

## *The Obama Timeline – Part II*

### *The Doomed Presidency*

*April 2013*

On April 1, one month after Obama suggested the world would end because of spending cuts required by the sequestration agreement, the planet remains in orbit around the sun, airport delays are no longer than usual, tainted meat has not poisoned millions of Americans, scientists are still seeking a cure for cancer, and Ashley Judd remains a C-list leftist Hollywood actress who will not be a U.S. Senator from Kentucky.

Barack “do as I say, not as I do” Obama proclaims April “National Financial Capability Month” and “call[s] upon all Americans to observe this month with programs and activities to improve their understanding of financial principles and practices. My Administration is dedicated to helping people make sound decisions in the marketplace. Together, we can prepare young people to tackle financial challenges—from learning how to budget responsibly to saving for college, starting a business, or opening a retirement account. My Administration continues to encourage responsibility at all levels of our financial system by cracking down on deceptive practices and ensuring that consumers are informed of their rights.” (There is no indication that the proclamation is an April Fools Day joke, despite the fact that most people might consider Obama calling for financial responsibility laughable.) [43770]

The Federal Communications Commission seeks public comments on whether it should reduce its language and nudity standards for broadcast television. (That the agency is asking for comments means, of course, that it is considering allowing more nudity and profanity.) [44048]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “As the immigration reform Gang of Eight [senators who are negotiating amnesty legislation] inside the Beltway prepares to announce a deal later this week, claiming border security will come before a path to citizenship for millions of illegals, Border Patrol agents have seen illegal border crossings double and warn the cutting of agent work hours will only result in less border security, not more. ‘We’ve seen the number of illegal aliens double, maybe even triple since amnesty talk started happening,’ an agent told *Townhall*, who asked to remain unnamed due to fears of retaliation within Customs and Border Protection [CBP], something he said is common. ‘A lot of these people, although not the majority, are criminals or aggravated felons. This is a direct danger to our communities.’ ...*Townhall* has learned Border Patrol agents working the border have been fully funded, yet internal political battles within CBP may be causing funds to be funneled to managers, rather than those getting their boots dirty on patrols.” Shawn Moran, Vice President of the National Border Patrol Council, states, “Customs and Border Protection has been given enough money to fully staff the border but has chosen to use the money elsewhere, we believe it is to fund

the salaries of Supervisory CBP Officers. ...It is internal politics within CBP and also with immigration reform. There are still battles between legacy Customs, INS, and Border Patrol managers as to the direction CBP takes and how the funds are being used. Meanwhile both parties claim no immigration reform until the border is secured; well, this surely will not secure the border.” [43764]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that immigration reform legislation “is something that is necessary because it will be good for our economy, it will be good for our businesses, it will be good for the middle class. And [Obama] is focused on working with Congress to get this very important piece of business done on behalf of the American people and the American economy. That’s his priority.” (Obama’s priority had previously been creating jobs for Americans; it has apparently now shifted to creating jobs for illegal immigrants. Carney does not explain how amnesty will “be good for the middle class”—and no reporter bothers to ask.) [43820]

The White House host its annual “Easter Egg Roll,” an event which has been held there since at least 1876—even though Congress passed a law in 1877 forbidding the building’s grounds from being used as a playground. Celebrity guests include race car driver Danica Patrick, football player Adrian Peterson, actress Quvenzhané Wallis and Sesame Street characters Abby, Gordon, Rosita, and Elmo. (The White House may not be aware that the 28-year-veteran voice of Elmo, Kevin Clash, has been accused of having sexual encounters with a 15-year-old boy). At the start of the proceedings, Michelle Obama says, “Today we’re gonna [sic] have more than 30,000 people who will pass through this yard in celebration of nutrition and health and activity. So today we want you to have a great time. We want you to run around. We want you to go over and see the White House garden. We want you to learn about making tasty, healthy food. We’re gonna [sic] come down and do some Easter Egg Roll [sic]. We’re gonna [sic] read some stories. But overall, we want you guys to have a good time and keep moving and be healthy. And, kids, eat your vegetables, okay?” [43766, 43767, 43768, 43769, 43777, 43784, 43819, 43827]

At the Easter Egg event, Obama shoots baskets with several of the children and players from the Washington Wizards. According to the pool reporters, Obama sinks a mere two baskets in 22 attempts. (Media leftists are stunned by Obama’s poor performance but stop short of reporting, “The basket missed 20 of Obama’s 22 shots.” Their reaction prompts Rush Limbaugh to ask, “Isn’t it a little racist to assume that Obama would be good at basketball? I mean, where is this lofty expectation of Obama on the basketball court coming from? We have it at his word. He tells us that he’s good at basketball, and we already know from others who’ve worked with him that he thinks he’s an expert at everything. Maybe he thinks he’s excellent at free-throw shooting. Anyway, they’re very, very concerned about this.” The Internet rumor mill blames Obama’s lack of coordination on “an inoperable brain aneurism.”) [43766, 43767, 43768, 43769, 43777, 43784, 43819, 43827, 43869, 43907]

Bloomberg.com reports, “U.S. lawmakers await the results of a Department of Veterans Affairs probe into why an agency employee processed more than 1,500 awards just under a monetary threshold that would require public disclosure of the contracts. The inquiry focuses on a staff member who oversees orders for some VA health facilities in New York and New Jersey and who processed transactions worth more than \$42 million over a roughly 18-month period. A letter from a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee said that the purchases ranged in amounts between \$24,500 and \$24,980. Transactions of \$25,000 and more are generally required to be published on a federal government procurement website to encourage as many bids as possible. ...Lawmakers said they were concerned that many of the transactions were done on the same day with a single vendor, and potentially violated a federal law requiring agencies to seek competitive bids for government work...” There were “25 purchase orders issued for Bismark Construction Corp. at \$24,900 each, on December 30, 2010, for a total of \$622,500” and “...the employee in question created 25 transactions for \$24,900 each for orders to Kinetic Concepts Inc. ...on Nov. 9, 2011.” [43775, 43776]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports that Obama will attend four California fundraisers on April 3–4, and observes, “The way-early fundraising blitz suggests Obama is far more focused than the White House is admitting on capturing the House for Democrats so he can railroad legislation through Congress after the 2014 elections.” (Obama will first make a stop in Denver for a gun control speech—in order to make the trip “official business” and stick the taxpayers with the cost of a significant portion of the trip.) [43780]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that officials at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been using instant messages to communicate sensitive or controversial information and decisions in order to avoid turning them over when they receive a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Paper documents and emails are reluctantly provided, but the EPA pretends that the instant message do not exist or are not subject to FOIA requests. “Christopher C. Horner, the researcher who earlier uncovered that EPA officials were using private email addresses to conduct official business, said that in going over some of those earlier records he discovered that the agency was using instant messages, too. He is now suing to get a look at those records, which he said the EPA has been stonewalling. ‘It seems we have uncovered yet another major transparency scandal in that either EPA is destroying instant messages against the law, or it is withholding them in defiance of its legal obligations to produce,’ Mr. Horner said. The lawsuit says EPA ‘has never produced an instant message in response either to a request under FOIA, or in response to a congressional oversight request, despite numerous requests from both for ‘records’ or ‘electronic records.’ ...Mr. Horner is trying to get instant message records of former Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, former senior climate adviser Lisa Heinzerling and current Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy. ...Obama has nominated Ms. McCarthy to be the next administrator, but congressional Republicans have said questions over the email records could hurt her chances for confirmation.” (Former EPA administrator Jackson frequently used the fictitious name “Richard Windsor” in emails to avoid complying with FOIA requests for messages sent to or from “Lisa Jackson.”) [42007, 43790]

The Associated Press reports on the various ways Obama “shapes the news” in his favor by limiting media access and providing “official” photographs and stories issued by the White House. “It’s all courtesy of the Obama image machine, serving up a stream of words, images and videos that invariably cast [Obama] as commanding, compassionate and on the ball. In this world, Obama’s family is always photogenic, first dog Bo is always well-behaved and the vegetables in the South Lawn kitchen garden always seem succulent. ...Capitalizing on the possibilities of the digital age, the Obama White House is generating its own content like no [administration] before, and refining its media strategies in the second term in hopes of telling a more compelling story than in the first. At the same time, it is limiting press access in ways that past administrations wouldn’t have dared, and [Obama] is answering to the public in more controlled settings than his predecessors. It’s raising new questions about what’s lost when the White House tries to make an end run around the media, functioning, in effect, as its own news agency. ... ‘There’s no question that [Obama is] opening and closing the door at his choice,’ says Gerald Shuster, a professor of political communication at the University of Pittsburgh. ‘He’s controlling the flow as much as he can.’” [43791, 43822]

Texas Governor Rick Perry holds a press conference to restate his opposition to ObamaCare and reaffirm his decision not to establish an Obamacare exchange in his state. Perry states, “It would benefit no one in our state to see their taxes skyrocket and our economy crushed as our budget crumbled under the weight of oppressive Medicaid costs. ... We care about our poorest Texans. We want them to have the best care possible, and that cannot happen with a program that is on its way to bankruptcy.” (ObamaCare would put another 1.5 million Texans on Medicaid. Although the federal government would fund that expansion in the short-term, the subsidies will be reduced over time—costing the state billions of dollars.) Perry is joined by Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), who says, “Why in the world would we keep expanding this flawed system, and jamming more and more people into a program where they can’t find a doctor who will see them?” Perry observes that governors of other states who have caved in to Obama on the issue will “come to rue the day, because Medicaid will take a larger and larger share of their state budgets.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) adds that if Medicaid is expanded it “is going to consume a larger and larger share of the state budget that will crowd out education and infrastructure and law enforcement. It’s taking money away from teachers, roads, water, and other vital programs.” [43792, 43839]

Increasing numbers of Democrat politicians develop observational skills and start to wonder whether Obama is only “in it for himself,” with his campaign team Organizing for America—also referred to in some circles as “Obama for Assholes”—siphoning cash from leftist donors that could be used instead to fund House and Senate campaigns. Anita Kumar writes at McClatchyDC.com, “Obama’s new group, Organizing for Action, will focus on his policy agenda—not on electing Democratic candidates—by raising unlimited amounts of cash and accessing [Obama’s] secret list of 20 million supporters, volunteers and donors. The operation won’t share money, resources or the priceless Obama email list with the Democratic National Committee or campaign committees that help elect members of Congress, governors and legislators. And it has no plans to

coordinate efforts, leading some Democrats to worry that it will take money and manpower away from the party as it heads into the 2014 elections for control of Congress. ...Several DNC [Democrat National Committee] members said in interviews that they weren't told about Organizing for Action's formation until it was publicly announced in January. They said that when they'd complained, they were chastised and told by national and state party leaders not to speak publicly. Most spoke to McClatchy only on the condition of anonymity in order to talk candidly about the internal party dispute." (Obama's disastrous governing in 2009 and 2010 led to the Democrats' loss of the House of Representatives in the 2010 mid-term elections. Obama's 2013–2014 actions may lead to the Democrats losing the Senate in the 2014 mid-term elections.) [43813, 43814, 43828]

HotAir.com reports that ObamaCare's regulations provide an incentive to small companies to ship jobs overseas because employees working outside the United States are not counted in calculating whether a business has 50 or more full-time employees—the threshold at which health insurance is required to be provided to employees. (A business with 49 employees that needs an additional accountant would, for example, save money by farming out that work to an overseas employee—and the company would still be considered to have 49 employees for purposes of ObamaCare regulations.) [43816]

At PJMedia.com Victor Davis Hanson writes of America's various modern myths and concludes, "...Obamism is an emotional flight from reality, completely unsustainable to the degree it is a paradigm for anything. It is mythical, this notion of borrowing vast amounts of money to grow government and subsidize a new cadre on government support, or demonizing millions as suspect for their success, or assuming that foreign nations react best to apologies, contextualization, and sermons, or wish to join in the cultural adulation of an American president. Putin could care less. Ditto the North Koreans. In short, in this mythical age, we all know that Barack Obama won the Nobel Prize, but none of us quite know what for. Such is what passes for reality in our age of myth." [43823]

Middle-East-Online.com reports, "The United States on Monday voiced concern over freedom of expression in Egypt following the arrest of a comedian for allegedly insulting President Mohamed Morsi and Islam. US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the detention and release of television satirist Bassem Youssef was evidence of a 'disturbing trend' of mounting restrictions on freedom of expression. Youssef, whose weekly program mercilessly critiques Egypt's rulers, was released on Sunday and ordered to pay 15,000 Egyptian pounds (around \$2,200) pending investigation into the complaints." (JihadWatch.com points out the "staggering hypocrisy" of the Obama administration's criticism: "Remember that in 2011, the UN Human Rights Council adopted Resolution 16/18, with the support of the Obama administration. It called upon Western states to pass laws that would criminalize 'defamation of religion'—i.e., criticism of Islam. Remember also that right after the Benghazi jihad massacre, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton vowed to have the producer of a video about Muhammad arrested and prosecuted—and he is still the only person in prison for those attacks, solely for the

crime of exercising his freedom of speech. And those are just two of the many ways in which the Obama Administration has shown itself to be a foe of the First Amendment. So either Nuland is going to come in for a serious behind-the-scenes rebuke from her superiors, or the Administration is trying to cover its anti-free speech tracks.” [43833, 43834]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, host Bill O’Reilly and guest Charles Krauthammer discuss the controversial sermon at the Easter service Obama attended at the church across the street from the White House. Krauthammer points out that almost all presidents have attended the same church at one time or another, “...even Chester Arthur.” (Krauthammer’s remark is a sly reference to the fact that Chester Arthur was not a legal president because, like Obama, he was not born to two U.S. citizen parents. Arthur kept secret the fact that his father was not a U.S. citizen, and even destroyed documents to maintain that secret. Obama is the nation’s second illegal president. Although Fox News, like the other mainstream media outlets, has ordered its “talking heads” not to discuss Obama’s illegitimacy, the mischievous Krauthammer sneaks in the reference to Arthur.) [43847]

On April 2 *The New York Times* reports on another broken ObamaCare promise: “Unable to meet tight deadlines in the new health care law, the Obama administration is delaying parts of a program intended to provide affordable health insurance to small businesses and their employees—a major selling point for the health care legislation. The law calls for a new insurance marketplace specifically for small businesses, starting next year. But in most states, employers will not be able to get what Congress intended: the option to provide workers with a choice of health plans. They will instead be limited to a single plan. The choice option, already available to many big businesses, was supposed to become available to small employers in January. But administration officials said they would delay it until 2015 in the 33 states where the federal government will be running insurance markets known as exchanges. And they will delay the requirement for other states as well. The promise of affordable health insurance for small businesses was portrayed as a major advantage of the new health care law, mentioned often by White House officials and Democratic leaders in Congress as they fought opponents of the legislation. Supporters of the law said they were disappointed by the turn of events. The delay will ‘prolong and exacerbate health care costs that are crippling 29 million small businesses,’ said Senator Mary L. Landrieu, Democrat of Louisiana [and the 60th vote for ObamaCare in 2010 only because she was promised the employer choice option]. ...The administration cited ‘operational challenges’ as a reason for the delay.” (In 2009 Obama bragged that the exchange would be a place where businesses could “shop for health insurance at competitive prices.” Now their “shopping” will be limited by the presence of only one item for sale.) [43797, 43798, 43808, 43815, 43826]

*Time* magazine’s Joe Klein writes about “Obamacare Incompetence” at [Swampland.Time.com](http://Swampland.Time.com): “Let me try to understand this: the key incentive for small businesses to support Obamacare was that they would be able to shop for the best deals in health care superstores—called exchanges. The Administration has had three years to set up these exchanges. It has *failed* to do so. ...One thing is clear: Obamacare will fail if

[Obama] doesn't start paying more attention to the details of implementation, if he doesn't start demanding action. And, in a larger sense, the notion of activist government will be in peril—despite the demographics flowing the Democrats' way—if institutions like the VA and Obamacare don't deliver the goods. Sooner or later, the Republican Party may come to understand that its best argument isn't about tearing down the government we have, but making it run more efficiently. Sooner or later, the Democrats may come to understand that making it run efficiently is the prerequisite for maintaining power.” [44503]

*CBS This Morning* joins the rumor mill and pushes Caroline Kennedy for Obama's next ambassador to Japan. Guest Robert Dallek, a historian, refers to a Kennedy selection as “sending somebody as ambassador to Tokyo who is representative of the best in American culture.” (What makes Kennedy “the best in American culture” is not clear, and considering that she has not even mastered the English language, with her non-stop use of “Valley Girl” utterances of “like,” “uh,” and “um,” it is unlikely that she would be able to learn Japanese.) Dallek also says that if Obama selects Kennedy for the overseas post, she “would have an opportunity to test her political skills, but also, she would be able to put the Kennedy name back on an international stage.” (Why the Kennedy name is needed on the “international stage” is not explained. Mrs. Schlossberg's main “qualification” for the ambassadorship is that she supported Obama in 2008 over Hillary Clinton—and, of course, her father had his head blown off in a White House coup.) NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty later comments, “Never mind Kennedy not being the most qualified person to be our next ambassador to Japan; she's probably not even the most qualified *Obama donor* for the job.” (With North Korea threatening South Korea, Japan, and the United States, many might consider it critical to select an ambassador whose background and skills would be helpful in a crisis situation—rather than selecting someone solely for political purposes.) [43830, 43859, 43897]

On NBC's *Today* program, Andrea Mitchell pushes Hilary Clinton for president, calling her a “star attraction” and observing that she is only “one thousand days from Iowa”—meaning the Iowa caucuses in the 2016 campaign season. [43831]

The Associated Press declares it will no longer use the term “illegal immigrant” when writing reports about... illegal immigrants. Reporters are told to “use *illegal* only to refer to an action, not a person: *illegal immigration*, but not *illegal immigrant*. Acceptable variations include *living in* or *entering a country illegally* or *without legal permission*.” (The AP will no doubt continue to use the phrase “right wing extremists,” but will perhaps start calling jaywalkers “people who cross the street without permission.”) HotAir.com wonders if AP will call illegal immigrants “strangers from beyond” or “friends you haven't met yet,” and observes, “[I]f push comes to shove, ‘future Democratic voters’ probably wins on accuracy.” (Other replacement terms suggested by Twitter users: “Border jumpers.” “National intruders.” “National trespassers.” “Welcome and honored guests of America who are not here legally but we really, really like.” “‘Drug addict’ is out. Please use ‘Person who consumes a more-than-optimal quantity of narcotics.’” “We will stop using ‘illiterate.’ The preferred nomenclature is now ‘Person who has chosen to forego learning their letters.’” “In sports, ‘losing team’ to be replaced

by ‘team that scored the fewest points but probably tried really hard.’” “Tax increase now ‘expansion of fair share contribution.’” “‘America-hating fascist’ will now be known as ‘Professor.’” “Postpartum infanticide should be referred to as proactive healthcare cost containment.” “Illegal aliens are now ‘People Who Just Happen To Be In The Country After Sneaking In.’” “Car thieves are now called ‘Vehicle Relocation Specialists.’” “‘Comrade Obama’ will now be known as ‘the Messiah.’” “Murders will now be called ‘after-life creators.’” “‘Mexicans’ will now be known as ‘Americans in waiting.’” “‘The Soviet Union’ will now be known as ‘the winners of the Cold War.’” “‘Stalker’ is now to be ‘Person who really just wants to be loved, and that’s okay.’” “Murderer is out. The term ‘accused of unlawfully ceasing the life of another’ preferred.”) Note: *The Obama Timeline* suggests that Associated Press employees should no longer be called “reporters” or “journalists.” [43800, 43801, 43812, 43841, 43918]

The United Nations General Assembly votes 154–3, with 23 abstentions, to approve the Small Arms Trade Treaty. Obama’s ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, votes in favor of the treaty—despite the fact that it is contradictory to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and has no chance of being ratified by the U.S. Senate. (Treaty ratification requires the approval of two-thirds of the Senators.) Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) comments, “It’s time the Obama Administration recognizes [the treaty] is already a non-starter, and Americans will not stand for internationalists limiting and infringing upon their Constitutional rights. Furthermore, this treaty could also disrupt diplomatic and national security efforts by preventing our government from assisting allies like Taiwan, South Korea or Israel when they require assistance.” White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “We are pleased to join with the consensus” on the vote. Rock legend Ted Nugent responds to the U.N. vote by calling Obama a “clear and present threat to freedom and the American way of life. To listen to this man’s heartless rhetoric and gun control scam is a classic lesson in deceit and brainwashing that only clueless, ignorant sheep are buying into. Like his good friend [Senator] Diane Feinstein has admitted publicly, he and his ilk would disarm American families if they thought they could get away with it. We simply will not let it happen. ... “We the people have stepped up to the plate in a most powerful way to the Obama/U.N. gun grab by purchasing more guns and ammo than any society in the history of the world.” [43802, 43806, 43807, 43835, 43836, 43854]

According to a March 13–17 Pew Research poll, 66 percent of Americans support approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. According to the Heritage Foundation, the pipeline would create 20,000 immediate jobs and 179,000 by 2035. [43803, 43804]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating falls to 49/49 in the daily Rasmussen poll. [43809]

Apparently burdened with taxpayer dollars burning a hole in his pocket, Obama calls on Congress to approve \$100 million in spending on mapping the human brain. In the White House East Room, Obama tells a group of scientists eager to receive the grants (that could fund more than 100 years of canceled White House tours), “As humans we can identify galaxies light-years away. We can study particles smaller than an atom, but we still haven’t unlocked the mystery of the three pounds of matter that sits between our



ears.” On the CBS *Evening News*, anchor and Obama sycophant Scott Pelley gushes, “[F]or Thomas Jefferson it was the Louisiana Territory; for John F. Kennedy, the moon. Well today, ...Obama announced a mission to explore and map another frontier filled with mystery and possibility.” [43821, 43829]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A contingent of liberal Democrats in Congress is proposing a new federal gun control idea: mandatory liability insurance for gun owners. When New York Rep. Carolyn Maloney introduced the legislation last month with eight other Democrats, she boasted that it is ‘the first bill to require liability insurance of gun buyers nationwide.’ Maloney’s ‘Firearm Risk Protection Act’ requires gun buyers to have ‘a qualified liability insurance policy’ before they are able to legally purchase a firearm. It also calls for the federal government to impose a fine as much as \$10,000 if a gun owner doesn’t have insurance on a firearm purchased after the bill goes into effect.” (The goal of the scheme is to make gun ownership more expensive to discourage Americans from buying guns. Increasing the cost of gun ownership for law-abiding citizens will have a devastating impact on low-income communities, which is where crime rates are typically higher. Such legislation is essentially a message to poor people: “You are not allowed to defend yourself; only wealthy Americans have that option.” The proposal would also create a list of gun owners and their weapons because the insurance companies would know the names of the policy holders and the serial numbers of their weapons. The government could then simply demand the insurance company records to obtain a state or national gun registry.) [43824, 43835, 43943]

After meeting with South Korea’s foreign minister, Secretary of State John Kerry tells reporters, “The bottom line is very simply that what [North Korean dictator] Kim Jong-un has been choosing to do is provocative. It is dangerous, reckless, and the United States will not accept [North Korea] as a nuclear state.” (North Korea already is, of course, a nuclear state—which makes Kerry’s statement ridiculous.) [43837, 43897]

On Sean Hannity’s radio program Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments on the immigration reform legislation that is allegedly nearing completion: “We still haven’t actually seen the bill. [Democrat Senator] Chuck Schumer keeps promising that there is some bill that one day he’ll show the world. ...I think to the extent they’re increasing resources to secure the border, to increase manpower, to give technology on the border, to just stop illegal immigration, I think that’s a good thing. To the extent they are improving and streamlining legal immigration so our legal immigration system works better, I think that’s a good thing also. The part that I’ve got deep concerns about is any path to citizenship for those who are here illegally. I think that is profoundly unfair to the millions of legal immigrants who have followed the rules, who have waited in line. And so, I think the reason that ...Obama is insisting on a path to citizenship is that it is designed to be a poison pill to scuttle the whole bill, so he can have a political issue in 2014 and 2016. I think that’s really unfortunate. ...I think the American people have learned before that when politicians promise to secure the border, every time it’s been said in the past, it hasn’t happened. So, I think most voters share the skepticism about it. ...I think most voters share the skepticism I have about empty promises and hot air. ...I think anything that requires securing the border first is a step in the right direction. But I

think that a path to citizenship is designed not to pass.” (Including citizenship for illegal immigrants will be the “poison pill” used by Obama and his fellow Democrats to ensure that the legislation is defeated by Republicans. Throughout 2014 Obama and Democrat candidates will then repeat ad infinitum, “The Republicans are racists who hate Hispanics.” If the Democrats win the House and retain the Senate in the 2014 elections, in early 2015 they will then pass legislation granting illegal immigrants immediate amnesty and citizenship, hoping—probably correctly—that they and their descendants will vote for Democrats for generations.) Meanwhile, Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), eager to get the bill passed, states he is willing to *consider* holding *one* hearing on the issue. [43840, 43855]

Sequester cuts and budget deficits notwithstanding, a White House “Memphis Soul” concert is announced. The April 9 event will feature Ben Harper, Queen Latifah, Justin Timberlake and Booker T. Jones. [43843, 44077]

The *New York Post* reports, “Former Weather Underground radical Kathy Boudin—who spent 22 years in prison for an armored-car robbery that killed two cops and a Brinks guard—now holds a prestigious adjunct professorship at Columbia University’s School of Social Work, The Post has learned. Boudin, 69, this year won another academic laurel—being named the Sheinberg Scholar-in-Residence at NYU Law School, where last month she gave a lecture on ‘the politics of parole and re-entry.’ Boudin’s bounce-back into respectability after her 2003 parole comes to light a week before the release of Robert Redford’s movie ‘The Company You Keep,’ loosely based on the \$1.6 million heist.” (Obama’s pals William Ayers and Bernadine Dohrn raised Boudin’s son Chesa after she and her husband, David Gilbert, went to prison. Dohrn was reportedly the document and identity forger for Boudin and other members of the Weather Underground. Kathy Boudin’s father was Fidel Castro’s attorney. Her uncle was I. F. Stone (Isidor Feinstein), an American journalist, communist, Soviet agent, and propagandist.) [85, 205, 384, 387, 395, 416, 438, 439, 440, 521, 1347, 2271, 13032, 13070, 20911, 21126, 21127, 21128, 28376, 28379, 28385, 28389, 28392, 28395, 28400, 28402, 28409, 28442, 43845, 43846, 43848, 43849, 43850, 43856, 43857, 43862, 43896, 43944, 43945, 44056, 44175, 44176]

DailyCaller.com adds, “On Oct. 20, 1981, Boudin participated in a brazen, grossly bungled \$1.6 million Brinks truck heist along with members of the Black Liberation Army, a militant black nationalist group. She also survived a massive 1970 Greenwich Village townhouse explosion, in which a bomb intended for a dance for soldiers in New Jersey went off prematurely and killed three people.” (One of the three killed was Diana Oughton, a Cuba-traveling girlfriend of William Ayers, who then replaced her with Bernadine Dohrn. The Oughton-like character in Obama’s book, *Dreams From My Father*, is one of the many coincidences that lead some to suspect that Obama’s book was ghost-written by Ayers. Ayers and Chesa Boudin served on an education advisory board of Venezuela’s late socialist dictator, Hugo Chavez. Chesa Boudin is the co-author of *Letters from Young Activists: Today’s Rebels Speak Out*—for which Dohrn wrote the introduction. Ismail Khalidi, another of the book’s three authors, is the son of Rashid Khalidi, a former PLO operative who justifies Palestinian terrorism as contributing to

“political enlightenment”—and a close friend of Obama. Co-author number three was Eboo Patel, who has close ties to Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, who has attempted to build a 13-story Islamic cultural center near Ground Zero in lower Manhattan. Patel has called Obama’s former “green jobs czar,” communist Van Jones, “a faith hero.” Patel is also a member of the speaker’s bureau of the Islamic Society of North America, an unindicted co-conspirator in a scheme to raise money for the terrorist group Hamas.) [85, 205, 384, 387, 395, 416, 438, 439, 440, 521, 1347, 2271, 13032, 13070, 20911, 21126, 21127, 21128, 28376, 28379, 28385, 28389, 28392, 28395, 28400, 28402, 28409, 28442, 43845, 43846, 43848, 43849, 43850, 43856, 43857, 43862, 43896, 43944, 43945]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that Democrats attempting to eliminate “special tax breaks” for the oil industry are learning that there are none; the tax deductions and credits used by the oil companies apply to other American businesses. “Thanks in part to a bill sponsored by Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat from Maryland and ranking member on the House Budget Committee, it’s all much clearer now. The congressman has inadvertently called attention to the fact that those special tax breaks just for the oil and gas industry don’t exist. Mr. Van Hollen proposes to create some very special punishments instead. Regardless of the bill’s fortunes on Capitol Hill, it has already performed a public service by illuminating the fallacy behind assaults on the industry.” There is, for example, “a 9% tax deduction from net income for businesses engaged in ‘qualified production activities’ in the U.S. Those activities include manufacturing a product, selling, leasing or licensing it, and engineering and software activities related to that production. The deduction was intended to encourage domestic manufacturing, and in the hope that the tax break could provide a slight competitive advantage against foreign competition.” In fact, the oil companies are currently punished by being allowed only a six percent deduction—while thousands of other businesses can claim the full nine percent. “Ironically,” notes *The Wall Street Journal*, “USA Today just published the top-10 list of companies that paid the highest U.S. income taxes as of 2012, and oil industry companies took three of the slots.” (Van Hollen and Obama believe that Exxon Mobil and Chevron—which paid more in corporate taxes than any other companies in the United States in 2012—are not paying their “fair share.”) [43866]

Peter Suderman writes at Reason.com, “Three years after the law passed, we’re starting to see fairly strong indications that many of ObamaCare’s revenue raisers won’t pan out. Just yesterday, for example, the Department of Health and Human Services bowed to pressure from the insurance industry [and from senior citizens who rely on the program] and reversed its plan to cut payments to privately run Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. Instead of taking a 2.2 percent cut, those plans will instead be given a 3 percent increase. ... The critics who warned that the law’s cuts and revenue projections might not be sustainable are looking increasingly prescient. I suspect that what we’re seeing now is only the beginning. Health insurers will continue to push to repeal the fee[s] on their industry, and if implementation of the law coincides with higher premiums for a large enough number of individual[s], they may well have some success. In 2018, the ‘Cadillac tax’—a tax on expensive health insurance plans—will kick in. Union lobbying already delayed the start date for that provision by several [years], and it’s likely that they will renew their opposition in a few years. The revenue mechanisms built into the law are

starting to fall apart. The spending, of course, remains.” [43867]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the problems the administration has implementing ObamaCare: “This is what happens when you have an administration that has the idea that it can reform, remake, and completely re-regulate one sixth of the biggest economy on planet earth. I mean, I’m not surprised that the regulations are late and they are unclear. And they are also incredibly arbitrary. The waivers people get—thousands of them, who gets it? Who doesn’t? Somebody whom the government or the Democrats or liberals like? Somebody that is not liked? Are you going to get a waiver? Look, when you take away the essence of insurance—insurance, you set a premium according to actuarial risk. So, if you are 60 your healthcare costs are six times what it is for a 20-year-old. So, your premiums are six times as much. But, the Congress in its wisdom, has decided it should be three times instead of six. So once you do that you no longer have an insurance company. This is not insurance anymore. This is regulation, this is government dictated rates, like the electrical company, and people are surprised that all of a sudden you’ve got all these things that aren’t working harmoniously as you would in a market. So, all of this stuff—the delays, the regulation, the arbitrariness, the unfairness—is a direct result of taking over a sixth of the American economy...” [43853]

On April 3 Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “For months we’ve heard ...Obama and his fellow gun control zealots using the line, ‘40 percent of guns are purchased without a background check.’ We’ve heard anti-gunners make this claim under oath in congressional testimony and on primetime television. The problem? The 40 percent figure is an old and bogus statistic that was debunked a long time ago.” *The Washington Post* has reported, “gun purchases without background checks amounted to 14 to 22 percent. And since the [1994] survey sample is so small, that means the results have a survey caveat: plus or minus six percentage points.” (The survey covered 2,568 U.S. households and “only 251 people answered the question about where they got their guns.” Even the author of the study admits, “I have no idea” whether the 40 percent estimate is accurate.) [43838, 43858]

In Denver, Colorado, Obama meets with law enforcement officials and community leaders to discuss the state’s new gun control legislation. (The discussion costs the taxpayers about \$1 million for Air force One expenses.) Obama tells the audience, “And I told the story about two conversations I had. The first conversation was when Michelle came back from doing some campaigning out in rural Iowa. And we were sitting at dinner, and she had been to like a big county, a lot of driving out there, a lot of farmland. And she said, if I was [sic] living out in a farm in Iowa, I’d probably want a gun, too. If somebody just drives up into your driveway and you’re not home—you don’t know who these people are and you don’t know how long it’s going to take for the sheriffs to respond. I can see why you’d want some guns for protection. That’s one conversation.” (The remark shows Obama’s ignorance. Living in rural Iowa with no neighbor closer than a few miles is far safer than living in a crowded Chicago ghetto neighborhood. To suggest that an Iowa farmer is entitled to a gun while a frightened family on Chicago’s south side is not is absurd.) Obama also says no one should worry about guns being confiscated: “You hear some of these folks: ‘I need a gun to protect myself from the

government. We can't do background checks because the government's gonna [sic] come take my guns away.'" (Obama, the supposed Constitutional "law professor," apparently does not understand that the *purpose* of the Second Amendment was to recognize the right of the people to defend themselves against tyrannical governments—including their own.) "Well, the government's us. These officials are elected by you. ... I am constrained, as they are constrained, by a system that our founders put in place." (Obama is essentially saying, "I really would prefer to take your guns away but Congress won't allow me to do so—yet.") Obama delivers his speech with uniformed Denver police officers standing behind him, prompting some to later complain that they were being used as "political props." Larimer County Sheriff Justin Smith calls Obama's visit a "a victory lap" and "a slap in the face to all Coloradans." [43811, 43838, 43868, 43870, 43872, 43873, 43879, 43893, 43898, 43922]

