

DEMOCRACY
DIES IN
THE DARK

POGO

PROJECT ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT
30TH ANNIVERSARY / 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

30th Anniversary

Dear Friends,

This year marks a significant milestone for POGO: our thirtieth anniversary.

In 1981, with only a desk, a phone, and some amazing sources, Dina Rasor founded the Project on Military Procurement—a scrappy offshoot of the National Taxpayers Union. Under the guidance of Pentagon insiders Ernie Fitzgerald, Pierre Sprey, and Colonel John Boyd, Dina used the government’s own documents to expose the wasteful spending and falsified weapons tests that were making defense contractors rich at the direct expense of our troops.

Over the past thirty years, POGO has evolved and grown, changing our name to the Project On Government Oversight and expanding our watchful eye to even more areas of government. Now POGO’s work spans the federal bureaucracies, covering agencies from the Food and Drug Administration to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of the Interior.

Also, as technology has dramatically changed the landscape of how everyone works, we have embraced new ways to communicate our findings. We have moved from simply sending out press releases to also producing our own newsletter, blogging, posting on Facebook, tweeting, podcasting, and uploading YouTube videos.

Finally, POGO has launched programs to strengthen good government structures, such as our Congressional Oversight Training Series and our advocacy to strengthen the independence and accountability of Inspectors General.

But through all the changes, we have stayed true to our core values: using the government’s own information and working with whistleblowers and other insiders, we remain an aggressive, non-partisan watchdog, relentless in our mission to expose waste, fraud, and abuse. We are looking forward to the next thirty years of POGO working to fix the problems we uncover, and pushing for a more open, ethical, accountable, and effective federal government.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Brian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Brian, Executive Director

**LIBERTY
LIVES IN
THE LIGHT.**



SCOTT AMEY TESTIFIES BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT PANEL HEARING ON TREASURY'S USE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY, SEPTEMBER 2010



Activist journalism has a celebrated tradition, going back to the US muckrakers in the early 20th century or the Project on Government Oversight today.

THE DEW LINE, MAY 10, 2010

By demonstrating the fundamental principles that we value most in the military—honesty, integrity and courage—POGO fights the good fight every day.

PAUL RIECKHOFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA

ABOUT POGO

The Project On Government Oversight is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

POGO has earned a solid reputation for uncovering deep-rooted systemic problems which threaten the integrity of the federal government. By working effectively with whistleblowers and expert insiders, and conducting in-depth investigations, POGO is able to provide accurate and reliable information, findings, and recommendations that are trusted by policymakers, the media, and the public. In fact, policymakers frequently adopt and implement our recommendations to fix the systemic problems originally investigated by POGO. We are further able to advance public policy improvements because we have built solid bi-partisan relationships with congressional allies and senior agency officials, and have engaged in an aggressive public education program.

In POGO's continuous drive to create positive systemic reform, we not only focus on problems in government policies but also on problems with the government's oversight and accountability infrastructures. If those structures can be made healthy, it is far more likely that the integrity of the government can be ensured.

HOW POGO WORKS

- **Identify** systemic corruption or other misconduct in federal government
- Launch independent **investigations**
- Work with whistleblowers, insiders, and other knowledgeable individuals to **research and confirm** findings
- Recommend **common-sense solutions** for positive change
- **Inform public** of findings
- Work with government officials to **initiate systemic policy improvements**
- Continue to work towards a more **effective, accountable, open, and ethical** federal government

HOW POGO IS HELPING TO MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK

The task of making the government work better takes more than issuing reports, meeting with policymakers, and working with the media. It's also about building a community of advocates, journalists, partners, and policymakers who care about good government. POGO is helping to build that community through a variety of recent initiatives. On the Hill, POGO works directly with lawmakers of all stripes to put more accountability into legislation, and helps to develop a broader network of congressional allies through briefings and events. In addition, POGO's Congressional Oversight Training Series (COTS) continues to hone the investigative skills of staffers and to spark discussions about the best way to conduct effective oversight throughout the legislative branch.

