



Unravelling the New World Order

*An Exposé of How Government, Religious, and Financial Insiders
Are Deciding Your Future*

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OBAMA'S DANGEROUS FINANCIAL REFORM *Legislation would impose radical controls over all financial information in the U.S., both public and private*

By Marilyn M. Brannan, Associate Editor IRN/USA News

As this is written, storm clouds are gathering for another assault on the U.S. economy that will be at least as devastating as Obamacare. But far-left Democrats in Congress say the financial reform bill currently before Congress and backed by President Obama doesn't go far enough—despite the fact that it is the most radical attack on the American financial system in history.

The far-left wants to break up the nation's biggest banks: Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley. Together, these banking giants have assets totaling 60% of the nation's GDP. Opponents are concerned that a big-bank breakup would hurt American competitiveness in global financial matters, but proponents say the banking giants are too big to manage and too big to regulate. They insist the big banks must be broken down in order to prevent another financial wipeout like the financial collapse of 2008. At this point, many Americans are skeptical of Obama's "preventive measures"—such as the stimulus bill to "prevent job losses and keep unemployment low" and Obamacare to "control healthcare costs and the deficit."

Concerned Americans see the federal government growing at an alarming rate, gobbling up more and more of the private sector and destroying those private sector jobs and employment opportunities—while creating tens of thousands of new government jobs that produce nothing yet require taxpayer money to fund their generous salaries and benefits. Many are getting wind now of provisions that are in the financial reform bill currently before Congress and are beginning to realize that this legislation (if passed) will empower Big Brother to scrutinize every financial transaction in the country, making financial privacy for all of us a thing of the past.

According to language in the bill, new agencies established under this bill would be required to "*gather all financial information—public and private—to be analyzed and used as a basis for policy recommendations . . .*" This should scare the beejebies out of any American who has a bank account, a mortgage, a car loan, a savings account, an IRA or 401K, stocks, bonds, a pension plan, real estate—virtually *any kind of financial arrangement* that the federal government could construe as "financial" in nature. Private citizens could be required to provide the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with *written answers, under oath*, to any question posed by the agency regarding their personal financial information.

"Déjà vu all over again"?

Politicians in Washington have been stirring the pot against Wall Street and "big banking" to gain popular support for what they are calling financial reform. It's the same tactic they used to gin up support for their so-called reform of healthcare. It didn't work—roughly 60% of Americans opposed Obamacare—but *no*

worry! The Democrats in Congress managed to ram the bill through with threats, broken rules, bribes, and special “deals.” That single power grab put roughly 17% of the U.S. economy under government control.

Since a majority of Americans have no clue as to how Wall Street works, cynical politicians bash “Wall Street” and “big bankers” as the culprits, exploiting public frustration with joblessness, a stagnant economy and predictions of worse conditions yet to come. This latest “reform” could be another outrage foisted on us by Chicago-style thuggery and back room deals. They park their “We’re cleaning up Big Banking and Wall Street” signs “out front,” so to speak, while they pursue their true agenda out of sight of the public.

Let’s look at some details that have been exposed thus far.

The Office of Financial Research

The Obama administration’s financial reform bill would create (under Subtitle B, Section 151 of the “Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010”) a new 1,000-employee office within the Department of the Treasury. This new entity, the Office of Financial Research (OFR), is raising alarms among Senate GOP staff, who say the agency would have broad powers to invade the privacy of American citizens and monitor their finances and financial activity at a level never before allowed by the federal government.

The OFR is a companion entity to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which is also proposed in the legislation (Section 1001, page 1030).

Under current language of the bill, according to Senate Banking Committee sources, the OFR under new federal law would be allowed to collect *any financial data it chooses, whether from individual citizens or businesses*. Under provisions of the bill, the data center can collect and maintain “all data necessary” to monitor the financial system. For example, the OFR would have power to gather all loan files from all companies that lend to American consumers. This information could be aggregated to restrict or increase credit availability for certain loans over others (*depending, obviously, on political policy objectives*).

