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# Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Friday, September 9, 2016

SEPTEMBER 15TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Friday, September 9, 2016

## **Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report This Shouldn't be Political September 9th, 2016**

We have all heard the famous quote “the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” This week as the U.S. Congress once again gavelled back into session, the same results held true as we were immediately met with new details of just how partisan and politically minded this Administration is. I should have known not to expect anything other than partisan rancor from this Administration but a recent memo leak showing details of the Obama Administration putting liberal politics before the interests of the American people is truly appalling.

A report of a memo sent by the Obama Administration to officials at the Pentagon was uncovered on Tuesday detailing a plan to veto the national defense bill that includes a pay raise for our troops. This revelation further proves that the Obama Administration could care less about the means he uses no matter how unethical they might be to push his liberal agenda. The internal Department of Defense memo instructs top military leaders to “play hardball” against Republican plans to increase the military budget, unless the Obama White House gets the spending increases they want for unrelated social programs. They suggest that the House and Senate fight against each other instead of finding middle

ground to enact a national defense bill for our nation's heroes, of which we have a huge number throughout southeast and south central Missouri. It is shameful that the Obama Administration spends more time playing political games rather than serving the American public.

This news was especially hard to stomach because while we are trying to find solutions, we keep being met with executive orders and rogue federal agencies specifically trying to impede our attempts. The extent to which this administration has gone out of its way to impede congressional oversight and accountability and implement radical agendas is absolute insanity.

After spending several weeks traveling all 30 counties, talking to farmers about their crops, small business owners about their bottom line, community leaders about their changing needs, and simply just catching up with old friends, facing this type of out-of-control government insanity is difficult because these folks deserve better than what we're getting from the White House.

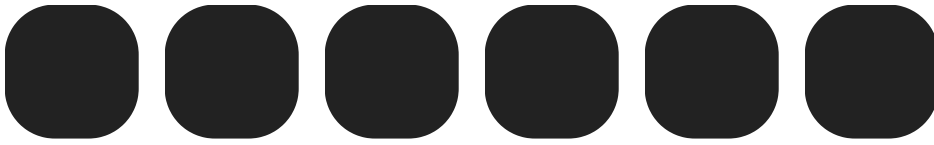
The tactics described in the memo that was uncovered this week comes as no surprise because under the Obama Administration, dysfunction and partisanship have continually grown worse. It is no surprise that the American public have lost confidence in this Administration's ability to do their jobs in the best interest of the American public. Time and time again, the Obama Administration condemns Congress for not reaching across the aisle to get things done, but behind closed doors he continues to encourage a battle between political parties. It is quite clear that the legacy that the Obama Administration will leave behind in January will be that of a politically divided country and bureaucratic insanity.

I believe Congress can come together and continue the more than five decades of bipartisan cooperation it has experienced in the past and pass a national defense bill that gives our troops a pay raise and provides them with the resources they need to defend and provide for the security of our country. The brave men and women who serve our country and keep us safe deserve better and so does the rest of the country, especially from someone who carries the title Commander in Chief.

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## Senator Blunt's Statement Marking the 15th Anniversary of 9/11

SEPTEMBER 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Senator Blunt's Statement Marking the 15th Anniversary of 9/11

**Washington, D.C.** - U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) released the following statement today marking the 15th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

“Today, we mourn the loss of all the Americans killed in the horrific terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. To the families that are grieving their loved ones, we offer our prayers and our promise never to forget your suffering. To all of the first responders who rushed toward danger that day, and do so every day, we extend our eternal gratitude. To all of the men and women in uniform who have taken the fight to terrorists across the globe, we honor your courage and sacrifice. And to all of the members of the intelligence community, we appreciate the tremendous responsibility you shoulder in your efforts to prevent further attacks.

“America was forever changed on September 11th, but not in the manner the terrorists intended. Where they sought to destroy our national spirit, we responded with renewed strength, unity and resolve. We carry that with us today, refusing to allow the threats we face to undermine our principals or sow fear in our communities. America remains a

target because we have proven to the world that freedom and democracy will not yield to evil and oppression. I will continue working to ensure that those who defend our nation and all that we stand for have what they need to keep Americans safe.”

Blunt currently serves as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the Defense Appropriations subcommittee.

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# Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Friday, August 26, 2016

AUGUST 30TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Friday, August 26, 2016

**Congressman Jason Smith Capitol Report**  
**The Future of Welfare Reform**

**August 26th, 2016**

This week marks the 20th anniversary of “welfare reform” and at the time it was hailed as one of the most widespread changes to addressing federal poverty our nation had ever seen. They promised it was the end of welfare as we would know it. While this reform 20 years ago did help some people escape poverty, it is clear we have an entirely new round of obstacles that are placing more Americans into the poverty trap.

Moving people from welfare to work is the only way to successfully and sustainably lift someone out of poverty. From 1995 through 2007, 1.5 million single mothers moved from welfare to work, lowering the number of children trapped in poverty as well. This not only provided personal financial independence to families, but showed their next generation a path forward. Incentives that offer jobs to those trapped in poverty do work. In fact, the amount of people receiving assistance from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program has decreased by over 60 percent since 1996. That translates to a decrease of over 10 million people who rely on government welfare assistance today.

