

Accountant Whistleblower Larry Fisher

I became aware of what I considered to be internal financial and economic threats to the U.S. government as the Veterans Administration's (VA) Accounting Section Chief during the period 1980 thru 1986. Upon entering that position, I read the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) procedures for computing the VA's budget totals, aka Budgetary Resource Reports (SF-133s), that consisted of countless formulas that I, no one within the VA, or even OMB could explain. We were literally backing into (fudging) whatever budget totals we needed to make those formulas balance. This was a big deal because if the VA's budget totals were inaccurate, so too were all the other department, bureau, and agency budget totals, including the President's and Congress' federal budget totals because they included a summary of those individual budget totals. In 2002, my concerns were validated by 2 Department of Defense auditor (DOD) whistleblowers (Jim Minnery & Franklin Spinney) who also stated that they could not account for 25% of each annual DOD budget. As a federal accountant of 40-years (1970 – 2010), now retired, I also believe that today's \$6+ trillion federal budgets include 25% and much more in political/corporate waste.

During my 6 years at the VA, I was so concerned over what I saw that, on my own time, I created a modified version of the AICPA's (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) private sector's generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to address the unique budgeting and accounting needs of the U.S. government. Unlike the U.S. government's politically driven process, my governmental GAAP-based model was formula driven to ensure the accuracy of those Budgetary Resource Reports (SF-133s), the status of each department's, bureau's, and agency's budgets (amount available, committed, obligated, expended, and more), and now also accurate federal budget totals. I also wrote a GAAP-based book, "Principles of Accounting, Budgeting & Cash Management For Government" that explained how this process works. But, in October 1986, the inevitable happened! The VA overspent its budget, and I was told to make the adjustments to hide that deficiency. I refused, resigned in protest, and gave my required written reason for resigning as the "VA's falsification of its budget totals" then illegally changed by the VA's 4 levels of loyal (non-accountant) political appointees to "disagreements over systems improvement ideas."

After resigning, I felt obligated to address my concerns over these internal financial and economic threats, so I took a 1-year unpaid sabbatical. In early 1987, I used my GAAP-based material to lobby Congress and the Central Agencies [Treasury, Government Accountability Office (GAO), and OMB] regarding the need for GAAP-based reform. On October 13, 1987, Treasury created its Financial Management Services (FMS) Branch that included 9 civil servants, 8 college degreed accountants to critique my book and a single college degreed IT civil servant to test that GAAP-based accounting software. Now, there was no excuse for not creating those accurate department and federal budget totals as I was the lead Treasury systems accountant and worked with an OMB accountant (Ed Waddy) and a GAO accountant to oversee this GAAP-based process, and a real opportunity to better manage the U.S. government and cut its costs, but with one hidden problem!

Treasury's FMS Deputy Commissioner, Erv Faunce, who hired me, had already rigged the process to fail, as those other FMS accountants did not critique and address any accounting errors that I may have made in creating my GAAP-based model. Instead, we tested 2 private sector non-GAAP-based software packages, from American Management Systems (AMS) & Computer Data Systems Inc. (CDSI), where I learned later that Erv Faunce had obtained a VP position with CDSI. This was also the real reason I was hired because I and those other OMB/GAO accountants were told to sign a written statement certifying that those 2 software packages had complied with the Central Agencies' accounting and systems standard when they did not. I refused, quit my Treasury systems accountant liaison position, and despite my protests, those 2-deficient private sector (CDSI/AMS) software packages were placed on the General Services Administration's schedule, and then made available to all unsuspecting federal departments, bureaus, and agencies, at a \$10 billion annual rip-off to America's tax payers. Later documentation exposed how Congress' 1978 Civil Service Reform Act's (CSRA) deregulation, privatizing, and outsourcing policies were an integral part of not just this fiscal sector scam but that has now led to the political and corporate takeover of the "American people's" U.S. government, by its temporary political caretakers, illegally and unconstitutionally!

