Bureaucratic Behaviour

from newly discovered blog Isegoria, Robert Conquest's Three Laws of Politics

> *Francis W. Porretto notes that Cyril Northcote Parkinson studied the same phenomenon of bureaucratic behavior:*
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> *Parkinson promulgated a number of laws of bureaucracy that serve to explain a huge percentage of its characteristics. They've exhibited remarkable predictive power within their domain. The first of these is the best known:*
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> > ***Parkinson's First Law**: Work expands to fill the time available for its completion.*
>
> *Parkinson inferred this effect from two central principles governing the behavior of bureaucrats:*
>
> 1. *Officials want to multiply subordinates, not rivals.*
> 2. *Officials make work for one another.*
>
> *Like most generalizations, these are not always true…but the incentives that apply specifically to tax-funded government bureaucracies make them true much more often than not. They make a striking contrast with the almost exactly opposite behavior observable in private enterprise.*
> *[…]*
> *That young bureaucrat will profit from deliberate ineffectiveness to the extent that he can get himself viewed as an asset by his superiors and a non-threat by his peers. His superiors want him to produce justifications for the enlargement of their domains. His peers simply ask that he not tread on their provinces.*
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> *Miltion Friedman noted that bureaucratic resource allocation involves spending other people's money on other people, so there are no compelling reasons to control either cost or*

quality – but a bureaucrat will learn, given time, how to "spend on others" in such a fashion that the primary benefit flows to himself.

To do this, bureaucrats must manage perceptions, so that their work seems both necessary and successful: