

Matt Yglesias

Sep 9th, 2009 at 6:14 pm

Endgame

Am I the only one who's insane?

- The anti-czar movement [may be dumb](#) but you've got to respect [a recursive acronym](#).
- These guys [must be anti-semites](#).
- New Republic Editor in Chief Martin Peretz [thinks the Financial Times is anti-semitic](#).
- One school district won't let kids hear Barack Obama, will [bus them to see George W. Bush](#).
- Is it really the Cato Institute's view that we should [abolish the Federal Reserve System](#)?

Very excited for the Ladyhawke / Ida Maria show on Saturday; here's Ladyhawke's "[My Delirium](#)".

- [Comments](#)
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27 Responses to "Endgame"

1. [DAS](#) Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 6:20 pm](#)

Why are the so-called conservatives so upset about "czars" now? I remember back in the 1980s or so my dad (who is a real conservative, of the sort that the crazies in the GOP drove straight into the loving arms of the Democratic party) was complaining about the proliferation of czars and how this was such good publicity for the Commies (he figured they could say, "we booted our Czar but the US, the supposed beacon of liberty, is proliferating them?"). So why were those lovers of Reagan, et al, who hijacked the GOP so silent about this? And why are they angry now after all this time?

I wonder what it is about Obama that gets them up in arms? Hmmm ...

2. [linus](#) Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 6:29 pm](#)

"— Is it really the Cato Institute's view that we should abolish the Federal Reserve System?"

I wonder who would be on the [Springfield currency](#).

3. *Al* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 6:33 pm](#)

Is it really the Cato Institute's view that we should abolish the Federal Reserve System?

Where did anyone say that?

4. *James Gary* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 6:34 pm](#)

The anti-czar movement may be dumb but you've got to respect a recursive acronym.

I'm not surprised. After wingnuts get done watching Glenn Beck in the evenings they usually congregate in book clubs and discuss "Gödel, Escher, Bach."

It's one of those things about far-right culture that's not generally known.

5. *Consumatopia* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:05 pm](#)

It seems kinda lame to recurse on two letters, though.

6. *judson* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:13 pm](#)

"My Delirium" is a great song.

7. *Ed Marshall* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:15 pm](#)

@Al

I don't know what else the policy prescription would be. Alan Reynolds is also playing really cute with his numbers. He neatly starts his history about half way through the Long Depression in order to avoid having to get into seriously, demented, historical revisionism about the panic of 1873 and it's aftermath.

8. *Rob Mac* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:18 pm](#)

— *The anti-czar movement may be dumb but you've got to respect a recursive acronym.*

Maybe you do, but Czar Accountability and Reform Act ain't one.

At the townhall I attended last month, nothing got the crowd more worked up than when one of the questioners said "If we can afford to pay the salaries of 34 new czars . . ." All through the auditorium people started shouting "Czars, grumble, grumble, grumble." It was the most telling moment of the whole thing and kind of put the whole healthcare/socialism freakout into perspective.

9. *Czarinas!* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:30 pm](#)

Depending on who's counting ObamaRama have appointed 30 to 40 czars many of whose titles suggest a duplication of the efforts of cabinet officers and department

heads.

Quick Matty, name them and their duties.

It is not unreasonable for Congress to inquire after the scope of their responsibilities.

But of course the progosphere does object to this sort of Congressional oversight.

I wonder what about Obama makes them so daylight adverse?

10. *Matt W* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:37 pm](#)

I will respect the Czar Accountability and Reform Act if it turns out that they had it printed in Cyrillic so “cz” is one letter. Or if it’s about the hereditary Russian monarch.

11. *Rob Mac* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 7:50 pm](#)

Depending on who’s counting ObamaRama have appointed 30 to 40 czars . . .

Yeah, a lot depends on who’s counting. If the person counting just calls every presidential advisor a “czar”, then that’s a pretty fair statement. Says more about the counter than about Obama, though, doesn’t it?

12. *rapier* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 8:33 pm](#)

Yes real libertarians want to abolish the Fed. After fake libertarians, Greenspan, took it over or applauded its depredations, Kudlow, for a generation. This is a subset of the conservative principal of doing every thing possible to misgovern when in power in order to prove government doesn’t work.

