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# What Should Americans Be Worried About?

Monday, February 11, 2013

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US President Barack Obama delivering the 2012 State of the Union address. (Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images)

President Obama will give his State of the Union address tomorrow. Whether the president is a Democrat or a Republican, the state of the country always seems remarkably optimistic when seen through the Commander in Chief's rose-colored glasses.

This year, in advance of President Obama's speech, we're looking at the difficult questions the president will likely ignore on Tuesday. In 2013, [what should weigh on American minds?](#)

That's the question posed by [Edge.org](#) in 2013. Every year, Edge poses a question to a group of experts from a variety of fields, and judging from this year's responses, Americans have plenty of concerns.

**Dr. P. Murali Doraiswamy**, professor of psychiatry at Duke University, worries that American mental health diagnoses are [blindly exported abroad](#). **Lisa Randall**, professor of physics at Harvard University and author of "[Warped Passages: Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions](#)," worries about the [waning investment](#) in research and development.

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#### Margaret Heft from Detroit

I worry about a slow but insidious move toward an undemocratic United States of America, where the majority of our human citizens are not participating in the democratic process, and not welcome to do so. I worry, for instance, about the power of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) that writes and passes Bills, at the state level, without the knowledge of the general voting public.

These Bills, written by ALEC, are purposely NOT introduced at the national level because those Senators, Representatives, Governors, and ex-Governors, ex-Presidents, corporate heads, and lobbyists, who belong to ALEC, wish to secretly form "model" Bills that favor corporate interests. Now that corporations, since January 21, 2010, are American citizens, ALEC's excuse for passing these Bills into law is that members of ALEC ARE including "citizens" in writing state legislation.

Feb. 13 2013 11:50 PM

Score: 0/0

#### caesius254

No matter the rhetoric of our collective "Employees", they will continue to ignore the abuses of Corporate America, and now Corporate International on these shores - and allow them to finagle the rules and find back-door, after back-door to avoid any sort of adherence to any kind of ethical business practices towards consumers.

Take the recent stories about the large numbers of Incorrect Credit reports and the impossibility of the consumer to correct them, to have access to the same info shared with other parties, etc, etc...

Shows nothing but the complete disregard of not only the Financial Industries, but our entire Government to behave ethically and responsibly.

The more this goes continues only lessens the legal abilities of the citizenry to muster any protests with any impacts.

Feb. 12 2013 04:04 PM

Score: 0/0

#### Angel from Miami, FL

OBAMA! (That's the reply to the question in the title.) I jest.

Feb. 12 2013 10:30 AM

Score: 0/0

#### Ann E, from Weatherford, Texas

I've made two trips to the hardware store in the past week and had to stand waiting to get a key made. At the "sporting goods" counter first time, 4-5 men buying guns. Second time (Friday), 8-10 men buying guns, notably handguns. I asked the guy making my key, "Is a season opening?" He said, "It's Obama's gun law." That's gotten me very worried.