Wall Street executives are concerned because of the kind of “competitive intelligence” such an entity could collect. One executive with J.P. Morgan Chase said, “In real time, this office could be monitoring how an investment bank creates sole purpose entities and moves funding around for deal-making, real estate purchases, that kind of thing. That’s not the kind of information anyone would want to have being shared, particularly if the government could in some way be a competitor. And the way things are going with financial institutions, that’s increasingly a real possibility.”

Any owner or manager of a firm that does business in the financial sector should have chills running down his spine when he begins to grasp the ramifications of this dictatorial control over his business. Big Brother would be overseeing—and to a large extent, *controlling*—every aspect of his business operation.

One Senate committee source noted, “As we read this legislation, the CFPB could *mine for whatever data they want*—bank card activities of a subset of American citizens, credit card debt and payment patterns, who is spending money on whatever. And if the business community isn’t already scared out of their minds, they should be.”

According to language in the bill:

- all Americans would be required to provide CFPB with *written answers, under oath*, to any question posed by the agency regarding their personal financial information;
- the OFR would have subpoena power and funding to mine and monitor any financial transactions it chose to examine;
- neither of these agencies would be subject to Congressional budget or appropriations processes;
- the head of the CFPB would be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate;
- the OFR would not be accountable to Congress, the President, or the Treasury Secretary.

Data collected by these new entities formed by the Obama administration would not be protected or confidential. GOP Senate staff who have read the bill have concluded that wording of the bill indicates data collected by these agencies could be shared with other government agencies, including executive branch agencies such as the IRS.

What Will OFR Cost?

Basically, it will cost America her financial freedom. An editorial in the *Washington Times* (April 30, 2010) put it this way: “There’s no telling how much a multimillion-dollar boondoggle of this magnitude might

end up costing in monetary terms, but it's enough to know the price in the loss of financial privacy and freedom is too great." We agree.

As to specific details of "costs":

- The director of the OFR, who is not accountable to Congress, the President, or the Treasury Secretary, will set his own budget by imposing taxes on large financial firms, without having to answer directly to any elected officials.
- Advocates say it will require \$400 to \$500 million annually for operational costs. In addition, it will cost \$500 million to purchase computers and servers necessary to store the vast database that OFR will control.
- The Director will set salary amounts for the 1,000 or more OFR employees, who will be exempt from the General Schedule for federal employees, potentially earning in excess of \$200,000.
- The OFR will provide domestic partner benefits, flexible work schedules, and telework options.

Who Will Benefit?

Basically, the beneficiaries would be certain firms deemed "too big to fail;" those firms with political connections to powerful figures in the federal government; and powerful government officials (such as Secretary of the Treasury) with the power to fire management, replace directors, liquidate stock value and sell off parts of companies they seize. As we have already seen with the Obama administration, there would be power to seize on the one hand and bail out on the other.

Specifically, the bill states that:

- Federal financial regulators will have access to all data and research generated by the OFR.
- Private market companies that currently provide these (data and research) services to Wall Street firms would be subsumed by the OFR, thus handing over to government every detail of every financial transaction in this country, whether businesses or private individuals.

On the other side of the issue are those who stand to lose. First, there are the American people, who will lose their financial privacy and all that is currently protected under applicable laws.

Our political freedoms will take a huge hit. With political action committees and financial firms playing a big part in campaign finance and issue advocacy advertising, it is unlikely large financial institutions will allow their executives certain political freedoms—the freedom to work against Obama's re-election, for example. Given the broad powers granted to the federal government (and the administration in power), financial firms would have reason to worry they could be taken over by the government. Anything that inhibits corporations from participating politically limits political debate, and that is one of the great dangers facing America today.

We wonder: Given the debate now underway, are some financial entities already pulling their punches so as not to alienate a president whose hand can "save or seize," according to personal whim and political ambition?

Sources:

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