

Community Comment for June 19, 2013

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

I read a great article by Peggy Noonan recently. She wrote at great length about the IRS scandal that targeted non-profit or exempt groups from getting their tax exempt approval.

She said it has been going on longer than anyone believed, except for those people in the IRS who were the perpetrators of this targeting.

If you watched any of the hearings in Congress of IRS representatives like Mr. Shulman or Ms. Lerner, you would have a better idea of why Peggy Noonan lambasted the IRS in this article.

As we all know, Lois Lerner gave a prepared statement and then refused to answer any questions, claiming her 5th Amendment rights not to incriminate herself. Well, that is exactly what she did by refusing to testify.

Ms. Noonan goes on to write that regardless of the lack of testimony, we learned several important things about the IRS. First, we learned that the people who run the IRS are not going to help Congress find out what happened, or are we going to find out when it started or who ordered the targeting of Conservative Groups and individuals.

Speaking of Individuals, Mike Huckabee of Fox TV interviewed a Catherine Engelbrecht from Richmond, Texas, where she and her husband have a small manufacturing business. She founded two patriotic groups, King Street Patriots and True the Vote, and sent applications in July 2010 to obtain tax exempt status for both groups. This is what followed: It all started in 2010 when the FBI came and asked questions. Then the IRS audited their business, and following that in 2011 the FBI came again – twice. Then her personal tax returns were audited by IRS. This type of harrasment continued until April this year after ATF got involved as well as OSHA.

I leave you with a point to ponder: Do you have any confidence left in the regulatory arm of our government.

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