Meanwhile, BizJournals.com reports, "HiViz Shooting Systems intends to leave Colorado in the wake of new state gun control legislation signed into law last month, according to the Northern Colorado Business Report. The Fort Collins company, which makes sights, recoil pads and other accessories, started in 1996. But like Magpul Industries Inc. of Boulder County, HiViz said it's not happy with the gun control measures approved by the Colorado Legislature and signed into law by Gov. John Hickenlooper." Phillip Howe, president and CEO of HiViz, states, "I make this announcement with mixed emotions. Colorado is a beautiful state with great people, but we cannot in clear conscience support with our taxes a state that has proven through recent legislation a willingness to infringe upon the constitutional rights of our customer base." [43890, 43891, 43892, 44446]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The movement by progressive activists to replace Obama administration Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) acting director Edward DeMarco has reached a fever pitch in various states. The movement has helped forge a growing rift between the Obama administration and the grassroots progressive base, and has forced the administration to begin floating the names of various potential replacements for DeMarco [a George W. Bush appointee], according to insiders. DeMarco, whose office acts as the conservator of government-sponsored lending giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, has come under fire from progressive activists, led by the New Bottom Line Coalition. DeMarco opposes efforts to enact principal reduction, a process by which underwater housing mortgages are reset to fair-market value, on Fannie and Freddie loans." (Leftists want the federal government to force banks to reduce the amounts owed on mortgages. Of course, the money loaned to homebuyers belongs to bank depositors. To arbitrarily change an outstanding loan amount from, for example, \$180,000 to \$140,000, means that bank depositors would be cheated out of \$40,000—money the bank would have to offset by higher fees and interest rates on new loans.) [43844]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "The Obama administration is engaged in a broad push to make more home loans available to people with weaker credit, an effort that officials say will help power the economic recovery but that skeptics say could open the door to the risky lending that caused the housing crash in the first place. ... Obama's economic

advisers and outside experts say the nation's much-celebrated housing rebound is leaving too many people behind, including young people looking to buy their first homes and individuals with credit records weakened by the recession. In response, administration officials say they are working to get banks to lend to a wider range of borrowers by taking advantage of taxpayer-backed programs—including those offered by the Federal Housing Administration—that insure home loans against default. Housing officials are urging the Justice Department to provide assurances to banks, which have become increasingly cautious, that they will not face legal or financial recriminations if they make loans to riskier borrowers who meet government standards but later default.” (Obama—who apparently has no understanding of what caused the housing collapse in 2008—wants to re-inflate the housing bubble by encouraging—if not blackmailing—banks to approve additional risky, subprime mortgages in an effort to boost the economy. He will insure the risk with taxpayer money he does not have.) John Taylor, president of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, complains about reality: “It is very difficult for people of low and moderate incomes to refinance or buy homes.” (It is also difficult for janitors to perform successful brain surgery, for bank tellers to earn more than bank presidents, and for someone who is morbidly obese to win the Boston Marathon.) [43851, 43852, 43877, 43954]

Payroll processing firm ADP estimates that 158,000 jobs were added nationwide in March, the lowest number since October 2012—and not even enough to keep up with population growth. (Some analysts expected 200,000 new jobs.) Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, tells CNN.com, “Anticipation of health care reform may also be weighing on employment at companies with close to 50 employees.” (Companies with close to 50 employees are trying to remain below that level to avoid triggering the expensive ObamaCare insurance requirement.) Most of the new jobs—all but 7,000—were in the service industry, rather than manufacturing or housing. [43860, 43875, 43887]

CNSnews.com reports, “There have been 70,291,049 background checks for gun purchases since ...Obama took office, according to data released by the FBI.” (That is more than double the registration rate under President George W. Bush.) [43861]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Tens of thousands of health care professionals, union workers and community activists hired as ‘navigators’ to help Americans choose Obamacare options starting Oct. 1 could earn \$20 an hour or more, according to new regulations issued Wednesday. The 63-page rule covering navigators, drawn up by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, also said the government will provide free translators for those not fluent in English—no matter what their native language is. ...It is still not clear how many navigators will be required. California, however, provides a hint. It wants 21,000. That could be an expensive proposition. The proposed rules, now open for public comment, suggest an estimated pay of \$20–\$48 an hour. ...The rules allow navigators to come from the ranks of unions, health providers and community action groups such as ACORN and Planned Parenthood. They are required to provide unbiased advice.” (If ObamaCare is so complicated that one state needs 21,000 bureaucrats just to help people fill out forms, the program will be an even greater disaster than some might

have anticipated. Additionally, no reasonable person would expect “unbiased” advice from ACORN or Planned Parenthood activists—especially if they know that ObamaCare includes a provision allowing the “navigators” to register people to vote.) ObamaCare requires that the “navigators” must be “representative of the demographic characteristics, including primary languages spoken, of the communities in their service area.” (In other words, blacks will be hired to serve black neighborhoods, Hispanics for Hispanic neighborhoods, etc.) [43908, 43941]

According to NYDailyNews.com, “[T]he U.S. Department of Agriculture has moved to rework how meats are sold at retailers, including grocery stores, are labeled. Under the Obama administration’s plan, meats would have to include labels informing the consumer where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered. The USDA touts it as a thrust toward transparency that will benefit consumers. But outraged critics, including Canada and Mexico—the leading beef exporters to the U.S.—and retailers themselves, howl that the proposed rules are thinly veiled protectionism. ...The Food Marketing Institute, which represents retail giants like Target and single-store groceries, says the new rules will cost many millions of dollars to implement and result in higher food prices. Canada and Mexico filed legal objections with the World Trade Organization, arguing that their livestock exporters would be hurt by what they see as a protectionist policy. The U.S. lost the initial judgment and again on appeal.” [43901]

On his talk radio program Sean Hannity says, “I want to deal with Chris Matthews here because Chris Matthews represents something that, frankly, like everybody else at NBC News, he’s just basically become an extension of the Obama press office. Let’s be honest, it’s all it is at NBC News. They meet with the White House, talk with them. Media Matters also brags about writing their [MSNBC’s] prime-time news scripts, etc., etc. So let’s just deal with what we’ve got on the table here and I would say that this—this is a coordinat[ed] effort that’s been going a long time and I’m a little bit sick and tired of it. And we’re going to have a pretty long debate on this later in the show today, but it is frustrating to me that some of this false narrative about what it means to be a conservative has stuck because a lie [that Republicans are racist] has been repeated often enough. ...[I]t is not just the Democratic Party that’s doing it. Their willing accomplices, in this case NBC News, via Chris Matthews, is pretty much advancing a narrative that continues to leave impressions that conservatives in this country are racist, that criticism against Obama somehow is rooted in deep-seated hatred because of the color of his skin. And it is a lie.” [43880]

Hannity continues, “[Matthews] sees racism everywhere. Now, racism does exist and, thankfully, more and more Americans shun those that have racial views and racist views. The only one that seems racially obsessed here is Chris Matthews in making a false narrative, a smear campaign against good people—conservatives, Republicans in many cases—that just have different policy views than him. And so the knee-jerk reaction to smear, slander, besmirch and intimidate them and silence them is to label them and everybody and everything, apparently, racist, which is not true. Now I would say that part of this narrative, unfortunately, has crept in the culture because it’s used so often by the Democrats and by their willing accomplices in the media. Let me explain to the Chris

Matthews of the world where the criticism of Barack Obama is. We did the job here on this program, Chris. Maybe you should have done a little vetting of Obama in the past—his radical views, associations, etc. I would think you would have been concerned, but you weren't." [43880]

Taxpayer-subsidized General Motors reports sales of only 1,478 Chevrolet Volts in march 2013—down 35 percent from the same month in 2012. According to The National Legal Policy Center observes, "To put that in perspective, that's about one Volt sold every two months per dealership. The number is also down from an only slightly less paltry 1,626 sales in February. GM's excuses for the poor performance seem to be drying up as quickly as the demand for the Volt. During GM's sales conference call, management claimed that sales are 'stable' and that they are 'feeling good about the trend.' Such dishonesty brings into question GM's credibility. ...GM and the Obama Administration have done what they can to prop up sales of the Volt and give the false appearance of success. Lease terms were manipulated to manufacture demand, as GM even admitted. Crony Corporation General Electric (supplier of charging stations) agreed to purchase 15,000 of the vehicles. Localities, and even the military, used taxpayer dollars to purchase Volts. And worst of all, wealthy buyers of the Volt receive a federal tax credit of \$7,500 each to purchase (or lease) the vehicles." (While campaigning in 2008, Obama promised to have one million electric vehicles on the road by 2015. With sales of about 1,500 units per months, the one million vehicle goal will be reached in about 56 years.) [15376, 43863, 43864]

The White House announces that Obama will give up five percent of his \$400,000 salary from March through December to show "solidarity" with furloughed federal employees. NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty observes, "Obama will give back five percent of all his paychecks from March to December, so we're talking about \$16,666.66 or so. That amount would cover the costs of Air Force One in flight for about five and a half minutes. ...Obama has a net worth estimated between \$2.6 million and \$11.8 million; he makes \$400,000 per year before taxes, lives rent free at the White House, pays absolutely nothing in official travel costs, and gets \$169,000 to cover expenses, personal travel, and entertainment. The government pays for state dinners and other official functions, but [Obama] pays for personal services like dry cleaning and food that he, his family, and personal guests consume." (Obama will actually be giving up substantially less than \$16,666.66 because he can claim the returned salary as a tax deduction. because he is in the 39.6 percent tax bracket, his actual sacrifice will just over \$10,000.) Many might consider Obama's empty gesture a poor substitute for a budget proposal that leads to a balanced budget. Secretary of State John Kerry also announces he will contribute five percent of his salary, or about \$9,175. (Kerry's gesture is even more empty, as his two gold-digger marriages have boosted his net worth to more than \$200 million.) [48333, 43884, 43885, 43886, 43894, 43903]

At WND.com author Jack Cashill (*Deconstructing Obama*) calls former Clinton Commerce Secretary Ron Brown "Hillary's first Chris Stevens," and reminds readers of the suspicious circumstances of Brown's death and the Clinton administration's efforts to avoid a thorough investigation. "Much as with Benghazi," writes Cashill, "Hillary



Clinton did not want to know the truth about Ron Brown's death, and she certainly did not want to share what she did know. The Clintons used a reluctant Air Force and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology to bury Ron Brown as quickly as possible, literally and figuratively. And without an autopsy and a serious investigation, the whole case remained buried. As with Benghazi, the media chose to remain ignorant. I was the first reporter to secure the Air Force's 22-volume report and that seven years after the fact. The New York Times could not be bothered even though it had a man onboard. So accustomed has Hillary grown to having her lies glossed over down through the years that she grew increasingly indignant even at the timid questions Congress threw her way at the Benghazi hearing. When questioned by Sen. Ron Johnson about her version of events, Hillary exploded in an outburst destined to be at least as famous as her 'vast right-wing conspiracy' jeremiad. Said Hillary, summing up the state of public integrity in 2013 America, 'What difference at this point does it make?' We should not have been shocked. She has been saying much the same for the last 20 years." [43965]

In addition to Ron Brown, DCClothesline.com lists other mysterious or sudden deaths of individuals associated with the Clintons or their schemes: James McDougal, Mary Mahoney, Vince Foster, C. Victor Raiser II, Paul Tulley, Ed Willey, Jerry Parks, James Bunch, James Wilson, Kathy Ferguson, Bill Shelton, Gandy Baugh, Florence Martin, Suzanne Coleman, Paula Grober, Danny Casolaro, Paul Wilcher, Jon Parnell Walker, Barbara Wise, Charles Meissner, Dr. Stanley Heard, Barry Seal, Johnny Lawhorn, Jr., Stanley Huggins, Hershell Friday, Kevin Ives, Don Henry, Keith Coney, Keith McMaskle, Gregory Collins, Jeff Rhodes, James Milan, Jordan Kettleston, and Richard Winters, as well as former Clinton bodyguards Major William S. Barkley, Jr., Captain Scott J. Reynolds, Sgt. Brian Hanley, Sgt. Tim Sabel, Major General William Robertson, Col. Wililam Densberger, Col. Robert Kelly, Spec. Gary Rhodes, Steve Willis, Robert Williams, Conway LeBleu, and Todd McKeehan. (An Obama "dead pool" can be found at nachumlist.com/deadpool.htm.) [43974, 44167]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, "It would be shameful [for Senate Republicans] to not allow any one of these [gun control] measures to come up to a vote. The victims of Newtown—the 20 kids and the 6 educators who lost their lives—deserve a vote." (Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) responds via a spokesman and Breitbart News: "What's shameful is the administration's ongoing politicization of the Newtown tragedy as a reason to ram through an agenda that will do nothing to stop violent crime. Our focus should be on stopping criminals from obtaining guns, which the Obama Administration has failed to make a priority. Sen. Cruz remains committed to the fight to protect and uphold Americans' fundamental 2nd Amendment rights, and will use any procedural means necessary to that end as guns legislation is considered in the Senate.") [43913]

Cruz is not alone in opposing the proposed gun legislation and Carney is not alone in keeping from the public information about what the legislation contains. According to the Heritage Foundation, "It effectively puts a new tax on selling or giving away a firearm. It could help criminals figure out where it is easiest to buy guns. It allows for the beginnings of a national gun registry. It makes a missing firearm a ticket to five years in prison." (The law calls for a five-year prison sentence if a missing or stolen gun is not

reported to the local police department and Attorney General Eric Holder within 24 hours.) [43922, 43923, 43924, 43925, 43926]

Meanwhile, the National Rifle Association (NRA) obtains a Department of Justice (DOJ) memorandum that calls for national gun registration and confiscation. According to RedFlagNews.com, “The DOJ memo states the administration “believes that a gun ban will not work without mandatory gun confiscation,” according to the NRA, and thinks universal background checks “won’t work without requiring national gun registration.” Obama has yet to publicly support national registration or firearms confiscation, although the memo reveals his administration is moving in that direction. The memo stands in stark contrast to the administration’s public stance on so-called gun control. White House spokesman Jay Carney said last month that laws proposed by Obama would not ‘take away a gun from a single law-abiding American.’ The NRA declined to explain how it obtained the document. The memo was written by the acting director of the Justice Department’s National Institute of Justice, Greg Ridgeway. It is dated January 4, two weeks before Obama mounted his attack on the Second Amendment following the Sandy Hook massacre. ...A Justice Department official said the memo is an unfinished review of gun violence research and does not represent administration policy.” [43946]

While North Korea threatens to attack the United States with nuclear weapons, Obama attends a Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee fundraiser in San Francisco—and calls House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) a “visionary” leader who “never lets ideology cloud her judgment.” Obama tells the enthusiastic crowd of wealthy left-coast leftists, “Now, over the next couple of months, we’ve got a couple of issues: gun control. I just came from Denver, where the issue of gun violence is something that has haunted families for way too long, and it is possible for us to create common-sense gun safety measures that respect the traditions of gun ownership in this country and hunters and sportsmen, but also make sure that we don’t have another 20 children in a classroom gunned down by a semiautomatic weapon—by a fully automatic weapon in that case, sadly.” (No “fully automatic weapon”—that is, a machine gun—was used in the Connecticut school shootings. Fully automatic weapons have been illegal in the United States since 1934, with ownership limited to a small number of gun collectors who must pass restrictive background checks and pay huge fees. Obama is either ignorant or lying—but still raised \$3.2 million.) [43881, 43900, 43904, 43927, 43951, 44154]

Obama also says, “Look, my intention here is to try to get as much done with the Republican Party over the next two years as I can, because we can’t have perpetual campaigns. And so I mean what I say. I am looking to find areas of common ground with Republicans every single day. I want to make sure that we’re working together to stabilize our finances. And I think actually that we can come up with a fiscal deal that instead of lurching from crisis to crisis every three months, we lay the groundwork for long-term growth—controlling our deficits, controlling our debt, but also making sure we can invest in our future. I want to get an immigration deal done. I want to find some common-sense gun safety legislation that we can get done. And I do believe that there are well-meaning Republicans out there who care about their kids just as passionately as we do.” (HotAir.com reacts, “Not all Republicans, mind you. Probably not even most. But

the ones willing to vote for Obama's agenda? Yeah, we can probably give them the benefit of the doubt on whether they love their kids as much as liberals. There's no hard proof that they're out there—it's a matter of 'belief'—but he's staying optimistic. You can always count on O to be a bit more candid about his contempt for his opponents when he's talking to a group of rich liberals.") [43904]

Obama is greeted by protesters at the San Francisco fundraiser (although he likely does not see them). Most are environmentalists who do not want Obama to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Demonstrators' signs include, "KXL = treason" and "Obama, don't let the tar sands be your tar baby!" According to NBCBayArea.com, "...the crowd chanted 'Hey Obama, we don't want no pipeline drama!'" Another group "came carrying a large mock drone to show their opposition to the use of the unmanned aircraft in war zones." [43906, 44012]

At the fundraiser Obama says of California's far-left Attorney General, Kamala Harris, "You have to be careful to, first of all, say she is brilliant and she is dedicated and she is tough, and she is exactly what you'd want in anybody who is administering the law, and making sure that everybody is getting a fair shake." He then causes a strange controversy by paying her a compliment: "She also happens to be, by far, the best-looking attorney general in the country." (Although Harris is not unattractive—and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi might beat her in a head-to-head competition—Obama more likely finds her appealing because she is a "fellow traveler." She has also been called "the darling of the Obama activist base of the party." In the 2010 Democrat primary Harris defeated Rocky Delgadillo, whose campaign manager was Kam Kuwata. Kuwata, who died unexpectedly at an early age and conveniently without an autopsy, witnessed a drug-influenced Obama backstage at the 2008 Democrat National Convention in Denver—and made the mistake of telling others what he saw. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Harris is the sister-in-law of Tony West—who Obama appointed as Assistant Attorney General, in charge of the Department of Justice's Civil Division. West, a major fundraiser for Obama in California, was a member of the "GITMO 9"—a group of attorneys who represented terrorists held at the detainee center at Guantanamo. West also represented John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban" captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and helped him avoid a death sentence. Harris and West certainly had the ability to call off an investigation into Kuwata's death. West has been the lead attorney in the Obama administration's lawsuit against Arizona's legislation against illegal immigrants, and Harris has been mentioned as a possible Obama nominee for the Supreme Court.) [28420, 28424, 29425, 28426, 28481, 28482, 28483, 28484, 43929, 43935, 43950, 43975]

More than a few leftist columnists of the feminine persuasion pounce on Obama for daring to pay a woman a compliment. At Salon.com (a perhaps jealous) Joan Walsh says "my stomach turned over" at Obama's remark. At Slate.com Amanda Marcotte (who perhaps has just as much reason to be jealous) refers to Obama's comment as "benevolent sexism." (At Takimag.com Charles A. Coulombe later observes, "President Clinton avoided this issue by surrounding himself with the sort of women even he wouldn't bed: Janet Reno, Madeleine Albright, and Donna Shalala. ...To use presidential metaphors, one is expected to sleep with anything (like Clinton) while avoiding praise of loveliness

(like Obama). In other words, women are supposed to be invisible trollops and men oversexed geldings. With such mixed messages, women in combat and same-sex marriage almost make a twisted sense.”) [44020, 44021, 44022]

On April 4 Reuters reports, “The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose to its highest level in four months last week, suggesting the labor market recovery lost some steam in March. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 28,000 to a seasonally adjusted 385,000, the highest level since November, the Labor Department said on Thursday. It was the third straight week of gains in claims. Coming on the heels of data on Wednesday showing private employers added the fewest jobs in five months in March, the report implied some weakening in job growth after hiring accelerated in February.” [43882]

The American Civil Liberties Union’s top lobbyist, Chris Calabrese tells DailyCaller.com the organization has “significant concerns” about gun control legislation being considered by the U.S. Senate. “If you’re going to require a background check, we think it should be effective. However,” says Calabrese, “we also believe those checks have to be conducted in a way that protects privacy and civil liberties. So, in that regard, we think the current legislation, the current proposal on universal background checks raises two significant concerns. The first is that it treats the records for private purchases very differently than purchases made through licensed sellers. Under existing law, most information regarding an approved purchase is destroyed within 24 hours when a licensed seller does a [National Instant Criminal Background Check System] check now, and almost all of it is destroyed within 90 days. ...[U]nfortunately, we have seen in the past that the creation of these types of records leads sometimes to the creation of government databases and collections of personal information on all of us. That’s not an inevitable result, but we have seen that happen in the past, certainly. As we’ve seen with many large government databases, if you build it, they will come. ...So you just worry that you’re going to see searches of the databases and an expansion for purposes that were not intended when the information was collected.” [43888, 43889]

WeeklyStandard.com notes the completion of a \$423,500 stimulus legislation project to study condom use. The University of Indiana study created no jobs, but apparently successfully evaluated “Barriers to Correct Condom Use.” [43895]

Just two days after the Associated Press tells its employees to stop using the term “illegal immigrants,” it calls on them to stop using the word “Islamist” when referring to Islamists. [43942]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “Fifty-nine percent (59%) of Likely U.S. Voters favor an immigration plan that gives illegal immigrants legal status to stay in the United States provided the border is really secured to prevent future illegal immigration. A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that 25% are opposed to this plan.” [43899]

According to Reuters, the White House budget office has “urged federal agencies to be aware of ways they may be able to shield their long-term projects while implementing the sharp budget cuts that went into effect March 1. Agencies should avoid cuts that would harm needed upkeep or unduly disrupt programs ‘essential to support the long-term execution of the agency’s mission,’ White House budget office controller Danny Werfel wrote in a memo.” [43905]

During an interview with WCAX in Burlington, Vermont, Michelle Obama describes herself as a “busy single mother.” [43909, 43955, 43957]

At Spectator.org health care expert Betsy McCaughey, a former Lieutenant Governor of New York, warns about the coming “ObamaCare premium defaults.” “From day one, it was obvious the law would push up premiums. ... High premiums will be faced by “people who customarily buy their own insurance... plus people currently uninsured who will have to get it beginning in 2014, and finally millions of people whose employers will drop coverage in response to the law’s costly requirements. ... These people will have no choice but to buy the one-size-fits-all ‘essential benefits package’ that includes treatment for drug addiction, maternity care, and dental and vision care for children. Only 2% of plans currently include all these services. When the law compels insurers to cover more, it compels consumers to pay more. ... The Ohio Department of Insurance says the requirements will push up premiums 20% to 30%. It cheats the couple not having more children and the straight-arrow who will never shoot heroin. ... The Obama health law pools everyone together and requires the healthy to pay as much as the sick. The few states (including New York) that already do this have the highest premiums in the country. ... The White House dismisses concerns about rising premiums, saying consumers with moderate incomes will get subsidies. That’s like arguing that it’s okay for food prices to double, because the needy can get food stamps. Taxpayers foot the bill for subsidies. And consumers ineligible for them get socked with sky high costs. Even with subsidies, millions of people coerced to sign up will stop paying premiums. A family with two adults, two kids and a household income of \$35,300 will be eligible for a \$11,090 subsidy paid directly to the insurer, but they will have to pay at least \$118 a month toward the premium. Families living paycheck to paycheck will default in order to make rent or car payments. ... Another gift from the politicians who think ‘Washington knows best.’” [44156]

At Reason.com Jacob Sullum lists four ways Obama’s Denver gun control speech “sows mistrust.” Sullum observes that Obama “conflates a failed background check with stopping a criminal from obtaining a gun,” incorrectly assuming that every one of the individuals who has been denied a gun purchase or permit is dangerous, “which plainly is not true, given the ridiculously broad categories of people who are legally barred from buying firearms, and ... that a criminal intent on obtaining a weapon will give up if he cannot get it over the counter at a gun store, rather than enlisting a straw buyer or turning to the gray or black market.” Like many gun control advocates, Obama “falsely equates ‘assault weapons’ with military guns... capable of firing automatically. He calls the guns he wants to ban ‘weapons of war,’ again implying that they fire continuously, when in fact they fire once per trigger pull, like any other semi-automatic firearm.” Obama also

“says there is no logical connection between ‘universal background checks’ and gun registration. But there is no way to enforce a background-check requirement for every gun transfer unless the government knows where the guns are. Federally licensed gun dealers are readily identified and can be required to keep sale records. Individual gun owners who might dare to sell their property without clearance from the government cannot be identified unless the government compiles a list of them.” Lastly, Obama “pooh-poohs the idea that there could ever be anything adversarial about the relationship between Americans and their government...” which contradicts the purpose of the Second Amendment—which is not about duck hunting or skeet shooting, but recognizing the right of every individual to resist an abusive government. [43912]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer notes that Obama will not get the gun control legislation he desires and observes, “All he wants now is the money [from gun control campaigning]. ...He’s lost on gun control. ...He is not going to get the solution he wanted, so he’ll make an issue. And that’s the way he operates. He does it on immigration. He does it on a lot of stuff. If you can’t win on a solution or get your way, you turn it into cash. He’s excellent at turning stuff into cash.” [43966]

On CNN, Jake Tapper points out Obama’s error in stating that the Sandy Hook School killer used a “fully automatic weapon.” Tapper says, “That is not correct. It was a semi-automatic weapon, not a fully-automatic weapon. ...The gun debate is worth having... but it might help the advocates of gun control if, in their advocacy for stricter measures, they seemed more familiar with what exactly they’re trying to ban.” [43951]

Also on CNN, Piers Morgan calls Obama’s offer to give up five percent of his salary a “pointless exercise” that won’t make “any difference” and “just annoys people. ...[I]f he actually gave up the holidays, if he gave up the vacations which are costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of dollars, it might have more impact than ...five percent of 400,000.” (The vacations actually cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.) [43914]

On April 5 the Department of Labor reports that only 88,000 new jobs were created nationwide in March. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate falls to 7.6 percent because 460,000 Americans—five times as many—stopped looking for work altogether and are therefore no longer counted as being in the work force. (The 460,000 total includes 315,000 women, 148,000 blacks, and 282,000 Latinos.) The workforce participation rate is a mere 63.3 percent; that represents the percentage of working-age Americans who are actually working and not relying on welfare, disability, unemployment compensation, etc. (The workforce participation rate is a far better indicator of the health of the U.S. economy than the unemployment rate. If every unemployed person simply gave up looking for work and went on welfare the unemployment rate would be zero—but that does not mean the nation would be better off. The 63.3 percent workforce participation rate is the lowest since Jimmy Carter was in the White House; almost 90 million Americans of working age are not working. As many as 11.7 million Americans have dropped out of the workforce since Obama entered the White House in 2009.) [43915, 43916, 43917, 43919, 43930, 43933, 43938, 43939, 43940, 43956, 43962, 43987, 44172]

In addition to 460,000 people dropping out of the work force, 81,800 started collecting disability benefits from Social Security in March. Many of the 14 million “disabled” persons are simply workers in their 50s who lost their jobs, are too young for full Social Security benefits, and suddenly developed hard-to-disprove bad backs or bouts of depression. More Americans are now collecting disability benefits than are working in the nation’s manufacturing sector. One significant federal fiscal problem is that once an individual starts collecting disability benefits that person rarely returns to work—even if his disability ends—and when there are few available jobs, there is less of an incentive to even *want* to recover. WND.com quotes Dr. Marvin Fischbach, “a psychiatrist who works directly with patients on disability. Fischbach generated controversy with a powerful opinion piece, charging that the disability system creates ‘a vested financial and psychological interest in not getting better while still applying for disability.’” According to Fischbach, “The system is a crisis for the individual [and] many should never have applied for disability. ...Patients come to me with mild to moderate symptoms of depression, that will get better, and do get better. But they get on disability and many are lost forever to gainful employment, lose their self-sufficiency, and lose their self-esteem. Some beneficiaries are severely mentally ill and truly disabled, but I’m not talking about them. ...People on disability develop a lifestyle, then their children are acculturated into the disability way of life.” The child then “begins to see this as normal. ...Once you’re on the program, the government doesn’t encourage you to work, and there seems to be no verification that you are still disabled. ...Abuse is common, and the system is enabling people to abuse themselves. ...The effect of the system is destructive to individuals and society.” NPR has observed that the Social Security Disability Insurance program has become “a de facto welfare program for people without a lot of education or job skills.” [43915, 43916, 43917, 43919, 43930, 43933, 43938, 43939, 43940, 43956, 43962, 43987, 44172, 44206]

The job numbers cause the Dow Jones Industrial Average to quickly fall 137 points. At Townhall.com managing editor Kevin Glass writes, “Bottom line: this was a mediocre jobs report. What seemed like an economy poised to finally rebound in February stalled in March. Federal policy likely played a role in this—be it the tax hikes from January’s fiscal cliff deal, the implementation of Obamacare provisions, or the anticipation of sequestration. People have given up looking for work en masse, and there aren’t really any signs of a sharp turnaround coming.” Former Obama economic advisor Austan Goolsbee says, “This [jobs report] is a punch to the gut.” 43915, 43916, 43917, 43919, 43930, 43933, 43938, 43939, 43940, 43956, 43962, 43987, 44172]

Sequester cuts notwithstanding, the unemployment rate for government workers dropped from 3.8 to 3.6 percent in March. John Ransom later reports at Townhall.com, “[T]he number of regular federal employees covered under all unemployment benefit programs is 3,277 fewer people this year than last. In all of March of 2013 the Department of Unionized Labor reported that 151 fewer federal employees filed initial claims for unemployment than in the similar reporting period in 2012.” Millions of Americans may have lost their jobs, but federal employees have suffered little; and while millions of Americans have seen the values of their homes decline drastically, “housing prices in the Washington, D.C. metro area are reaching ALL TIME record highs.” (The median sale

price of a D.C. home has jumped from \$405,000 in March 2012 to \$460,000 in March 2013. The median annual income for the D.C. area is \$86,680; for the nation as a whole is \$50,054.) [43937, 44174]

Despite the terrible jobs report, White House chief economist Alan Krueger tells CNBC, “I think if you look at today’s report and other indicators that are coming in, the economy is continuing to heal. What we need to do in Washington is avoid self-inflicted wounds. Most importantly, the sequester, the CBO estimates, will reduce job growth by 750,000 full time/equivalent jobs by the end of the year. So, we’ve done a lot of healing in the economy, the housing sector is finally making a turn and we shouldn’t be putting up headwinds in the way of the recovery that is taking place. ...I think this report, and frankly, where we’ve been over the last year, supports [Obama’s] proposal to have a balanced approach, which supports growth in the near term, invests in our infrastructure, invests in manufacturing innovation, invests in pre-school so we’re more competitive in the future, and addresses our long-run deficit problems and [Obama] has shown that it’s possible to do that.” (In other words, Obama will continue to call for higher taxes and more borrowing and spending.) Kruger also cautions, as he does every month, “not to read too much into any one monthly report,” and tries to blame the decline in the work force participation rate to 63.3 percent on demographics: “The ...rate peaked in 2000 because of demographics. We are getting older as a nation. It’s an issue we face.” (Although the nation is getting older, the participation rate did not decline because of retiring “baby boomers.” In fact, many older workers are not retiring because they cannot afford to do so. The biggest decline in workers is not among older workers, but younger workers—and ObamaCare discouraging businesses from hiring anyone.) Tom Blumer notes at PJMedia.com that February through June tend to be the months in which there is the strongest hiring. The weak job numbers posted for February and March therefore suggest Obama will not get a “recovery summer” in 2013. [43934, 44008, 44009, 44049, 44057]

Caterpillar, Inc. announces the permanent layoff of 450 workers in Decatur, Illinois who make mining equipment. Meanwhile, another “green” company in which Obama risked taxpayer dollars moves closer to failure. Reuters reports, “Fisker Automotive, the struggling government-backed hybrid sports car maker, on Friday terminated most of its rank-and-file employees in what sources said was a last-ditch effort to conserve cash and stave off a potential bankruptcy filing. Fisker, which raised \$1.2 billion from investors and tapped nearly \$200 million in government loans, has ‘at least’ \$30 million in cash on hand, according to a source familiar with the company’s finances. About 160 workers were fired at a Friday morning meeting at Fisker’s Anaheim, California, headquarters, according to a source who attended the meeting. They were told that the company could not afford to give them severance payments. ...A lawyer for the fired employees said he expects the company to file for bankruptcy ‘sooner rather than later..’” (Obama’s crackpot “green scheme” may have cost the taxpayers \$200 million on the crackpot scheme, but some will be happy that Justin Bieber and Leonardo DiCaprio got new “eco-friendly cars” out of it.) [43970, 43972, 43976, 44528, 44555]



