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The Sovereign State of Congress

by Gary DeMar

The Iran-Contra hearings were very revealing on a number of counts. But one item caught my attention: No matter how well some people try to orchestrate affairs to make other people look good and others to look bad, it's bound to backfire. A ton of ink has been spilled analyzing the entire affair. All the hoopla that preceded Col. Oliver North's testimony was designed to make Congress look good and to make the President look bad. It didn't work. Their "conspiratorial" designs were ruined by a man who delivered a simple message to the American people. The people to whom Oliver North appealed probably don't vote. This is why we have so many scoundrels in Congress.

But I wonder if the American public picked up on one thing that House committee member Henry J. Hyde said about the workings of Congress and how Congress exempts itself from laws that it creates for the rest of the nation? Most Americans are not aware that Congress exempts itself from certain laws that all American businesses must follow. As many American business leaders will tell you, the number of forms that must be filled out to prove compliance to these laws is staggering. The larger companies can afford to hire additional personnel to handle the paper work of bureaucratic nit-picking deemed necessary through the legislative fiat of Congress. Smaller companies must take up valuable office time to complete the forms and check the numbers, and if necessary, hire the lawyers to defend themselves if the government does not agree with the calculations. There is such an intimidation factor, that most small business



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