Off the Hill, POGO serves with partner organizations on the steering committees for the Make It Safe Coalition and OpenTheGovernment.org, and on the Congressional Transparency Caucus Advisory Committee. Meanwhile, our Muckrakers' Happy Hours have become a popular gathering spot for good government wonks of all kinds. Drawing everyone from whistleblowers to journalists to NGO do-gooders to Hill staffers, these happy hours have become the perfect forum for swapping tips and strategizing on policy reforms and investigations.

Last but not least, POGO continues to cultivate a burgeoning community of online advocates. Through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a host of other networks, POGO has spread the "provoke accountability" message far and wide, engaging with followers from all over the country. And we'd love for *you* to get involved. If you haven't had a chance to yet, be sure to follow us on Twitter, "Like" our page on Facebook, and sign up for email updates by visiting our homepage—that way you can be sure you won't miss a beat.



A LOOK INTO ONE OF POGO'S CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT TRAININGS



BRYAN RAHILA AND NICK SCHWELLENBACH DISCUSS DEFENSE CONTRACTING IN A POGO PODCAST



As bad as things appear in government, I cannot imagine what the situation would be without a watchdog like POGO.

FRANK SERPICO



ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROGRESS



DANIELLE BRIAN TESTIFIES WITH WHISTLEBLOWER TERRY PEARSON BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN ON THE USE OF PRIVATE SECURITY CONTRACTORS



ANGELA CANTERBURY SPEAKS AT THE NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER ASSEMBLY, MAY 2010



Inside Carnegie Corporation, POGO is known for being able to create a huge impact with a strategically important but comparatively modest amount of Corporation funds.

CARNEGIE RESULTS, SPRING 2010

> EFFECTIVE

Facilitating Monthly Oversight Training Series on the Hill: POGO's Congressional Oversight Training Series continues to spark idea exchange, encourage collaboration, and hone the investigative skills of congressional staffers from both sides of the aisle.

Spurring Review of Inspector

General Hotlines: Following our 2009 investigation into the Inspector General system, POGO urged the IG community to conduct a review of its whistleblower hotlines, a key avenue for intake of whistleblower tips. In response, the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency released *Recommended Practices of Office of Inspector General Hotlines*, a report highlighting best practices for hotlines from around the IG community.

> ACCOUNTABLE

Pushing Congress to Add Accountability Measures to Financial Reform: POGO played a pivotal role in strengthening the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act by working with Congress to add whistleblower protections for financial industry employees; rewards and protections for whistleblowers who provide tips to financial regulators; a GAO audit of the Federal Reserve; consumer financial protections; and greater independence for Inspectors General at financial regulatory agencies. These transparency and accountability measures will strengthen the financial regulatory system and help avert another financial meltdown.

Organizing and Presenting Second Annual Whistleblower Film Series:

Our second Whistleblower Film Series, a part of the 10th annual DC Labor FilmFest, showcased films that explore the valuable role of whistleblowers at a critical time in the effort to restore and modernize protections for federal government employees. The 2010 Series featured the Washington, D.C., premiere of *Fair Game* and two screenings of *The Informant!*

> OPEN

Shedding Light on Contractor

Responsibility Information: POGO has been at the forefront of the fight for public access to information in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), the government's new database containing contractor responsibility information. In July 2010, Congress signed into law a provision requiring information in FAPIIS to be available to the public online. POGO also updated its own database, the Federal Contractor Misconduct Database, upon which FAPIIS is modeled.

Bringing More Openness to

Executive Branch Agencies: With the December 2009 release of the Open Government Directive—the Obama Administration effort to bring increased transparency to the executive branch—agencies have been required to undertake a variety of open government initiatives. As part of an effort spearheaded by OpenTheGovernment.org, POGO has been monitoring agency progress on these initiatives, and has worked with

agencies to bring about improved compliance with the Directive as they move forward with their Open Government Plans.