Prior to the Erv Faunce FMS fiasco, I had learned of Congress' Joe DioGuardi, a certified public accountant (CPA), and discussed my concerns with him regarding the need to get Congress, the President, and their AICPA out of the business of forcing their deficient AICPA non-GAAP-based accounting standard on the executive branches' federal accountants. Little did I know that he would be the later author of Congress' 1990 Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act that legally required (wink/nod) an accurate accounting of each federal budget, starting in 1997, again with another hidden problem! Rep. Joe DioGuardi's 1990 CFO Act created an AICPA controlled/FASAB (Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board) and a new set of the AICPA's non-GAAP-based standard to prevent an accurate accounting of all federal budgets, again! The accuracy of this statement was confirmed in GAO's March 2021 testimony to President Joe Biden and Congress, via GAO's inability to certify the accuracy of the last 24 (1997 – 2021) federal budget totals. The only information missing from GAO's testimony were the roles that the last 7 Presidents (Reagan – Biden), 23 Congresses (95-118), and the Central Agencies (GAO, Treasury, OMB) political appointees had played in preventing those accurate department, bureau, agency, and federal budget totals.

In March 1990, I tired of the Central Agencies' fake efforts to generate accurate federal financial statements and obtained a government service (GS-14) EPA Accounting & Systems Branch Chief position in North Carolina where I was now about to learn just how nefarious and undemocratic Congress' 1978 Civil Service Reform Act's deregulation, privatizing, and outsourcing policies were. For the first time during my 20-year federal accounting career, my new GS-15 supervisor had no college accounting degree and acted as a thug. His message was clear. Outsource EPA's inherent accountant, auditor, and IT duties to 4 Fiscal Sector Contractor (FSC) types [AICPA accounting, AICPA auditing, IT, and management firms], or you will be replaced with someone who will.

I did not agree. Instead, I documented all levels of EPA's corruption. For trying to expose the truth, I lost my branch chief position, upstairs office, transferred to a vacated basement mail room, now had recycled/broken furniture, and even framed over bogus gun threats to a supervisor in a failed attempt to intimidate and fire me. My freedom of information act request should have publicly exposed the lawless acts of then 5 Presidents (Reagan – Obama) and Congress but was declared secret/confidential business information by President Barack Obama, never to see the light of day. In December 2010, I retired from EPA with the duties of a GS-4 data entry clerk (still at a GS-14, \$130,000 salary), of a U.S. government that I no longer trusted, feared, and vowed to change. Worse than what happened to me is that over the last 20-years (1990 – 2010) of my career, EPA's accounting branch had replaced its college degreed accountants with non-accountants who are still paying AMS to "fix" its software, and that I had decertified as Treasury's lead systems accountant. These weakened EPA, and federal wide fiscal infrastructures, led to the Securities and Exchange Commission's elimination of its accounting fraud task force. So today, both the U.S. government's federal budget totals and corporate financial statements are anyone's guess, also in violation of Congress' 1883 Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act, 1978 Civil Service Reform Act, 1990 CFO Act, 2002 Sarbanes Oxley Act, and Congress' ever growing list of its lawless and meaningless laws!

Over the last 14 years of my retirement, I created America's Bottoms Up Democratic Business Model (<https://budbmweb.com>), and 47 whistleblower's short stories to record the lawless acts of those 7 Presidents and 23 Congresses, and a stark revelation. If corporations have business models to ensure their success, there was no reason why we (Congress' newly elected/re-elected members, constitutional lawyers, and whistleblowers) cannot work together to create a bottoms-up, more democratic form of government, via Congress' required 3rd civil service reform to depoliticize all 3 (legislative, executive, judicial) of its no longer functional branches of the U.S. government. This website's Government Reform page is an attempt in that direction to recreate a non-partisan/qualified civil servant executive branch to legally question: (1) Congress' laws, (2) the President's and their political appointee's actions, and (3) how the judicial branch, including the U.S. Supreme Court, evaluates the law as a first step to creating a credible gameplan for cutting both parties' self-inflicted 46 year (1978 – 2024) \$34+ trillion debt spike, the sole source of these high inflation rates.