

Dear usmnews.net

Dear usmnews.net,

I think [Parkinson's law](#) explains what you call "administrative bloat" at Southern Miss? In particular, take a look at what I have marked in bold lettering in the last paragraph.

Parkinson's law is the [adage](#) first articulated by [Cyril Northcote Parkinson](#) as part of the first sentence of a humorous essay published in [The Economist](#) in 1955.^{[1][2]}

Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.

It was later reprinted together with other essays in the book *Parkinson's Law: The Pursuit of Progress* ([London](#), John Murray, 1958). He derived the dictum from his extensive experience in the [British Civil Service](#).

The current form of the law is not that which Parkinson refers to by that name in the article. Rather, he assigns to the term a mathematical equation describing the rate at which [bureaucracies](#) expand over time. Much of the essay is dedicated to a summary of purportedly scientific observations supporting his law, such as the increase in the number of employees at the [Colonial Office](#) while [Great Britain's overseas empire](#) declined (indeed, he shows that the Colonial Office had its greatest number of staff at the point when it was folded into the [Foreign Office](#) because of a lack of colonies to administer). **He explains this growth by two forces: (1) "An official wants to multiply subordinates, not rivals" and (2) "Officials make work for each other."** He notes in particular that the total of those employed inside a [bureaucracy](#) rose by 5–7% per year "irrespective of any variation in the amount of work (if any) to be done".

Name withheld