

Offshore Asset Protection BLOG - Bob Bauman

That's The Way It Looks From Here

September 01, 2009

OECD Tries to Suppress Dissent, Free Speech

"Enjoy a warm and comfortable atmosphere you will always remember at Sheraton Centro Histórico Hotel & Convention Center, Mexico City!" says the [hotel web site](#).



But that's certainly not what officials of the **Center for Freedom and Prosperity Foundation**, board chairman **Dan Mitchell**, (below) of the Cato Institute, and CfP President Andrew Quinlan, received on Tuesday from the ham handed bureaucrats at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

OECD Harassment

The two CfP leaders charged that "bureaucrats at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are trying to suppress dissenting voices" of "free market activists who have traveled to Mexico City to defend tax competition, fiscal sovereignty, and financial privacy" at the OECD Global Tax Forum.



The OECD harassment began last week when confirmed Los Cabos hotel reservations for the two CfP officials were canceled, supposedly because the OECD had reserved the entire hotel. Mitchell said: "This is an extraordinary step for the OECD to take in hopes of insulating delegates from free market views."



That became moot yesterday when the conference was suddenly moved from Los Cabos to a hotel in Mexico City to avoid Hurricane Jermina, [as I reported](#).

Ordered Out

Today's anti-free speech episode was far more disturbing.

OECD officials tried to have Quinlan and Mitchell, who are guests at the Mexico City hotel where the OECD meeting is being held, removed from a public lobby (below) outside the meeting room.



An OECD security official accosted Mitchell and Quinlan and ordered them to leave the lobby – even though they were in a public space that serves as entrance to a restaurant and business center.

When Mitchell flatly refused to budge, the OECD official backed down, probably because the attempted suppression was witnessed by members of the press who were covering the event.

"For a group that claims transparency as one of its goals, the OECD's hypocrisy is remarkable," Quinlan said. "Not only do they refuse to allow taxpayers to observe their events we are forced to pay for with our taxes, they don't even want them anywhere near them."

Mexican Machismo

If I do say so, this sort of high handed, undemocratic action by the OECD is consistent with its decade long smear campaign of tax havens and the millions of honest people who use and provide service in them.



My guess is that the autocratic OECD secretary-general, **José Ángel Gurría Treviño**, (leyt) a Mexican economist and diplomat who served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs (1994-99) and as

Secretary of Finance (1999-2000) in the administration of former president **Ernesto Zedillo**, was showing his machismo on his home turf.

From the time he took office in 2007 the egotistical Gurría has shown himself to be a mini-dictator.

As I noted yesterday, the OECD has a bloated staff of 2,500 tax exempt diplomats, up from 2,000 since Gurría took over, with a 2009 US\$430 million budget, over 25% paid by U.S. taxpayers, although the U.S. is only one of the 29 OECD member countries.

Flak for an Angel



The Economist newspaper did an early expose (*An angel flies into some flak*) of his free spending, bureaucratic nepotism, describing his early months at the OECD as "turbulent" and marked by favoritism in filling posts.

Some directors resigned and the Canadian delegation, in a letter to Gurría dated April 4th, 2007, warned him that "the OECD secretariat and its senior management must embody, and be seen to embody, the very highest standards of good governance. Anything less can threaten the integrity and credibility of the organization." [Read the full Economist article here.](#)

Unlike the OECD anti-free speech goons, we'll let you see the other side of the argument, [Gurría's disingenuous denial.](#)

Posh Luxury You Helped Pay For

Before Gurría took office, a decision was made to refurbish the top man's 480-square metre (5,000-square-foot) apartment in the poshest part of the swanky 16th Arrondissement of Paris. The original cost estimate of around €600,000 (\$815,000) grew to a final cost of €733,000 (US\$1.4 million). Even that was not the actual total, because some €300,000 (US\$426,000) was hidden in other budgets. The OECD claimed the upgrade "was necessary to preserve the value of the asset".

In spite of a U-Tube bit on [the OECD web site](#) extolling the group's supposed willingness to exchange and debate views on taxes and tax havens

I think we can readily guess that the very insolence of free marketers in and near his Mexico meeting, (In my own country!) might have angered Secretary General Ángel Gurría to the point of ordering his goons to try and strong arm the opposition.

Clumsy Bully - Part Two

As I said yesterday: "The OECD plays the bully with repeated clumsy attempts to crush tax havens and force a uniform system of high taxes worldwide."



What happened in the ornate lobby of the Sheraton Centro Histórico Hotel & Convention Center, was consistent with the past actions of these paid blacklisters who do the bidding of the 30 member nations, many of which, like France and Germany, and the U.S. under Obama, are high tax, socialist welfare states. These brigands are bent on ringing every last dollar, pound or euro out of taxpayers -- and with shutting down free market opposition whenever they can.

Their actions expose them for what they are and will hasten their ultimate defeat. Ultimately, freedom will triumph.

You Can Help

You can be certain the Sovereign Society will do its part, as will the Center for Freedom and Prosperity, but you can help too, by sending a generous contribution to the CFP that will help them continue their vital work.



The Sovereign Society is a recognized voice in the complex offshore world. Join the Sovereign Society and keep informed.

Posted at 09:40 PM | [Permalink](#)

TrackBack

TrackBack URL for this entry:

<http://www.typepad.com/services/trackback/6a00d83451b3ec69e20120a595cd48970c>

Listed below are links to weblogs that reference OECD Tries to Suppress Dissent, Free Speech:

Comments

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.



Your comment could not be posted. Error type:

Your comment has been saved. Comments are moderated and will not appear until approved by the author. Post another comment

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? View an alternate.