There is no way to get there from here without a return to something akin to those lovely days of the Middle Ages. After which a new system would presumably arise wherein a small group gain ascendancy in monetary matters with the aid of government and the elites, and turn it to their advantage.

The Libertarian ideal is that no system is the best system. Which might work in heaven or when people are perfected. In the less ratified air the divine lesser Libertarians are mostly upper middle class dweebs looking for an reason to explain their relative postion and having wet dreams about rising to the top, like Gault.

13. *guy* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 8:35 pm](#)

It’s not really recursive. Firstly, because the acronym Czar isn’t the same as the word Czar, when used in the name of the bill. GNU is recursive because the G stands for ‘GNU’, but the C in the ‘CZAR Act’ doesn’t stand for the CZAR Act, it stands for the word Czar.

Second, technically, the C in ‘CZAR Act’ doesn’t stand for anything. The CZ in ‘CZAR Act’ stands for czar. Unless the ‘z’ is in there only to help the pronunciation (has anyone ever added a ‘z’ to an acronym to make it *easier* to say?).

14. *calling all toasters* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 8:40 pm](#)

The Crazyed Zombies Attack Reality (CZAR) Act would be a better name.

15. *Njorl* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 9:04 pm](#)

I'm going to be the death panel Czar.

16. *joe from Lowell* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 9:23 pm](#)

There's a legitimate question about the growth of executive branch officials who aren't confirmed by Congress. I'm not sure where I come down on that question, because rather than raise the issue in an enlightening manner, the Republicans have, as usual, chosen to slather it in a heavy coating of horse manure, and I don't want to touch it.

17. *joe from Lowell* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 9:28 pm](#)

czars many of whose titles suggest a duplication of the efforts of cabinet officers and department heads

That's not one of the good questions that's raised.

That's like saying that the National Security Advisor duplicates the efforts of the Secretary of Defense and Pentagon.

No, one of the advises the President and helps him set White House police, and the other implements policy, as dictated by the President and Congress, by running an executive branch department.

18. *joe from Lowell* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 9:29 pm](#)

Wow, I can't type sober.

Ahem.

"...one of the advises the President and helps him set White House policy..."

19. *Matt W* Says:

[September 9th, 2009 at 10:53 pm](#)

"...one of them advises the President..."

20. *Aaron* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 12:11 am](#)

It's not even a recursive acronym though, because it isn't defining the term recursively (like GNU's Not Unix). It's just an acronym that happens to be the same as the first word of the acronym, as "czar" is separately defined. So it's just shitty.

21. *Steve Sailer* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 5:25 am](#)

Anybody who gets appointed “czar” of this or that doesn’t have enough power to get anything important done.

22. *joe from Lowell* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 8:06 am](#)

For the most part, that’s true, Steve. But then, they’re not supposed to “get things done.” They’re supposed to formulate policy.

However, the term “czar” is also being applied to certain officials out the departments, who do get things done. The “Border Czar,” for example, actually runs the DHS’s border enforcement operations.

23. *SLC* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 8:16 am](#)

According to the article in Haaretz, some 1350 Palestinians were killed in the three week campaign in Gaza. Gee, Hafaz Assad killed that many in the first hour of his assault on the City of Hama and he didn’t give a flying fuck whether they were civilians or terrorists.

24. *SLC* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 8:18 am](#)

Re rapier

Did Mr. Kudlows’ proposal to abolish the Federal Reserve occur while he was high on the nose candy?

25. *Njorl* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 8:40 am](#)

the proliferation of czars and how this was such good publicity for the Commies (he figured they could say, “we booted our Czar but the US, the supposed beacon of liberty, is proliferating them?”).

The commies had plenty of czars. That’s just what they called ‘em, too, commie-czars.

26. *Troy* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 8:50 am](#)

You need to say more on this czar crap, Matt.

27. *The Lorax* Says:

[September 10th, 2009 at 9:08 am](#)

The commies had plenty of czars. That’s just what they called ‘em, too, commie-czars.

Don’t turn around...the commie-czar’s in town?

