



As many as 2 million protesters attend 9/12 Washington, D.C. Tea Party Rally

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Saturday's "Tea Party" rally in Washington, D.C. may have far exceeded almost all expectations. According to individual reports



on the internet late Saturday The National Park Service had reportedly estimated around 1.2 million people attended the rally. There is no mention of the rally on the Park Service website and I have been unable to confirm that they have released any official estimate.

Some websites citing the 1.2 million number

have claimed to be quoting Park Service employees, but I can find no direct quotes from anyone connected to the Park Service that can be confirmed at this time. Phone calls to the NPS went unanswered on Sunday.

There were also several reports Saturday saying that ABC and Fox News had reported that the crowd was estimated to be as high as 2 million. ABC News is now saying they never reported that number. According to ABC they were misquoted by a rally speaker. At this time there is no report on the Fox News website that includes an estimated attendance figure.

Some liberal websites and blogs are putting the number much lower, with estimates ranging anywhere from 20,000 to 70,000. Based on photographs and video footage of the event the numbers would appear to be much larger than those estimates. The ticketed area of the National Mall alone has a capacity of 240,000 and the crowd clearly filled that area and beyond. The public access area of the Mall holds nearly 950,000 and photographs of that area show it to be at or near capacity, although it has been reported that other groups were holding events in that area.

Several different groups combined to organize the rally, including Glenn Beck and his 9/12 project and former Congressman Dick Arme

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and the FreedomWorks Foundation, but most of those in attendance said they came on their own and that they had never taken part in any type of protest before Saturday.

On Friday the White House claimed they had no idea the rally was even planned. A ridiculous assertion that shows how dismissive the Obama administration and the Democrat-led Congress are of those who oppose their agenda. It is impossible to believe that President Obama knew nothing of the event. The denial is a perfect example of why the President is losing the trust of many Americans. He stretches his credibility to its limits, and beyond.

In any case, I'll bet Obama and Democrat Party leaders are aware of it now. What difference it will make remains to be seen. In recent weeks the tea party protesters have been called everything from tea-baggers to Nazis by the left. What will be the consequences of continuing to attack and dismiss a growing movement that seems to be gaining considerable steam and refuses to be silenced?

It will be interesting to see how the President and Congressional leaders respond to the stunning turnout for Saturday's rally. It is highly possible that President Obama won't make any public comment, and likely won't be asked to do so by the mainstream media.

It's hard to imagine that Nancy Pelosi and other Democrats on the Hill will be able to ignore it, or to hold their tongues. I expect their defiant tone will continue, but it could be at their own peril. While Pelosi, whose Congressional district includes ultra-liberal San Francisco, has no fear of losing her seat in the 2010 election, many other Democrats are definitely in danger. If they doubted that before, Saturday's rally should have grabbed their attention.

Rally-goers said they are not strictly anti-Obama, or anti-Democrat, but instead are fed up with big government, corruption, high taxes, and runaway spending. They said they have had enough of politicians who don't listen to their concerns and are more afraid of special interests than they are of the voters. Many in the crowd said they were Democrats or independents. The protestors were clearly from across the political spectrum, young and old, black and white, male and female. It will be hard to dismiss them as being only angry Republicans.

Those taking part in the "Tea Party" movement will more than likely be extremely encouraged by Saturday's numbers, and it's easy to believe that it will only grow stronger as the 2010 mid-term elections draw closer. Can you envision the effect a crowd of this size, or even bigger, showing up in D.C. next September would have on the campaigns of

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incumbent Democrats seeking to remain in office? I'm pretty sure we'll find out.



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