

Don't Tell Me What To Do

☒ It seem every time I turn around, someone is telling me what to do. I'm supposed to use some sort of "clear" detergent for my clothes; a particular type of soap for my dishes; PETA tries to tell me what to wear and what not to eat; Michelle Obama is telling what to eat and how much I should exercise; the government is telling me what kind of light bulbs I have to use; local governments are telling me what I should use to carry my groceries; the fed is requiring me to buy health insurance; if I was an employer, they'd tell me what health insurance I have to provide to my employees regardless of my conscience; and, there's, of course, Mr. President telling me what I should drive. Well, when I become a Tibetan monk and practice self-immolation, maybe then I'll buy a Chevy Volt. Until then, I'll stick with my gas-guzzler.

Well, being the obstinate Brooklyn gal I am, I'll go kicking and screaming before I adhere to any of this nonsense. Yes, I eat well and exercise daily but not because Mrs. Obama is telling me to. I don't wear a fur coat because it doesn't get that cold here but I do have two fur scarves that I love. I do use reusable bags for my groceries not because my local government is in the midst of banning plastic bags but because I liked the idea of getting \$.05 off my bill for using them. I use "clear" detergents not because they're good for the environment because I've got a nose like a bloodhound and I'm very particular about how my clothes smell after washing them. I carry health insurance not because the government is trying to force me to buy it, but because it's a smart thing to do. Well, light bulbs... we're not going to have much choice about those pretty soon. But I'm not going to like it even though they will save me money.

All this came to mind while I was watching Bill O'Reilly interview the Director of Public Citizens' Energy Program, Tyson Slocum. Of course he's got his little talking points

about how the government should spend billions of more dollars on “green” technology and alternative energy sources.

Mr. Slocum begins the interview with the bold statement, “We have to start with the notion that we will never have cheap gas again” and then proceeded from there based on his false premise.

Mr. Slocum, if we accept your notion that we’ll never have cheap gas again, it’s because our President won’t allow drilling, he refused to permit the Keystone pipeline from Canada and the EPA has a stranglehold on the construction of new refineries, just to name a few.

No matter how O’Reilly tried to question him on why the government rather than private companies should be involved with all this, Mr. Slocum was unable to point to one successful government venture into alternative energy. He didn’t have an argument when faced with the fact that wind farms here in the Pacific Northwest – built with government subsidies and maintained with tax credits – are now getting paid to shut down because of an oversupply of renewable power. How does that make any sense?

I’ve written on more than one occasion about the Fisker Karma \$100,000 automobile which isn’t quite on the scale of the Solyndra debacle but it still involves a whole lot of taxpayer money. Well, the 4-wheeled fiasco broke down after Consumer Reports bought the car but before it could even do its testing and reviewing.

I don’t like anyone telling me what to do and I sure as hell don’t like the government doing it. Stay the hell out of my garage, my shopping cart, my kitchen and my closet!

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

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 at my homework.

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