Closing Secrecy Loophole in Financial Regulatory Reform Legislation: POGO led the charge in an effort to strike language from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act that had given the Securities and Exchange Commission sweeping new powers to hide its records from public scrutiny. President Obama signed a bill to repeal this portion of the financial regulatory reform legislation in October 2010.

> **ETHICAL**

Untangling Conflicts of Interest at a Broken Agency: Following 15 years of POGO raising concerns about conflicts of mission at the Minerals Management Service—the Interior Department’s agency responsible for oversight of offshore drilling—the executive branch adopted reforms championed by POGO to divide MMS into separate bureaus with strengthened ethics rules.

Sparking Other Investigations: POGO’s work also motivated IG offices to open other investigations: the Department of the Interior IG began an investigation into ethics at the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Health and Human Services IG reopened an investigation into allegations of whistleblower retaliation at the Food and Drug Administration.

> **TESTIFYING ON CAPITOL HILL**

Testimony of POGO’s Scott Aney before the Congressional Oversight Panel on “Treasury’s Use of Emergency Contracting Authority”

Testimony of POGO’s Angela Canterbury before the House Committee on Financial Services on “Legislative Proposals to Address Concerns Over the SEC’s New Confidentiality Provision”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on “Examination of The Department of the Interior’s Oversight of Offshore Oil Drilling”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan on “Are Private Security Contractors Performing Inherently Governmental Functions?”

Testimony of POGO’s Danielle Brian before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on “The Deep-water Horizon Incident: Proposals to Split Up the Minerals Management Service”

I work closely with a group, in addition to Heritage [Foundation], who gives me tremendous access to, not only information, but to thought and to these ideas that make a difference here. I work with a group called POGO.

REPRESENTATIVE DARRELL ISSA (R-CA)

The efforts of the Project on Government Oversight to shed light on the use — and misuse — of taxpayer money has been invaluable in helping to make government more accountable to the people that it serves. I commend POGO for its continued efforts to promote efficiency and transparency in the federal government.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT (D-NJ)



House Party

POGO is lucky to have so many supporters who care deeply about the issues we work on. A number of those supporters wanted to find a way to introduce POGO and its work to their friends, while at the same time raising money to help POGO continue that work. As a result, the idea of the House Party was born. This is a terrific opportunity for POGO supporters in your area, as well as friends you think should learn more about POGO, to meet our staff and hear the latest on our work. The first was hosted by Harold and Stephanie Bronson in Los Angeles, and the most recent by Micheline Klagsbrun and Ken Grossinger in their lovely Georgetown home.

If you're interested in hosting a party for POGO, please get in touch with Abby Evans at aevans@pogo.org.

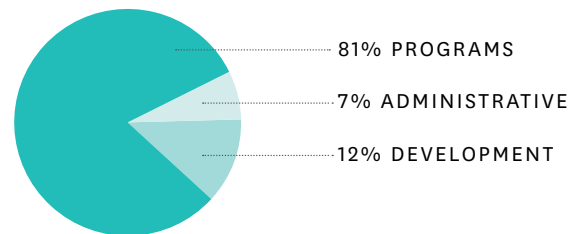
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES*

REVENUE	
Grants	\$2,048,913
Contributions	97,198
Investment Income.....	146,045
Volunteer Services.....	57,960
Publications and Other Income	7,680
Total Revenue	2,357,796

PROGRAM SERVICES	
Nuclear Weapons Security Investigations	184,152
Nuclear Power Plant Investigations.....	14,155
Contract Oversight	179,260
Inherently Governmental Functions.....	100,592
Emerging Programs	138,039
Defense and National Security Investigations	113,643
Energy and Natural Resources Investigations	86,958
Whistleblower Protections.....	82,208
Financial Sector Oversight	81,892
Public Health Investigations	81,467
Government Oversight	80,297
Government Corruption (Revolving Door)	71,807
Inspector General.....	64,796
Government Secrecy	46,818
Congressional Oversight Training.....	40,079
Direct Lobbying	40,961
Total Program Services.....	1,407,124

