

Please rid us of Roby

Written by News Desk
Thursday, 05 December 2013 17:12 -



By **ART PARKER**

About a week ago I opened a letter personally addressed to me from Martha Roby, who represents the Second Congressional District of Alabama in the U.S. House of Representatives. The letter was dated November 8 of this year. I do not know when it was mailed because the members of Congress don't pay for this type of mail sent and therefore, the envelope does not have a postmark or meter mark of any kind.

It is certainly not the first time I have received mail from those that live off my tax money in Washington. It is the first piece of mail I have received from Roby. Her opening sentences after the traditional salutation are as follows: "Thank you for contacting me regarding our nation's budget crisis. I appreciate hearing from you, and I welcome the opportunity to respond."

Well, that's nice. Of course, I never contacted Roby about the budget crisis or anything else. I believe any voter should be offended if they receive a letter from an elected official pretending to respond to an inquiry because such action is only an attempt to score political points.

The only real reason I know for Roby sending this correspondence to me is based upon a question I asked her when she visited Millbrook for one of her Town Hall meetings last August (2012). My question was about her sponsoring legislation that would require the passage of a constitutional amendment that would require Congress to operate with a balanced budget...the same type of legislation that hundreds of congressional members have proposed over the years

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in attempt to get political points with people back home. I call it one of those "make 'em think I'm responsible" bills because they know it will go nowhere. We have tons of this same unnecessary activity in Alabama at our State House.

When I asked the question that day at the Millbrook Civic Center it had been less than 30 days since Roby had introduced her balanced budget legislation. Yet, when I asked her to explain the language in the bill she looked at me and asked me what I was talking about. It took her a while but she finally said she remembered something about it. Of course, she could not answer my question about her legislation.

I remember writing about this the following week, in this same space, and remarking that it is understandable for a member of Congress to forget some things. But forgetting that you proposed an amendment to the United States Constitution, when your proposal is less than 30 days old, tells me that you have no idea what you are doing and that you do not pay attention to what you are supposed to be doing. It confirms, in my mind, that Roby is probably doing only what she is told to do by her party and the party leadership instead of paying attention to representing the people that pay her salary.

Now that I have said all of this it may explain why I received a letter regarding my supposed interest in our nation's budget crisis, FIFTEEN MONTHS after asking the question. If she sent the letter to me based upon my question fifteen months ago I should feel insulted and any constituent of hers should feel the same way under the same circumstances. I'm insulted, but I'm also convinced more than ever that Roby is about the biggest air head we have ever sent to Congress. I wasn't expecting any leadership from her because I never believed she could lead a herd of ants to a picnic, but I did expect a little common sense.

But the situation is worse than I thought. I just read where the GOP is thinking about placing her on the House Appropriations Committee. I cannot believe the Republicans would let her get close to the nation's checkbook. Believe me, I am sending a letter to John Boehner, the Speaker of the House. The first sentence will be: Mr. Speaker, please save America and do not appoint Martha Roby to the Appropriations Committee.

Please join me in this effort. His address: John Boehner, Speaker of the House, H-232 The Capitol, Washington, D.C. 20515.