TheHill.com reports that Barack “class warfare” Obama’s budget proposal “will limit how much wealthy individuals—like Mitt Romney—can keep in IRAs and other retirement accounts. The proposal would save [that is, ‘raise taxes by’] around \$9 billion over a decade, a senior administration official said, while also bringing more fairness to the tax code. The senior administration official said that wealthy taxpayers can currently ‘accumulate many millions of dollars in these accounts, substantially more than is needed to fund reasonable levels of retirement.’ Under the plan, a taxpayer’s tax-preferred retirement account, like an IRA [and 401Ks, Roth IRAs, and perhaps deferred compensation, municipal bonds, insurance policies, and annuities] could not finance more than \$205,000 per year of retirement—or right around \$3 million this year.” In other words, anyone who has managed to save more for retirement than he “needs”—with the government deciding how much he “needs”—should be aware that the Obama regime wants to immediately tax or even confiscate the “excess.” Obama considers punishing savers “bringing fairness to the tax code.” (Ten-year government notes currently yield a 1.7 percent interest rate; the White House does not say where Americans can earn a reliable 6.833 percent on their savings—which is what is needed to generate \$205,000 per year in income from \$3 million in savings.) [44024, 44073, 44150, 44155, 44207]

Additionally, of course, that \$205,000 per year is subject to income tax, leaving the retiree with probably not much more than \$125,000—depending on state and other taxes. A courageous reporter may want to ask Obama if he expects to live on \$125,000 per year after he retires from public office.) Individuals with money in Individual Retirement Accounts do not escape taxes. With an IRA, the taxation is simply deferred to the date when the cash is withdrawn after retirement. Thus, for Obama to go after the money before retirement only means it will not be there to again tax after retirement. *Obama’s plan is merely moving up the date of confiscation; it is not taxing something that would never have been subject to tax.* If Obama succeeds and can collect \$9 billion in taxes sooner than would normally be the case, it only means there will be \$9 billion less in investments in the U.S. economy. (Obama’s proposed \$3 million retirement account cap would not apply to his own retirement investments because they are not in tax deferred accounts. Additionally, Obama will receive generous retirement benefits paid for by U.S. taxpayers.) [44024, 44073, 44150, 44155, 44207, 44441]

Addressing an Export-Import Bank conference, Vice President Joe Biden says, “The affirmative task we have now is, uh, is to actually um, uh, create, uh, uh, a new world order, because the global order is changing again.” (LewRockwell.com notes that the infamous new world order “...is from *The Holy Family*, the first joint collaboration volume of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It was written several years before their more celebrated (and originally anonymous) 1848 work, *The Communist Manifesto*. So from Marx and Engels—the founding fathers of modern communism—we have it boldly stated: the communist idea = the new world order. OK—David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, George H. W. Bush, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, John McCain, Barack Obama, Joe Biden *ad nauseam* (all supported and referred to a ‘new world order’)—how do you explain away this one? Conspiracy fact or conspiracy theory? ...Obama just recently signed a bill which reauthorized the life of the

Export Import Bank through 2014. Which enemy are we going to subsidize and sustain next?") [43990, 43995]

FoxNews.com reports, "Gun enthusiasts fearful of new weapon controls and alarmed by rumors of government hoarding are buying bullets practically by the bushel, making it hard for stores nationwide to keep shelves stocked and even putting a pinch on some local law enforcement departments. ...At Hunter's Haven, a strip-mall gun shop in the farming community of Rolesville, N.C., north of Raleigh, clerk Dean Turnage said ammunition is going out 'as fast as we can get it in,' even though new gun controls are not on the state's agenda. The run started in November with ...Obama's re-election, followed by the mass shooting in December of children in Newtown, Conn., which led [Obama] to launch an effort to strengthen federal gun controls and several states to tighten their laws." [43928]

In Salem, Oregon Cuban-American Manuel Martinez addresses a legislative committee that is debating gun control legislation. Martinez [grammatical errors left unchanged] says, "My name is Manuel Martinez. Born in Cuba. American Citizen for more than 40 years. I oppose any manipulation, any regulation, elimination, or disturb of the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. In 1959 a revolution was... individuals... malicious individuals, masquerading as Democrats, revolutionaries, established a regime... a dictatorial regime... in my nation. Called communism, socialism, Stalinism, Marxism, and whatever other name -ism you want to put it. The reason was done to take away the guns from the people. The right of the people to wear guns. That is a God-given right. It's not given by anybody. It's not given by any group. It's the same thing as freedom, which is a God-given right. And no one, absolutely no one, has the authority to take it away. To cease to defend the Second Amendment, and my God-given right of freedom, will cease only with my death." [44044, 44045]

"I've been through it. I've been there. You people don't know what freedom is because you never lost it. You haven't been tortures. You were not ...assassinations. You haven't been mothers begging for the life of their son not to be killed because the only reason they want is to be free. And they killed the mothers and they killed the son. So my way to protest, the way to oppose, is because if we keep tangling with the Second Amendment, we are open the same way that Cuba was open for communism, China, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Venezuela, on and on. A dictatorial regime that will destroy this country, in the same way it destroyed those ones that I mentioned to you. Gun control do not protect anybody, don't protect the citizens, don't protect the people. The only reason for the gun control is for the government to protect from them, citizens. In that way the government can ...manipulate the people and subjugate them. That's what's happened in Cuba for 52 years... 54. I came here for freedom. At the time I came here it was different. This country opened the arms for me. I couldn't get it in Cuba. And they opened the arms for me, I probably wouldn't get it here today. I hope that I get clear with you, and you understand my point of view. I think that concludes my testimony. ...Freedom! Freedom!" [44044, 44045]

WashingtonPost.com reports that Obama “will release a budget next week that proposes significant cuts to Medicare and Social Security and fewer tax increases than in the past, a conciliatory approach that he hopes will convince Republicans to sign on to a grand bargain that would curb government borrowing and replace deep spending cuts that took effect March 1.” (Most of the proposed “cuts,” of course, will likely not be cuts at all but reductions in the rate of increase, such as reduced cost-of-living increases for Social Security. Obama will please North Korea and other nations, however, with plans to cut missile defense spending from \$9.71 to \$9.16 billion.) House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds that additional tax increases are “no way to lead and move the country forward. ...[Obama] and I were not able to reach an agreement late last year because his offers never lived up to his rhetoric. Despite talk about so-called balance, [Obama’s] last offer was significantly skewed in favor of higher taxes and included only modest entitlement savings. [Obama] got his tax hikes on the wealthy with no corresponding spending cuts. At some point we need to solve our spending problem.” Senator Bernie Sanders (Socialist-VT) says, “In 2008, candidate Barack Obama told the American people that he would not cut Social Security. Having him go back on his word will only add to the rampant political cynicism that our country is experiencing today.” (Republicans will criticize Obama’s proposal because of the tax increase, while many Democrats will denounce it for suggesting that entitlement benefits be touched at all.) [43931, 43932, 43947, 43964, 44046]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “What I will say is that this [proposal] is not [Obama’s] idealized budget. It is not what he would do if he were king, or if only people who supported his proposals were in Congress.” (This is the latest in a series of remarks from Obama and his lackeys essentially declaring, “If only he were a king or dictator he could get a lot more accomplished.” Whether the comments suggest arrogance, secret desires, or attempts to “plant dictatorial seeds” into the minds of voters is not known, but many Americans certainly find it insulting—and creepy.) [43958]

According to WhiteHouseDossier.com the annual White House celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month has been canceled. (The administration blames budget cuts, but Obama is being selective about what he cuts: “The celebration of St. Patrick’s Day last month included an East Room bash with hundreds of guests and a separate breakfast party at the vice president’s residence. Tuesday, the Obamas took in an exclusive viewing in the White House theater of the movie ‘42,’ which chronicles the life of Jackie Robinson, with the film’s cast and crew. Earlier, in the day, Michelle hosted a ‘42 Film Workshop’ for kids in the State Dining Room that featured Harrison Ford. Obama even got in a reception for the Stanley Cup Champion Los Angeles Kings and major league soccer champs LA Galaxy on March 26. And there’s money around to transport him to the golf links, where he traveled by motorcade last weekend. Next Tuesday, the Obamas will be treated to a command East Room performance ‘celebrating’ Memphis soul music, with performances by stars like Justin Timberlake and Queen Latifah. ...[N]ext month also traditionally includes a White House celebration of Cinco de Mayo. But it would seem doubtful Obama would nix that event, given the fierce competition for Hispanic voters.” (The White House cannot find the funds for a dinner to honor 6,000 years of

Jewish history but eagerly give a half billion dollars, F-16 fighter jets, and tanks to the Muslim Brotherhood thugs who took over Egypt.) [43936, 43959, 44058, 44077]

FoxNews.com reports, “Newly released arrest numbers show a significant increase in illegal immigrants crossing along the southwest border, despite claims as recently as Thursday by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano that the border is more secure. ‘I can tell you having worked that border for 20 years, it is more secure now than it has ever been. Illegal apprehensions are at 40-year lows,’ Napolitano told reporters this week in Houston. But figures released Thursday by Customs and Border Protection to Fox News tell a different story. Arrests are actually up 13 percent compared with the same time last year. The number was 170,223 in 2012, and is 192,298 this year.” Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) says, “There is no statistic, metric or evidence that the border is more secure than ever. I went out there for a couple days and found multiple spots where you can see trails of people coming in. They were still apprehending massive amounts of drugs out there, this is a very porous border.” [43948]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that Obama called California Secretary of State Kamala Harris “to apologize for the distraction created by his comments.” Obama “did not want in any way to diminish the attorney general’s professional accomplishments and her capabilities. He fully recognizes the challenges women continue to face in the workplace and that they should not be judged based on appearance.” (Obama called Harris “the best-looking attorney general in the country.” Whether he reversed his opinion and called her ugly in his apology is not known. Interestingly, Obama, who never apologizes for broken promises or anything he has ever done wrong but readily apologizes for actions taken by the United States, feels it necessary to issue an apology for saying something that most people would argue does not warrant an apology. Obama also called Harris “brilliant... dedicated and... tough, and... exactly what you’d want in anybody who is administering the law, and making sure that everybody is getting a fair shake.” Why adding “attractive” to that list would be found offensive by anyone is unclear.) [43950, 43961, 44002, 44019]

CaribJournal.com reports, “Two United States lawmakers are expressing “concern” over a trip to Cuba this week by music stars [Shawn] Jay-Z [Carter] and Beyonce Knowles-Carter. The two reportedly traveled to Cuba to mark their fifth wedding anniversary. Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart have written a letter to Adam Szubin, director of the United States’ Office of Foreign Assets Control, seeking information on the type of licence the pair of stars received for their travel to Cuba. US citizens are permitted to travel to Cuba only under certain licences, such as people-to-people travel or educational endeavours. ‘We would like to respectfully request, within all applicable rules and guidelines, information regarding the type of licence that Beyonce and Jay-Z received, for what purpose, and who approved such travel,’ the lawmakers wrote.” (The two entertainers are close friends of the Obamas. No one would be surprised to learn that Obama ordered a green light for the trip—although the White House denies involvement. Travel to Cuba for tourist purposes remains prohibited for U.S. citizens, but a “cultural exchange” license may have been issued. Such a license requires “a full-time schedule of educational exchange activities that will

result in meaningful interaction between the travelers and individuals in Cuba.”) [43969, 44010, 44083, 44146, 44160, 44183, 44204, 44317]

Jay-Z later “raps” about the visit to the communist Hell-hole: “I done turned Havana to Atlanta; Guayabera shirts and bandanas; Boy from the ’hood but got White House clearance; Sorry y’all, I don’t agree with y’all appearance; Politicians never did shit for me; Except lie to me, distort history; Wanna give me jail time and a fine; Fine, let me commit a real crime; I might buy a kilo for Chief Keef; Out of spite, I just might flood these streets; Hear the freedom in my speech; Obama said chill, you gonna get me impeached; But you don’t need this shit anyway; Chill with me on the beach; Ya’ll almost want to start a revolution; You know whenever I’m threatened, I start shooting, bark; Catch a body, head to Houston; I’m in Cuba, I love Cubans; This communist talk is so confusing; When it’s from China, the very mic that I’m using; Idiot wind, the Bob Dylan of rap music; You’re an idiot baby, you should become a student; Oh, you gonna learn today; Where the fuck have you been; The world’s under new management.” (Whether George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and Cole Porter are turning over in their graves is not known for certain.) [44160, 44183, 44317]

In an interview with BullMarketThinking.com, Quantum Fund manager Jim Rogers notes the confiscation of bank deposit assets in Cyprus and warns, “It’s been condoned by the IMF [International Monetary Fund], the European Union, and everybody else in sight; that a government in need, can take assets. We all knew they could tax us... but this is the first time that I’m aware of, that they’ve gone in and taken bank accounts. They took gold from people in the U.S. in the 1930s... but I’ve never heard of them taking bank accounts. [Now] they’re doing it. So be careful [because], now they can take your bank account under this precedent. ...I for one am worried and I’m taking preparations. Who knows if I’m right or not, but I’d rather be safe than sorry as all of those people who had money in Cyprus have learned. They thought they had a normal bank account... but now it’s been [taken] with the sanctions of many governments and institutions. ...If people have money in any account, anywhere in the world... cut it down to under the guaranteed amount [such as the FDIC’s guarantee]. They might take that too someday when things get desperate, because the precedent has been set, but that’s where I would start if I had money in the bank anywhere in the world. ...401k plans, IRAs, and pensions plans which the government knows about [may be next]... Their rationale would be, ‘Well most people haven’t been doing well in their IRAs and pension plans for the past several years, so we’re going to help you. We’re going to take your pension plan and give you government bonds so that you have a guaranteed return.’ ...That’s how they’ll rationalize taking our money. They know where all the pension plans are because we have to report it, so they’re easily accessible by governments. They know where they are, what they are, and they’ll be able to snatch them away. Who knows what they’ll do, but they’ll certainly find some way to take our money when things get worse, they always have.” (The FDIC guarantee is arguably meaningless. U.S. banks have more than \$10 trillion in assets and the FDIC has less than \$50 billion to cover depositor guarantees. If any of the nation’s largest banks were to fail the FDIC would quickly exhaust its reserves.) [43952, 43953]

While Rogers warns about wealth confiscation, WND.com reports, “Lawmakers in ...Obama’s home state want to know who is buying and selling gold. Illinois’ Precious Metal Purchasing Act, or SB-3341, would require every gold and silver transaction to be registered with the state. The bill passed in the state’s Senate last spring and the House is considering amendments.” The legislation would require “reports to law enforcement on a daily basis.” (Confiscation of gold requires that the government first know who owns it. Gold and silver registration is akin to gun registration.) [43971]

At WashingtonTimes.com Emily Miller notes a recent Politico story that “gave the false impression that the millions of hunters in the U.S. support ...Obama’s push for ‘universal background checks.’ That is way off target. In fact, 31 well-known hunting and conservation groups sent a letter to Capitol Hill Thursday expressing opposition to intrusion by the federal government into private firearm transfers. Politico only cites one small group in its story, Bull Moose Sportsmen, which claims 5,000 members. The story gives no context for the size of this group in relation to other hunting advocacy groups, nor its prominence in the community. The single poll cited in the Politico story is one commissioned by the group itself and claims 72 percent of hunters support ‘criminal background checks with some exceptions.’ None of the major hunting groups which represent the millions of law-abiding sportsmen was mentioned, nor the polling of those members. In fact, Bull Moose Sportsmen is a fringe organization run by Democratic activists that has been rejected from membership into the major gun and hunting groups’ umbrella organization because it refuses to reveal its funding sources.” (As an Illinois State Senator, Obama enlisted an organization known as the American Hunters and Shooters Association (AHSA) to distribute literature stating that he was “pro-Second Amendment.” On its surface, the AHSA supports hunting, but it also supports strict gun controls on non-hunters. The AHSA is known to be a sham organization set up solely to endorse leftists who need political cover for their anti-gun leanings.) [326, 353, 43985]

Dr. James Carafano, the Heritage Foundation’s vice president for foreign and defense policy studies, tells *Newsmax* that North Korean missiles have the capability of reaching the West coast of the United States: “They haven’t done it but we know they have the technical capability that allows them to do that [but] they don’t have to reach that far. They can reach Guam, which is a major U.S. military base, and we certainly know they can reach Japan, which is an ally and has [U.S.] bases. More importantly: I was in the Army for 25 years, I was stationed in Korea. Much of the South Korean population and the capital is in easy range of North Korean artillery, let alone North Korean missiles. ...[W]e have satellite imagery overhead covering the entire country” and “they know we’re watching,” but “I can absolutely tell you with 100 percent confidence that I have no idea what this [recent activity and threats from North Korea] means. We’ve seen the North Koreans bluster and do nothing, we’ve seen them bluster and do something. We’ve seen them say nothing and do something. So we’ve seen every possible combination and we really don’t have good intelligence on how the decision-making inside North Korea works, so we’re all just guessing as to what might possibly happen.” [43963, 44065, 44075]

Carifano continues, “It’s absolutely right that we send a very strong message to North Korea that we would protect ourselves and our allies. So deploying the B-2 bomber was absolutely the right thing to do. The F-22 aircraft allows us to get anywhere in North Korean air space. Missile defense systems, missile direct radars, these are all exactly the right things to do to demonstrate that we will defend ourselves. I find a great irony here. These are often the systems that progressives want to cut and say we don’t need and are relics of the Cold War, and yet what is the first thing we send out of the box to demonstrate that we’re really serious about defending ourselves? The very systems they don’t like. The other great irony here is [Obama’s] getting ready to put out his defense budget and if you run that defense budget out 10 years, I doubt that we’ll be able to do these kinds of things 10 years from now to demonstrate our resolve. ...South Koreans have sent some pretty strong signals that they will respond. But again you don’t know what the North Koreans are going to do. You can’t discount that there might be some kind of accidental escalation. ...If there was no such thing as accidental wars we wouldn’t have them but we actually have them quite frequently. So it would be irresponsible to say don’t worry, nothing’s going to happen, or to predict World War III. The responsible thing to do is to take North Korea seriously because they have the weapons to do serious damage.” [43963]

On Carl Gallup’s “Freedom Friday” radio program, “Cold Case Posse” lead investigator Mike Zullo says the file on the Obama birth documents is “massive” and proves that they are fraudulent. The birth certificate image released by Obama is “not a representation of where this man was born” and “I have undeniable evidence that this document is 100 percent forgery.” With the mainstream media protecting Obama, Zullo points out that “Ridicule is the number one weapon that keeps people away” from further investigating Obama or charging him with crimes. (Many legislators and prosecutors know the documents are forgeries but are afraid to act because they believe their careers will be destroyed by a barrage of media attacks.) Zullo says Obama’s birth certificate “has to be brought to trial,” where it will not withstand courtroom scrutiny. Zullo claims that certain “VIPs” in radio have been threatened “by the administration” to avoid on-air discussions of the birth certificate. Gallups states, “There is a plan of action in the works. ...[Some] new authorities are involved and are promising to get involved. ...And just in the last couple of days new evidence came to light from a very legally-credible source [that supports the investigation’s forgery conclusion]. Zullo adds, “The work that we did over the last 15, 16 months has been verified; that’s how strong it is.” (Many who have followed the cold case posse investigation have grown impatient because criminal charges have yet to be filed—even though incontrovertible evidence of forgery has been gathered. But one first has to find a prosecutor in a pertinent legal jurisdiction who has the courage to place his career on the line by filing charges. He or she would immediately be faced with a full attack by the Obama administration and the mainstream media.) [43967, 43968, 44143, 44215, 44216]

In Obama’s childhood home of Indonesia, Muslims beat eight Buddhists to death. (Obama has no comment.) [43979, 43980]

FoxNews.com reports that the U.S. Army has “listed Evangelical Christianity and Catholicism as examples of religious extremism along with Al Qaeda and Hamas during a briefing with an Army Reserve unit based in Pennsylvania... The incident occurred during an Army Reserve Equal Opportunity training brief on extremism. Topping the list is Evangelical Christianity. Other organizations listed included Catholicism, Al Qaeda, Hamas, the Ku Klux Klan, Sunni Muslims, and Nation of Islam. The military also listed ‘Islamophobia’ as a form of religious extremism. ...Army spokesman George Wright told Fox News that this was an ‘isolated incident not condoned by the Dept. of the Army. This slide was not produced by the Army and certainly does not reflect our policy or doctrine,’ he said. ‘It was produced by an individual without anyone in the chain of command’s knowledge or permission.’ Wright said after the complaint was lodged, the presenter deleted the slide, and apologized. ‘We consider the matter closed,’ he said.” Pamela Geller comments at AtlasShrugs.com: “Essentially Obama’s DoD [Department of Defense] is equating Mother Theresa with Sheik Qaradawi. It’s crazy time in America, folks. The bottom line devout is that Christians and Jews are not slaughtering in the name of Christ or Hashem. This is madness. What’s next? The Pope’s face on a wanted poster? I don’t know where the US army is headed with this, but it ain’t good. Truth is the recognition of reality. And these fantasists are in the thrall of one mass circle jerk. This is another attempt to institutionalize smears as an instrument of national policy—to quote Ayn Rand, ‘to raise those smears from the private gutters of yellow journalism to the public summit’ of policy.” (The Army presenter claims she received her information from the Southern Poverty Law Center. The far-left organization denies the charge, but is famous for providing propaganda to Democrat politicians and members of the media.) [43981, 43982, 43983, 44198]

On April 6 Reuters reports, “Five die in Christian-Muslim clashes in Egypt.” The killings took place after “An angry crowd smashed shops belonging to Christians.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller wonders if the article’s author “would have written the holocaust up under the headline, ‘Six Million Germans killed in Nazi-Jewish Clashes.’ You have to read between the lines in these news reports. ...[T]his kind of propagandized reportage is part of an ever-widening and continuing trend: big news-gathering organizations like AP and Reuters have Muslim stringers and reporters write up these stories. And their Islamic narrative is wildly pervasive. Every news organization, broadcast news, down to your local newspaper, pick up these news reports from AP and Reuters. Christians in Egypt after Mubarak are a persecuted, tormented minority. ...Christian areas are terrorized, houses and churches set ablaze. But in this report by Ashraf Fahim, the genocide is described as Muslim-Christian clashes.”) Obama has no comment. [43977, 43978]

In Kabul, Afghanistan three U.S. soldiers and two American civilians are killed in a suicide car bombing. *The New York Times* writes, “Attacks are picking up in what is known as the country’s fighting season as the weather gets warmer. And the Taliban are expected to intensify their efforts to destabilize the Afghan security forces as the NATO troops who have secured the country for the last decade start packing up for their departure at the end of 2014. ...Four other State Department employees were wounded in the blast, one critically. ...The Taliban claimed responsibility for Saturday’s blast, which



occurred near a coalition base.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller wonders why the United States still has troops in Afghanistan if the Obama administration considers such killings “workplace violence” and not war with radical Islamists.) [43984]

Newsmax.com reports, “A senior U.S. defense official says the Pentagon has delayed an intercontinental ballistic missile test for next week at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California amid mounting tensions with North Korea. The official says Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delayed the long-planned Minuteman 3 test because of concerns the launch could be misinterpreted and exacerbate the current Korean crisis. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. ...North Korea’s military has warned that it was authorized to attack the U.S. using ‘smaller, lighter and diversified’ nuclear weapons. South Korean officials say the North moved at least one missile with ‘considerable range’ to its east coast, suggesting a launch could be imminent.” (At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield later writes, “Obama blinked. The United States put the playbook on hold, cancelled a missile test and began clumsily urging everyone to tone down the rhetoric to avoid a war. The game of chicken had ended with Obama, [Secretary of State John] Kerry and [Secretary of Defense Chuck] Hagel squawking in a corner. The trouble with a bluff is that it only works if the other side believes that you aren’t bluffing. And no one believes that Obama would be willing to commit to the use of force in North Korea in any scenario short of a surprise attack. North Korea knows it. So do China, Japan and South Korea. The grand pivot to Asia was an empty gesture with no substance. After the Taliban had cleaned Obama’s clock, his empty posturing was not likely to impress the ruling elite of a totalitarian state with nuclear capabilities and a willingness to murder uncounted numbers of its own people in horrifying ways. ...President Theodore Roosevelt advised speaking softly and carrying a big stick. Instead Obama speaks loudly and carries a toothpick. Obama and Kerry bluster and then punk out when their bluff is called. Obama’s foreign policy of empty threats and incompetent policies has ushered in a Post-American world order. Asia has lost faith in American stability. Eastern Europe is learning the same lesson. And the Middle East learned it years ago. Whatever happens with North Korea is no longer up to Obama. Just as the UK and France made all the important decisions in Libya and Syria, the North Korean crisis is in Japan[’s] and South Korea’s hands.”) [43992, 44114]

*The Washington Post* finally realizes that the unemployment rate has fallen not because more Americans are working but because more are dropping out of the workforce altogether. The *Post* writes, “Put out an all-points bulletin: Millions of Americans have gone missing from the workforce. Every month that those would-be workers are gone raises the odds that they might never come back, dimming the prospects for future economic growth.” Doing its best to defend Obama, the *Post* blames George W. Bush, claiming, “The vanishing trend is more than a decade old, but it accelerated during the Great Recession.” (Ed Morrissey later points out at HotAir.com that the trend is more certainly not more than a decade old: “First, it’s very clear that the trend downward didn’t begin ten years ago. For the first six years of the last decade, the civilian labor force participation rate stayed nearly level in the 66% range. It didn’t *start* dropping below that level until the last quarter of 2008. However, it didn’t *really* start accelerating until six months into Obama’s term. That’s about the same time that the Great Recession officially

ended—June 2009—and the technical recovery began. At that point, the [labor force participation rate] was 65.7%, just a tenth of a point below January 2005’s 65.8% and exactly what it was when Obama took office. In the three years and nine months since, it has plunged two and a half points to 63.3%, the lowest it’s been since Jimmy Carter’s presidency. ...I’d ask for a show of hands from the Washington Post’s layers of fact-checkers and editors who vetted [their] claim against the actual data, but it’s clear that none of them bothered. Apparently, they were so concerned about not hanging the blame for this on the Obama administration that fact-checking just slipped their minds.”) [44005, 44006]

In his weekly Internet/radio address Obama says his proposed budget “doesn’t spend beyond our means, and it’s a budget that doesn’t make harsh and unnecessary cuts that only serve to slow our economy. We’ll keep our promise to an aging generation by shoring up Medicare, and we’ll keep our promise to the next generation by investing in the fundamentals that always made America strong: manufacturing, innovation, energy and education.” (Obama’s budget proposal most certainly does “spend beyond our means” because it calls for continuing deficits and continual borrowing. Any budget that never balances necessarily “spends beyond means.”) [44055]

At a public event in Austin, Texas, Democrat city council member Mike Martinez notes a protest sign that reads, “Stop gun ban!” and says, “Someone needs to inform him that there is no gun ban currently, but because of the work we’re doing here today, we will make your sign legitimate shortly, so you hang on to that.” [44109]

On April 7 the Associated Press reports, “Senate aides say a Democratic and a Republican senator are working on a compromise expanding required federal background checks to gun shows and to online firearms sales. If an agreement could be completed, it could represent a significant breakthrough in the effort by ...Obama and his allies to restrict guns in the wake of the mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., that killed 26 first-graders and staff last December. The aides said the potential deal is being worked on by Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. Manchin is a moderate with an A rating from the National Rifle Association, while Toomey has solid conservative credentials. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose private negotiations.” (The Associated Press neglects to explain that licensed gun dealers are already required to perform background checks on all guns sales—including sales conducted at gun shows. Background checks have not, however, been required when non-dealer individuals sell their own personal weapons, such as an individual selling a shotgun to his neighbor or a private collector selling a gun to a friend, or when a weapon is passed to a descendant upon the death of the gun owner. Few gun dealers resent having to perform background checks; they have no desire to see weapons in the hands of criminals or mentally deranged individuals. Although the Toomey-Manchin “compromise” will not require private sellers at gun shows to perform background checks, it will require them to have licensed gun dealers perform the checks for them. In other words, the agreement is more of a capitulation than a compromise.) [43986, 44000, 44121, 44173]

On *Face the Nation*, a clueless Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says, “I don’t understand” why other senators would filibuster gun control legislation.” (McCain is one of eight senators drafting the legislation in secret, yet he wonders why anyone would object to the process.) “The purpose of the United States Senate is to debate and to vote and to let the people know where we stand. What are we afraid of?” (Some might argue that the Senators should spend more time upholding the U.S. Constitution than debating how to abrogate the document.) “...If this issue is as important as we all think it is, why not take... it up and debate? Everybody wants the same goal to keep the guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally disabled.” (Embarrassingly, McCain apparently does not understand that the purpose of a filibuster is to attempt to block passage of legislation that one or more principled senators believes is unconstitutional. McCain also does not understand that a simple up-or-down vote is precisely what the Democrats want. They and the media can then frame the issue as they see fit throughout the 2014 election season. A filibuster allows the Senators who oppose the legislation to explain why—in a more dramatic fashion that calls attention to their reasons. A filibuster would help educate the public; they would learn that the Democrat legislation makes it illegal to even lend a gun to a friend without an expensive and lengthy background check and imposes a five-year prison sentence if a stolen or lost gun is not reported within 24 hours.) McCain says, “There will be a great deal of unhappiness about this proposal because everybody didn’t get what they wanted. There are entrenched positions on both sides of this issue.” [43999, 44000, 44012, 44052]

On *Meet the Press* Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) warns that if North Korea takes any extreme offensive actions “I think the new president of South Korea would be compelled to act. ...The North loses and the South wins with our help. That’s what happens. They’re going to pay a heavy price.” [43991]

Also on *Meet the Press*, CNBC financial analyst Jim Cramer calls the March job report “...stunning. Stunning. And I think a lot of it had to do with fear-mongering. [Obama] did make people feel everything is going to shut down in this country because of the sequester. A lot of the CEOs were very scared. A lot of the small business people held back, the bankers would tell you that. ...Go back in time. A month ago, what was the rhetoric of the White House? It was, look, this is a really big deal. Everyone has to just stop and consider how bad this is going to be for the economy. Well, the CEOs stopped. They considered and they decided, you know what, we got to hold back.” (That is, businesses took Obama at his word when he warned that the sky would fall because of the sequestration cuts and acted accordingly—not expanding and not hiring.) [44049]

At WND.com E. Michael Maloof writes, “If North Korea were to launch an attack, U.S. intelligence analysts tell WND the barrage of hundreds of thousands of artillery rounds and missiles would destroy not only South Korea’s capital, Seoul, but also most of the U.S. troops stationed primarily around the capital and near the Demilitarized Zone separating the two countries. ‘The 28,500 guys on the border are a speed bump and a trigger for war,’ a U.S. intelligence officer who is closely monitoring North Korean activities told WND in an exclusive interview. ‘They probably would die.’ He explained, ‘Every U.S. and South Korean (location) already has a pre-programmed target reference

point by the North Koreans.’ ...Because of limited supplies of some 30–90 days and antiquated equipment, any North Korean attack would be over ‘in relatively short order,’ he said. Eventually, the U.S. would use its air power superiority against the North’s antiquated fighter jets and anti-aircraft and missile batteries to hit selected targets, including the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. ...Until that occurred, however, Americans in South Korea would be vulnerable to slaughter in the initial barrage of explosives.” [43996, 44003]

In Cairo, Egypt Muslims swarm Saint Mark’s Coptic Cathedral, disrupting a memorial service for four Christians murdered by Muslims two days earlier. Riot police reportedly side with the Muslim attackers. Egyptian human rights activist Alaa Abdel Fattah states, “The future of Christians in the Middle East is very bleak. What has happened in Iraq and Syria is de facto ethnic cleansing of Christians.” (Obama has no comment.) Meanwhile, AtlasShrugs.com reports, “Hundreds of thousands of Muslim protesters took over the streets of Bangladesh’s capital, calling for the death penalty for bloggers who insult Islam”—the country’s 10-year prison sentence for defaming a religion apparently being insufficient for the angry crowd. (Obama has no comment.) [43993, 43994, 44043, 44062, 44063]

On MSNBC, a leftist, hypocritical Melissa Harris-Perry—whose daughter attends a private school—says, “We have never invested as much in public education as we should have because we’ve always had a private notion of children, your kid is yours and totally your responsibility. We haven’t had a very collective notion of these are our children. So part of it is we have to break through our kind of private idea that kids belong to their parents or kids belong to their families and recognize that kids belong to whole communities. Once it’s everybody’s responsibility and not just the household’s we start making better investments.” (Harris-Perry, who for some reason irrationally thinks parents believe they “own” their children, argues instead that children should be owned by the government.) Rush Limbaugh later comments, “[W]hat she is saying here is as old as communist genocide. But the fact that it is said in America on a cable news channel and is considered fairly benign is what has changed. What has changed is that this really—[many] people [now] believe this. This isn’t that big a deal. That is what’s changed, folks.” (It is also worth noting that Harris-Perry’s claim that too little money is spent on public education is ridiculous. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, “Across all levels of education, annual per-student spending by educational institutions in the U.S. is higher than in any other country, at \$15,812.” If \$15,812 per student per year is insufficient for a quality education, the problem is most assuredly how the schools spend the money and not how much they are getting.) [44025, 44027, 44037, 44047, 44064, 44081, 44084, 44094, 44103]

Harris-Perry, then known as Melissa Harris Laceywell, was a friend of Obama’s when both taught at the University of Chicago. She also regularly attended Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ—where from 1999 to 2006 she joined Obama in listening to the anti-white and anti-American sermons of his “spiritual advisor,” Reverend Jeremiah Wright. According to WND.com, “Harris-Perry is also a trustee at the George Soros-funded Century Foundation, which is a partner of the [far left] Center for American

Progress. CAP has been described as the ‘idea factory’ of the White House. CAP is run by John Podesta, a former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton who was co-chairman of ...Obama’s 2008 White House transition team. Podesta and CAP have had heavy influence on the crafting of White House policy. CAP routinely releases policy reports that are reportedly used in the formulation of Obama administration policy.” (In a promotional video for MSNBC, lispng leftist Harris-Perry says, “...you do have the right to health care, and to education, and to decent housing, and to quality food at all times.” Why anyone should have to set an alarm clock and go to work is not explained by the advocate for socialism.) [44025, 44027, 44037, 44047, 44064, 44081, 44084, 44094, 44103]

On April 8 former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dies of a stroke at age 87. *Foreign Policy* writes, “The first female prime minister in her country’s history, Thatcher came to embody a turn toward a free-market political program that sought to unleash economic dynamism through an aggressive program of privatizations and tax reductions. Thatcherism—as her political program became known to both her supporters and detractors—would throw off the heavy hand of the state and seek a Britain with greater vitality. Her perhaps defining moment came in 1984 when she broke a major strike launched by the miners union, a victory that consolidated her political power and represented a triumph over the country’s strike-prone unions. The woman who came to be known as the Iron Lady matched her pioneering domestic agenda with a muscular foreign policy that saw Britain come to blows with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. And just as she refused to cede British sovereignty in the South Atlantic, she remained deeply skeptical toward the European project and laid the groundwork for Britain’s taciturn relationship with the European Union and its decision not to adopt the euro. Together with Ronald Reagan, a man who would become a close friend, she emerged as a canny leader in the Cold War, recognizing early on that Mikhail Gorbachev’s reforms presented an opportunity for the West. ...[S]he is likely to go down in history as Britain’s greatest post-war prime minister.” [43988, 43989, 43997, 43998, 44007, 44039, 44051]

Leftists who believe the only good conservative is a dead conservative are thrilled that the last of the three greatest advocates of liberty in the 1980s—Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and Thatcher—passed away. In London, leftist hooligans “celebrate” Thatcher’s death by breaking shop windows and throwing paint bombs. (Rush Limbaugh later asks, “Can you imagine what would have happened if a bunch of people had taken to the streets in this country to celebrate the death of Ted Kennedy? If they had engaged in violent civil disobedience and started throwing death parties, can you imagine the reaction that would have happened?”) [43998, 44007, 44039, 44051, 44060, 44061]

Current Prime Minister David Cameron states, “As our first woman prime minister, Margaret Thatcher succeeded against all the odds, and the real thing about Margaret Thatcher is that she didn’t just lead our country, she saved our country, and I believe she’ll go down as the greatest British peacetime prime minister. Her legacy will be the fact she served her country so well, she saved our country and that she showed immense courage in doing so and people will be learning about what she did and her achievements in decades, probably centuries to come.” Obama states, “With the passing of Baroness

Margaret Thatcher, the world has lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty, and America has lost a true friend. As a grocer's daughter who rose to become Britain's first female prime minister, she stands as an example to our daughters that there is no glass ceiling that can't be shattered. As prime minister, she helped restore the confidence and pride that has always been the hallmark of Britain at its best." (Thatcher's goal was never, of course, "shattering a glass ceiling." Her goal was the promotion and expansion of individual liberties, free markets, and economic freedoms. Because of her, Great Britain's move toward socialism was stalled—at least while she held office. Author Mona Charen comments on Obama's statement: "So today we all celebrate Margaret Thatcher as a feminist icon? This is revisionism of a high order." Rush Limbaugh says, "One of the many things [Thatcher] said that I've never forgotten—and there were a lot of them, but this one has always stuck with me—was 'Consensus is the absence of leadership.' Consensus is now [regrettably] the objective in this country.") [43988, 43989, 43997, 43998, 44004, 44011, 44034]

CNSNews.com points out that the White House waited two hours to release a statement in response to Thatcher's death, while a statement from Obama about the passing of film critic Roger Ebert was issued within 30 minutes of his death. (Ebert was a leftist and Thatcher most certainly was not. It is no doubt more difficult to draft a statement upon the death of someone one despised.) [44013]

Among Thatcher's more memorable public statements are: "Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't." "They've got the usual Socialist disease—they've run out of other people's money." "My policies are based not on some economics theory, but on things I and millions like me were brought up with: an honest day's work for an honest day's pay; live within your means; put by a nest egg for a rainy day; pay your bills on time; support the police." "I always cheer up immensely if an attack is particularly wounding because I think, well, if they attack one personally, it means they have not a single political argument left." "It is always important in matters of high politics to know what you do not know. Those who think that they know, but are mistaken, and act upon their mistakes, are the most dangerous people to have in charge." "The choice facing the nation is between two totally different ways of life. And what a prize we have to fight for: no less than the chance to banish from our land the dark, divisive clouds of Marxist socialism and bring together men and women from all walks of life who share a belief in freedom." "A man may climb Everest for himself, but at the summit he plants his country's flag." "The larger the slice taken by government, the smaller the cake available for everyone." "Whether manufactured by black, white, brown or yellow hands, a widget remains a widget—and it will be bought anywhere if the price and quality are right. The market is a more powerful and more reliable liberating force than government can ever be." "Left-wing zealots have often been prepared to ride roughshod over due process and basic considerations of fairness when they think they can get away with it. For them the ends always seems to justify the means. That is precisely how their predecessors came to create the gulag." "Conservatives have excellent credentials to speak about human rights. By our efforts, and with precious little help from self-styled liberals, we were largely responsible for securing liberty for a substantial share of the world's population and defending it for most of the rest." "Look at a day when you

are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it." [44033]

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius comments on the problems of implementing ObamaCare: "Probably no one fully anticipated when you have a law that phases in over time, how much confusion that creates for a lot of people. So that has been difficult. When the law was signed and people immediately did not get affordable health insurance, they were surprised and a lot were disappointed but now understand that this was a gradual phase-in." (Some people did, of course, "anticipate" those problems: opponents of ObamaCare who saw what was coming.) [44105]

Obama visits the University of Hartford to praise Connecticut for its recent passage of restrictive gun control legislation. Obama says, "Some folks back in Washington are already floating the idea that they might use political stunts to prevent votes on any of these reforms. They're not just saying they'll vote 'no' on ideas that almost all Americans support. They're saying they'll do everything they can to even prevent any votes on these provisions. They're saying your opinion doesn't matter—and that's not right." (A filibuster is not a political stunt; it is a legal maneuver meant to block, or at least bring attention to, legislation one or more senators believes to be unconstitutional. A "stunt" is Obama using police officers, children, and distraught family members of crime victims as political props when he delivers a speech—even if they would rather not be there.) Obama also says, "I've also heard some in the Washington press suggest that what happens to gun violence legislation in Congress this week will either be a political victory or defeat for me. Connecticut, this is not about me. This is not about politics. This is about doing the right thing for all the families who are here that have been torn apart by gun violence. ...Let's make it a little harder for our kids to get gunned down." (If his concern is making it "a little harder" to kill children, Obama should have delivered his speech in Chicago and told Mayor Rahm Emanuel to arrest and prosecute its thousands of gang members.) Obama's round trip to Hartford on Air Force One will cost the taxpayers about \$359,500—not counting Secret Service protection at the event. [44001, 44028, 44050]

According to a March survey of 15,000 law enforcement professionals by PoliceOne.com, "Virtually all respondents (95 percent) say that a federal ban on manufacture and sale of ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds would not reduce violent crime. ...The majority of respondents—71 percent—say a federal ban on the manufacture and sale of some semi-automatics would have no effect on reducing violent crime. However, more than 20 percent say any ban would actually have a negative effect on reducing violent crime. ...About 85 percent of officers say the passage of the White House's currently proposed legislation would have a zero or negative effect on their safety, with just over 10 percent saying it would have a moderate or significantly positive effect. ...Seventy percent of respondents say they have a favorable or very favorable opinion of some law enforcement leaders' public statements that they would not enforce more restrictive gun laws in their jurisdictions. Similarly, more than 61 percent said they would refuse to enforce such laws if they themselves were Chief or Sheriff. ...The overwhelming majority (almost 90 percent) of officers believe that

casualties would be decreased if armed citizens were present at the onset of an active-shooter incident. ...More than 80 percent of respondents support arming school teachers and administrators who willingly volunteer to train with firearms and carry one in the course of the job.” (In other words, the vast majority of police officers do not agree with Obama on the issue of gun control. The mainstream media can be expected to ignore the survey’s results.) [44066, 44076, 44078, 44079]

In a letter to Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA), Patricia Smith, the mother of Sean Smith, who was killed in the Benghazi attack on September 11, 2012, writes, “Please, Please help me find out who is responsible [for his death] and fix it so no more of our sons and daughters are abandoned by the country they love. When I was in Wash. DC at the reception of the caskets, I asked for and received promises from ...Obama, Hillary Clinton, Leon Panetta, VP Biden and several other dignitaries in attendance. They all looked me directly in the eyes and promised they would find out and let me know. I got only one call from a clerk about a month later quoting from the time line, which I already had.” (Wolf has 89 co-sponsors for legislation calling for a special House committee to investigate the Benghazi attack and the Obama administration cover-up.) [44189]

In her Terrible Truth blog, Martha Trowbridge notes a March 30 NCAA basketball game at Washington D.C.’s Verizon Center throughout which Obama is seated next to a woman the media does not identify. Trowbridge believes the woman was (Jo) Ann Newman, who she also believes is Obama’s birth mother—rather than Stanley Ann Dunham. “Known in the late 1950’s through at least November 1965 as Jo Ann Newman of New York City, this time when she publicly joined her famous son, Mom was not disguised by a wig. Or eyeglasses. Or sunglasses. Or heavy makeup. This time, Mom appeared just as she is. Tracking her for two full years, Mom’s ‘au naturel’ appearance with her son stunned me. Why would he permit her to join him so openly, so truthfully, when he *knew* I would know her? And why would she consent, after all her hidden years, to boldly, plainly manifest in front of cameras? Strikingly: why would [Jo] Ann’s hair be coiffed identically to the style she wore, when I first identified her in November 2011, in the immediate aftermath of Malcolm X’s 1965 assassination? [Trowbridge believes Malcolm X is Obama’s father, and that Obama was given the name Bâri’ Malik Shabazz.] Could it be, that after decades of deceit, she and her son are stepping forward in Truth? If so, why now? Studying the images, perhaps it’s as simple as this: ‘Obama’s’ mother may be dying. ...In every photo presented, when analyzed, [Jo] Ann Newman’s face, neck and upper chest appear extensively bruised, consistent with chemotherapy. ...If [Jo] Ann Newman is indeed terminally ill, it may well be that mother and son—in their own fashion—are stepping forth together, for all the world to see.” (Although *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama’s father was not Kenyan socialist Barack Hussein Obama, Sr., it does believe Stanley Ann Dunham was Obama’s mother. Trowbridge’s theories are noted here in an effort to keep *Timeline* readers informed of all new Obama-related information. It is impossible to know which theories will turn out to be accurate, but it is clear that the “official” Obama life story is full of fabrications.) [44014, 44015, 44016, 44017]



At WeeklyStandard.com Fred Barnes writes, “When Dan Pfeiffer, a senior adviser to ...Obama, spoke at a Politico event last week, he was asked what would constitute success in 2013 for the White House. One of his answers was making headway to ‘rebalance our economy.’ The goal, he said, is an economy that’s ‘not top down.’ Like their boss, Obama aides often speak in euphemisms. So here’s the translation: The Obama administration will continue to pursue redistribution of wealth and income, taking from the well-to-do and giving to the poor and middle class (at least to the lower middle class). [Obama] has his own way of touting redistribution. Whenever he uses the word ‘fair,’ you can bet he’s really referring to redistribution. ...Redistribution, however, is not the friend of growth. It impedes growth. The most effective tool in spurring growth is private investment. Obama may not like it, but major investors tend to be well off. They have money to invest. Rather than encourage them to invest in growth and jobs, Obama does the opposite. By raising their taxes and leaving a strong impression he’d like to raise them even more, he discourages investment. ...Since the recession began in 2008, the working population—those employed or looking for jobs—has increased by 12.2 million. But in five years, the number of jobs has grown by only 1.4 million. ...Meanwhile, spending on food stamps and disability payments has soared. And later this year, Obamacare is to arrive in full force. ...Obama has paid practically no political price for redistribution and slow growth. He still talks about fixing the economy as if no one should have expected anything better. The public hasn’t rebelled, and Republicans have failed to make growth a salient issue. It’s time they did.” [44018]

The Senate approves Mary Jo White as the director of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). According to DailyCaller.com, White worked for “the powerful New York law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, where she first worked as an associate in 1976 and where she became partner in 2002 after her tenure as a U.S. attorney. Before she was confirmed by the Senate, White was collecting \$42,500 per month in retirement pay from the firm, which represents some of America’s most powerful corporations. The company recently converted that into a lump sum payment to White.” Her clients have included Former Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, the imprisoned former Goldman Sachs Director Rajat Gupta, and JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and UBS AG. (White’s skills apparently include helping corporate crooks avoid jail. Whether she will be willing to now prosecute them as she heads the SEC remains to be seen. The more cynical may assume that former MF Global CEO Jon Corzine is still unlikely to be charged with a crime for stealing more than \$1 billion from his clients.) [44036]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the Republican insider, who writes, “First we have the [Senator Pat] Toomey Office drama. Our people are screaming back at their people. They think something is going to be passed [on gun control] regardless so why not try to get input into a compromise. That is their position and they refuse to budge on it. We are telling them it’s a trap. They don’t care. I am so sick and tired of these idiotic Republicans who refuse to see what is right in front of them. The trap is that the Senate wants to send something to the House and then have it stall there and spin that in the 24/7 news cycle about how out of touch and dysfunctional House Republicans are. That sets up 2014. Obama, the First Lady, and Biden are all scheduled to do a major media push at the same time. We are telling the Toomey office all of this but they don’t care. Or they

think we are totally wrong. I don't know. Then we get word Senator [Rand] Paul's office was told by Republican leadership that basically he either shuts up [about filibustering gun control legislation] or faces a primary challenge and possibly other repercussions. Think it was from someone over at the RNC [Republican National Committee] but haven't followed that up to confirm who it was yet. Don't know if [Senator Ted] Cruz has received a similar threat but would assume he has." [44023]

"I also was given a heads up that the [Senator John] McCain office has been in direct contact with the Obama operation on this issue. For weeks. McCain apparently indicated his full support of a 'compromise bill' between Senate Republicans and Democrats on gun control and even worse, he apparently is aware of what is being attempted with the issue against House Republicans and he is fine with that. He can't stand the Tea Party wing of the party and wants it gone. For good. One of my most trusted colleagues up here put it this way. 'The Democrats are trying to use guns to kill the Tea Party and win 2014.' This was after a brief meeting she had with someone from the [Senator Joe] Manchin office. You might have already seen reports of Senator Manchin and Senator Toomey working together on the gun control compromise. The Democrats really think they have Republicans cornered on this one not so much because of the issue itself, but because they are thinking they can exploit the current division between the old Republican leadership and the new voices of the party. ...The gun compromise is actually an attempt by both Obama Democrats and the Republican leadership to deliver a very forceful 'bitch slap' against people like Senator Rand Paul, Senator Ted Cruz, and others. Basically we have a war going on up here right now. You know what side I'm on. I say we end run this issue. The Democrats really have no idea how upset people are getting over this gun grab stuff. And neither do the Republican leadership. Going to use that anger against them. All of them." [44023]

The White House continues to press for gun control, with press secretary Jay Carney criticizing Senate Republicans for opposing the proposed legislation and threatening a filibuster to force Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to come up with an unlikely 60 votes for passage. Carney tells reporters, "Imagine what would they say to the families of the victims of Newtown about why a certain measure never came to a vote, because they filibustered. ...That would certainly be inappropriate." (Carney's unstated message is, "Anyone who disagrees with Obama wants to see school children gunned down.") "If they oppose this legislation, have the courage to say so on the floor and vote no. Don't block it. Don't hide behind a procedural action to prevent the vote." (Carney is incorrect. The procedural action of a filibuster means that Senators will take to the floor of the Senate and explain why they oppose the legislation; that is not "hiding." The actual hiding is being done by Senators who have drafted the bill in secret and who are demanding a vote with limited discussion and no hearings. It is Obama and his fellow Democrats who do not want the public to know what is in the legislation—because they would be outraged if they did.) [44026]

Politico reports, "Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said he would join a group of Senate Republicans threatening a filibuster to oppose a cloture vote if Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] moves a gun bill to the floor this week. Reid has promised to

move a gun bill to the Senate floor this week, but it's unclear which one. ... In order to get around the filibuster, Reid has indicated that he would file a cloture motion, which would require a 60-vote margin to move the bill." (Obama and his fellow Democrats are demanding a vote on the legislation but are not willing to allow hearings or extensive debate on the floor of the Senate—because they do not want the public to know what is in the bill beyond what the mainstream media is told to report. A vote for cloture is a vote to end debate, yet Reid and Obama claim the GOP is attempting to avoid debating the issue. Reid states, "We should not stifle debate, run from tough issues or avoid difficult choices"—yet wants a cloture vote that would do just that.) [44029, 44050]

In a CNN/ORC International poll, Obama is "underwater" on every major issue. On the overall economy his approval/disapproval ratings are 44/54; on budget deficit: 38/58; taxes: 46/52; illegal immigration: 42/50; gun policies: 44/50; health care: 44/54; Social Security and Medicare: 44/52. Nevertheless, Obama manages an overall approval rating of 51 percent. (The numbers tend to confirm Rush Limbaugh's theory that Obama has, mostly with media help, been able to divorce himself from everything he does and portray himself as an "outsider.") [44030, 44031]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that increasing numbers of small businesses "are bracing for the health-care law that kicks in next year, fearing it will increase the cost of providing insurance to employees." One Des Moines, Iowa businessman, Rick Levi, "currently spends about \$140,000 a year on insurance premiums to cover 25 managerial staff at his business, Consolidated Management, which runs cafeterias at schools, offices and jails. Under the new law, he will have to offer insurance to all of his 102 full-time employees starting in January. Assuming all of them take the coverage, Mr. Levi says the cost of premiums could exceed \$500,000." Levi points out, "I've never made a profit in any year of the company that has surpassed that amount. I don't make enough money." Levi may simply stop providing health insurance for his employees altogether and pay the \$2,000-per-worker ObamaCare penalty instead. Other companies will reduce the number of employees to fewer than 50 full-time workers (the cut-off for the ObamaCare insurance requirement) and hire part-time employees to do the work of the terminated full-time employees. Erin Shields Britt, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, insists ObamaCare "will decrease costs, strengthen small business and make it easier for employers to provide coverage to their workers..." [44041, 44042]

Michelle Malkin reports, "Via the Center for Security Policy, 700 Special Ops veterans sent a letter to Congress today calling on Congress to establish a select committee to investigate the Benghazi cover-up. 'The SOF 700 letter was organized at the initiative of Lieutenant General William G. 'Jerry' Boykin USA (Ret.) by Special Operations Speaks (SOS),' Frank Gaffney writes. 'This not-for-profit organization was established by special operation veterans in 2012 to illuminate the failed operational security environment of the Obama Administration and to restore accountability in government. These veterans have put their lives on the line for our country. The signers are determined to ensure than no one else needlessly loses theirs by establishing—and learning from—the lessons of the Benghazi scandal.'" [44038]

On April 9 the Associated Press reports, “North Korea on Tuesday urged foreign companies and tourists in South Korea to evacuate, saying the two countries are on the verge of a nuclear war. The new warning appeared to be an attempt to scare foreigners into pressing their governments to pressure Washington and Seoul to act to avert a conflict. ...The call from the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee for foreigners to leave South Korea was the latest in a series of statements aimed at ramping up anxiety abroad about tensions on the peninsula. ‘The situation on the Korean Peninsula is inching close to a thermonuclear war due to the evermore undisguised hostile actions of the United States and the South Korean puppet warmongers and their moves for a war against’ North Korea, the committee said in a statement carried by state media. White House spokesman Jay Carney called the statement ‘more unhelpful rhetoric.’ ‘It is unhelpful, it is concerning, it is provocative,’ he said.” (There is, of course, no need to warn tourists to get out of North Korea because there is essentially no such thing as a tourist in North Korea.) [44032, 44040]

FoxNews.com reports, “Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell’s campaign has contacted the FBI after a recording of a private strategy meeting was published Tuesday in a liberal publication, claiming the campaign was the victim of ‘Watergate-style tactics’ to bug the office. Several snippets of the audio from the February strategy sessions were published Tuesday by Mother Jones magazine, along with a lengthy article. The recording, obtained from an unnamed source, included McConnell aides discussing ways to politically damage actress Ashley Judd, who at the time was talked about as a possible McConnell challenger. The aides suggested going after her mental health and views on religion.” McConnell campaign manager Jesse Benton states, “We’ve always said the Left would stop at nothing to attack Sen. McConnell, but Watergate-style tactics to bug campaign headquarters are above and beyond. Obviously a recording device of some kind was placed in Senator McConnell’s campaign office without consent. By whom and how that was accomplished presumably will be the subject of a criminal investigation.” (At PJMedia.com Hans A. Von Spakovsky points out, “Whoever bugged the meeting room or secretly placed a recording device will be in serious legal trouble—unless he or she was one of the strategists. ...Whoever made the recording is facing the very real prospect of fines and up to five years in prison. ...News reports indicate that the FBI is investigating and that the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Louisville has also been notified. But we won’t know if the applicable federal and state laws were, in fact, violated, until we know who made the recording.” (McConnell can only sue in civil court for damages.) [44129, 44130, 44152]

Apparently unaware that the Equal Pay Act of 1963 made pay discrimination based on gender illegal, Obama declares April 9 “National Equal Pay Day.” Obama states, “Women, who make up nearly half of our nation’s workforce, face a pay gap that means they earn 23 percent less on average than men do. That disparity is even greater for African-American women and Latinas. On National Equal Pay Day, we recognize this injustice by marking how far into the new year women have to work just to make what men did in the previous one.” (The 23 percent figure is nonsense. The difference is less than 10 percent, and even that is meaningless because it represents the gap between an *estimated average of the income of all women* and an *estimated average of the income of*

*all men.* That a female coffee server at Starbucks earns less than the male CEO of the company is certainly not proof of “gender discrimination,” yet data like that is fed into the equation. The relevant question is whether a female server earns the same as a male server of equal experience and who performs the same job duties, or whether a female accountant with 10 years of experience at company X earns the same as a male accountant with 10 years of experience at company X. That she may earn less than a male accountant at company Y is irrelevant.) For the record, female staffers in Obama’s White House reportedly earn 13 percent less than male staffers. (Whether they do the same, less, or more work is not known.) [44035, 44053, 44059]

In a meaningless but nevertheless interesting poll conducted by Kelton Research for the National Geographic Channel, Ronald Reagan would defeat Obama with 58 percent of the vote if such an election could be held. [44123]

Federal budget woes and the high unemployment in the United States notwithstanding, CNSNews.com reports, “The U.S. State Department, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), has announced that it will award up to \$300,000 for ‘workforce development’ in Serbia.” [44054]

FrancePressInfos.com reports that Muslims in Syria beheaded a Christian man and fed his body to dogs. Sister Agnes Miriam Cross states, “His only crime was to be a Christian,” and observes that West “ignores atrocities committed by Islamic extremists on the Christian community.” (Obama has no comment, but AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller does: “Obama is supporting these savages.”) [44115, 44116]

According to Marezill.com, in Bedfordshire, England “an armed mob of Islamic supremacist thugs showed up at the home of Tommy Robinson in an attempt to terrorize him and his family. British police showed up on the scene and without even bothering to search or question the armed mob of Islamic supremacist thugs, they arrested their intended victim.” Pamela Geller writes, “The British are enforcing Islamic law. If you read this account without knowing it was the UK, you would be inclined to think that this was Cairo or Islamabad. This is sharia harassment of infidels who refuse to submit. Tommy Robinson, the UK’s most effective counter-jihad leader and my colleague on the SION President’s Council, was arrested when armed Muslims came to his house and terrorized his family.” (Obama has no comment.) [44117, 4118]

At a Senate confirmation hearing for Marilyn Tavenner, Obama’s choice to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) says ObamaCare is “so complicated and if it isn’t done right the first time, it will just simply get worse. ...I believe that the Affordable Care Act is probably the most complex piece of legislation ever passed by the United States Congress. Tax reform obviously has been huge too, but up to this point it is just beyond comprehension.” (Rockefeller’s staff helped draft ObamaCare and he voted for its passage.) [44102, 44104]

USNews.com reports, “The economy doesn’t usually boom when pay is falling, so a new survey showing a surprising drop in compensation may be yet another sign of a

slowdown. The Payscale index, which measures quarterly changes in pay in 15 broad industries, ticked downward in the first quarter of 2013, the first decline in nearly two years. ...More broadly, median household income fell by about 8 percent during the recession, with many families simply ending up worse off, some of them permanently. Incomes have bounced back for some workers, but the broadest measures of national income have gone up mainly because more people are working. ‘While this may not be a problem if the job market continues to expand,’ says Russ Koesterich of investing firm BlackRock, ‘it illustrates that most workers still can’t get a raise.’” [44145]

Vice President Joe Biden insists gun owners have nothing to fear from proposed gun control legislation: “There is no record kept in some big database. No record’s kept of your name. No record’s kept of your request... no central registry for anything. No way that Uncle Sam can go find out whether you own a gun because we’re about to really take away all your rights and you’re not going to be able to defend yourself and we’re going to swoop down with special forces folks and gather up every gun in America. It’s bizarre.” (Every time an individual purchases a gun from a licensed gun dealer, that dealer requests a background check from the federal government and completes form 4473. The forms—which contain the buyer’s name address, gender, height, weight, place and date of birth, Social Security number, race, ethnicity, etc.—must be retained for 20 years, and the ATF has the right to access the forms at any time. What does Biden believe those forms create if not a “database?”) [44091, 44092]

While Joe Biden says no one has to fear the government taking away their guns, MarketDailynews.com reports, “The New York State Police are suspending the handgun permits of people in the state who are prescribed anti-anxiety medication, according to Jim Tresmond of the Tresmond Law Firm in Hamburg, New York. ... ‘We are representing a client right now who is impacted by this onerous activity of the government,’ Tresmond told WBEN, a news talk radio station in Buffalo, New York. ‘We were flummoxed by this whole matter,’ the attorney said. ‘The HIPPA [sic] act is supposed to prevent this kind of thing from happening. It’s a gross invasion of our privacy rights.’” (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, is federal legislation that requires health records to be kept confidential. The law is clearly being violated if police departments are able to learn who is taking certain medications.) Meanwhile, PersonalLiberty.com reports that Prowers County, Colorado Undersheriff Ron Trowbridge attended a Department of Homeland Security-related training course in which the instructor asked if the troopers present were willing and prepared to confiscate weapons from “sovereign citizen” groups, including “Christian fundamentalists.” [44106, 44107, 44108, 44125]

Michelle Obama hosts what the White House calls a “Memphis Soul Workshop.” In the evening the Obamas host a “Memphis Soul” concert featuring Justin Timberlake, Ben Harper, Queen Latifah, Cyndi Lauper, Joshua Ledet, Sam Moore, Charlie Musselwhite, and Mavis Staples—a few of whom may actually have something to do with Memphis soul music. The event’s cost to the taxpayers is not known (but it likely exceeds quite a bit more than one canceled White House tour). At the event, a cigarette-craving Obama

reportedly spends time “chomping Nicorette” gum, and embarrasses his daughters with bad dance moves. [44058, 44093, 44095, 44096, 44097]

On April 10 Obama releases his proposed fiscal year 2014 budget. It calls for \$3.77 trillion in spending—at least \$700 billion more than the government will collect in taxes, \$170 billion more than projected 2013 spending, and 8 percent more than 2010 spending. Over 10 years, it calls for \$46.5 trillion in total spending, \$5.5 trillion more than the GOP budget approved by the House of Representatives. Despite its massive deficit, he calls the document “a fiscally responsible blueprint for middle class jobs and growth.” Obama calls for \$563 billion in higher taxes over 10 years, \$78 billion from higher cigarette taxes and a reversal of the sequestration spending reductions, and places a \$3 million limit on IRAs, 401(k)s, and other tax-deferred retirement accounts. At the same time, Obama wants to automatically enroll workers in an IRA if they do not already have one—and if they do not choose to do so they will have to specifically request permission to opt out. Obama continues to claim “savings” in each of the next 10 years from ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Ending the war spending does *not* give the government more money to spend—because it is running perpetual deficits. Ending a war only means the government will need to borrow less. Borrowing \$25,000 to buy a new automobile in 2013 and not buying another one in 2014 does *not* give a person an additional \$25,000 in 2014, let alone another extra \$25,000 in 2015.) Obama’s budget also calls for less spending on detention of illegal immigrants, and \$222 million for gun control. [44067, 44068, 44073, 44080, 44087, 44088, 44100, 44101, 44138, 44150, 44177]

Obama presents his dead-on-arrival document with the claim, “The American people deserve better than what we’ve been seeing, the short-sighted, crisis-driven spending cuts that are already hurting a lot of communities out there. If we want to keep rebuilding our economy on a stronger, more stable foundation, then we’ve got to get smarter about our priorities as a nation.” (More deficit spending and borrowing is Obama’s method of getting “smarter.”) Obama’s budget never achieves balance—even though 85 percent of Americans believe a balanced budget should be required of the government. It also increases the national debt from \$16+ trillion to at least \$25 trillion after 10 years. Federal deficits have exceeded \$1 trillion in each of Obama’s first four years in the White House; all of the next four will be substantially greater than George W. Bush’s largest deficit of \$458.5 billion, the deficit of his final year in office. Government spending will likely reach the \$4 trillion mark in 2015 or 2016; under Bush, spending reached \$2.98 billion in 2008. Obama followed with \$3.517 billion in spending in 2009. [44067, 44068, 44073, 44080, 44087, 44088, 44100, 44101, 44138, 44150, 44177]

In his budget, Obama calls for federal funding of child-care for four-year-olds, claiming that “Providing a year of free, public preschool education for four-year-old children is an important investment in our future. It will give all our kids the best start in life, helping them perform better in elementary school and ultimately helping them, and the country, be better prepared for the demands of the global economy.” (In other words, Obama wants to start indoctrinating children into leftist ideology at age four.) Obama also argues, “Not only that, it could save hard-working families thousands of dollars each year in child care costs. This is an investment we need to make, and it is fully paid for in this

budget by imposing a new tax on every pack of cigarettes sold.” (Such a federal scheme would, of course, not *reduce* child-care costs; it would merely *shift* those costs from parents to other taxpayers. Obama does not explain why Americans without young children should pay the baby-sitting expenses of those who have toddlers. Nor does he explain why someone other than the parents of the children should be held responsible for those children—especially to the tune of “thousands of dollars each year.” The proposal is pure Obama gimmickry, as it is politically correct to chastise and punish smokers, while opposing the plan would open up the critics to charges of being “anti-children.” Obama’s plan also appeals to young Democrat voters, specifically unmarried women with children—women who rely on the government and the taxpayers to be the “fathers” of their children. Obama knows that once free child-care is given to young women, they will be guaranteed Democrat voters.) [44151]

Obama’s budget also asks for \$120 billion in additional cuts in defense spending, even though his own Defense Secretary has argued that the military could not even tolerate the sequestration cuts. (Under the Obama budget, the government would soon be spending more on interest on the national debt than on national defense.) [44153]

At Townhall.com Ralph Benko writes that with his budget proposal Obama “has put down his table ante, as described by the *Washington Post* headline, ‘Obama budget would cut entitlements in exchange for tax increases.’ In plain English Team Obama is offering the Republicans a suicide pact euphemized as a ‘grand bargain on the debt.’ Instead of a suicide pact America needs Congress to tackle the Growth Gap. Washington is treating the symptom rather than the disease.” Obama “is proposing a cure worse than the disease. With the economy continuing to sputter, and unemployment verging on the criminal for so late in a recovery, raising taxes is courting a double dip to the Great Recession. Suicide pact, anyone?” The “growth gap” refers to the fact that tax revenues increase far more from economic growth than from tax increases. Removing obstacles to economic growth reduces the deficit more than raising taxes because productive businesses and individuals pay taxes, while closed businesses and unemployed workers do not. Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX) notes, “At America’s traditional 3.3 percent [annual] economic growth rate of the past half-century, the real economy doubles every 22 years. At the new lower rate of 2.2 percent, it takes almost 32 years to double in size—a decade longer. A permanent growth gap of 1 percent translates into a slower growth by one-third for young Americans seeking their first job and families hoping to reach their American dream. A permanent growth gap of 1 percent means our economy will be \$20 trillion smaller in 2052. That’s an annual gap larger than our entire economy today. It will also be harder to balance the federal budget because the 1 percent growth gap means the loss of \$93 trillion from our federal coffers through 2052. For perspective, the entire unfunded liability of the U.S. government, including Social Security, Medicare and federal pensions, is less than that—\$87 trillion. This prospect of a ‘new normal’ with permanently slower growth for America’s economy should be a red flag for all Americans.” (Cutting taxes and eliminating unnecessary and unproductive regulations would unleash a tsunami of economic activity which would generate far more tax revenue than making the top one percent pay a few percent more in taxes.) [44074]



NationalReview.com's Yuval Levin call's Obama's document "a travesty of a budget. The bottom line is worse than even the Senate Democratic budget, and the little reforms and savings that are proposed are incredibly back-loaded in the out years of the budget window. By my reckoning, 93.8 percent of the claimed savings in this budget occur in 2017 or later. ...Obama clearly has a great deal of faith in his successor. And many of the underlying assumptions... are worse than ridiculous. Some of them... really have to be considered corruptions of OMB's [Office of Management and Budget's] analytical process, and I imagine the agency's budget examiners took some real cajoling to make them. The long-term projection table in this budget ends with federal revenues at 23.8 percent of GDP and spending at 15.8 percent of GDP. Do you think that's going to happen? I guarantee you OMB doesn't either. ...All told, there is not much that's surprising in this budget, which is why the idea that it should somehow serve as the foundation for a grand bargain actually is surprising. It's also very unlikely. I can imagine some small bargains in the coming months, but a trade of major entitlement reforms for significant tax increases remains as unlikely as ever. [Obama] continues to try to ignore the core entitlement problem and to offer gimmicks and ploys rather than needed reforms." [44138]

Veronique de Rugy writes, "We have been waiting for two months to get a budget out of the White House, but [Obama] apparently did not use his time to come up with anything different than what he has in the past. As I expected, this budget calls for more spending, more taxes, and no reform. ...The FY2014 budget figure is astonishing: \$3.77 trillion. ...I assumed his spending proposal would be higher than the FY 2013 number and the Republican budgets... but I didn't think he would spend more than the Senate Democrat plan." (Senator Rand Paul's proposal calls for \$3.2 trillion in spending; Congressman Paul Ryan's calls for \$3.53 trillion; and the Senate Democrats want \$3.71 trillion in spending.) ...Obama's budget would spend \$160 billion more in FY 2014 than the Congressional Budget Office's baseline. That's a lot of extra spending. ...[Obama] doesn't want to make any... tough but necessary choices to put our budget on a sustainable fiscal path. The budget message is: Grow spending today, and pretend that whoever is in power in 2016 will cut spending and reform entitlements then." [44139]

Many liberals are angered by Obama's budget because he dares to even suggest tinkering with Social Security benefits, let alone actually propose reducing cost-of-living adjustments. BusinessInsider.com reports, "This week, progressive groups, including MoveOn, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, and Democracy for America, have mounted 'emergency' online campaigns against the proposal, accusing Obama of turning on the very supporters who helped re-elect him to office." Liberal groups are angered by Obama's endorsement of the "chained CPI" (consumer price index) method to calculate cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients—a method that will understate inflation even more than the current process does. (One Obama aide remarks, "We're not going to have the White House forever, folks. If [Obama] doesn't do this [address escalating Medicare and Social Security costs], [Congressman] Paul Ryan is going to do it for us in a few years." (That is, "Democrats would rather have Democrats fine-tune the entitlement benefits now than see Republicans make more substantial changes in the future.") Ryan calls the chained-CPI process nothing more than "statistical

reform. You can't claim it's great entitlement reform." (Using a chained-CPI would also affect non-retirees because it would shift workers into higher tax brackets more quickly.) [44098, 44099, 44136, 44137, 44211, 44279]

Senator Elizabeth "wampum" Warren (D-MA) is among those complaining about the "chained-CPI" change endorsed by Obama. Warren complains that her brother David lives on only \$13,200 per year in Social Security benefits and cannot afford to have future increases reduced. (Warren is a multimillionaire, but it has apparently not occurred to her that she could help her brother. It is far easier for her to instead demand that the taxpayers do more to take care of him. Perhaps Warren's brother could move to Nairobi, Kenya and move in with Obama's half-brother, George, who reportedly lives on only \$1.00 per day. The two of them could probably live quite comfortably on \$13,565 per year.) [44163, 44164, 44165]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says that while Obama "has backtracked on some of his entitlement reforms that were in conversations that we got a year-and-a-half ago, he does deserve some credit for some incremental entitlement reforms that he has outlined in his budget." (Obama has agreed to changes in the way cost-of-living increases are calculated for Social Security recipients—changes that will result in smaller annual adjustments for senior citizens.) "But," adds Boehner, "I would hope that [Obama] would not hold hostage these modest reforms for his demand for bigger tax hikes." (The anger will increase after people realize Obama's proposal also calls for increases in Medicare Part B premiums, changes in drug payments that will result in higher Part D premiums, and increased powers for the Independent Payment Advisory Board—also known as the "death panel.") [44090, 44101]

Republicans on the Senate and House Budget Committees ridicule Obama's notion of budget discipline, pointing out that his budget calls for \$964 billion in new spending over 10 years, \$8.2 trillion in additional debt, and more than \$1.1 trillion in increased taxes—in addition to ObamaCare taxes and the \$600 billion tax increase of January 2013. (Obama's budget is an example of how to discourage job creation.) [44144]

Australia announces that it will no longer use the U.S. dollar in trade with China. Instead, it will trade directly with the Australian dollar and the Chinese yuan (also called the renminbi, or RMB). TheTrumpet.com observes, "This is a significant announcement and key development for China as it continues its campaign to internationalize the yuan and chip away at the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency. ...According to HSBC bank, more than 40 percent of small and medium-size Australian businesses that trade with China plan to offer quotes for goods and services in yuan. No longer will Chinese customers need U.S. dollars before purchasing Australian goods. ...On March 26, China and Brazil agreed to cut out the U.S. dollar for approximately half of their trade. Some \$30 billion worth of commerce per year will now be conducted in yuan and reals [the Brazilian currency]. Brazilian Economy Minister Guido Mantega said the trade and currency agreement would act as a buffer against any unexpected dollar turbulence in the international financial markets." ZeroHedge.com writes, "[T]he free lunch the U.S. has enjoyed ever since the advent of the U.S. dollar as world reserve currency may be coming

to an end. And since there is no such thing as a free lunch, all the deferred pain the U.S. Treasury Department has been able to offset thanks to its global currency monopoly status will come crashing down the second the world starts getting doubts about the true nature of just who the real reserve currency will be in the future.” (As more nations dump the U.S. dollars for its foreign trade, the value of the dollar will fall. The less the dollar is trusted, the more Americans will have to pay for imported goods. That will lead to an even weaker U.S. economy.) [44217, 44218]

At NewMediaJournal.us, Jim Garrison warns, “...Obama’s National Defense Resources Preparedness Executive Order of March 16 does to the country as a whole what the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act did to the Constitution in particular—completely eviscerates any due process or judicial oversight for any action by the Government deemed in the interest of ‘national security.’ Like the NDAA, the new Executive Order puts the government completely above the law, which, in a [constitutional Republic], is never supposed to happen. The United States is essentially now under martial law without the exigencies of a national emergency. ...The new Executive Order states that [Obama] and his secretaries have the authority to commandeer all US domestic resources, including food and water, as well as seize all energy and transportation infrastructure inside the borders of the United States. The Government can also forcibly draft US citizens into the military and force US citizens to fulfill ‘labor requirements’ for the purposes of ‘national defense.’ There is not even any Congressional oversight allowed, only briefings.” [44235, 44376]

“In the NDAA,” writes Garrison, “only [Obama] had the authority to abrogate legitimate freedoms of US citizens. What is extraordinary in the new Executive Order is that this supreme power is designated through [Obama] to the [cabinet] secretaries that run the Government itself.” (For example, “The Secretary of Transportation has power over all forms of *civilian* transportation [italics added].”) “...What is extraordinary about the Executive Order is that, like the NDAA, this can all be done in peacetime without any national emergency to justify it. The language of the Order does not state that all these extraordinary measures will be done in the event of ‘national security’ or a ‘national emergency.’ They can simply be done for ‘purposes of national defense,’ clearly a broader remit that allows the government to do what it wants, when it wants, how it wants, to whomever it wants, all without any judicial restraint or due process. As [George] Orwell famously said in 1984, ‘War is peace. Peace is war.’ This is now the reality on the ground in America.” [44235]

Michelle Obama tells a “Working Together to Address Youth Violence” gathering in Chicago, “Hadiya Pendleton was me, and I was her. [The 15-year-old Pendleton was shot to death in a gang-related incident on January 29.] But I got to grow up and go to Princeton and Harvard Law School and have a career and a family, and the most blessed life I could ever imagine. And Hadiya—oh, we know that story. I started out with exactly the same aptitude, exactly the same intellectual, emotional capabilities as so many of my peers. And the only thing that separated me from them was that I had a few more advantages than some of them did. That was the difference between growing up and becoming a lawyer, a mother, and First Lady of the United States, and being shot dead at

the age of 15. Are we truly meeting our obligations to our children? It's a question we should also be asking in Chicago and in every corner of this country." (If Michelle Obama and her husband want to prevent deaths like Pendleton's, instead of demanding that law-abiding citizens register their guns with the government they should demand that Chicago police officers enforce existing laws and arrest gang members who have no regard for those laws; judges and juries could also send killers to jail for life rather than feel sorry for them because they came from broken homes; and Obama could order Attorney General Eric Holder to prosecute some of the thousands of people who attempt to buy guns and fail background checks every year, rather than ignore them. Only 44 out of 15,000 such individuals were prosecuted in 2010.) [44124, 44161, 44162, 44179]

Rush Limbaugh later translates Michelle Obama's "Hadiya Pendleton was me" statement: "'I'm just like you, except the bullet missed, and now I'm First Lady and you're getting gunned down and somehow my husband's working on it. I gotta get back to the next party at the White House. You be safe now.' ...[S]he's trying to show them she cares. She's trying to show them that she's not that far removed from her roots and what they are, but that's not true. This is all about them [the Obamas]. This is all about Michelle going there and in a calculated way exploit this circumstance. Am I wrong about that? Oh, too much truth? ...I think what really irritates me about it is, if I'm interpreting Mrs. Obama correctly, one of the things she's saying is, 'This country is so bad. This country is so messed up... that it's just the luck of the draw that I got out. It's just the luck of the draw that I wasn't a victim of this kind of violence.' And see, with me, analyzing people on the left, they've always got a chip on their shoulder about this country. This country's flaws are what they focus on and exploit and see. [But] It is not the country's fault that there are out of control gang murders in Chicago. It's not the fault of the Second Amendment. It isn't the fault of the Founding Fathers. It's the fault of the people who are pulling the trigger. In this case, it's young gang members in Chicago. Now, if you want to find out why they exist, go look for it, but don't tell me it's because of the Constitution. And don't tell me it's because of capitalism and unequal distribution of resources which has led to poverty in the inner cities, which has led to young gang members shooting people for the fun of it.'" [44161]

Senators Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) announce a deal on gun legislation that would extend gun purchase background checks to Internet sales and any seller that engages in paid advertising. (Private transactions between individuals would be exempted, such as someone selling a gun to a neighbor or guns left to heirs upon the death of the owner—but only the naive would believe that the rules for exemptions will not be "tightened up" or eliminated entirely in the future.) Although the agreement allegedly includes a prohibition of a federal gun registry, GunsSaveLives.com points out, "...[I]f transfers have to be done through a federally licensed firearms dealer there WILL be a form 4473 for every single transaction. These forms must be turned over to the government whenever a dealer changes owners or closes its doors. The ATF can also inspect these forms almost at will. This will create a de facto gun registry through the records that will be generated." The National Rifle Association responds to the agreement: "Expanding background checks at gun shows will not prevent the next shooting, will not solve violent crime and will not keep our kids safe in schools. While

the overwhelming rejection of ...Obama and [New York City] Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg's 'universal' background check agenda is a positive development, we have a broken mental health system that is not going to be fixed with more background checks at gun shows. The sad truth is that no background check would have prevented the tragedies in Newtown, Aurora or Tucson. We need a serious and meaningful solution that addresses crime in cities like Chicago, addresses mental health deficiencies, while at the same time protecting the rights of those of us who are not a danger to anyone. ...Obama should be as committed to dealing with the gang problem that is tormenting honest people in his hometown as he is to blaming law-abiding gun owners for the acts of psychopathic murderers." [44069, 44070, 44071, 44072, 44082, 44092, 44140]

Politico reports that Obama's perpetual campaign team apparatus, "Organizing for Action" (OFA) has failed "to obtain the domain name organizingforaction.net, registered by a quick-moving computer technician in Castle Rock, Colo., on Jan. 18, when the news broke that Obama's former advisors were launching the group. Derek Bovard proceeded to configure the site so all the hits were directed to the website for the National Rifle Assn. It was one of three domain names for Organizing for Action that the group failed to register before it launched. 'If they don't like it, they can buy it from me,' Bovard told the Los Angeles Times at the time." HotAir.com adds, "Instead of just purchasing the domain, OFA chose to force Bovard to give up the domain names through legal action. That backfired, in part because OFA didn't even bother to register its name as a trademark until three weeks *after* Bovard bought the domain. ...*D'oh!* Well, what about using a .org or the much more common .com versions of the domain name? OFA neglected to secure those, too. Both are owned by a Florida Republican..." (The domain name "Organizing for A\*\*holes" remains available.) [44085]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) delivers an address at Howard University, a black college. Paul attempts to persuade the students that Obama and Democrat policies are failing them, while conservative policies would give them more freedom to succeed. At least one student is not persuaded by Paul's advocacy of limited government and increased liberties. He tells Paul, "You say you want to provide a government that leaves us alone. Quite frankly, I don't want that. I want a government that is going to help me [by giving me a free college education, etc.]. Do you, Senator Rand Paul, have a formulated solution to come up with new American values so that the citizens of this nation have a worth more than dead presidents and Ben Franklin?" ("Dead presidents and Ben Franklin" is the student's condescending way of referring to money—the same money he wants the taxpayers to earn so that they can finance his college education. On the one hand, he wants money handed to him for free so that he can attend college, and on the other he essentially chastises Paul for suggesting that people should be free to work hard and pursue success. In other words, "People are more important than mere money, but I demand that you give me as much money as I need so I don't have to worry about having to earn it." That attitude explains how the youth vote elected Obama. Leftist youths believe they are morally superior to the "evil capitalists" who work to earn money, but they nevertheless want what that money can buy.) [44110, 44111, 44112, 44113, 44120]

The Senate votes to confirm Sally Jewell as Obama's Secretary of the Interior.

In perhaps what may be a sign of more absurd things to come, at NationalReview.com Kevin D. Williamson (author of *The End Is Near and It's Going to Be Awesome*) reports, “The District of Columbia’s Obamacare czars—the board that sets rules for the phony insurance marketplace, or ‘exchange,’ that the law creates—have decided that henceforth insurers shall be forbidden by law to charge smokers higher rates than non-smokers. Smoking, as it turns out, ‘is a preexisting medical condition,’ according to Dr. Mohammad Akhter, the chairman of the D.C. Health Exchange Board. Two liberal states, California and Connecticut, have decided likewise, while Colorado and Alaska have rejected the idea. ... There are many ways to implement a bad idea. For instance, Congress might have passed a law requiring that all U.S. insurance companies no longer charge smokers more for their coverage. The state of Connecticut might have passed a similar law. New York City might have passed that law. But in each case, voters who saw that stupidity for what it is would have somebody to vote against. Obamacare eliminates the option for democratic response. Instead, it creates a body of political appointees immune from being held accountable at the ballot box. And who are those appointees? In the case of D.C., you will find few surprises: The SEIU has a man on the board, along with a lot of time-serving political types, a fellow from the Brookings Institution, a lobbyist, etc. Don’t like their boneheaded decisions? Too bad. There will be thousands and thousands of decisions like this in the coming years, and voters will have very little recourse against them.” [44157]

“Obamacare,” continues Williamson, “was sold as a way to help poor people and sick people get health insurance, but, as the D.C. decision shows, the actual intent of the law is the abolition of health insurance. The notion of insuring a preexisting condition is an oxymoron; insurance is by nature concerned with that which may happen in the future rather than with that which already has happened. ... [Y]ou cannot in any meaningful sense insure somebody against cancer when they already have cancer. Obamacare is designed to destroy the insurance market. Markets do not function without prices, and Obamacare ensures that prices will not be allowed to emerge. There is a medical price associated with smoking, but the District of Columbia has decided to suppress that price by law. Pretending that smoking has no relationship with health-care costs does not make it so—it is only a way to push costs around in a way that is agreeable to the likes of Barack Obama, converting a system that prices risk into a system of entitlements. ... It is meaningless to say that we have a private system in which private consumers buy insurance from private insurers when the insurers have been forbidden to price their products, and have instead been converted into something somewhere between a public utility company and a government contractor. Sure, you are free to buy any insurance you want—but if what you want is a lower rate for being a non-smoker, the point is moot, because it would be a crime for anybody to sell it to you. ... Inhibiting prices is not an unintended consequence of Obamacare: It is the main thing the law is intended to do. A market without prices is by definition a market that will not function. What comes after that is obvious. The argument for Obamacare was ‘Everybody gets insurance,’ but the final product will be something between ‘Everybody is on Medicaid’ and ‘Everybody has access to the fine health care on offer at the infirmary in the county jail.’ And that is happening, one unaccountable decision at a time.” [44157]

The Associated Press reports, “Two men accused of planning an al-Qaida-inspired terrorist attack intended to be bigger than the 2005 London transit bombings have pleaded guilty in a London court. Mohammed Rizwan and Bahader Ali on Wednesday admitted engaging in conduct in preparation of acts of terrorism. Prosecutors say they were part of a gang that planned to detonate bombs hidden in backpacks. Three of the other plotters were convicted earlier this year. Prosecutors say that the gang had planned an attack [in Birmingham] that would rival the July 7, 2005, London transit bombings, which killed 52 commuters.” (Obama has no comment.) [44119]

At NationalReview.com Andrew Stiles writes that Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) “hasn’t heard from ... Obama since their lunch meeting in early March, the House budget committee chairman told reporters on Wednesday. ‘Not that I know of,’ Ryan said when asked if [Obama] had made any effort to follow up on their meeting, which he noted was ‘the first time we ever had a conversation’ since Obama took office. ‘I don’t really know him very well.’ During a briefing at National Review’s Washington, D.C., office, Ryan said he had hoped Obama would ‘lean into the problems a little bit more’ at the start of his second term, but ‘unfortunately we got more of the same.’” [44135]

On Laura Ingraham’s radio program Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments on proposed gun control legislation: “I think [Obama] has shown he is willing to demagogue an issue and that it is ultimately going to backfire. In fact, in my view, as a result of their onslaught on the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, I think there’s going to be a very significant consequence in 2014. I think as a result of this fight that ... Obama is picking, I think the stage is set for Republicans to take control of the United States Senate because of this fight right now, because of coming after the right to keep and bear arms of peaceful law-abiding Americans. I think a number of red state Democrats who are up for reelection in 2014 are going to lose their seats and I think they should. ... [T]he Republicans [like John McCain] who are saying that they are happy to vote to shutoff debate and move to the bill, they don’t even know what the bill contains. The bill that these Republicans are going on television saying ‘we’ve got to move to and vote on,’ they still don’t know the details because the Democrats haven’t released the details of the bill that they’re moving to proceed to.” [44148, 44149]

Senate Democrats—primarily Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)—block a resolution honoring former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. (At HeritageAction.com Katherine Rosario writes, “To refuse to honor a woman of such great historical and political significance, who was deeply loyal to the United States, is petty and shameful. One truly has to wonder, what is it about Lady Thatcher that gives them pause? Her unfaltering commitment to freedom? Or perhaps the way she fought for individual liberty and limited government?”) [44159, 44350]

Obama has dinner with a moderate Senate Republicans. According to WashingtonPost.com, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA.), “who organized the gathering, said in an interview that he deliberately invited colleagues who spanned the spectrum

‘geographically, philosophically and attitudinally’ so he could come up with ‘a representative group’ of Senate Republicans.” [44134, 44136]

On April 11, North Korea’s state-controlled television warns viewers that “War is just a matter of time,” and “no one [in South Korea] will live to regret anything.” [44147]

On *Morning Joe*, Vice President Joe Biden ridicules gun owners, saying, “There is a whole new sort of group of individuals now that never hunt at all. But they own guns for one of two reasons—self-protection, or they just like the feel of that AR-15 at the range. ...They like the way it feels. It’s like driving a Ferrari, you know. And so my impression is there’s not the same sort of cultural norm about gun ownership with a lot of people who are buying guns now.” The program also airs an al-Qaeda video in which propagandist Adam Gadahn says, “America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms. You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle without a background check and most likely without having to show an identification card. So what are you waiting for?” Neither host Joe Scarborough or anyone else on the program points out that Gadahn’s statement is false. Since 1934 “fully automatic weapons” have been outlawed for anyone other than law enforcement officials or a few select collectors who must be fingerprinted, pass exhaustive background checks, and pay huge fees. (CNN broadcasts the same video in its effort to justify strict gun laws, and also neglects to note Gadahn’s lie.) [44158, 44200]

Sixteen Republican Senators join 52 Democrats for a 68–31 vote to proceed with consideration of gun control legislation, blocking attempts at a filibuster. (Two Democrats, Mark Begich of Alaska and Mark Pryor of Arkansas, join the 29 Republicans who stand up for the Second Amendment. Both Begich and Pryor are up for reelection in 2014. But the vote also clears the way for Senators to propose amendments to the bill. Because only 51 votes, rather than 60, are needed to pass amendment, Republicans may be able to roll back some of the more egregious aspects of the legislation with the help of a few Democrats) Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “John McCain is a leader.” (In other words, “Thanks, McCain, for siding with us Democrats and against the U.S. Constitution.”) According to WND.com, “The legislation offered by Toomey and Manchin would allow doctors to enter mental health records into the national background check system without violating privacy laws. But Gun Owners of America characterized that as the ‘See a Shrink, Lose your Guns’ bill. ...Timothy Sorady, a member of the NRA and Pennsylvania Concerned Citizens, ...called Toomey to tell him, ‘If he continues on this path, it’s going to lead to his dismissal from the Senate.’ ...Sorady also pointed out the legislation would force government to define mentally ill.” (If, for example, the Obama administration were to decide that “fundamental Christians” or “Evangelicals” are mentally unstable, they could be prevented from purchasing weapons. The state of New York has already begun confiscating guns from people simply because they have been prescribed anti-anxiety medication. Additionally, it may be possible for doctors and psychiatrists to prevent a patient they dislike from being able to buy a gun simply by adding the name to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System—without the patient’s knowledge. It is worth noting that in May 2013 the American Psychiatric Association is publishing new codes and guidelines for the classification of mental



disorders. Whether the changes will make it easier for psychiatrists—and the government—to consider a patient “unstable” for the purpose of confiscating his guns remains to be seen.) [44106, 44107, 44108, 44121, 44122, 44125, 44198, 44246, 44249, 44250]

TheBlaze.com reports, “In a surprising turnaround, New York State Police have admitted that they made a mistake when they confiscated the guns and suspended the permit of an Erie County resident on the grounds of mental health. Late Wednesday, Erie County, NY, released a statement... blaming the New York State Police for giving them bad information regarding the suspension of a pistol permit and demand to surrender firearms sent to Amherst resident David Lewis. (Mr. Lewis was not identified in our original story, his name has since been released in conjunction with court documents filed by his attorney, Jim Tresmond.) ‘Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs said that late today he received a call from the New York State Police informing him that they had provided information on the wrong person when they notified his office of someone whose permit should be suspended because of the new mental health provisions in New York’s SAFE Act,’ the release begins. ... Jacobs appeared on WBEN radio in Buffalo on Thursday morning and explained the details of this administrative debacle. Mr. Jacobs also delivered some pointed comments about how the law was written so badly that mistakes like this were bound to happen. He closed with some fairly damning statements and also asked the state to consider scrapping the bill and re-writing it.” Attorney Tresmond says, “We won round one. Round two will be a suit against the state for what they did to our client and his reputation.” (Some suspect that the admission of a “mistake” was simply to cover up the fact that New York is, in fact, engaged in a concerted effort to confiscate as many guns as possible.) [44126, 44227, 44246]

According to the Heritage Foundation, the Obama budget “hikes taxes by \$1.1 trillion;” “underfunds defense;” “doubles down on ObamaCare” and includes “two sneaky new taxes on seniors;” “doesn’t balance and never will” and “doesn’t even try;” and is “irrelevant.” [44127]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A group of former special forces and intelligence veterans released a new video commemorating the seven month mark of the Sept. 11, 2011 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, Libya on Thursday. The video, ‘Benghazi: Unaware, Unresponsive, Unaccountable,’ is a project of the non-partisan Special Operations OPSEC Education Fund, Inc that took ... Obama to task last year for taking too much credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden.” OPSEC has called on Congress to appoint a select committee to investigate the attacks and the Obama administration’s cover-up of the facts. [44131]

WFPL News reports, “A secret recording of a campaign strategy session between U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell and his advisors was taped by leaders of the Progress Kentucky super PAC, says a longtime local Democratic operative. ... Jacob Conway, who is on the executive committee of the Jefferson County Democratic Party, says that day, Shawn Reilly and Curtis Morrison, who founded and volunteered for Progress Kentucky, respectively, bragged to him about how they recorded the meeting.” McConnell

campaign manager Jesse Benton states, “WFPL’s reports that left-wing activists illegally recorded a private meeting inside our campaign headquarters are very disturbing. At this point, we understand that the FBI is immersed in an intensive criminal investigation and must defer any further comment to them.” DailyCaller.com notes, “Progress Kentucky is the same group that recently had to apologize for race-baiting McConnell’s wife [Elaine Chao], who was born in Taiwan. What they lack in common sense, they make up for in persistence.” (Not only did Reilly—a party activist, delegate to the 2012 Democrat convention, and “community organizer”—and Morrison run afoul of federal and state laws, *Mother Jones* magazine broke the law by divulging the information they obtained through illegal eavesdropping.) [44132, 44133, 44166, 44181, 44182, 44187, 44213]

At NationalReview.com Jay Nordlinger writes, “A news report earlier this week began, ‘U.S. defenses could intercept a ballistic missile launched by North Korea if it decides to strike, the top American military commander in the Pacific said Tuesday...’ If this is true, it is in large measure thanks to President George W. Bush, who had the courage to withdraw from the ABM Treaty, at the beginning of his first term. Defense of this type would not be possible without that withdrawal. The Democrats, remember, were hotly against President Bush’s decision. They were far more upset about the withdrawal than the Russians were. Joe Biden was particularly upset. Now vice president, he was then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He said Bush was making a ‘tragic mistake,’ one that would spark a ‘massive new arms race.’ He threatened to cut off funding for missile defense if Bush went ahead with withdrawal. We are not entirely naked unto our enemies; we have some missile defense, however incomplete and imperfect. And we have it because George W. Bush prevailed and the Democrats did not.” (Then-Senator and now Secretary of State John Kerry once called plans for a missile defense system a “cancer on our nation’s defense,” and said “we must... deny this program the funds... to grow any further.” North Korea no doubt hopes Biden and Kerry still have the same preposterous feelings.) [44142, 44168]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “The last two budget proposals from Barack Obama failed to win a single vote in either chamber of Congress. In three floor votes over two years, not even a single Democrat would stand in favor of Obama’s budgeting priorities. In my column today for The Fiscal Times, I argue that Obama is a shoo-in to score the hat trick with his latest, record-breaking spending plan, perhaps this time especially among Democrats.” [44144]

AFP reports, “The head of Syria’s jihadist Al-Nusra Front has pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri, but distanced his group from claims it has merged with Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Al-Nusra’s announcement on Wednesday is likely to bolster assertions by President Bashar al-Assad’s regime that it is fighting ‘terrorists’ who want to impose an Islamic state. ‘The sons of Al-Nusra Front pledge allegiance to Sheikh Ayman al-Zawahiri,’ Abu Mohammed al-Jawlani said in a recording.” (The rebels oppose Assad, but they also hate the United States—which seems not to have gotten in the way of Obama’s efforts to arm them. He apparently prefers a radical Islamist regime that would be a threat to the United States and Israel over a dictator who is a threat to his own people and Israel. Middle East expert Daniel Pipes, who understandably is not fond of either

Assad or the jihadist rebels, writes, “Western governments should support the malign dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad. Here is my logic for this reluctant suggestion: Evil forces pose less danger to us when they make war on each other. This (1) keeps them focused locally and it (2) prevents either one from emerging victorious (and thereby posing a yet-greater danger). Western powers should guide enemies to stalemate by helping whichever side is losing, so as to prolong their conflict. ...On the happy day when Assad & Tehran fight the rebels & Ankara to mutual exhaustion, Western support then can go to non-Baathist and non-Islamist elements in Syria, helping them offer a moderate alternative to today’s wretched choices and lead to a better future.” [44169, 44170, 44171, 44178]

In Arizona, law enforcement officials intercept a package containing an bomb that was addressed to Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio. According to Examiner.com, “Bomb technicians in Flagstaff... x-rayed the package and confirmed that it contained an IED. A fully-equipped bomb squad was immediately deployed to the location and neutralized what was described as a deadly and destructive bomb. ...Within the last few weeks, Arpaio’s deputies have been assaulted by human smugglers (‘coyotes’), leading the man known as America’s toughest sheriff to take action.” (Among criminals and leftists, Arpaio is infamous for daring to arrest illegal immigrants for breaking the law, and for his “cold case posse” investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate and Selective Service registration form.) Arpaio adamantly states, “I am *not* gonna be intimidated by *anyone*. And that’s a promise, that’s a fact.” [44190, 44201, 44212]

At WashingtonPost.com Charles Krauthammer writes, “The cards laid down by the White House are quite unimpressive. The 2014 budget is tax-and-spend as usual. The actual deficit reduction over a decade is a minuscule \$0.6 trillion—out of a total spending of \$46.5 trillion. And every penny of this tiny reduction comes from tax hikes. Nothing from spending cuts, which all end up getting spent elsewhere. Moreover, where’s the compromise? The Obama budget calls for not only more spending than the GOP’s, but more than the Democratic Senate’s as well. For just fiscal 2014, it even contains \$160 billion more spending, and \$128 billion more deficit, than if the budget—that Obama purports to be cutting—were left untouched! ...[Obama] made it clear that he doesn’t like this [chained-CPI calculation] reform at all. It’s merely a gift to Republicans. This is odd. Why should a technical correction be a political favor to anyone? Is getting things right not a favor to the nation? ...Can the Democrats, now gagging on just chained CPI, agree to a major entitlement reform like an adjusted retirement age? And are there enough Republicans who, for their part, are prepared to offer a 50-50 split of loophole revenues? Game on.” [44202, 44203]

On April 12 North Korea warns that Japan will be its first target if war erupts. The state-run Korean Central News Agency states, “Japan always remains a target of the DPRK’s revolutionary armed forces. Once Japan makes even a slight provocation against the DPRK, the former will be hard hit before any others.” Secretary of State John Kerry calls the rhetoric from Kim Jung-Un “unacceptable.” [44192, 44193]

The Heritage Foundation reports that Obama “is marketing his new budget by saying it has ‘more than \$2 in spending cuts for every \$1 of new revenue.’ Is this true? In a word,

no. In fact, his spending increases and advertised spending cuts cancel each other out—leaving only a massive tax increase. [Obama] cancels sequestration’s spending cuts—therefore raising spending—by the same amount that he reduces spending. When that’s done, all that’s left is a \$1.1 trillion tax hike. ...[Obama] increases spending by \$1.1 trillion by canceling sequestration. Sequestration, the automatic spending cuts adopted in the Budget Control Act of August 2011, is already in effect. Thus, canceling these reductions in spending increases spending by \$1.1 trillion over 10 years. ...Obama’s spending cut claim doesn’t hold up, and Americans get stuck with a \$1.1 trillion tax bill. Real math hurts.” [44180]

TheHill.com reports, “With little fanfare, the House quickly voted Friday to repeal a financial transparency requirement for senior government officials, which was part of a much-heralded government transparency bill last year. Members passed S. 716 by unanimous consent, with no debate and no description on the floor about what the bill would do. The Senate passed it in the same fashion on Thursday. The bill amends the Stop Trading On Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act, which was passed last year on the heels of complaints that members of Congress and senior officials are using their government knowledge to enrich themselves through stock trades or other actions.” (In essence, Congress is making it easier for 28,000 senior federal employees to make money in the stock market based on “insider trading”—an action that would put the average citizen in jail.) Obama signs the legislation. [44272, 44273]

At Townhall.com Crystal Wright, a black conservative woman, comments on Michelle Obama’s “I am Hadiya Pendleton” speech in Chicago. Wright notes the irony in Barack Obama getting “over 90% of the black vote in both elections” while he “seems to run from black issues like he’s running from the plague. When was the last time he gave a policy speech on the breakdown of the black family? 73% of blacks are born to unwed mothers. When was the last time he spoke about blacks’ declining wealth compared to whites? Poverty, crime and a lack of education are intertwined and a product of out of wedlock births. And when was the last time, Obama asked why ‘are so many young black people using guns to kill neighbors?’ as Juan Williams wrote. Instead... [Obama] sent ...Michelle Obama to Chicago, a wasteland of black genocide, Obama’s hometown, to give a speech about gun violence. ... ‘What if, instead of roaming around with guns, boys like them had access to a computer lab or a community center or some decent basketball courts? Maybe everything would have turned out differently,’ said Mrs. Obama. But what she should have said is ‘What if they had two parents’ because I guarantee you the two black boys who killed Hadiya didn’t come from ‘a devoted two parent home.’ ...Today, 73% of black babies are born out of wedlock compared to 29% of white babies. Who takes care of these fatherless babies? The federal government. What is the likely future of black kids born to single parents? A future of poverty and crime. ...Michelle Obama should challenge ‘black America’ to do more marriage and parenting. ...The lack of parents is literally killing the black race, not guns. The First Lady and [her husband] should get real and promote policies that promote marriage among blacks, not perpetuate a false narrative on guns.” [44179]