SUPPORTING SERVICES	
Administrative	121,790
Development.....	206,405
Total Supporting Services	328,195
Total Expenses	1,735,319
Change in Net Assets.....	622,477
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	3,344,588
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR.....	\$3,967,065

*January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010 / Audited



In order to preserve our independence, POGO does not accept contributions from the government, unions, corporations, or anyone with a financial stake in the outcomes of our investigations. POGO accepts limited contributions from law firms, capping each at less than 1% of POGO's operating budget. POGO also accepts employee-directed contributions and donor-matching funds from companies.

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POGO also extends thanks to the many contributors who gave between \$1 and \$99 in 2010— we deeply appreciate all of our generous supporters. You are truly the foundation of our organization. If we somehow neglected to acknowledge you here, please let us know and accept our regrets.

* Member of the Monthly Giving Club

[‡] Gave to the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund

[‡] Gave to the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund and to POGO

POGO STAFF



LEFT TO RIGHT: DANNI DOWNING, JAKE WIENS, PAUL THACKER, PAM RUTTER, ANGELA CANTERBURY, SCOTT AMEY, NEIL GORDON, CHRIS PABON, NICK SCHWELLENBACH, KEITH RUTTER, MANDY SMITHBERGER, BRYAN RAHIJA, ABBY EVANS, DANIELLE BRIAN, AND MICHAEL SMALLBERG. (NOT ALL STAFF COULD MAKE THE PHOTO SHOOT.)



You at POGO are in that special group of people who do not seek financial aggrandizement at the expense of others, but gain personal and professional satisfaction by trying to expose wrong-doing and change things for the better and for the common good. You are very special Americans.

A. BRYAN SIEBERT, RETIRED DIRECTOR, THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR AND NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

NEW STAFF PROFILES



ANGELA CANTERBURY, *Director of Public Policy*, is an experienced advocate, policy analyst, and public campaign strategist. She has testified before Congress and has been instrumental in efforts that have improved the financial regulatory system, lobbying and congressional ethics rules, whistleblower protections, the Freedom of Information Act, and other open government initiatives. Prior to joining POGO, Angela served as the Director of Advocacy for Public Citizen's Congress Watch division, and before that she worked with the League of Women Voters of the U.S.



JOE NEWMAN, *Director of Communications*, is a veteran journalist and media strategist. He serves as POGO spokesman and oversees the organization's media strategy, working closely with investigators and policy analysts to publicize their work across print, broadcast, and online media, as well as social networks. Before joining POGO, Joe served as Deputy Director of Communications at Public Citizen, and before that worked for the *Orlando Sentinel*, *St. Petersburg Times*, and *The Palm Beach Post*.



NICK SCHWELLENBACH, *Director of Investigations*, rejoined POGO in 2010, and oversees POGO's investigations. In addition, he conducts national security-related investigations into national security-related corruption, incompetence, and waste; transportation safety; government secrecy policies and practices; and the effectiveness of government oversight. Prior to rejoining POGO, Nick was a staff writer at the Center for Public Integrity. Nick's previous work as a POGO investigator on lavish Air Force accommodations for generals was one of three investigations cited by the Society of Professional Journalists when they awarded POGO its prestigious national Sunshine Award.



PAUL THACKER, *Investigator*, joined POGO after three years as an investigator on the Senate Finance Committee for Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa. Paul focused most of his energies on health care oversight. Paul's investigations resulted in many universities tightening their policies on physician interactions with industry, caused the NIH to introduce new conflict-of-interest policies, and were critical in helping to pass Senator Grassley's Physicians Payments Sunshine Act. Prior to working on the Hill, Paul spent several years as a journalist writing about science, medicine, and the environment.

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THANK YOU!

FORMER STAFF MEMBERS MARTHENA COWART AND INGRID DRAKE; FELLOW JANET SU; AND INTERNS ALEX BLAND, JAMES BUDNICK, RICK D'AMATO, RACHEL FEUER, LAUREN PERRY, TOM SEEGER, AND REBECCA ROTENBERG.



