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Out of Office

Bureaucrats on the beach and in bubble baths but not in office buildings

Bureaucrats Are Playing Hide-and-Seek

Bureaucrats have been found in a bubble bath, on the golf course, running their own business, and even getting busted doing crime while on taxpayers' time. Members of President Biden's own cabinet claimed to be on the clock while being out of office and unreachable.

Just 3% of the federal workforce teleworked daily prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, 6% of workers report in-person on a full-time basis, while nearly one-third are entirely remote.

Most federal employees are eligible to telework and 90% of those are. Some come to the office as infrequently as once a week.

The Biden administration redacted the locations of over 281,000 rank-and-file federal employees.

Services Suffer as Taxpayers are Put on Hold by Bureaucrats Phoning It in

Service backlogs and delays, unanswered phone calls and emails, and no-show appointments are harming the health, lives, and aspirations of Americans.

Thousands of calls from veterans seeking mental health care go unanswered. Remote work may be partly responsible for the recent baby formula crisis. Small businesses, students, and other taxpayers seeking assistance are instead getting sent to voicemail.

Public Employees Padding Their Paychecks by Avoiding the Office

Some bureaucrats are claiming to be working in areas with higher pay rates while actually living elsewhere.

My audits are finding as many as 23 to 68% of teleworking employees for some agencies are boosting their salaries by receiving incorrect locality pay.

Some employees live more than 2,000 miles away from their office and one "temporary" teleworker collected higher locality **pay for nearly a decade**.



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Maintaining Abandoned Government Buildings Costs Billions of Dollars

Not a single headquarters of a major agency or department in the nation's capital is even half full. Government buildings average an occupancy rate of 12%.

Maintaining and leasing government office buildings costs \$8 billion every year. Another \$7.7 billion is spent for the energy to keep them running. Billions more are spent buying brand new furnishings for the abandoned offices. The government also owns 7,697 vacant buildings and another 2,265 that are partially empty. An additional \$14 million is being spent leasing underutilized space and nearly \$1 million more for its maintenance.

Union Members Demand the Right to Stay Home

Federal employee unions believe their collective bargaining agreements cannot be overridden by presidential directives. Unions are filing lawsuits and grievances opposing efforts to return government employees to the office.

Apparently the president of a public employees union, not the President of the United States, is currently deciding personnel policy for the U.S government.

Make Telework Work for Taxpayers

Drain the swamp by relocating Washington's workforce. Moving those making the rules closer to those who live under them will benefit all Americans. More than 29,000 federal employees are relocated each year. Most government managers say the reassignments achieve cost savings and are effective for skills development.

Downsize the federal government by implementing a "use it or lose it" approach to government real estate. Allow unnecessary leases to expire and auction off unused office space. Consolidate offices to ensure maximum space utilization.

If, whether, and how often each employee is allowed to telework must be determined by that employee's individual performance. Effective management means ending blanket teleworking determinations and tracking each employee's performance and place of work.

Knowing and showing where employees are prevents fraudulent paycheck padding and increases accountability. Employees' locations and work product can be monitored via virtual private networks (VPNs), office swipe-ins, and network traffic. Tracking employees' locations and work products—like the private sector does—can identify poor performers and improve management.

If bureaucrats don't want to return to work, make their wish come true.