Bloomberg.com reports, “Retail sales in the U.S. unexpectedly fell in March by the most in nine months as employment slowed, showing households ended the first quarter on softer footing. The 0.4 percent decrease, the biggest since June, followed a 1 percent gain in February, Commerce Department figures showed today in Washington. The median forecast of 85 economists surveyed by Bloomberg called for an unchanged reading in March. Department stores and electronics dealers were among the weakest showings.” [44184, 44185, 44186]

WeeklyStandard.com posts information from Vice President Joe Biden’s 2012 income tax return. He and his wife donated a mere “1.87 percent of their \$385,072 income to charity,” with \$2,000 of the total from donating old items to the Goodwill. Biden’s income includes \$29,761, which he received in addition to his salary. Biden also received \$26,400 from the taxpayers in rental income for the Secret Service agents who live on his property and protect him. Obama’s tax return shows income of \$608,611 in 2012, mostly from his White House salary and book royalties. (Whether Obama shares any of the royalties with William Ayers is not known. It is worth noting that a substantial number of copies of Obama’s books are probably sitting in university library basements. Schools were known to have been pressured to buy copies. *The Obama Timeline* knows of one school that has more than 100 copies of *Dreams From My Father* collecting dust.) According to Politico, the Obamas “paid \$112,214 in federal taxes, an effective rate of 18.4 percent.” (In other words, they were a long way from paying their “fair share.”) On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough later slams Obama: “This is a problem with liberals that [sic] come forward and talk about raising taxes on the rest of us! And raising taxes on small business owners and having these rich guys come on TV going, ‘Let’s raise taxes. I don’t need tax cuts.’ Those guys that [sic] are saying it are paying 16 percent, 17 percent, 18 percent! Barack Obama has been championing raising taxes on small business owners for years! And he is paying 18 percent in taxes because raising those taxes don’t affect him! And he talks about fairness? This guy, this guy talks about fairness? And he is paying 18 percent? He wants to jack tax rates up to 39 percent and if you live in Connecticut or New York or Illinois or California, you’re paying over 50 percent in taxes after you take the local, the state, and the national! And Barack Obama, class warrior, is paying 18 percent in taxes.” [44191, 44194, 44196, 44219, 44224, 44274, 44275]

San Antonio’s WOAI News Radio reports, “Officials say the number of people entering the U.S. illegally is way up and, tragically, the number of undocumented immigrants who have been found dead in the unforgiving Texas Brush Country is way up, and is on path this year to beat last year’s record for the number of people found dead in the ranch country. Linda Vickers, who owns a ranch in Brooks County, which is Ground Zero for the immigration debate, pins the blame directly on talk of ‘amnesty’ and a ‘path to citizenship’ for people who entered the U.S. illegally. She recalls one man being arrested on her ranch not long ago. ‘The Border Patrol agent was loading one man up, and he told the officer in Spanish, ‘Obama’s gonna let me go.’ Border Patrol agents report that immigrants are crossing the border, and in some cases surrendering while asking, ‘Where do I go for my amnesty?’” [44195]

At WND.com Garth Kant reports on the mainstream media's almost complete refusal to cover the murder trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell who, according a Pennsylvania grand jury, "regularly and illegally delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of pregnancy—and then murdered these newborns by severing their spinal cords with scissors." Kant notes the seats in the courtroom that are reserved for the media: "The empty chairs tell the story: It may be the most horrifying abortion story in history—but the mainstream media are nowhere in sight. ...Former employee Stephen Massof testified last week about how he snipped the spinal cords of babies, calling it 'literally a beheading. It is separating the brain from the body.' He also said, when women were given medicine to hasten deliveries, '[I]t would rain fetuses. Fetuses and blood all over the place.' Massof pleaded guilty to third-degree murder in the deaths of two newborns and is now testifying against the 72-year-old Gosnell, who is charged with killing a woman and seven babies." [44199, 44205, 44208, 44214, 44225, 44228, 44229, 44231, 44282, 44297, 44356, 44358]

Kant continues, "Fox News commentator Kirsten Powers, generally considered a liberal, deplored the media blackout. 'The deafening silence of too much of the media, once a force for justice in America, is a disgrace,' Powers wrote. She penned a column for USA Today yesterday noting the testimony of infant beheadings, severed baby feet in jars and a child screaming after it was delivered alive during an abortion procedure. Powers said the reason most people haven't heard about those horrors is because, 'A Lexis-Nexis search shows none of the news shows on the three major national television networks has mentioned the Gosnell trial in the last three months.' ...Powers suggested the mainstream media are letting bias affect their news judgment: 'You don't have to oppose abortion rights to find late-term abortion abhorrent or to find the Gosnell trial eminently newsworthy. This is not about being 'pro-choice' or 'pro-life.' It's about basic human rights.'" (Needless to say, if the trial were about a Christian who had murdered an abortionist the media would be all over the story. But leftist reporters cannot cover the trial of Gosnell, who also happens to be black, without people thinking negatively about Obama—who supports the "procedure" of abortionists allowing babies to die if they survive an abortion. As an Illinois State Senator he voted against legislation requiring such babies to be attended. No reporter has yet asked Obama to comment on Gosnell's reported reference to one of his victims as a "chicken with its head cut off.") [44199, 44205, 44208, 44214, 44225, 44228, 44229, 44231, 44282, 44297, 44356, 44358]

It is worth noting that, according to LifeSiteNews.com, the wife of Attorney General Eric Holder, Sharon Holder, "co-owns with her sister an Atlanta area abortion clinic building. The building is located at 6210 Old National Highway, College Park, Georgia. The business itself is called Old National GYN. ...What's more, the abortionist at Old National, Tyrone Cecile Malloy, was indicted [in 2011] by a Georgia grand jury on charges of Medicaid fraud." (The Holder family claims it no longer owns the building, but Watchdog.org discovered that ownership was transferred to a family trust in 2009, and Holder names remain on the deed as trustees. That is, the trust was set up to enable Holder to distance himself from the abortion clinic.) [39993, 39994, 39995, 39996, 39997, 44251, 44297, 44356, 44358]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that Obama's campaign organization and propaganda arm, Organizing for Action, has so far raised \$4.8 million—an arguably paltry sum, considering the cost of running advertisements to spread Obama's policy and ideology messages. According to DailyCaller.com, one of the major donors is “a San Francisco socialite with an eccentric, fedora-wearing writer husband, according to OFA's recent disclosure of its founding donors. San Francisco heiress Nicola Miner, daughter of the late Oracle Corporation co-founder Bob Miner, contributed \$125,000... Miner's donation was more than twice the amount required to earn access to OFA's March founder's summit, where Obama was in attendance.” [44210, 44294]

On April 13 DailyCaller.com reports that Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) “...urged a Senate subcommittee chairman to appropriate \$1 million in federal funds for a Chicago nonprofit that is now under investigation for potential fraud, according to documents obtained by The Daily Caller. Durbin's relationship with Chicago's embattled Save-A-Life Foundation began in the mid-1990s and continued for at least several years, with Durbin even being listed as a member of the foundation's 'Advisory Council,' according to the documents. ...Obama also had a relationship with Save-A-Life during his tenure as an Illinois state senator and U.S. senator, meeting with the organization's founder and earning praise from the Foundation as a legislator who was 'always supportive' of its publicly-funded efforts. The controversial non-profit is reportedly under investigation for misappropriating potential millions of dollars in taxpayer money by the Illinois Attorney General's Charitable Trusts Bureau.” The foundation was founded by Carol Spizzirri, who lied about the circumstances of the death of her daughter—apparently in an effort to gain sympathy and collect funding. Durbin and then-Senator Obama then assisted her in obtaining state and federal cash. Its purpose was purportedly to teach school children CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, but “nearly \$9 million in federal and Illinois state funding” later, there seem to be few Illinois students who ever received the training. Illinois State Senator Tim Bivins states, “We can't really find anywhere that there were a lot of kids that were trained. There may have been some kids, but not the claims that were made in the thousands or tens of thousands. It doesn't seem to exist.” The foundation claims more than one million were trained. [44209]

On April 14 Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) makes the rounds of the Sunday talks show in an attempt to persuade Americans that the Senate's proposed illegal immigrant amnesty legislation is not really amnesty. On *This Week*, Rubio says, “All we've done here is create an alternative [U.S. citizenship process] to that that they can access [sic], and the alternative we've created is going to be longer, more expensive and more difficult to navigate [than the process for legal immigrants]. It will actually be cheaper if they went back home, waited 10 years, and applied for a green card. And so, secondly, we've not awarding anything. All we're giving people the opportunity to eventually do is gain access to the same legal immigration system, the same legal immigration process that will be available to everybody else.” (Rubio apparently believes that amnesty is not amnesty if it involves some effort on the part of the illegal immigrant.) “I think it's important to understand it does not give anything. It allows people access to the legal immigration system.” (Rubio is incorrect. The legislation gives them access to a system to which they should not be legally entitled. Therefore, it certainly *does* “give something” to illegal

immigrants.) “Number two, some people won’t qualify. They haven’t been here long enough; they’ve committed very serious crimes. They won’t be able to stay.’ (Only some illegal immigrants—the vast majority—will receive amnesty.) “Number three is all people will get is an opportunity to apply for things, to apply for a legal status, which isn’t awarded on day one...” (Rubio fails to recognize—or admit—that delayed amnesty is nevertheless still amnesty.) “The only thing you are earning here is an opportunity to apply for temporary status, and ultimately, potentially to apply for a green card, the way everybody else does. And that’s the process that we are outlining.” (The illegal immigrants are not “earning” an opportunity for anything. It is being given to them.) With his support of the amnesty legislation, Rubio may have thrown away his chance at becoming the GOP’s presidential or vice-presidential candidate in 2016. (Of course, he could not legally serve because he is not a natural born citizen, having been born in the United States to two Cuban citizens, rather than to U.S. citizens.) [44222, 44230, 44232, 44261]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Rubio “Amnesty is the forgiveness of something. Amnesty is anything that says, ‘Do it illegally. It’s going to be cheaper and easier.’ Here’s what people need to understand. Under the existing law today, if you are illegally in the United States, you are not prohibited from getting a green card and ultimately getting citizenship. You would be if you were deported. The only thing is you have to go back to your home country, you have to wait 10 years and then you can apply for it. And all we’re saying is we’re going to create an alternative to that. That will still be in place, but we’re going to create an alternative that says, ‘Okay, you want to stay here? You’ll have to wait more than 10 years, you’ll have to pay this fine, you’ll have to pay this registration fee, you’ll have to be gainfully employed, you won’t qualify for any federal benefits and, then after all that, you don’t get... to apply for anything until the enforcement mechanisms are in place. And I would argue to you that it will be cheaper, faster and easier for people to go back home and wait 10 years than it will be to go through this process I’ve outlined. That’s why it’s not amnesty,” argues Rubio.” [44230, 44232, 44315]

“And [the] bottom line is we don’t award anything. You have to qualify and apply for it, and that’s the key distinction. If somehow being in this country is cheaper, easier and quicker than doing it the right way, I wouldn’t support that.” (It certainly is amnesty, because the individuals will not be subject to deportation and will be allowed to eventually become U.S. citizens despite their illegal status. Additionally, Rubio’s statement, “You won’t qualify for any federal benefits,” is laughable. That people do not qualify does not stop them from receiving benefits illegally. “Undocumented immigrants,” of course, typically do have documents: forged or stolen documents.” Columnist Ann Coulter later writes, “[Rubio] assures us, it’s ‘cheaper, faster and easier for people to go back home and wait 10 years’—as the law currently requires—‘than it will be to go through this process that I’ve outlined.] Then why is he doing it? If it’s ‘cheaper, faster and easier’ for illegals to apply for citizenship under current law, what exactly does Rubio’s plan accomplish?”) [44230, 44232, 44315]

On *State of the Union*, Rubio says, “First of all, a universal e-verify system which means you won’t be able to find a job in the United States if you can’t pass that check.” (Again,



Rubio is naive. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants are working in the United States despite being unable to pass the e-Verify system. In fact, the most recent Social Security number used by Obama, 042-68-4425, also fails to pass e-Verify—and there has been no suggestion that Rubio is attempting to do anything about that.) “Secondly, an entry-exit system. You know, 40 percent of our illegal immigrants are people that [sic] enter legally and then they overstay their visas. We don’t really know who they are because we only track when people come in; we don’t track if and when they leave.” (There is no indication that the Department of Homeland Security will act more aggressively to find immigrants who have overstayed their visas. It is already illegal, and the government has done little about it for decades.) [44230]

“And third,” says Rubio, “is real border security including fencing. All these three things are going to happen because they are triggers, they are triggers for the green card process that we’ve described or are laying out in our proposal. If they are not fully implemented, there will be no green cards awarded.” (A government commission will decide whether the protections have been “fully implemented.” Few Americans are likely to have faith in that commission’s judgment. The same empty promises were made when “immigration reform” was passed in the 1980s.) “And we think that will be [an] incentive.” (That statement is absurd. Illegal immigrants will not have an “incentive” to want border security tightened and rules enforced.” Their incentive will be to have the commission lie and declare that goals have been met.) “We are also going to have a legal immigration system that works. Part of our illegal immigration problem is that we don’t have a legal way for people to come here, for example, temporarily to work on a farm. We’re going to have that now, so people aren’t going to have to come illegally. It’s going to be cheaper and easier to come legally. So I think all these things working together—none by themselves will do the trick—but all of them working together will ensure we never have this problem again.” (Rubio cannot seriously believe that statement. It is pure political posturing.) [44230, 44232]

On *Face the Nation* Rubio says, “This bill does three things that are fundamentally important for our country. It modernizes our legal immigration system, something we need to do no matter what.” Laughably, Rubio claims, “It puts in place the toughest enforcement measures in the history of the United States, potentially in the world.” [44230, 44232]

Hugo Chavez’s chosen successor, Nicolas Maduro, barely wins Venezuela’s presidential election with 50.7 percent of the vote. [44221, 44226]

In Washington, D.C., former GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain joins Obama critic Dr. Benjamin Carson for dinner. Joining them are black conservatives Alveda King, Ken Blackwell, Star Parker, and Walter Williams. [44234]

On April 15, as many Americans make a last-minute trip to a post office to file their income taxes for 2012, the Heritage Foundation reports how each of their tax dollars is spent:

23% – Medicare, Medicaid, other health care  
22% – Social Security benefits  
19% – National defense  
19% – Veterans benefits and “Income security” (federal employee retirement and disability benefits, unemployment benefits, food and housing assistance, etc.)  
6% – Net interest on the national debt  
3% – Transportation  
1% – K-12 education subsidies  
7% – All other federal spending

Heritage notes, “In 2012, Washington collected \$20,000 in taxes for every household in America. But Washington spent nearly \$30,000 per household. ... Washington’s deficits continue, because spending keeps going up.” [44220, 44223]

FoxNews.com reports, “The nation’s largest movie theater chain has cut the hours of thousands of employees, saying in a company memo that ObamaCare requirements are to blame. Regal Entertainment Group, which operates more than 500 theaters in 38 states, last month rolled back shifts for non-salaried workers to 30 hours per week, putting them under the threshold at which employers are required to provide health insurance. The Nashville-based company said in a letter to managers that the move was a direct result of ObamaCare.” [44237]

CNSNews.com reports, “As threats from North Korea makes headlines in northeast Asia and around the world, Secretary of State John Kerry, in his weekend visit to the region, gave high priority to a different subject—one that he is passionate about—‘anthropogenic’ global warming and his contention that the science is settled. ... Kerry called climate change a global threat as he addressed an energy cooperation seminar on Saturday also attended by Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi.” Kerry makes the ridiculous claim, “We are seeing the science of climate change come back to us now at a rate that is far faster and with far greater levels of damage than anything that scientists predicted 10, 15, 20 years ago. Every prediction that has been made is coming true, but coming true bigger and more dangerously.” Kerry also continued his global warming whining on Sunday. At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield later comments, “Never mind that North Korean [nuclear war threat] nonsense, cow flatulence is going to destroy the planet. Kerry’s Global Warming whistle stop tour was extraordinarily strange. In Japan, at Kerry’s joint press conference with Japan’s Foreign Minister, he blathered incessantly about Palestinian peace and Global Warming. Meanwhile every reporter’s question was about North Korea. Talking about North Korea, Kerry sounded like a ridiculous old hippie. ‘I think that—I think it’s really unfortunate that there has been so much focus and attention, both within the media and elsewhere, on the subject of war, when what we really ought to be talking about is the possibilities of peace.’ Kerry doesn’t seem to grasp the difference between facts and wishful thinking. When North Korea declares war, should the media be talking about the possibilities of peace?” [44283, 44284]

At the daily White House press briefing, Fox News reporter Ed Henry asks press secretary Jay Carney if Obama has been following the murder trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell and “Is the White House having any kind of reaction to that kind of situation that is alleged?” Carney responds, “[Obama] is aware of this. [Obama] does not and cannot take a position on an ongoing trial. So I won’t as well. Certainly the things that you hear and read about this case are unsettling. But I can’t comment further on an ongoing legal proceeding.” (Obama was not reluctant to give his opinion when Trayvon Martin was shot by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida. Obama said, “If I had a son, he’d look like Trayvon,” and vowed to “get to the bottom of what happened.” Obama felt it necessary to defend Martin before Zimmerman even had a chance to go to trial.) [30497, 30499, 30509, 30510, 30513, 30514, 30516, 30518, 30532, 30534, 30557, 30559, 30563, 30564, 30568, 30598, 30649, 30680, 30681, 44233]

Henry then asks Carney, “[Obama] as a state senator in 2003 voted against a bill that would provide medical care as I understand to babies who would be born after a botched abortion like this. [Obama] at the time said he couldn’t support it as a state senator because he felt like any doctor in that situation would take care of a child. When you hear this kind of evidence [against Gosnell], it suggests there is at least one doctor who apparently did not. I understand that you can’t deal with the deliberation of the case. But is there some legislative solution or at least a conversation that needs to happen in Washington because on guns you were just saying, we need common sense reform. We need to save lives. In this case do we need to be saving lives as well?” Carney: “Again, you’re relating it to a case that I can’t comment on and [Obama] can’t comment on. I would simply say that [Obama’s] position on choice [abortion] is very clear. His position on the basic principle that, as President Clinton said, abortions ought to be safe, legal and rare, is very clear. I just don’t have comment that could shed light on this specific case.” [44233, 44296]

At WeeklyStandard.com executive editor Fred Barnes writes of the “decline of Obama,” noting, “On Capitol Hill today, Obama has scarcely any clout at all. One reason: He acts as if spending time with members of Congress, even Democrats, is an unpleasant chore. Another reason: Having deferred to Democrats in his first term, he finds it difficult to pull rank on them in his second. And having ignored or alienated Republicans, he isn’t likely to achieve much by courting them over dinner in recent weeks. Immigration and gun control are the dominant issues in Congress at the moment, and Obama is a major player on neither of them. The ‘gang of eight’—four Democrats, four Republicans—is the driving force on immigration in the Senate. Obama is no force at all. ...Obama promised to play a huge role in the gun control debate, but the issue has left him behind. He gave speeches in Denver and Hartford, Connecticut, to stir support. He flew parents of Newtown victims to Washington last week to lobby for gun control legislation. The result: no discernible impact. ...If anything, [Obama is] generating indifference. His speeches on health care failed to stop Obamacare from losing popularity. His speeches on gun control failed similarly. ...The media once treated Washington as a White House-centric town. They did so during the entirety of Obama’s first term. Obama was an obsession. Congress was unexciting and got far less coverage. But the press can be fickle,

and its interest in Obama has dwindled. Now the media buzz in Washington is about who's going to run for president in 2016 and who's going to win." [44242]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, "...Obama has tacked a fundraising event onto his trip to Texas later this month to help dedicate the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, significantly cutting the cost of the trip for the Democratic Party as it hunts for campaign cash." Obama and his wife "will travel to Dallas on April 24 and that evening will headline a fundraising event for the Democratic National Committee, according to a report in the Dallas Morning News. ...If ...Obama were heading to Texas solely to raise funds for his party, it would be deemed a 'political' trip and the DNC would be forced to pick up the tab for his Air Force One travel. But because ...Obama is attending the Bush library opening in an official capacity, federal election law allows his campaign to pay for at least some of the travel at a fraction of the cost—the equivalent of a commercial airline ticket. ...The Dallas dinner, which will charge \$10,000 per person, will take place at the home of Naomi Aberly, a top bundler for ...Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. ...Ms. Aberly is married to hedge-fund manager Larry Lebowitz and has donated time and money to groups such as Planned Parenthood, serving as a board chair of its North Texas chapter. She is one of [Obama's] top bundlers, having raised more than \$1 million for Mr. Obama's re-election and raised approximately \$400,000 for his 2008 election." [44244]

The price of gold plunges to below \$1,400 per ounce, possibly on fears that Cyprus and other nations may start selling off their gold reserves to pay bills. Dominic Schnider, an analyst at UBS Wealth Management, comments, "[W]hat we now see is panic selling, perhaps triggered by the Fed's [Federal Reserve's] stimulus view. The Fed has given the signal that there's a possibility to reduce QE [quantitative easing], and that took a lot of trust out of gold. And people recognize that an environment where you have no inflation is a powerful driver to get out of the metal." While the decline prompts many investors to sell their gold, others consider it a buying opportunity. Jonathan Barratt of Barratt's Bulletin says, "For the amount of money that's going into the system, you have to take a longer-term view that stimulus will support gold prices." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Barratt is correct. The expansion of the money supply by Ben Bernanke and other central bankers around the world cannot help but eventually result in massive consumer price increases, raising the price of gold—or, more accurately, lowering the value of the U.S. dollar and other currencies.) [44280, 44281]

The Heritage Foundation warns about a "zinger buried in the [gun control] bill." The proposed legislation states, "Whoever makes or attempts to make a transfer of a firearm in violation of section 922(t) ...to a law enforcement officer, or to a person acting at the direction of, or with the approval of, a law enforcement officer authorized to investigate or prosecute violations of section 922(t), shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than five years, or both." This means that if the owner of a gun tries to sell it at a gun show and the buyer is an undercover federal law enforcement officer, the seller may be sent to prison for five years simply because he did not remember to first insist on a background check. Heritage writes, "Congress has made gun laws so complex that even the well-meaning, law-abiding citizen who owns firearms will have a hard time learning

about and complying with every firearms law and regulation on the books. It is unreasonable to assume that every person at a gun show will automatically know that it is a crime to transfer a firearm without a necessary background check. The... bill's new undercover sting provision is a trap for the innocent. Prosecutors love this kind of statute, because it makes their lives easy. They don't have to prove you knew you were breaking the law. They don't even have to prove you acted with any criminal state of mind at all. They simply must prove that you physically transferred, or attempted to transfer, a firearm without a necessary background check to an individual who was a law enforcement officer described in the... bill's provision or one of the officer's informants. (Remember, with the... bill, if you see an unattended gun lying on the ground at a gun show, do not pick up the gun and turn it over to somebody. The person you just transferred it to without a background check might be an undercover... sting officer—and you just committed a federal crime!)” [44258]

In Boston, three people are killed and 140 are injured when two bombs are exploded at the finish of the annual Boston Marathon. According to FoxNews.com, “The simultaneous explosions, and reports of two other unexploded devices found near the scene raised suspicions that the blasts, just before 3 p.m., could be part of a terrorist attack. Intelligence officials told The Associated Press two unexploded devices were being dismantled, and reports of a third ‘controlled’ explosion near the JFK Library in the Columbia Point section of Dorchester, may have been an intentional detonation supervised by authorities. Competitors and race organizers were crying as they fled the bloody chaos, while some witnesses reported seeing victims with lost limbs. ...A law enforcement official says cellphone service has been shut down in the Boston area to prevent any potential remote detonations of explosives. Authorities have not identified what caused the explosives that erupted at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. The official was speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.” On CNN, Wolf Blitzer irresponsibly comments, “Its is a state holiday in Massaschusis [sic] today, called Patriots’ Day, uh, and, uh, who knows if that had anything at all to deal, to do with these, uh, these twin explosions. ...Yeah, we don’t know the source, so we wanna [sic] be cautious, we don’t know, we don’t wanna [sic] overly speculate on what happened at the, near the end of the Boston Marathon...” (Blitzer does not want to be “overly speculative.” He is content to merely be moderately speculative.) [44236, 44239, 44240, 44245, 44271]

While Wolf Blitzer implies that an American patriot planted the bombs, NYPost.com reports, “Investigators have a suspect—a Saudi Arabian national—in the horrific Boston Marathon bombings, The Post has learned. Law enforcement sources said the 20-year-old suspect was under guard at an undisclosed Boston hospital. Fox News reported that the suspect suffered severe burns. It was not immediately clear why the man was hospitalized and whether he was injured in the attack or in his apprehension. The man was caught less than two hours after the 2:50 p.m. bombing on the finish line of the race, in the heart of Boston. ...In addition, Boston police have surveillance video of someone bringing multiple backpacks to blast site, according to CBS News.” According to Fox News, the 20-year-old Saudi in custody is in the United States on a student visa. He had been seen acting suspiciously, and apparently suffered burn injuries and shrapnel wounds in the

attack—yet immediately tried to run away rather than seek medical attention at the scene. (Since 2006 the number of Saudi students enrolled in schools in the United States has increased from 11,116 to 71,026.) [44241, 44255, 44256, 44257, 44444, 44445]

On CNN's *The Lead*, the network's "terrorism expert," Peter Bergen, tells Jake Tapper, "...I'm reminded of Oklahoma City which was a bombing, which was initially treated as a gas explosion. So first reports are often erroneous. But the fact that there were two explosions—two bombings—one of the things I'd be looking at is once the device, if it is a device, is found, what kind of explosives were used? For instance, if it was hydrogen peroxide, this is a signature of al-Qaeda. If it was more conventional explosives, which are much harder to get a hold of now, that might be some other kind of right-wing extremists. We've seen a number of failed bombing attempts by al-Qaeda using bombs ...and for instance, the Manhattan subway in 2009, Faisal Shahzad in 2010, the attempt to bring down Northwest Flight 253 over Detroit in 2009. But we've also seen other extremist groups, right-wing groups, for instance, trying to attack the Martin Luther King parade in Oregon in 2010. ...I think the actual—the constituency inside the bomb will make a big difference about how we identify the person who did this. Or the persons who did this. Because if it's hydrogen peroxide, that puts... If it's something else... could be a right-wing extremist group. Or some other group." (At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon observes, "Excuse me for playing my screenwriter card, but it seems to me the subtext here is that Bergen *wants* the perpetrators to be 'right-wing extremists.' Nothing amazing there. ...Bergen is the man who—shortly after the death of Osama bin Laden—stated that 'Killing bin Laden is end of the War on Terror. We can just sort of announce that right now.' Whoa. No wonder he favors domestic terrorism. How inconvenient it would be for him if it turned out some Wahhabis were still running around Boston blowing people up. That might even hurt his career as a 'terrorism expert.'") [44278]

Obama states, "We still do not know who did this or why—and people shouldn't jump to conclusions before we have all the facts. Make no mistake, we will get to the bottom of this and we will find out who did this and we will find out why they did this. Any responsible groups will feel the full weight of justice. ...The American people will say a prayer for Boston tonight and Michelle and I send our prayers to the families of the victims in the wake of this senseless loss." Obama refers to "explosions" rather than bomb blasts, and "the events in Boston" rather than a bloodthirsty attack. Obama also does not use the word "terrorism," but White House official tells Reuters, "Any event with multiple explosive devices—as this appears to be—is clearly an act of terror, and will be approached as an act of terror. However, we don't yet know who carried out this attack, and a thorough investigation will have to determine whether it was planned and carried out by a terrorist group, foreign or domestic." [44243, 44247, 44252, 44253, 44259]

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) holds a news conference to tell reporters, "[Obama] has pledged his full support in all efforts to keep the city [of Boston] safe and to find the person who did this and bring them to justice. We did not have to reach out to [Obama]. [He] reached out to us. He called the governor, he called the mayor, he called the members of the [congressional] delegation, because [Obama] is actively involved here

and responding.” (Warren has no words of sympathy for the victims of the bombing or their family members. Instead, she praises Obama for making telephone calls—probably because his phone calls are mostly to ask for support of gun control legislation, not about bombs in Boston.) [44254]

At WashingtonPost.com, Max Fisher worries that the bombing *is* terrorism, and writes, “Please don’t be a Muslim,” and “People in the Muslim world are often keenly aware of the American reflex to associate bombing attacks on U.S. citizens with Muslim extremists” even though “Muslims despise terrorism just as much as anyone else.” (Fisher ignores the fact that since September 11, 2001 there have been more than 20,000 terrorist attacks around the world committed by Muslims. Some might assume he not-so-secretly hopes the Boston bomber is a white, southern Christian who votes Republican.) [44248]

In a Twitter message New York Times columnist Nicolas Kristof uses the bombings as an excuse to criticize the GOP: “Explosion is a reminder that ATF needs a director. Shame on Senate Republicans for blocking apptment.” (He later Tweets, “People jumping on me for criticizing Sen Repubs for blocking ATF appointments. ok, that was low blow. i take it back.” Not surprisingly, Kristof does not blame the blocking of George W. Bush appointees by Democrats for the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.) [44260]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, “Obama is not the first to use ‘tragedy’ in describing events like this [Boston bombing]. [But] A bus accident is a tragedy. An attack on a bus is a crime or it is an act of war. When FDR addressed the Congress after Pearl Harbor, he didn’t say ‘December 7, a day that will live in tragedy.’ He said ‘it is a day that will live in infamy.’ It has to do with agency and cause. I mean, an accident is a tragedy and it has a cause and has to do with fate, serendipity. An accident—luck. But when the agency is human evil—that is beyond a tragedy. It’s a crime. That is what we’re dealing with here. I agree it’s a little early to say it was obviously an attack. To call it terrorism you had to be sure that the motive was a political one. Remember what happened in the Tucson shooting, where a member of Congress was shot by Jared Loughner. And the left jumped all over this—the mainstream media—and assumed it was a terror attack and it was an attack by some person inspired by the right-wing to attack a liberal congresswoman. And that was completely wrong... and so you have to establish it was a political one. Probably is but we’re not sure yet.” [44293]

On April 16 Obama uses the “T-word,” saying, “This was a heinous and cowardly act and given what we now know about what took place, the FBI is investigating it as an act of terrorism. Anytime bombs are used to target innocent civilians, it is an act of terror.” (Why he did not know that immediately after the multiple bombings is not known.) “What we don’t yet know however is who carried out this attack or why, whether it was planned by a terrorist organization, foreign or domestic, or whether it was the act of a malevolent individual. ... We will find whoever harmed our citizens and bring them to justice.” To the American people who had just been terrorized, Obama says, “We also know this: the American people will not be terrorized.” [44267]

News reports update the Boston bombing information, and clarify that there were not more than two explosive devices. Other “suspicious packages” were not bombs, and an incident at the JFK Library was an unrelated mechanical fire, not an explosion. The Department of Homeland Security does not issue a national “terror alert.” [44264, 44265, 44266]

The head of the Muslim terrorist group Salafi states he is “happy to see the horror in America. American blood isn’t more precious than Muslim blood.” [44267, 44286, 44287]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Friends and allies of Baroness [Margaret] Thatcher expressed ‘surprise and disappointment’ last night as it emerged [that] ...Obama is not planning to send any serving member of his administration to her funeral. Whitehall sources have revealed that the US delegation at tomorrow’s service in St Paul’s Cathedral will be led by two Reagan era secretaries of state: James Baker and George Shultz. Though ...Obama himself had not been expected to attend, there had been speculation that he would be represented either by Vice President Joe Biden or wife Michelle.” The White House blames a “busy week” on its decision, claiming, “This is a week when there is a lot of movement on Capitol Hill on gun control issues.” Among those attending the funeral will be Queen Elizabeth II, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Italy’s Mario Monti and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. HotAir.com asks, “[W]hy not send John Kerry, the Secretary of State tasked with maintaining good relations with close allies like the UK? Instead, the US delegation will consist of two men who would be traveling as private citizens to the funeral already, essentially giving an official policy of ignoring the event and snubbing the other world leaders attending it. ...They’re too busy to pay respects to someone who stood by America as a stalwart partner in the latter years of the Cold War, when it might have been easier for her to keep her distance. Shameful.” (This would not be the first time Obama has offended the British. His first such act was removing a bust of Winston Churchill on the very first day he entered the Oval Office. That was followed by shabby treatment of then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown.) [44262, 44263, 44318, 44341, 44382]

A reporter asks House Minority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) if the Boston bombing are evidence that the sequestration cuts should be reversed. (In other words, “How can we blame Republicans for the deaths?”) Hoyer happily responds, “I think there are multiple reasons for ensuring that we invest in our security—both domestic and international security. That we invest in the education of our children. That we invest in growing jobs in America. And don’t pursue an irrational, across-the-board policy of cutting the highest priorities and the lowest priorities essentially the same percentage. ...I think this is another proof of that—if proof is needed, which I don’t think frankly it is. ...I doubt that [sequestration is] having any impact presently—and the reason for that, this is a priority item and I’m sure they’re shifting what resources are necessary. Even if they’re shorter resources than they otherwise would’ve had, I’m sure they’re putting all the resources necessary on this effort. Certainly at the federal level—I think [Obama has] made that pretty clear.” [44269]



