was “fewer than a hundred.”

“In pursuit of our core goal, we are seeing significant progress,” Obama proclaimed in his speech, claiming al-Qaeda leadership was under more pressure than before and that some had even been killed. “In short, al Qaeda is hunkered down,” he added.



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WikiLeaks Reveals U.S. & EU Climate Bullying, Bribery, Espionage



AP Images

A series of secret U.S. diplomatic cables released by the whistle-blower group [WikiLeaks](#) in December shows that the American and European governments used monetary incentives, threats, and even espionage to advance their “climate” agenda at the December 2009 global-warming summit in Copenhagen and beyond.

Only a fraction of the more than 250,000 cables have been released so far, and just a few of those were related to the “climate” negotiations last year. But even what little has come out thus far — [analysts](#) are calling it the “tip of the iceberg” — is raising eyebrows and generating more anti-U.S. sentiment around the globe. And the revelations certainly didn’t enhance the cause of the global-warming alarmists at last month’s climate-change summit in Cancun.

It turns out that, [at the behest](#) of the Central Intelligence Agency and the American “intelligence” apparatus, the U.S. State Department sent out secret diplomatic cables seeking intelligence on United Nations bosses, foreign officials, and others. News reports claimed such an operation — basically using diplomats with immunity as spies — could be considered a violation of international law.

The State Department, while conceding that its staff does gather information around the world, was insistent that American diplomats should not be considered spies. But among the information they were collecting was data such as credit card numbers, frequent flyer numbers, telephone records, Internet passwords, biometrics data, “vulnerabilities,” and other “biographical” information. It was also looking for dirt on other governments and officials.

In terms of the climate shenanigans revealed in the cables, the U.K. [Guardian reported](#) last month: “Hidden behind the save-the-world rhetoric of the global climate change negotiations lies the mucky realpolitik: money and threats buy political support; spying and cyberwarfare are used to seek out leverage.”

The newspaper described some of the revelations in the diplomatic cables, saying they show “how the US seeks dirt on nations opposed to its approach to tackling global warming; how financial and other aid is used by countries to gain political backing; how distrust, broken promises and creative



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accounting dog negotiations; and how the US mounted a secret global diplomatic offensive to overwhelm opposition to the controversial 'Copenhagen accord.'”

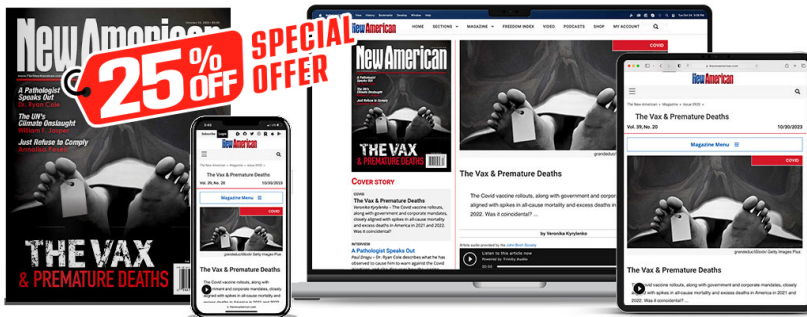


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