The bad news is that the welfare reform 20 years ago was narrowly focused to apply to only a few programs and did not apply to all government welfare and anti-poverty support programs. Therefore today our country has upwards of 46 million Americans still marred in poverty. In fact, almost two out of three working age adults who are living in poverty today do not have a job. This is a direct result of a current welfare system that does not encourage or reward work. Sadly, many trapped in poverty today have more of an incentive to stay on government assistance instead of going out and getting a job to move out of poverty.

As a result, House Republicans are proposing a new plan to combat the cycle of poverty in this country. Growing up in rural Missouri, I know first-hand that the current welfare system is broken. I remember well the trailer my family lived in when I was younger and pumping water from a cistern at my grandparents in order to get our fresh water. I understand just how hard it can be to escape the cycle of poverty, especially in south central and southeast Missouri.

I have taken a leadership role in helping reform our current welfare support system both on the Ways and Means Committee, the Human Resources Subcommittee, and on the newly created Task Force on Poverty, Opportunity and Upward Mobility. My goal is to help people who are struggling not only back home in Missouri, but across the nation escape the cycle of poverty by offering incentives for people to work to pull themselves

out of poverty. It is also important to me that people understand the difference between the urban poverty they often read about in newspapers and the rural poverty that effects areas all over the country like ours. With over 46 million people living in poverty today, reforming the welfare system is a top priority in this country. We cannot continue to spend close to \$1 trillion each year on so called welfare reducing government programs without seeing any improvements to the overall poverty rate.

I continue to remain committed to working with my Republican and Democrat colleagues to move forward on a better way plan to reduce poverty and give everyone the opportunity to realize the American dream. Very soon I hope we will be able to usher in the next era of welfare reform that also kicks off the greatest resurgence in an American economic recovery and demonstrates American success and generosity, but also shows the importance of personal freedom and responsibility, as the cornerstone of our great Republic.

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# Senator Blunt to Stop in Dexter

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## Senator Blunt to Stop in Dexter

**Southeast Missouri** - U.S. Senator Roy Blunt will be making stops and visiting with folks in the 25th District on Tuesday, August 30th in Dexter, Sikeston, and Charleston.

### His schedule is below:

#### **Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 9:00 AM**

Rice Trailers

166 Highway V

Harviell, Missouri

(Plant location is approximately 9 miles south of Poplar Bluff) at Junction of Hwy 67 & Hwy 160W

#### **Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 10:30 AM**

The Mule Barn

15080 State Highway F

Dexter, Missouri

#### **Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 1:15 PM**

Dewitt Company

River Birch Mall, 905 South Kingshighway

Sikeston, Missouri

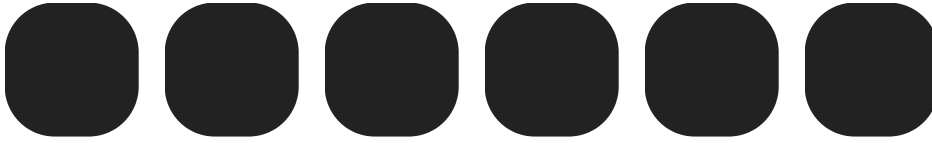
#### **Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 2:30 PM**

Delta New Holland

975 South Highway 105

Charleston, Missouri

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## Gov. Nixon Grants Seven Pardons

AUGUST 22ND 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Gov. Nixon Grants Seven Pardons

**Jefferson City, Missouri - Gov. Jay Nixon** today announced that he has granted pardons to six men and one woman, each of whom has completed his or her sentence and has become a law-abiding citizen.

“The executive power to grant clemency is one I take with a great deal of consideration and seriousness,” **Gov. Nixon** said. “In each of these cases warranting a pardon, the individual has demonstrated the ability and willingness to be a contributing member of society.”

Those granted pardons are:

- Patricia Lane, who was placed on five years’ probation after being convicted in Audrain County in 1988 of two counts of passing bad checks. She received an early discharge from probation and has not been charged with any other crimes. Lane is currently employed by the Missouri Department of Corrections.
- Jackie Vent, who was given a two-year term of probation after being convicted of possession of over 35 grams of marijuana in New Madrid County in 1980. Vent received an early discharge from probation and has not been charged with any other crimes since that time. He has served as a pastor at a church in Tulsa, Okla., for the past 34 years.



- James Hardin, who received a one-year term of unsupervised probation after being convicted of stealing in Jasper County in 2007. He paid restitution for the stolen merchandise and has not been charged with any other crimes since successfully completing probation. Hardin has been gainfully employed since being discharged from probation.
- William Harrison, who pleaded guilty to a charge of passing a bad check in Franklin County in 1993. He paid full restitution and was given a five-year term of probation, which he successfully completed. Harrison was gainfully employed after completing probation and has not been charged with any other crimes.
- Leroy Kerns, who pleaded guilty to unlawful use of drug paraphernalia in Vernon County in 2004. He successfully completed a two-year term of probation and has been gainfully employed since that time.
- Jerry Simpson, who pleaded guilty to stealing in Stoddard County in 1985. Simpson successfully completed a two-year term of probation and has not been charged with any other crimes. He was employed for many years as a maintenance employee.
- Earnest Leap, who entered an Alford plea to a charge of sexual abuse in 1992 in Jackson County. Leap successfully completed a three-year term of probation and has not been charged with any other crime since then. The person named as the victim, who is now an adult, has since told authorities that the incident did not happen.

“In the case of Earnest Leap, the information that has come to light more recently and the fact that he has been a law-abiding and productive member of society were compelling enough for me to grant a pardon,” **Gov. Nixon** said.

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