Former Congressman Barney Frank uses the Boston bombings to pound the “we should never cut federal spending” theme: “In this terrible situation, let’s be very grateful that we had a well-funded, functioning government. It is very fashionable in America, and has been for some time to criticize government, belittle public employees, talk about their pensions, talk about what people think... of health care. Here we saw government in two ways perform very well. ...I never was, as a member of Congress, one of the cheerleaders for less government, lower taxes. No tax cut would have helped us deal with this [act of terrorism] or will help us recover. This is very expensive.” (Frank’s argument is absurd, and pure political posturing. Most Americans who believe in a smaller, more efficient government have no desire to cut defense spending or police protection to the bone. The elimination of government waste and fraud can certainly be done while leaving essential services intact. Reducing government spending does not have to mean cutting *every* function of government. Additionally, it is also absurd for Frank to suggest that what happened in Boston is an example of successful government. It may be true that the police and other emergency responders did a good job of helping people and preventing further chaos after the bombs exploded, but success would have meant *preventing* the crime in the first place—and that perhaps would have meant denying a travel visa to a foreigner.) [44270]

Asked why Obama did not use the words “terrorist bombing” when referring to the massacre in Boston, his former campaign manager, David Axelrod, tells NBC, “The word [terrorist] has taken on a different meaning since 9/11. You use those words [terrorist attack] and it means something very specific in people’s mind. And I’m sure what was going through [Obama’s] mind is—we really don’t know who did this—it was tax day. Was it someone who was pro... you know, you just don’t know. And so I think his attitude is, let’s not put any inference into this, let’s just make clear that we’re going to get the people responsible.” (Obama does not have to infer anything; he has Wolf Blitzer, others in the mainstream media, and leftists on the Internet doing that for him.) [44276, 44277]

FoxNews.com reports, “The deadly bombing at the Boston Marathon that killed at least three and injured at least 144 is believed to be an act of terrorism, senior White House officials told Fox News. Two explosions tore through the finish line of the world-famous race just before 3 p.m., going off simultaneously as throngs of onlookers watched runners complete the 26.2-mile trek. The timing of the blasts immediately sparked suspicions of a deliberate act. ...Authorities searched an apartment in the nearby Boston suburb of Revere as part of the investigation into the explosions. FoxNews.com saw federal, state and local law enforcement entering the building late Monday night and early Tuesday morning. ...A source close to the investigation confirms to FoxNews.com the man whose apartment was searched is considered a person of interest in the case, and is the same person of interest Fox News confirmed earlier authorities are guarding at a local hospital. The source confirmed to FoxNews.com that the person of interest is Abdul Rahman Ali Alharbi, a 20-year-old Saudi. His Facebook page identifies him as a current or former student at the New England School of English. He is believed to have entered the country

on a student visa. The source stressed that Alharbi is a person of interest, not a suspect, and said he suffered serious injuries in the explosion.” [44285]

FoxNews.com reports, “Pressure cookers—possibly activated remotely by a cellphone—are believed to have been used to make the crude bombs that sent deadly shrapnel hurling into a crowd of onlookers and competitors at Monday’s Boston Marathon, experts told Fox News. Doctors treating some of the 176 injured victims believe the explosives were packed with deadly shrapnel, including pellets, nails and sharp metallic objects—with some patients having ‘40 or more’ such fragments embedded in their bodies. ...Sources close to the investigation say shredded pieces of pressure cookers were found at the blast sites, indicating the bombs were made from kitchen devices. A source close to the investigation told Fox News that the style of the device used closely resembles that commonly seen in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Another source confirmed that ‘pressure cookers were used in both devices.’” [44289, 44300]

CNN.com reports, “An envelope that tested positive for the deadly poison ricin was intercepted Tuesday afternoon at the U.S. Capitol’s off-site mail facility in Washington, congressional and law enforcement sources tell CNN. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he was told the letter was addressed to the office of Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Mississippi. A laboratory in Maryland confirmed the presence of ricin after initial field tests indicated the poison was present, according to Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Terrance Gainer.” [44290, 44328]

Probably representing many liberal Americans, at Salon.com, David Sirota writes—“Let’s hope the Boston Marathon bomber is a white American. ...It will probably be much different if the bomber ends up being a Muslim and/or a foreigner from the developing world. As we know from our own history, when those kind [sic] of individuals break laws in such a high-profile way, America often cites them as both proof that entire demographic groups must be targeted, and that therefore a more systemic response is warranted. At that point, it’s easy to imagine conservatives citing Boston as a reason to block immigration reform defense spending cuts and the Afghan War withdrawal and to further expand surveillance and other encroachments on civil liberties.” [44291, 44292]

The *Daily Mail* reports that the Obama administration “cut the budget nearly in half for preventing domestic bombings... Under President George W. Bush, the Department of Homeland Security had \$20 million allocated for preventing the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by terrorists working inside the United States. The current White House has cut that funding down to \$11 million. That assessment comes from Robert Liscouski, a former Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection...” [44295]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, “A labor union representing roofers is reversing course and calling for repeal of the federal health law, citing concerns the law will raise its cost for insuring members. Organized labor was instrumental in getting the Affordable Care Act passed in 2010, but more recently has voiced concerns that the law could lead

members to lose their existing health plans. The United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers is believed to be the first union to initially support the law and later call for its repeal.” The union issues a statement reading, in part, “[R]egrettably, our concerns over certain provisions in the ACA [Affordable Care Act] have not been addressed, or in some instances, [have been] totally ignored. In the rush to achieve its passage, many of the Act’s provisions were not fully conceived, resulting in unintended consequences that are inconsistent with the promise that those who were satisfied with their employer sponsored coverage could keep it.” [44330, 44331, 44342, 44402, 44548]

On April 17, at 2 o’clock in the morning, the “gang of eight” senators releases its immigration bill—and expects everyone else to read its 844 pages and vote on it before the end of the week. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) comments, “Already, we know that the bill’s sponsors have abandoned their core promise to the American people that enforcement would come first. This bill is legalization first, not enforcement first. The day the bill passes there will be effective amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants, with only the same promises we have heard before of enforcement to occur at some later date. That amnesty will then become official in a matter of months—once DHS merely submits a plan for border security in the future. That’s not a trigger—that’s the honor system. DHS develops the metrics and DHS decides when those metrics are met. Why should we trust DHS to follow through—after amnesty is granted—when this administration has aggressively defied those laws already in place? In recent years interior enforcement has been significantly undermined. And yet our interior enforcement needs are almost totally neglected in the Gang’s proposal. Alarming, the bill leaves intact the single greatest obstacle to immigration reform: the Administration’s abuse of prosecutorial discretion to prevent the enforcement of federal law. It will also provide safe harbor to those who have committed a variety of offenses—ranging from identity theft, to multiple immigration violations, and even those with criminal records. This bill opens up citizenship to recent arrivals and, remarkably, millions who overstayed their visas. If adopted, this bill would send a message to the world that if you can beat the system, you will be rewarded with citizenship. If adopted, this bill would send the following message to the world: if you get a U.S. visa and it expires, never leave—just stay put and evade detection. It even opens up citizenship to those who have been deported from the country.” [44298]

A letter to Obama that contained ricin is reportedly intercepted. White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “Before we speculate, before we make connections that we don’t know exist, as the FBI has said, we need to get the facts. First things first. ... It has not even been 48 hours [since the Boston Marathon incident]. [Obama] has faith in the FBI, and faith in the entire national security and homeland security team. The president is very confident in all of the agencies at the federal level that are involved. He is confident that we’ll find who’s responsible. The top and highest priority of [Obama] is the safety and security of the American people.” (Tupelo, Mississippi resident Kevin Curtis is arrested in connection with the letters sent to Obama and Senator Roger Wicker. Curtis is later released, with Fox News reporting, “[T]he FBI was looking into the possibility that he might have been framed as part of a grudge against him from someone in his neighborhood.”) [44302, 44328, 44338, 44365, 44436]

AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller reports that Abdul al-Harbi, the Saudi national "who was first questioned in the Boston bombing, is going to be deported on 'national security grounds.' He is from a very powerful Saudi family with many terrorist ties. Abdul al-Harbi is a devout Muslim from Medina. ...When I heard he was from a very powerful Saudi family, I worried about this kind of thing happening. Secretary of State [John] Kerry's meeting with the Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al-Faisal was abruptly closed to the press the day Abdul al-Harbi was being questioned. There is no doubt in my mind that this was discussed. Today's embarrassing display of rolling incompetence and badly mangled leaks led to numerous cancellations of press conferences, mis-identified suspects, promises of imminent arrest, walking back the arrest announcement, and more. They said they would release a statement and then said they wouldn't. Very smelly." Meanwhile, Reuters reports, "...Obama met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal [a Sunni Muslim] at the White House on Wednesday and discussed the conflict in Syria, a spokeswoman said. The meeting was not on Obama's public schedule. The spokeswoman, Caitlin Hayden, said the president joined a meeting between the Saudi official and Obama's national security adviser, Tom Donilon." In a Congressional hearing, Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-SC) asks Department of Homeland Security head Janet Napolitano why the government would deport someone who was at the scene of the bombing and may have valuable eyewitness testimony, even if he is not a suspect. Napolitano claims, "I am unaware of anyone who is being deported for national security concerns at all related to Boston," and avoids providing a direct answer. [44309, 44314, 44337, 44340, 44377, 44386, 44401, 44416, 44423]

Debka.com reports, "FBI Special Agent Richard Deslauriers told reporters Tuesday, April 16, that the probe had no leads 18 hours after two explosions blew up at the annual Boston Marathon's finishing line, killing three people and injuring 176—17 critically. DEBKAFile's counterterrorism sources can disclose however that the investigation has in fact homed in on a suspected terror cell of three Saudi nationals, very possibly tied to Al Qaeda. The flat they share in the Revere, Massachusetts, near Boston, was searched after the questioning of one of the suspects, a Saudi student, who was hospitalized with badly burned hands. One of his flatmates was taken into custody over 'visa problems.' A third is on the run. All three hail from a prominent Saudi family belonging to a tribe from the Asir province bordering on Yemen." [44311, 44312]

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) tells NBC News, "We will not get the votes today" to approve the proposed gun control legislation that calls for increased background checks and closing the so-called "gun show loophole." Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) states, "I cannot support legislation that infringes upon the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. I believe that this legislation could lead to the creation of a national gun registry and puts additional burdens on law-abiding citizens." [44299, 44301]

In the U.S. Senate, Democrats attempt and fail to pass gun control legislation; the vote is 54–46, with 60 votes necessary to end debate. A livid Obama, with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and families of several Newtown, Connecticut school shooting victims standing next to him as props, calls it a "shameful day in Washington.

...The gun lobby and its allies willfully lied about the bill. They claimed that it would create some sort of Big Brother gun registry, even though the bill did the opposite. This legislation, in fact, outlawed any registry, plain and simple right there in the text. But that didn't matter. And unfortunately, this pattern of spreading untruths about this legislation served a purpose, because those lies upset an intense minority of gun owners, and that in turn intimidated a lot of senators." An angry Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) says, "I am really chagrined and concerned. [If] Anybody cares, vote at least to prospectively ban the manufacture, the sale, the importation of military-style assault weapons. Show some guts." (Feinstein's amendment to ban "assault weapons" fails on a vote of 40-60.) [44303, 44304, 44305, 44306, 44307, 44308, 44311, 44316, 44336, 44339, 44360]

Politico comments, "Never before had ...Barack Obama put [his] moral force and political muscle... behind an issue quite this big—and lost quite this badly. [Obama], shaken to the core by the massacre of 26 innocents at Sandy Hook Elementary School, broke his own informal 'Obama Rule'—of never leaning into an issue without a clear path to victory—first by pushing for a massive gun control package no one expected to pass, and then sticking through it even as he retrenched to a relatively modest bipartisan bill mandating national background checks on gun purchases. It was a bitter defeat for a president accustomed to winning, a second-term downer that may—or may not—foreshadow the slow decline suffered by so many of his predecessors." [44303, 44304, 44305, 44306, 44307, 44308, 44311, 44316, 44336, 44339]

Obama's reaction and anger do not go unnoticed in cyberspace. Twitter comments include, "Obama throws a temper tantrum because his permanent campaign couldn't make it happen. He's basically admitting his failure as a politician." "Political opportunism is not an effective means of governance, as @TheDemocrats learned today. Plus, Constitution and stuff." "Obama showed the passion and anger at his personal defeat that he wasn't able to manage after the Benghazi slaughter." "More anger on one's failed Senate vote than on international terrorism is a sure sign of a large ego." "I love how politicians only blame politics when they lose." [44319, 44320, 44321, 44329]

At HotAir.com Allahpundit comments, "Where was [Obama's] righteous anger after Aurora? The victims in that case weren't small children, but that can't possibly explain O's dramatically more subdued reaction after that shooting. ...No angry Rose Garden press conferences freaking out about Senate inaction after Aurora, though. Any theories why? Anything, maybe, having to do with when that shooting happened vis-a-vis Newtown? Right: One of them came three months before a presidential election and the other came a month after. That's the difference. As you watch him point the finger here at supposedly gutless senators who care more about retaining public office than Doing Something, remember that there's hardly one among them who's as attuned to political self-preservation as O. He kept his mouth shut nice and tight about guns when it was his own ass on the line last year in purple states; he ignored gun control almost completely when he had 60 Democratic votes in the Senate early in his first term; and as we know from the gay-marriage farce, he isn't above lying outright to voters about his true positions in the name of getting elected. Given his record, there's every reason to believe that what's really bothering him is the fact that red-state Dems denied him an easy chance

today to demagogue Republicans as the party of child murder or whatever, which he was hoping to use next year as a way to retake the House. ...That's what he's mad about, that a political bludgeon was essentially taken out of his hands before he had a chance to use it to achieve unrelated goals." [44329]

CBS News reports, 'Multiple new whistleblowers are privately speaking to investigators with the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee regarding the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attacks on the U.S. compounds in Benghazi, Libya. The nature of the communications with the whistleblowers and their identities are not being made public at this time. But in response, the Oversight Committee yesterday sent letters to the three federal agencies involved: the CIA, the Defense Department and the State Department. ...The letters make the case for the whistleblowers to be able to share sensitive or classified information with their own attorneys, and ask for each agency's official description of the legal steps that process must follow. The letters also state that additional witnesses may be 'compelled by subpoena to give testimony.'" [44324, 44325, 44397, 44600]

The Postmaster General tells Congress, "In the past few years, the Postal Service has recorded \$21 billion in losses, including a default of \$11.1 billion in payments to the United States Treasury. The Postal Service has exhausted its borrowing authority and continues to contend with dangerously low liquidity. We are losing \$25 million a day, and we are on an unsustainable path." (Fox News' John Stossel observes, "They have a near monopoly on first-class mail delivery. ...The U.S. Postal Service doesn't pay sales tax or property tax. They don't even pay parking tickets. With advantages like that, how do they lose money?") [44326, 44327]

Politico reports that Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), "one of the health reform law's chief authors, says he's worried about a 'huge train wreck coming down' if the Obama administration doesn't improve its public outreach about the [ObamaCare] legislation. Baucus, ...who is up for reelection in 2014, sharply criticized the administration's outreach efforts in a budget hearing on Wednesday. He told Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that people and businesses 'have no idea what to do, what to expect' from the law. If the administration implements it correctly, millions more Americans will gain access to health care next year,' Baucus said. 'I am concerned that not every state, including Montana, will have an insurance marketplace established in time.' After the hearing, Baucus explained that the train wreck is 'that consumers and businesses will just not have enough information. That it will be too confusing.'" [44332, 44333, 44342, 44355]

Obama speaks at a memorial service for the Boston Marathon bombing victims at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, Massachusetts. He states, "As you begin this long journey of recovery, your city is with you. Your commonwealth is with you. Your country is with you. We will all be with you as you learn to stand and walk—and yes, run again. I have no doubt, you will run again." [44334]

On April 18 Obama appears on NBC's *Today* program and says, "You know, I'm actually reasonably confident on [the issue of immigration legislation getting passed by Congress]. I think that you've seen great work on a bipartisan basis between Democratic and Republican senators. So if you take that package together, one that's supported by [organized] labor, that's supported by business, that's supported by advocacy groups, that's supported by evangelical Christian groups, you know, this is about as broad-based a coalition as you're going to get. ...And my hope is, not only that we are going to end up with an immigration bill that shows that we're a nation of laws and a nation of citizens, that helps our economic growth, that helps us attract incredible talent to our shores, but I also hope that it kind of restarts muscle memory in Congress for getting bipartisan legislation done." (Obama considers legislation rewarding illegal immigrant lawbreakers with citizenship something that represents "a nation of laws.") [44335]

According to Newsmax.com, ObamaCare and the proposed immigration legislation combine to give some employers an incentive to hire immigrants over U.S. citizens: "The bill unveiled Wednesday says people who are granted provisional legal status will be treated the same as people 'not lawfully present' under Obamacare guidelines... This means that provisionally legal immigrants will not be eligible for Obamacare tax credits or required to pay a tax penalty for failing to get health insurance—and employers won't be fined for not providing them with affordable health coverage." [44343]

At his Senate confirmation hearing Thomas Perez, Obama's choice to head the Department of Labor, admits that the nation's unemployment rate would be 13.8 percent if the government included in its calculation Americans who have stooped looking for work and have dropped out of the workforce altogether. "In that sense, it understates the unemployment rate," states Perez. [44344]

According to an April 2013 Washington Post/ABC poll, 51 percent of those surveyed believe having a gun in the house makes it a safari place; 29 percent think a gun makes a home more dangerous. [44379]

*We the People* blog reports, "Our friend and diligent researcher and the person responsible for exposing several of Obama's fraudulent activities in several venues was interviewed, hand-cuffed and had his property removed by the FBI. Al Hendershot found Obama's alias of Harrison J. Bounel, Obama's non-payment of taxes on a home in Chicago that he does not own, and the Obama's use of multiple social security numbers. In addition, he has worked with Jerome Corsi and the Cold Case Posse on the ineligibility issue related to the Usurper. His work must be making the Obama administration very worried that they would send in the FBI to confiscate his computer and the information that he has accumulated. This is just another example of the police state that Obama and his regime are putting in place and using to keep those involved in exposing Obama for being a con man who has usurped the presidency of the United States and who sits in the our White House and presides over our nation illegally." [44385]

TheBlaze.com reports, “Documents have been presented to Congress confirming that plans were made to revoke the visa of Abdul Rahman Ali Alharbi, a Saudi national once considered a ‘person of interest’ in the Boston bombings, a congressional source told TheBlaze on Thursday. Other sources, including one at the FBI, previously informed TheBlaze that there have been discussions about deporting Alharbi on ‘security and related grounds.’ He has been living in the Boston area and in the U.S. on a student visa. An FBI source said the agency is against deporting Alharbi because of his status as a material witness. The congressional source told TheBlaze it was unclear as to why representatives from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be unaware of this information. Earlier on Thursday, an official with ICE said it was ‘categorically false’ that Alharbi had ever been considered for deportation. The congressional source, however, said the information sent to Congress showed that a file was created on ‘Abdul Rahman Ali Al Harby’ at 4 p.m. on Tuesday by an official with the National Targeting Center, a counterterrorism sub-agency of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security. The file stated that the individual is “linked to the Boston bombing” and was to be processed for revocation of his visa based on national security grounds, the congressional source revealed.” [44345, 44386]

The FBI releases security camera images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings. [44346, 44349]

Reuters inadvertently publishes an obituary for leftist billionaire and Obama pal George Soros—even though he is still alive. [44348]

On April 19 NBCSanDiego.com reports, “Boston was a ghost town Friday with residents ordered to remain inside their homes during an all-day manhunt for suspected marathon attacker Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, as police scouring the city and its suburbs uncovered seven more bombs following a wild overnight shootout that left the other suspect and a police officer dead. Some of the improvised explosive devices were recovered in Watertown, where the shootout capped a police chase with the suspects, and some at a house in Cambridge, police officials told NBC News. Massachusetts state police in Watertown said officers had been going door-to-door after the two suspected terrorist brothers hurled explosives at police in the earlier firefight. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was killed and his brother, 19-year-old Dzhokhar, escaped during the chaos. Police officials told NBC News about 200 rounds were exchanged. ...Authorities suspect that the Cambridge resident of Chechen origin and his brother were behind Monday’s twin explosions at the finish line of the Boston Marathon that killed three people and wounded 176. ...As the manhunt dragged on, a portrait began to emerge about the Tsarnaev brothers, who relatives and authorities said immigrated to the U.S. with their ethnic Chechen family a decade ago. The Kyrgyzstan-born suspect on the run, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, became a U.S. citizen on Sept. 11, 2012, according to documents obtained by NBC News. The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth said he was registered as a student there. The dead brother, Tamerlan, was born in Russia and became a legal U.S. permanent resident in 2007, authorities told NBC News. ...Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim part of Russia that declared independence in 1991, after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Chechnya fought a war with Russia for much of the 1990s, and Chechens have been involved in terrorist



attacks in Russia in the years since.” (September 11, 2012, the day Dzhokar Tsarnaev became a U.S. citizen, Obama said, “Our country is safer.”) [44288, 44347, 44351, 44352, 44353, 44354, 44357, 44361, 44409, 44410]

Obama delivers another address to the nation about the Boston marathon bombings. He says, “All in all, this has been a tough week, but we’ve seen the character of our country once more. ...I’m confident that we have the courage and the resilience and the spirit to overcome these challenges and to go forward as one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. ...Obviously tonight there are still many unanswered questions. Among them, why did young men who grew up and studied here as part of our communities and our country resort to such violence? How did they plan and carry out these attacks? And did they receive any help? The families of those killed so senselessly deserve answers. The wounded, some of whom now have to learn how to stand and walk and live again, deserve answers. One thing we do know is that whatever hateful agenda drove these men to such hateful act, cannot, will not succeed; they’ve already failed [sic].”(Actually, they succeeded.) Interestingly, Obama specifically mentions the “young men” in the bombings—despite the fact that a trial is a long way off and his comments could be used to argue that a fair trial is no longer possible. Yet Obama has refused to comment on the trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell. [44359, 44391]

Police officers capture 19-year-old bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hiding in a boat stored in a backyard in Watertown, Massachusetts. [44362, 44363, 44364]

JudicialWatch.org reports, “One of the Chechen terrorists who carried out the Boston Marathon bombings could have been deported years ago after a criminal arrest and/or conviction and the other was granted American citizenship on the 11th anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the 26-year-old killed in a wild shootout with police, was a legal U.S. resident who nevertheless could have been removed from the country after a 2009 domestic violence arrest and conviction, according to a Judicial Watch source. That means the Obama administration missed an opportunity to deport Tsarnaev but evidently didn’t feel he represented a big enough threat. Other reporting confirms Tsarnaev’s arrest for domestic violence but we’re seeking confirmation of a conviction. Nevertheless he would have been subject to removal for the arrest itself.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller asks, “Who in the Obama Administration gave Tamerlan Tsarnaev a pass after his conviction? And was this person a recipient of the politically correct training that whitewashes any connection between Islam and terrorism or any kind of violence (including domestic violence)? A full investigation should be launched.” [44369, 44370]

According to Newsmax.com, “The FBI and other law enforcement agencies were aware of at least one of the Boston terror suspects for several years, and even failed to deport him after a domestic violence conviction in 2009. The FBI in 2011 interviewed one of the brothers suspected in the deadly Boston Marathon bombings, a disclosure that raises questions about whether the government missed potential warning signs about the men’s behavior. The brothers had not been under surveillance as possible militants, U.S. government officials said. But the FBI said in a statement on Friday that in 2011 it

interviewed Tamerlan at the request of a foreign government, which it did not identify.” The FBI statement reads, “The request stated that it was based on information that he was a follower of radical Islam and a strong believer, and that he had changed drastically since 2010 as he prepared to leave the United States for travel to the country’s region to join unspecified underground groups.” [44371]

ABC6.com reports, “Neighbors say three [additional people] have been arrested in New Bedford in connection with the Boston Bombing suspect. Police apprehended suspects from the Hidden Brook Apartments on Carriage Drive in New Bedford. Neighbors say they think that the girlfriend of 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev may have lived in the complex and they have seen him in the area as recently as yesterday.” [4366, 44367]

At WND.com Bob Unruh reports, “A Saudi Arabian newspaper is reporting that United States First Lady Michelle Obama visited in the hospital Saudi citizen Abdul Rahman Ali Issa Al-Salimi Alharbi, the young man who had been labeled a ‘person of interest’ in the Boston Marathon bombing. The newspaper accompanied its report with an image of Obama, although the background was generic and it couldn’t be confirmed immediately that she was at the hospital where Alharbi was being treated at the time. He reportedly suffered injuries in the Boston bombing. ...It was CBS in Boston, and other outlets, that reported that ...Obama and Michelle visited some of the victims of the marathon terrorism at hospitals in the Boston area yesterday. It was reported the first lady went to Boston Children’s Hospital, as well as Brigham and Women’s Hospital, but the visits were off-limits to the media.” (Tsarnaev later posts photographs of Mrs. Obama’s visit with him on his Facebook page.) [44371, 44392, 44477]

Zubeidat Tsarneva, the mother of the two alleged Boston Marathon bombers, says they were framed by the U,S, government. She tells RT-TV, “What I can say is I am really sure, I am like 100-percent sure that this is a set-up. My two sons are really innocent, and I know that neither of them never, never have talked about whatever they’re saying about now, and what I want to say is... my youngest one was raised actually... from 8 years, he was raised in America, and my oldest son, he is like really, really proper raised in our house, never, nobody talked about terrorism. My son, Tamerlan, really got involved in... religious politics five years ago. So he started following his own [religion], and he never, never told me that he would be, like, on the side of jihad; and whatever they are talking, [whoever] is talking about, him being a loser, [they] are the losers.” Other family members tell a different story. According to ABC News, “One of the Boston bombing suspects set off alarm bells among his family a year ago during a trip here to visit relatives... According to a family member, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, a devout Muslim, was kicked out of his uncle’s house because of his increasingly extremist views on religion. ...Tamerlan Tsarnaev spent roughly six months in Russia in 2012, but the relative, who insisted on anonymity to avoid offending other family members, insisted the young man had been radicalized in the United States before his trip.” [44372, 44381, 44398, 44433]

On HBO’s *Real Time*, guest Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University in San Bernardino, says, “Look, it’s not like people who are Muslim who do wacky things have a monopoly on it. We have hypocrites

across faiths, Jewish, Christian who say they're out for God and end up doing not so nice things.” Host Bill Maher, a liberal, responds, “You know what? Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You know what? That’s, that’s liberal bullshit right there. I mean, yes, all faiths—” Levin: “There are no Christian hypocrites?” Maher: “...They just, they’re not as dangerous. I mean, there’s only one faith, for example, that kills you or wants to kill you if you draw a bad cartoon of the prophet. There’s only one faith that kills you or wants to kill you if you renounce the faith. An ex-Muslim is a very dangerous thing. Talk to Salman Rushdie after the show about Christian versus Islam. So, you know, I’m just saying, let’s keep it real. ...I’m not an Islamaphobe. That’s wrong. I am a truth lover. All religions are not alike.” [44384]

On April 20 SouthCoastToday.com reports, “Agents wearing FBI and Department of Homeland Security jackets detained two men at the Hidden Brook apartment complex just hours after releasing three people believed to be associated with Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. A neighbor who declined to identify herself said the same two men were among the three people taken into custody by the FBI Friday afternoon. An FBI spokeswoman could not provide any information on the two men, both of whom were led away in handcuffs around 3:50 p.m. Saturday, or anything related to the apartment, citing the ‘ongoing’ nature of the investigation.” According to the Daily Mail, the two men own a BMW 330XI with a license plate that reads, “TERRORISTA#1.” [44368, 44380, 44408]

At JoeMiller.us, Robby Soave writes, “Boston bombing suspect and fugitive Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was a ‘normal pot head’ who supported ...Obama for re-election last November, according to friends and his Twitter account. Chris Barry, who attended the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with Tsarnaev, described him as normal teenager who loved to smoke pot and cigarettes every day.” [44378]

Heritage Foundation security and defense expert James Jay Carafano tells Newsmax.TV that the Obama administration has “defined [its’] way out of the [terrorism] problem” by focusing only on al-Qaeda. “They’ve basically said that we are fighting al-Qaeda central, and al-Qaeda and its affiliates, where people are actually planning operations to attack the U.S. or its allies. Well, when you define the enemy that way, you look pretty good. But the problem is there are a lot of groups that hate us, that aren’t necessarily directly affiliated with al-Qaeda, which could attack the United States tomorrow and could be a significant threat, whether it’s Hamas, Hezbollah, or the Iranian Quds Force, or other things. And the reality is you’re not always going to get the early warning or signs that, ‘Tomorrow, I’m just going to decide to attack the United States.’” Carafano warns that the administration has “adopted a counterterrorism strategy which generally means that the United States is putting its head in the sand and pretending that threats are laxing [sic] when the reality is, if you look across North Africa, if you look at what’s going on in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, the threat is not laxing [sic] . There is no waning.” [44383]

Debkaf<sup>ile</sup> speculates, “The conclusion reached by debkaf<sup>ile</sup>’s counterterrorism and intelligence sources is that the [Boston Marathon bomber’s Tsarnaev] brothers were double agents, hired by US and Saudi intelligence to penetrate the Wahhabi jihadist

networks which, helped by Saudi financial institutions, had spread across the restive Russian Caucasian. Instead, the two former Chechens betrayed their mission and went secretly over to the radical Islamist networks.” Moscow keeps Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Chechnya, North Ossetia and Karachyevo-Cherkesiya “...on a tight military and intelligence leash, constantly putting down violent resistance by the Wahhabist cells, which draw support from certain Saudi sources and funds from the Riyadh government for building Wahhabist mosques and schools to disseminate the state religion of Saudi Arabia. The Saudis feared that their convoluted involvement in the Caucasus would come embarrassingly to light when a Saudi student was questioned about his involvement in the bombing attacks while in a Boston hospital with badly burned hands. They were concerned enough to send Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saudi al-Faisal to Washington Wednesday, April 17, in the middle of the Boston Marathon bombing crisis, for a private conversation with ...Obama and his national security adviser Tom Donilon on how to handle the Saudi angle of the bombing attack.” (*The Obama Timeline* can neither confirm nor deny *Debkafile*’s theory.) [44389, 44390, 44398, 44399]

At [WhiteHouseDossier.com](http://WhiteHouseDossier.com), Keith Koffler writes, “Glaringly omitted from ...Obama’s remarks Friday evening after the capture of the second terrorist was any mention of bringing justice to those who planned and supported this, and combating whatever group is responsible. Here’s what we got instead: ‘We will determine what happened. We will investigate any associations that these terrorists may have had. And we’ll continue to do whatever we have to do to keep our people safe.’ Oh, jolly, there will be an INVESTIGATION. ...There is something about [Obama] that seems to not want to accept that there is a systemic problem here: Islamism and its vicious foot soldiers—most prominently, al Qaeda—who want to do away with our freedom. What’s more, the problem seems to be expanding in that those overseas are succeeding in convincing American citizens and residents to act against their own country. Obama seemed to reference this when he noted that we need to answer the question, ‘why did young men who grew up and studied here, as part of our communities and our country, resort to such violence?’ But you almost get the sense he thinks they may have needed better early childhood education and healthier school lunches.” [44395]

The Ulsterman Report writes, “Word is starting to percolate from D.C. that the Obama administration had already confirmed the Boston bombing most likely had an al Qaeda component to it by the time Barack Obama made his prepared remarks to a community service in Boston three days after the attack took place. And yet, despite that knowledge, [Obama’s] words that day were absent any real condemnation of radical Muslim terrorism. Once again, Barack Obama refuses to acknowledge radical Muslims remain a dire threat to the safety and security of the United States despite his often repeated claims otherwise during the 2012 election cycle. Either Obama is completely ignorant of this fact—or he simply finds it acceptable to repeatedly lie to the American public. ...[I]t appears the Obama White House is already initiating a counter-backlash plan to minimize accusations against why the FBI and other security and intelligence offices failed to intercept the Boston terrorist plot even after the Russian government apparently contacted U.S. officials to warn of the older brother’s ties to terrorist groups—the same older

brother who then traveled to Russia and remained there for six months before returning back to the United States.” [44394, 44500]

“If the information I am receiving is proven accurate, we will soon **see a profile of the two young men as victims** of not only influence by extremists abroad, but of a culture in the United States that turned them against the very country that took them in. The affair will be treated more as a criminal matter and not an international terrorist threat matter. That’s right—the Obama White House intends, at least in part, to make ourselves to blame for what happened in Boston—in order to deflect real blame away from the administration. Let us hope there are Republicans willing to bypass this counter-backlash plan and get to the truth far better than they did with the Benghazi Massacre where the Obama administration successfully muddied the waters of accusation by repeating over and over again the false claim that a YouTube video was to blame. They succeeded then—and hope to do so again with the Boston bombing situation.” [44394]

At Breitbart.com Elizabeth Shield reports, “Breitbart News has learned that the Saudi National questioned after the Boston Marathon Bombing had his deportation order records altered, rescinding his deportation order. The alteration occurred the night before Secretary Napolitano vehemently denied the existence of any deportation order in testimony before the House of Representatives. Sources with knowledge of these matters say the change occurred subsequent to Secretary John Kerry’s closed door meeting on Tuesday with the Saudi Minister and around the time of the meeting between the Saudi Minister and Obama later on Wednesday evening. The Saudi National has been identified as Abdulrahman [or Abdul Rahman] Ali Al-Harbi. There is no evidence that Al-Harbi is connected to the Boston Marathon Bombings.” (Napolitano later admits that Al-Harbi was on a terror watch list. She neglects to mention that the mother of the Boston bombers, Zubeidat Tsarnaev, was also on the list.) [44400, 44481, 44541, 44542, 44543]

