

Do As I Say, Not As I Do

☒ When he resigned earlier this month, I thought, with “certitude,” that we’d heard the last of lawmaker Anthony Weiner’s texting, sexting, lying, denying and whining, but I was wrong. Just when I thought it was safe to go back to Twitter, I read that he didn’t have a current registration sticker on his Nissan Pathfinder. Apparently, the expired license plate on his car was actually issued to another one of his cars, so, according to the NY DMV, the Pathfinder was unregistered.

I just got new tags for my car and paid twice as much as I did last year. A friend of mine missed her renewal date, was stopped by a highway patrol officer and given a ticket for not having current tags on her car. I guess the law doesn’t apply to Mr. Weiner – unless he’s caught, of course.

Another Congressman, Charlie Rangel, who was the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that writes the nation’s tax laws, seems to be exempt from prosecution for tax violations. He failed to pay 17 years’ worth of taxes on rental income from his Dominican Republic property and blamed sloppy bookkeeping and his inability to speak Spanish. He received a public censure from Congress but an ‘at a boy from his constituents who re-elected him to his 21st term in November.

He’s not the only bum in Washington who doesn’t pay his taxes. Some federal employees owe \$1 billion in back taxes, including 41 presidential employees who owed a total of \$831,000. Three employees in the Office of Government Ethics alone owed a total of \$75,000! In my world, if you owed the fed any tax money, you wouldn’t be a federal employee.

And, of course, who can forget Timothy Geithner, Treasury Secretary who oversees the IRS, who failed to pay \$34,000 in taxes between 2001 and 2004 and employed a housekeeper whose

immigration documentation lapsed while in his employ.

Under D.C. law, members of Congress are exempt from parking tickets when on "official business." It turns out that some irresponsible Congressional members owe a total of \$15,000 in outstanding fines as of mid-March. Roll Call contacted some of these scofflaws and guess whose name popped up? Yep, you got it. Anthony Weiner coughed up \$2180 in outstanding tickets *after* Roll Call contacted me.

One of the biggest examples of hypocrisy to me is when President Obama tells all of us that we should be more "green" – use less fuel, consider hybrids and electric cars –and then turns around and increases the government's limousine fleet by 73% since taking office. What's more disturbing is that the statistics reported by iWatchNews can't even be confirmed by the General Services Administration because of its "unreliable" accounting. Leslie Page, spokeswoman for Citizens Against Government Waste is outraged. "If the government can't track limos, I'm not sure we should trust the numbers they put out there on anything."

I've always registered my cars, paid all my taxes, and never gave advice or an opinion about something but failed to follow it myself. The people in Washington D.C. don't seem to mind doing exactly that. Only when they're caught do they start making up lame excuses for their actions. A staff aid failed to follow through, my bookkeeper goofed, I don't speak Spanish, my dog ate my homework.

I don't get it, but if you do, God bless you.