

Today is Wednesday June 22, 2011

Bobby Jindal has been led our state now for approximately 3 and one half years and I think it is time to acknowledge some of the most notable achievements of his first term as governor of the Great State of Louisiana.

Governor Jindal, our most traveled governor in Louisiana history has logged well over a thousand hours in State Police helicopters, spending Sundays campaigning in churches mostly in north Louisiana. Additionally, he has logged hundreds of hours in Army National Guard helicopters traveling to the coast after Hurricane Gustav and Ike and the BP oil spill in an effort to point out that President Obama wasn't there and that the Federal government was doing nothing.

And, while the State of Louisiana struggles with the national recession having unprecedented unemployment, Governor Jindal crisscrosses the United States of America delivering the curious good news of business growth and job creation under his leadership. Of course all the while Jindal's pointing out that Washington is out of control and that he is prepared to bring his principles of success in on hands management to our Nation, that is once he is back in Louisiana for a visit. For the wisdom he delivered, millions of dollars were bestowed upon him by his adoring followers, for his re-election campaign.

Who can forget Governor Jindal's adamant and very public refusal to accept the millions of stimulus dollars from Washington. And who can forget the very generous six foot by two foot presentation checks delivered to each and every parish of the State from the special checking account of Governor Bobby Jindal along with the same inspiring speech, except for the 'insert parish name here' part. I know how special I felt as we accepted the checks in the five parishes I serve. Some were trying to throw dispersions on those special occasions saying that the money doled out was Federal stimulus money, but we know the Governor refused those dollars.

Let's not forget the encouragement Governor Jindal has given to our eldest Veterans in his campaign travels pinning the State's veterans during his interrupted out of State travel. And of course encouragement given to the young people of Louisiana. Among those are the ability to pay more for an education in State Universities while losing courses of study and outstanding professors almost by the minute. Graduates have much more job opportunities today, out of state jobs that is. And special thanks should be given to Governor Jindal for his attempt to make smoking more affordable.

And for special friends of the Governor, great business opportunities have been given adding big dollars to their bottom lines. Notables coming to light during this legislative session alone are the opportunity afforded to Vantage Health to participate in writing the RFP for an unprecedented awarding of a book of business away from the Office of Group Benefits. In a meeting in Timmy Teeple's office attended by the Commissioner of Administration, the Governor's Chief Council, Teeple and three executives from Vantage Health, Ex. Director Tommy Teague was given the instruction and language to provide a book of business for Vantage Health. How's that for transparency.

Next we have CNSI, a company headquartered in India and being the former employer of our newest Health and Hospitals Secretary had the RFP re-written so that they could be eligible for the \$34 million dollar award for handling the Medicare billings and administration. This again done by Administrative Act bypassing the legislative oversight. We want to point out that those Louisiana jobs will now headed to points unknown in a continuing Jindal effort on job growth, just not for Louisiana residents.

And now it is my understanding Bobby Jindal will be saving the State of Louisiana \$10 million by firing 149 employees at the Office of Group Benefits as soon as I get my butt away from Baton Rouge. Of course the flip side of this significant savings is that it will cost a likely doubling of the savings amount in additional cost to the State by placing the PPO plan in the hands of some favored private insurance company as evidenced by the Chaffe Report steadfastly kept under the shield of 'NEW TRANSPARENCY' by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. The real and yet unreleased final report is more critical of this deal than the draft we saw. The cost of that deal within the Governor's office will be born by all Louisiana taxpayers.

While resolutions from the Legislature, Judges Association, The Office of Group Benefits Board of Trustees and numerous State retiree organizations have been sent to Gov. Jindal opposing the placing of OGB in private hands, the Governor has seen fit to ignore us.

I would be remiss not to sincerely thank the Governor for one thing that has stood out this year, it has been a long time since Republicans and Democrats have courageously stood together and in opposition to Bobby Jindal's efforts to denigrate and devalue the contributions of State employees and retirees along with other administration efforts not in the best interest of Louisiana.

Good Bless Louisiana

Oh yea, I'm available if you need someone on your staff.