BETH DALEY

“Freedom is only as strong as the citizens who fight for it.” – Beth Daley

Most people who know the Project On Government Oversight know Beth Daley. In 2010, she lost a hard-fought seven-year battle with breast cancer.

For over ten years, Beth was a vital part of POGO. Her passion for POGO’s mission was fueled by her outrage at corruption, deep empathy for those who suffered retaliation for simply telling the truth, and gleeful enthusiasm for mentoring young people learning to conduct investigations. She helped to build our small non-profit into the institution it is today, and everything that went out the door had her imprint.

Shortly after her passing, a remarkable thing happened: Beth’s family, friends, and fellow do-gooders opened their wallets to honor her by establishing a fellowship in her name — the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund.

Beth was POGO’s first Director of Communications, and so the first Daley Fellow will work specifically in Communications. Beth’s legacy will live on through POGO’s continued ability to mentor the young people she so valued as they work to fulfill the mission that she so cared about.

Beth mentored many young people at POGO. These are memories of just two: Amelia Kegan, Summer and Fall Intern, 2003, “I cannot think about POGO

or my internship there without thinking of Beth. Her character exemplified the best qualities of POGO— she was always full of energy and humor. One would think in an organization where you focus on the problems within government—corruption, waste, mismanagement—it would be too easy to become disillusioned. Yet Beth did the opposite, and I left my POGO internship more optimistic about the role of government. Beth’s work combined with her character was instrumental in shaping POGO into the organization it is.”

Christopher Potter, Summer Intern, 2001, “Beth was a terrific mentor. When I was a 20-year-old intern, in over my head attempting to write a comprehensive report on wasteful spending at the Pentagon, not only did Beth put up with my ambition, but she always had time when I needed thoughtful help, advice, and direction, which she offered with an enthusiasm that wouldn’t quit. But what I appreciated the most was what she taught me through our periodic off-topic conversations about how things really work in Washington and the world at large. She knew her stuff.”

If you would like to honor Beth’s legacy through the Beth Daley Memorial Impact Fund, please contact Chris Pabon at cpabon@pogo.org.

FROM TYPEWRITERS TO TWITTER

A GLIMPSE AT POGO THROUGH THE YEARS.

Learn the names behind the faces here:
<http://www.pogo.org/about/30/30.html>



MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

POGO

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30 YEARS OF POGO: EXPOSING CORRUPTION, EXPLORING SOLUTIONS.

PROJECT ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT

is founded by Dina Rasor to expose waste, fraud, and abuse in the defense budget.



The Project exposes first operational test failures of the M-1 tank and challenges the effectiveness of several weapons, including Air Force AWACS and terrain-guided cruise missiles.

C-5B AIRCRAFT \$500 MILLION OVERRUN EXPOSED

The Project's exposure of the C-5B overrun results in a market selling frenzy and the closing of the trading board for Lockheed stock.

LAW PASSED TO SLOW "REVOLVING DOOR" AT PENTAGON

The Project raises awareness of "revolving door" policies within Pentagon, leading to a law limiting government employees from going to work for companies they oversee.

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

The Project champions Senator Charles Grassley's (R-IA) legislation that makes the False Claims Act the most effective tool to fight fraud against the government.

PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS

The Project helps defend Air Force whistleblower A. Ernest Fitzgerald's assertion of his First Amendment rights when he refuses to sign a government-wide "gag order."

POGO

The Project expands to include all federal agencies, and changes its name to the Project On Government Oversight (POGO).

\$11 BILLION SAVED

POGO is credited with cancellation of the wasteful \$11 billion Superconducting Super Collider project, the largest government program cancelled up to that point.

AGENTS AT THE DOOR

Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary dispatches Inspector General agents to POGO's offices in an attempt to uncover its sources of Supercollider document leaks.

