



DOGE Does the IRS

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A note of caution going into today's subject: let us try to bite our tongues; no expressions of *schadenfreude*; no sarcastic "Boo-hoos" or the like.

The IRS has been grossly inefficient for a very long time, as now uncovered in a Department of Government Efficiency [DOGE] investigation.

Courtesy of Laura Ingraham, we [learn](#) that the Internal Revenue Service is "35 years behind" in its scheduled upgrades, and "already \$15 billion over budget."

"You've heard the sob stories," says Ms. Ingraham. "And they are quite entertaining at times. But the [presumably non-Fox legacy news] media—they continue to spread this story: 'DOGE is some dark and mysterious organization; you know, embedding itself into departments like some jack-booted thugs, just intimidating staff, threatening those that don't comply.' OK. We're asking, what is the truth?"

So she interviewed Treasury Secretary Scott Bessant and Treasury's

DOGE adviser, Sam Corcos.

"We," Corcos said, including himself in the IRS's very "they" themness, "process about the same amount of data as a midsize bank. A midsize bank has 100 to 200 people in IT and a \$20 million budget. The IRS? It has 8,000 IT employees and a \$3.5 billion operations and maintenance budget. I don't really know why yet." But he does notice that 80 percent of that budget goes to "contractors and software licenses."

"DOGE advisers have found billions in waste just by asking questions," explains Ingraham's report. Secretary Bessant blames the power of special "entrenched interests" that "keep constricting themselves around the power, the money, and the systems. Nobody cares."

"Inertia" is also a word often heard on this subject.

Democrats have been complaining about the president's cutting of the IRS budget, and number of employees. But if most of the force is just spinning gears, the cuts could hardly be said to hurt the "service."

And you'd think that the most pro-government party in our political system would want this key function of government—everything rests on taxes, they admit—to be efficient, do the assigned jobs well.

But for some reason that does not seem to be the case.

Shocking, I know.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.