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CFL Bulbs, a Congressman in a Tiger Suit,

by PETER GADIEL February 25, 2011



I dropped a light bulb yesterday; a CFL "energy saving" type with mercury in it. The kind which our heroes in Congress are forcing us to use by outlawing the manufacture of the old, reliable, and safe incandescent bulbs.

Well, the thing didn't break, but knowing how toxic and volatile mercury is supposed to be I decided to see what the EPA says about cleaning up if one does break. The EPA website tells us how to do that without poisoning yourself, the kids or the pets in [three single spaced pages of warnings](#).

Their first recommendation is: "Have people and pets leave the room."

By telling us to have people leave the room, the EPA bureaucrats appear to think that the job will be done by a robot. But, knowing most of us don't have one, the EPA recommends airing out the room for a while and then having a human being return to contaminated area to follow the other three pages of life saving directions and precautions.

After you're all done, continues the EPA: "Requirements for CFL recycling vary by state. Some states require recycling mercury-containing light bulbs after they burn out. For more information about state-specific requirements, please contact your state or local environmental regulatory agency."

What this means in plain English is that you'll put the junk in the trash and it'll go into a local landfill to help poison the environment along with a few billion other mercury laden bulbs.

As capable as the EPA is of creating havoc on its own through regulation, this particular bit of insanity originated in Congress which passed the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, signed into law by George W. Bush.

An aside: The Department of Energy has a website called "Energy Star" which [asks us to agree to the following](#): "I will do my part to save energy and fight climate change. I pledge to: Replace at least one light in my home with [a CFL]."

Instead, I'm pledging not to add mercury to landfills, by laying in a lifetime supply of incandescent bulbs. This will save energy and help "stop global warming" by avoiding the wasteful energy use that will be required when future generations have to clean up the mercury mess in our landfills. It isn't just the light bulb ban that brings to mind the character and sanity of some of our members of Congress. More recently we've been treated to a photo of Congressman David Wu (D-Ore) dressed in a tiger suit, the latest in a series of bizarre acts which have resulted in attempts at "intervention" by advisers and resignations by his staff. In the Congressman's defense it should be added that he was the first and perhaps is still the only Member to alert the Nation in a 2007 speech on the House floor that there are "Klingons in the White House."

Given the way this country has been run for the past twenty years I suspect that he's onto something here. However, aside from this one redemptive observation, his behavior has apparently been so weird that the Seattle Weekly's blog ("The Daily Weekly") issued what must be the best possible diagnosis: that Mr. Wu is "bats***t crazy."

For a year or more his odd behavior has been known to Oregon's Democrat hierarchy and his staff (maybe since his 2007 Klingon speech?), but was concealed from the public during his re-election bid last year. This was done in order not to hinder his chances of beating his Republican opponent. How about that for putting loyalty to one's party above loyalty to the Nation?

Wu's not the only member of who seems to be a little nuts. Rep. Christopher Lee (R-NY), a married man with children, posted a beefcake picture of himself on Craig's list in an effort to find a woman to hook up with. He was forced to resign.

His actions reflect poorly on the Congress. Sure he was immoral, but that's nothing unusual among government officials. His real problem was that he was stupid: all he had to do was leave the Republican Party and become a Democrat. Then all of his shenanigans would be excused as being "just about sex" and his political career could thrive and he could grow up to succeed a Clinton as President or Secretary of State.

Talk of sex, being crazy and Congress leads inevitably to the subject of Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev). Long before he became Majority Leader, Reid was an ardent opponent of illegal immigration. In 1993 he introduced the Immigration Stabilization Act of 1993 which included strong measures to stop illegal immigration and punish illegal aliens. Upon becoming Majority Leader when the Democrats won majority in the Senate, Mr. Reid pulled an about face. He became an ardent supporter of illegal immigration.

A few days ago Sen. Reid suggested that Nevada end legalized prostitution. Reid is either as crazy as Rep. Wu or as dumb as ex-Rep. Lee. For if Nevada outlaws prostitution, he's going to have to find another career.

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