AIR FORCE THREATENS TO CONFISCATE POGO'S FILES

The Air Force retroactively classifies Area 51 document obtained by POGO and threatens to confiscate POGO's files. (The Air Force didn't succeed.)

WARNING LABELS

The EPA requires improved aerosol safety labels warning of the highly flammable content of bug bombs in response to a POGO investigation of industry pressure on the government.

DOE TO MOVE URANIUM WASTE TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY

The Department of Energy agrees to move the 10.5 million-ton Moab uranium mill tailings pile from the banks of the Colorado River after POGO exposes government's failure to protect public health and safety.

CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS SHOWDOWN

Rep. Don Young (R-AK) fails four attempts to hold POGO in Contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over our phone records of calls with undisclosed oil royalty whistleblowers.

OIL ROYALTIES PAID

Oil companies pay a total of \$440 million for fraudulently drilling on public lands; money goes to public education, taxpayers, and land and water conservation funds.

MAJOR CUTS TO WEAPONS SYSTEMS:

POGO is instrumental in cutting major weapons systems with hefty price tags and lackluster benefits.

\$38 BILLION
COMANCHE HELICOPTER

\$11 BILLION
CRUSADER

1/3 OF THE
B-1 BOMBER FLEET

FRAUD, SECURITY BREACHES & CORRUPTION

Los Alamos National Laboratory forced to reorganize; director and 16 top officials leave jobs after sources working with POGO expose fraud, security breaches, and corruption.

POGO WINS LAWSUIT

against Attorney General John Ashcroft and the Department of Justice for illegally retroactively classifying information critical of the FBI.

WHITE HOUSE BACKS DOWN

White House backs down on attempt to allow government employees to charge up to \$250,000 on government purchase cards after POGO exposes wasteful practice in Katrina contracting.

ELECTION DATA: INACCURATE AND UNRELIABLE

Federal Election Commission agrees with POGO that election data is inaccurate and unreliable. Many reporting discrepancies found.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT TRAINING SERIES LAUNCHED

A monthly training series aimed at teaching a new generation of congressional staff the art and science of government oversight.



SECURITY FAILINGS

POGO worked with a CBS news affiliate to draw national media and congressional attention to security failings at a Pennsylvania nuclear plant, including video of sleeping guards.

FEDERAL CONTRACTOR MISCONDUCT DATABASE

Contractor	Federal Contract \$ (FY2009)	Instances of Misconduct (Since 1995)	Misconduct \$ (Since 1995)
1. Lockheed Martin	\$38148.1m	57	\$ 590.1m
2. Boeing Company	\$20135.3m	40	\$1597.7m
3. Northrop Grumman	\$17114.0m	33	\$ 845.7m
4. General Dynamics	\$16705.7m	13	\$ 78.5m
5. Raytheon Company	\$15776.2m	21	\$ 479.2m

POGO was instrumental in getting a law passed that creates a database of government contractor performance, modeled after POGO's: www.contractormisconduct.org

MILLIONS SPENT ON "COMFORT CAPSULES"

POGO revealed that Air Force generals were spending millions of taxpayer dollars to fly in custom-built "Comfort Capsules" while our troops fly in seats barely bolted to the floor.

WHISTLEBLOWERS EXPOSE DEVIANT BEHAVIOR IN KABUL

POGO worked with whistleblowers to expose the *Lord of the Flies*-like security environment at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, including a demoralized and overworked guard force.



Warning!!

This project is infested with RATS! Be cautious of what you say and do around those suspected of being rats... Rats can cost you your job and your family.
"Never rat on your friends and always keep your mouth shut".

PRODUCTION OF F-22 FINALLY HALTED

POGO worked with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Carl Levin (D-MI) to halt production of the F-22, a longtime POGO target and symbol of Pentagon excess.

STRENGTHENED ETHICS RULES AT MMS

After 15 years of POGO raising concerns about conflicts of mission at the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the Obama administration divided the MMS into separate bureaus with strengthened ethics rules.