On April 21 Carol Platt Liebau writes at Townhall.com: “The AP reports that the men who detonated explosives to kill innocents at the Boston Marathon and later engaged in a shoot-out with police (after shooting an MIT security guard execution-style) didn’t have gun permits, according to Massachusetts state police. But wait a minute. I thought a rigorous system for regulating gun permits was supposed to prevent gun violence (that’s what Massachusetts state officials insisted upon passing the nation’s toughest gun laws back in 1998). It’s almost as if the Tsarnaev brothers—terrorists, murderers, carjackers—had no respect for the (gun) laws...” [44373, 44407]

On *Meet the Press*, NBC’s Tom Brokaw defends the Boston Marathon bombers, asking, “What prompts a young man to come to this country and still feel alienated from it, to go back to Russia and do whatever he did? And I don’t think we’ve examined that enough. I mean, there was 24/7 coverage on television, a lot of newspaper print and so on, but we have got to look at the roots of all of this, because it exists across the whole subcontinent and the Islamic world around the world. ...I think we also have to examine the use of drones that the United States is involved (in), and there are a lot of civilians who are innocently killed in a drone attack in Pakistan, in Afghanistan and in Iraq. And I can tell you, having spent a lot of time over there, young people will come up to me on the streets

and say we love America, [but] if you harm one hair on the head of my sister, I will fight you forever. And there is this enormous rage against what they see in that part of the world as a presumptuousness of the United States.” (From Brokaw’s perspective, the United States is to blame for the bombings because its citizens did not make the jihadists feel welcome, and because Obama has continued the war in Afghanistan.) [44375, 44417]

Mirror.com reports, “The FBI was last night hunting a 12-strong terrorist ‘sleeper cell’ linked to the Boston marathon bomb brothers. Police believe Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev were specially trained to carry out the devastating attack. More than 1,000 FBI operatives were last night working to track down the cell and arrested a man and two women 60 miles from Boston in the hours before Dzhokhar’s dramatic capture after a bloody shootout on Friday. A source close to the investigation said: ‘We have no doubt the brothers were not acting alone. The devices used to detonate the two bombs were highly sophisticated and not the kind of thing people learn from Google. They were too advanced. Someone gave the brothers the skills and it is now our job to find out just who they were. Agents think the sleeper cell has up to a dozen members and has been waiting several years for their day to come.’” [44387, 44388]

DailyCaller.com reports, “According to White House visitor log records, Obama’s chief fundraiser Matthew Barzun was among those in attendance at the Dec. 5 White House meeting that also included Shawn Reilly, the Kentucky politico who is accused of secretly bugging a campaign meeting held by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell. Longtime journalist and Louisville Courier-Journal editorial board member Keith Runyon was also there.” [44404]

According to Newsmax.com, Obama included \$77.7 million in funding for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) even though it “voted to approve full membership for the Palestinian Authority...Public Law 101-246, passed by the Democratic-controlled Congress in 1990, states that ‘no funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or any other Act shall be available for the United Nations or any specialized agency thereof which accords the Palestine Liberation Organization the same standing as member states.’ Public Law 103-236 Title IV, passed in 1994, prohibits ‘voluntary or assessed contribution to any affiliated organization of the United Nations which grants full membership as a state to any organization or group that does not have the internationally recognized attributes of statehood.’” [44393]

Newsmax.com also reports, “The Obama administration has hired public-relations giant Weber Shandwick to help sell Obamacare to the uninsured and persuade them to enroll in a healthcare plan.” According to *Advertising Age*, “Weber Shandwick won a \$3.1 million contract to assist the Department of Health and Human Services with rolling out a campaign to convince skeptical—or simply confused—Americans that the act is good for them and persuade them to enroll in a health plan.” [44393]

At GovtSlaves.info, an Oregon EMT graduate analyzes photographs of the Boston Marathon bombing and claims the event was a staged “false flag” operation. Particular

attention is paid to a double amputee actor who is transformed into a victim, as though his legs were blown off at the scene: “If you lose both your legs from explosive trauma half your blood is gone in one minute via the femoral arteries, you’re dead after two. Bleeding out is worse with blunt force trauma (like shrapnel) because flesh is torn rather than cut, exposing more arterial and vascular tissue. The human body holds 5 to 6 LITERS of blood. If that really happened you would see blood EVERYWHERE, the guy would be drenched in it. You would also see what’s called arterial spurting from the injury. Most likely he would vomit after turning ghost white from shock, then turning delirious or passing out. As for the ‘tourniquet,’ it’s not even tied off; its suspended via gravity, which would literally do nothing to an arterial sever. There’s no pressure applied. There’s no knot with a turn stick for leverage. You can clearly see a gap in the nonexistent wrap job on his left inner thigh (left anterior proximal for you experts). His hands have no blood on them. There’s no blood on the ground. The color in his hands and lips shows good circulation. This is an actor. This is staged.” (A woman with far less severe injuries near the amputee is removed by stretcher and attended to before the amputee. That is almost inconceivable, as the person with the worst injuries would be taken care of first—especially if both legs had been blown off.) [44396, 44398, 44405]

CNSNews.com reports, “The number of Saudi Arabian students in the United States has increased by more than 500 percent since Sept. 11, 2001—when Hani Hanjour, a Saudi national who came here on a student visa flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, killing 189 people. According to the Institute of International Education—whose numbers on foreign students in the United States are used in official reports published by the U.S. Department of Education—there were 5,579 Saudi nationals enrolled in U.S. institutions of higher education in the 2001–2002 school year.” [44411]

On April 22 DailyCaller.com reports, “The imam of the Cambridge, Massachusetts mosque attended by Boston Marathon bombing suspects Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev sits on the board of directors of the Boston chapter of an organization founded by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, the parent organization of the terrorist group Hamas. Dr. Sheikh Basyouny Nehela, the imam of the Islamic Society of Boston (ISB) in Cambridge, which the Tsarnaevs attended, sits on the board of directors of the Boston chapter of the Muslim American Society, which also runs the ISB’s affiliated ‘Cultural Center.’ The Muslim American Society was founded in 1993 after secret regional meetings of underground Muslim Brotherhood members across the United States. The U.S. Muslim Brotherhood reportedly ‘operated under the name Muslim American Society.’” [44403]

The White House announces that Obama and his wife will travel to Waco, Texas on April 25 to attend a memorial service for the victims of a fertilizer plant explosion that killed 14 people. According to WhiteHouseDossier.com, Obama is also “scheduled to attend the dedication ceremony for the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. But he may be on a tight schedule as he is supposed to attend the Planned Parenthood Gala in Washington Thursday evening.” [44406]

Politico reports, “Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was charged by federal prosecutors in his hospital room Monday with using a weapon of mass destruction to kill—a crime that carries a possible death sentence. Officials have said Tsarnaev, 19, and his older brother set off the two pressure-cooker bombs at last week’s race that sprayed shrapnel into the crowds, killing three people and wounding more than 180. His brother, Tamerlan, 26, died Friday after a fierce gunbattle [sic] with police. Tsarnaev was listed in serious but stable condition at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, unable to speak because of a gunshot wound to the throat. In a criminal complaint outlining the evidence, the FBI said Tsarnaev was seen on surveillance cameras putting a knapsack on the ground near the site of the second blast and then manipulating a cellphone and lifting it to his ear. After the first explosion ripped through the crowd, a calm-looking Tsarnaev quickly walked away, and about 10 seconds later, the second blast occurred where he left the knapsack, the FBI said. The FBI did not make it clear whether authorities believe he used his cellphone to detonate one or both of the bombs or whether he was talking to someone.” [44412]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The FBI did not know that Tamerlan Tsarnaev, the older Boston Marathon bombing suspect, took a six-month trip to Russia because his name was misspelled, according to a key Republican senator on national-security issues. Sen. Lindsey Graham, South Carolina Republican, said Monday that he had spoken to an assistant director at the FBI about the agency’s failure to monitor Tsarnaev after interviewing him in 2011 following a tip from the Russian government that he could be dangerous. Late Friday, the FBI said it found nothing ‘derogatory’ after that initial questioning. ‘He went over to Russia, but apparently when he got on the airplane, they misspelled his name, so it never went into the system that he actually went to Russia,’ Mr. Graham said.” [44413, 44431]

At WesternJournalism.com George Spelvin writes, “According to lead Obama investigator Mike Zullo, fear of ridicule is the number one reason authorities are not acting on the mountain of verifiable evidence of document fraud concerning Barack Obama’s birth certificate. Appearing on the Carl Gallups, Freedom Friday call-in show, Zullo said, ‘We are dealing with a fraudulent document that would never survive scrutiny of the judicial process.’ Disinformation and the intentional dissemination of false information to protect Obama, will not survive in the face of what Zullo is calling a 100% fabricated document. He listed the following tactics used to discredit the research of Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s Cold Case Posse: media black outs; ridicule of opponents; infiltration and domination of message boards; setting up straw men to create an argument to chip away at the truth and simply ignoring the facts. ‘All we ask [is that Obama] bring forward the real original document,’ said Zullo. Ridicule is among the most effective of Saul Alinsky’s Rules for Radicals. The godfather of community organizers, Alinsky said: ‘Ridicule is man’s most potent weapon. Since this tactic is almost impossible to counteract, the opposition becomes infuriated and then reacts to your advantage.’ Though frustrated himself, Zullo assures listeners that the truth will come out. Speaking directly to those who have been ‘chasing this longer than I,’ Zullo says the truth will eventually be known and will vindicate those who have worked to reveal the ‘greatest fraud ever perpetrated on the American people.’” [44414]



At FoxNews.com Liz Peek asks if Obama is “already a lame duck.” “Whispers suggest the unthinkable: ...Obama is already on the shelf. Barely two months into his second term, ...Obama’s approval ratings have tumbled into negative territory, with 48% of the country disapproving of his performance compared to 47% who give him a thumbs-up. While it is not uncommon for an incumbent to see his polls nosedive after reelection, Mr. Obama’s downturn is worse than that suffered by George W. Bush or Bill Clinton, who was famously embroiled in the Monica Lewinsky affair. ...The Obama White House did an excellent job of keeping bad news about ObamaCare off the front page in the run-up to the [2012] election. These days, the soaring costs of private insurance (in California Blue Cross is proposing a premium hike of 26% and elsewhere companies are being warned that costs could double in coming years), the imposition of hefty new taxes to cover the cost of expanding our health care safety net, the likelihood that your policy will have to be rewritten to comply with top-down rules, the rising cost of insurance exchanges, worsening news on the bill’s overall expense—in short, the inevitable consequences of trying to corral one sixth of the economy are coming home to roost. ...As Americans discover the mess their president has visited upon them, they will come to view ObamaCare as the ultimate act of hubris. ...Only an academic with no real world experience could imagine that bureaucrats could successfully manage such a giant part of our economy; only an academic who never studied the rise and fall of the Soviet Union.” [44509]

According to TheBlaze.com, “Canadian police say they have thwarted a deadly al-Qaeda-supported plan to derail a passenger train as it crossed the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge connecting Canada to the United States, plunging its many would-be victims 225 feet into the raging Niagara River. ‘After an extensive and complex criminal investigation,’ Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) representatives said during a Monday press conference, police arrested and charged two individuals with terrorism related offenses. The suspects have been identified as 30-year-old Chiheb Esseghaier and 35-year-old Raed Jaser of Montreal and Toronto, respectively. Police said the men are not Canadian citizens, but wouldn’t say where they are from. They face charges of conspiring to carry out an attack and murder people in association with a terrorist group.” [44415, 44418, 44419, 44435]

DCClothesline.com relates information provided by Glenn Beck’s program about Abdul Rahman Ali Alharbi, the Saudi national who was a “person of interest” in the Boston Marathon bombings. Alharbi was to be deported based on “section 212, 3B which is proven terrorist activity.” Reversing a 212 3B status could not be done by a government bureaucrat and would have required approval of someone with significant authority. Alharbi’s status was changed late on Wednesday, April 17, after Obama met with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud and Saudi Ambassador Adel al-Jubeir. Beck observes, “This is unheard of, this is impossible in the timeline due to the severity of the charge... You don’t one day put a 212 3B charge against somebody with deportation, and then the next day take it off. It would require too much to do it.” (Alharbi attended the same mosque as the two bombing suspects—a mosque that has ties to the radical Muslim Brotherhood.) [44416]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes reports, “The Saudi national who was initially detained and then ruled out as a suspect in the Boston Marathon terrorist attack had been flagged on a terror watch list and was granted a student visa without being properly vetted, sources have told me. A source close to the investigation revealed that Abdul Rahman Ali Alharbi had been deemed inadmissible under the section of the Immigration and Nationality Act which declares ineligible for a visa—any alien who is engaged in or is likely to engage after entry—in terrorist activity. At least two additional sources have confirmed to me that Ali Alharbi is set to be deported as early as this week, contrary to statements made by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. The House Homeland Security Committee is now requesting a classified briefing with Napolitano to get to the bottom of the issue, according to an exclusive report from The Blaze. Napolitano denied anyone was being deported in a heated exchange Thursday with Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC) during a House hearing. ‘I am unaware of anyone who is being deported for national security concerns at all related to Boston,’ she said. ‘I don’t know where that rumor came from.’” [44420, 44421]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The administration has approved 99.5 percent of applications of those who have applied for legal status under ...Obama’s nondeportation policy for young adults, granting legal status to more than 250,000 formerly illegal immigrants. Officials said they expect the approval rate to drop as more cases make their way through the system, as it takes longer to deny an application than to approve it. Indeed, the approval rate already has dropped from 99.8 percent just a month ago. But the high rate leaves others wondering whether the administration is doing all it can to weed out fraud or potentially dangerous illegal immigrants in DACA, or the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, as it’s formally known.” Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies at the Center for Immigration Studies, says, “You really have to wonder who they’re giving deferred action to, and what kind of risk they represent to us. The screening process is much less for DACA than it would be for a green card, and so it’s all that much more susceptible to fraud.” [44422, 44492]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A new analysis released Monday by the Tax Policy Center finds that ...Obama’s newest budget proposal will leave the top one percent of earners with two-thirds of the tax increase burden suggested by the administration. Families making between \$30,000 and \$40,000 would see their taxes increase by an average of \$54 by 2023 should lawmakers make no changes to [Obama’s] proposal. Households with earnings between \$500,000 and \$1 million would see an average federal tax increase of \$13,474.” [44430, 44432]

The Democrat National Committee sets up a “Thank Boston’s First Responders,” web page. (It asks those who “sign” the electronic card to provide their email addresses—no doubt to be used for future campaign cash solicitations.) [44428]

On April 23 Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, announces he will not seek reelection in 2014. (Other Democrat Senators choosing to call it quits in 2014 are Tim Johnson of South Dakota, Tom Harkin of Iowa, Jay Rockefeller

of West Virginia, Carl Levin of Michigan, and Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey.) [44425, 44447]

At Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, "...Democrats are reportedly pleasantly surprised by the contents of the [immigration] legislation. ...Why are liberals quietly celebrating? Policy specifics. GOP negotiators extracted some concessions, but Democrats engineered a plan that offers a generous and immediate amnesty to millions. ...Placing my cards on the table: I'm in favor of immigration reform, and I want to trust [Senator] Marco Rubio [R-FL] and others on these issues. But implementing bad policy could be worse than doing nothing, and I'm generally concerned that this package will prove to be unbalanced, ineffectual, and unenforceable. This assessment stems from questions about the border enforcement 'triggers' and additional requirements, some of which seem hopelessly toothless. ...The fact that the Left is so pleased with this bill raises red flags in the first place..." [44424]

In an ABC News/Washington Post survey, former president George W. Bush's approval rating reaches 47 percent; 50 percent disapprove. (In January 2009, Bush's approval/disapproval ratings were 33/66.) [44426]

The Heritage Foundation provides information about—and problems with—the immigration legislation: 1. Amnesty. This bill grants amnesty. It creates a framework for legalization for the estimated 11 million people unlawfully present in the United States. Anyone who was present in the U.S. before 2012 qualifies, but there is too much opportunity for fraud—since there is no proof required that applicants have been here for several years. 2. Fiscal Costs to the Taxpayer. This plan does not account for the government benefits, especially welfare and entitlement benefits that would be paid to those who are legalized over their lifetimes. The additional costs to taxpayers would be enormous. Some argue that amnesty would bring economic gains, but these would actually be captured by the formerly unlawful immigrants themselves. Legalization brings little economic benefit to the rest of us. 3. Government Spending. The bill is a Trojan horse for government spending, and in some cases, it appears the funding is unrestricted or ill-defined. Just one example is a \$6.5 billion 'Comprehensive Immigration Reform Trust,' which includes a \$2 billion 'slush fund' for border security. ...4. 'Border Triggers.' The bill requires certification of 'border triggers' for stemming the tide of illegal border crossings before additional steps in the legalization process can proceed. But the Department of Homeland Security has been trying unsuccessfully to define credible metrics for border security since 2004. Even if it had effective 'triggers,' that does not guarantee a secure border. Border crossing conditions constantly change. Even if the goal is achieved, there is no guarantee it will stay that way. ...5. Lawful Immigration Reform. The bill 'modernizes' lawful immigration and non-immigration visas. These modernizations include substantially lowering 'chain' migration; abolishing the diversity lottery; expanding the visa waiver; increasing high-skill migration; and expanding temporary worker programs." [44427]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Luxury hybrid car maker Fisker Automotive has spent \$660,000 in taxpayer dollars and venture capital funds for each car it sold—totaling \$1.3

billion, according to a report. The company's Fisker Karma sold for about \$103,000 per vehicle, meaning the company took a hit of \$557,000 every time it sold its product. The company was also allowed to continue to draw down on a \$529 million Department of Energy loan after violating the loan's term multiple times, according to a report by the New York-based research firm PrivCo." (Only about 1,600 Fisker vehicles have been sold, and the company is "circling the bankruptcy drain." About 75 percent of Fisker's employees have been laid off, and the company failed to make its loan payment to the Department of Energy.) [44429, 44434, 44482, 44528, 44555]

TheHill.com reports, "Legislation that would empower states to tax online purchases cleared a key hurdle in the Senate on Monday after winning an enthusiastic endorsement from ...Obama. Senators advanced the bill in 74-20 procedural vote on Monday evening, just one vote short of the backing it received in a test vote last month. Twenty-six Republicans joined Democrats in moving forward with the bill." (Obama, who has repeatedly promised he would not raise taxes on families that earn less than \$250,000 per year, apparently thinks none of those families make purchases via the Internet.) [44437]

MrConservative.com reports, "Last week-end, doctors at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Government Relations found a ...tangible way to show their unhappiness with Obamacare. During a Government Relations session that focused on implementing the Affordable Care Act, they simply got up and left." [44438]

House Republicans release a report on the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi that left four Americans dead. According to WashingtonTimes.com, the report concludes "that the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies bear no blame for failing to halt the terrorist assault on the U.S. Consulate... [and that] ...Obama and the State Department set up the military for failure. The report also found that plenty of intelligence presaged the attack, but the White House and State Department—including the secretary at the time, Hillary Rodham Clinton—failed to heed the warnings. In the most damning conclusion, House Republicans said ...Obama's team lied about the attacks afterward, first by blaming mob violence spawned by an anti-Muslim video, and then wrongly saying it had misled the public because it was trying to protect an FBI investigation. "This progress report reveals a fundamental lack of understanding at the highest levels of the State Department as to the dangers presented in Benghazi, Libya, as well as a concerted attempt to insulate the Department of State from blame following the terrorist attacks," the GOP investigation concluded in its 46-page report.'" [44439, 44456, 44457, 44461, 44534, 44585]

Airline passengers express frustration over flight delays caused by furloughs of air traffic controllers. The White House and Democrats predictably blame Republicans for the spending cuts called for by the sequester agreement (which Obama demanded), while the Republicans predictably blame the administration for not applying the spending cuts to less essential services within the Department of Transportation. One Republican staffer tells Politico, "There is plenty of blame to go around: Congress for not doing its basic job of funding the government and the [White House] for playing politics with a safety issue and mucking up the economy as a result." Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) tells reporters,

“There are many options that the FAA itself and the Department of Transportation as a whole [have] to avoid this impact, this disastrous impact on the traveling public.” Meanwhile, visitors to North Carolina’s Linville Falls Campground are greeted by a sign that reads, “Closed. Operational Change Due to Sequestration.” DailyCaller.com writes, “Republicans and some Democrats say the Obama administration is making budget decisions in ways designed to maximize inconvenience for taxpayers and turn public opinion against Republicans, who allowed ...Obama’s sequestration plan to be put into practice in March.” Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood claims, “We looked everywhere possible to avoid the kind of furloughs that are now taking place.” (Although air traffic controllers have been furloughed, no ObamaCare bureaucrats have seen any reduction in working hours. From Obama’s perspective, implementing the health care legislation is more important than ensuring the safety of air travelers.) [44440, 44448, 44463, 44465, 44499, 44519]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The sequester cuts about \$637 million from the FAA, which is less than 4% of its \$15.9 billion 2012 budget, and it limits the agency to what it spent in 2010. The White House decided to translate this 4% cut that it has the legal discretion to avoid into a 10% cut for air traffic controllers. Though controllers will be furloughed for one of every 10 working days, four of every 10 flights won’t arrive on time. ...The White House claims the sequester applies to the budget category known as ‘projects, programs and activities’ and thus it lacks flexibility. Not so: This is a political pose to make the sequester more disruptive. Legally speaking, the sequester applies at a more general level known as ‘accounts.’ The air traffic account includes 15,000 controllers out of 31,000 employees. The White House could keep the controllers on duty simply by allocating more furlough days to these other non-essential workers. ...All of this deserves to backfire, and it will if Republicans break from their circular immigration firing squads and explain what ...Obama is doing. For all of its rough edges, the sequester is proving to be educational. It is showing Americans how broken so much of government is, and it is revealing how our politicians refuse to distinguish between essential services and needless waste.” (Although the Obama administration cannot figure out how to cut the FAA budget by a mere four percent without creating havoc, it has managed to find an additional \$123 million in aid for rebels in Syria—who may or may not hate the United States as much as they hate the government they are attempting to overthrow.) [44450, 44499, 44502]

BusinessWeek.com reports, “A court challenge by federal immigration agents seeking to block ...Obama’s deferred-deportation initiative will probably succeed, a judge said. ...Announced by Obama and [Department of] Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano last year, the directive gives agents the ability to defer action on people unlawfully in the U.S. if they came to the country under the age of 16, are in school or have obtained a high school diploma, haven’t been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor or multiple misdemeanors, and aren’t a threat to public safety or national security. ‘The court finds that DHS does not have discretion to refuse to initiate removal proceedings’ when the requirements for deportation under a federal statute are met, O’Connor said today in a 38-page decision, referring to the Department of Homeland Security.” [44458, 44480]

CNN claims that Boston bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev was not on a terrorism watch list when he traveled to Russia in 2012; the Reuters news agency claims he was: “The name of one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was listed on the U.S. government’s highly classified central database of people it views as potential terrorists. But the list is so vast that this did not mean authorities automatically kept close tabs on him, sources close to the bombing investigation said on Tuesday.” Terror list notwithstanding, Tsarnaev and his family had been on the welfare rolls in Massachusetts. [44453, 44454, 44478, 44479, 44577, 44601]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on the GOP report on the Benghazi attack: “Well, the Democrats can say it’s a partisan attack. But when you produce documentary evidence of a charge that what she said when she addressed the Congress was not exactly right, that she was not aware of these security demands and threats... Well, what the report says is that there is a cable that she signed which acknowledges the request by the then-ambassador for additional security, and that nonetheless orders the withdrawal of security assets in Libya. So, that’s a contradiction of what she said. And the other damning evidence here—again, it doesn’t matter who the source is, it’s what the facts of the matter—that they did edit the talking points to remove references to al-Qaeda which fits in the pattern that we discussed even earlier: the attempt always to try to pretend that these aren’t part of a global jihad, whether it’s here, it’s Boston, the underwear attacker, or the Fort Hood shooter. It’s a constant, in this administration, as a way to say, ‘No, it’s not [a major terrorism problem], it’s [only] a one-shot deal and let’s go on.’ And I think that really is the problem that underlies all of this.” [44456]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, Charles Krauthammer tells Bill O’Reilly, “I say I don’t know what [Obama] is thinking, but I sure know what he is saying and doing. The lengths to which he will go to avoid telling us the truth about the enemy is becoming comical; it’s certainly embarrassing. For example, he will never—forget about the word jihadist, he’ll never use that. But he refuses to use the word Islamist which is used throughout the Muslim world. It’s used by journalists, by authors, on the street, in the parliament, everywhere, in Egypt, it’s used in Lebanon, it’s used everywhere by Muslims. And yet, Obama won’t touch it because he refuses to use any words that might imply a connection between radical Islam and terrorism, which as anybody who’s over the age of nine knows is the single greatest cause of terror in the world today. I’ll give you one example, which was completely overlooked by everyone. It was a rather trivial one. When [Obama] was in Israel, he gave a speech in Jerusalem. And in the middle of the speech, he talked about the rise of the Islamist parties in Egypt and elsewhere—the [Muslim] Brotherhood in Egypt and Libya, etc. And what was the phrase he used? ‘We have to be concerned about the rise of non-secular parties.’ What a weird word to use. The word is ‘religious parties.’ The word is ‘Islamist parties.’ Yet, even in this trivial throw away line, in a speech in Jerusalem, he refuses to use the obvious word.” [44462]

O’Reilly asks if it matters that Obama refuses to describe the terrorism issue accurately. Krauthammer responds, “It matters because if you want to mobilize the population, if you

want to give them the courage to persist and to carry on a fight—which could be a difficult fight, it could go on for a generation. You have to be clear with your own people about who the enemy is. [Winston] Churchill did not speak about ‘German extremists.’ He talked about the Nazi menace. He described it in detail. FDR didn’t speak about ‘extremists in Tokyo.’ He talked about the Japanese imperialism and its threat to the whole region. You have to be able to be honest with the people if you’re gonna get any support. Otherwise you get an event here, an event there, and you say, ‘We can’t jump to any conclusions.’ Within three days everybody understands that these [Boston bomber] brothers were jihadists. ...[I]f you want to lead a nation in a fight it takes a long time. The drone attacks are happening off-screen, below the radar. It doesn’t affect us in our lives. Yes, I commend [Obama] on that. Yes, it is happening. But he tries to keep all of this at bay, as if it’s not happening, it’s all secret, we don’t hear about it, and every once in a while you get an attack [like the one] in Boston and people say, ‘What’s going on?’ I thought Obama said the tide of war was receding. I thought, we don’t even use the phrase ‘War on Terror.’ I thought the guy who killed 13 Americans in the Fort Hood shooting, who jumped up on a table and yelled Allahu Akhbar, which is the signature of the jihad, is still today called by this administration, officially, ‘workplace violence,’ as if the guy went postal. ...It’s absurd and I think it undermines the will and the strength of America.” O’Reilly asks, “Do you ever think we’ll know why [Obama] is doing this, ever?” Krauthammer: “I’m not sure. ...We can all speculate. I don’t think he’ll even admit it. He’ll say, ‘I want to make sure that... minorities [are protected]. ...He’s afraid if he uses the word [Muslim terrorist] it’s going to stigmatize a billion people on earth—which is ridiculous.” [44462]

At the Time 100 Gala honoring 100 influential people, Vice President Joe Biden says, “If the purpose of terror is to instill fear, you saw none of that in Boston. The only way terrorism wins is if we change our way of life, if we yield. And our message to terrorists is: You cannot break us. You cannot change us. We will never yield. We will not be intimidated.” (Rush Limbaugh later comments, “Now, the question is, was the vice president a little bit overindulgent in adult beverages, or was he joking? I don’t know what time the speech was. That might not be a factor anyway, but we watched a major American metropolitan area of more than one million people on lockdown. A million people were told to stay home from work, stay home from school, to shelter in place. Do not go outside. Boston’s subways, buses, cabs, even Amtrak service was halted. They canceled a Bruins game. They canceled a Red Sox game. I saw a lot of lives changed. What was Biden watching? They shut down an entire city. These two terrorists had the city fathers telling everybody, ‘Don’t go outside. Stay in there. Don’t you dare go out. Don’t answer the door.’ They had people cowering in fear in the corners of their own homes. And the vice president [paraphrasing] says, ‘The only way terrorism wins is if we change our way of life, if we yield. And we didn’t yield, and we didn’t change our way of life, and they didn’t break us, and they didn’t change us, and they can’t, and we will never yield.’ What was he watching? I saw a lot of lives being changed.”) [44464]

On April 24 FoxNews.com reports, “Newly released documents show that the Obama administration was warned as early as 2010 that electric car maker Fisker Automotive Inc. was not meeting milestones set up for a half-billion dollar government loan, nearly a

year before U.S. officials froze the loan after questions were raised about the company's statements. An Energy Department official said in a June 2010 email that Fisker's bid to draw on the federal loan may be jeopardized for failure to meet goals established by the Energy Department. Despite that warning, Fisker continued to receive money until June 2011, when the DOE halted further funding." (Fisker ceased production of vehicles in July 2012.) [44449, 44455]

The U.S. Census Bureau reports, "New orders for manufactured durable goods in March decreased \$13.1 billion or 5.7 percent to \$216.3 billion... This decrease, down two of the last three months, followed a 4.3 percent February increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.4 percent. Excluding defense, new orders decreased 4.7 percent. Transportation equipment, also down two of the last three months, led the decrease, \$11.0 billion or 15.0 percent to \$62.4 billion. This was led by non-defense aircraft and parts, which decreased \$8.5 billion. ... Non-defense new orders for capital goods in March decreased \$8.3 billion or 10.6 percent to \$70.2 billion." Reuters reports, "Orders for long-lasting U.S. manufactured goods recorded their biggest drop in seven months in March and a gauge of planned business spending rose modestly, adding to signs of a slowdown in factory activity. Durable goods orders slumped 5.7 percent as demand fell almost across the board, the Commerce Department said on Wednesday. The drop last month in orders for these goods, which range from toasters to aircraft, followed a revised 4.3 percent increase in February." [44451, 44452]

On his radio talk show Glenn Beck reveals additional information about Abdul Rahman Ali Al-Harbi, the Saudi student hospitalized after the Boston bombing and visited by Michelle Obama: "1) The event file created on Abdul Rahman Ali Al-Harbi indicated on page two that he is armed and dangerous. 2) He was admitted into this country under a special advisory option which is usually reserved for visiting politicians, VIPs, or journalists. 3) One of the first excuses given by law enforcement when confronted about his pending deportation was expired VISA. According to the event file his visa is good until 11-Nov-2016. 4) Event file indicates he entered the United States on 08/28/12 in Boston, MA but says subject is a student at the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio. He never showed up. 5) When an event file is created in the system the author(s) are notified via email when it is accessed and given the email address of the person accessing. As a result we know the following: After the file was created it was first amended to remove the terrorism and deportation reference and then someone went back in and tried to destroy both the original and amended versions. They didn't know there were copies. 6) The original event file was reviewed and approved by two high level agents—Chief Watch Commander Maimbourg and Watch Commander Mayfield." Beck tells his listeners, "By the way, will somebody ask, where is this extraordinarily dangerous man? Where is he? Ask that question. You're not going to like the answer. For you, the American citizen, I want you to know you should have great hope. You should have great pride. There are people that are risking everything to bring this information. They are stunned and angry at how many journalists will not report this story." [44467]

BostonGlobe.com reports, "Russian authorities contacted the US government with concerns about Tamerlan Tsarnaev not once but 'multiple' times, including an alert it



sent after he was first investigated by FBI agents in Boston, raising new questions about whether the FBI should have paid more attention to the suspected Boston Marathon bomber, US senators briefed on the investigation said Tuesday. The FBI has previously said it interviewed Tsarnaev in early 2011 after it was initially contacted by the Russians. In their review, completed in summer 2011, the bureau found no evidence that Tsarnaev was a threat.” [44500, 44501]

At a memorial service for Sean Collier, a police officer slain by the Boston bombers, Vice President Joe Biden refers to the killers as “twisted, perverted, cowardly knock-off jihadis.” (HotAir.com comments, “Credit where it’s due here for Biden, even if the term “knock-off” as a putdown is kind of odd in context. Are ‘authentic’ jihadis, trained overseas and willing to kill themselves for the cause, somehow better? Mind-bending exit quotation about Tamerlan Tsarnaev from his former brother-in-law: ‘[H]e was angry that the world pictures Islam as a violent religion.’”) [44493, 44494, 44495, 44496]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight Committee, comments on the House Republican report on the September 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi: “The Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton] was just wrong. She said she did not participate in this, and yet only a few months before the attack, she outright denied security in her signature in a cable in April, 2012. ...The thing that our report shows and our continued investigation shows is, they had a policy of normalization-appearance. They did everything they could to look like they’d won the war and had the peace, and so the policy that you saw in that April cable is the policy that led to the ambassador being exposed and killed. It led to the absence of a plan in what is basically a war zone. ...None of it’s been disputed. Bless the Democrats’ hearts, they like their report, but they can’t find a factual error to ours, and as we go into more documents—ones that we want to have given to us, not just allowed to look at—we’re going to find more of these kinds of mistakes that need to be corrected.” (An April 19, 2012 State Department cable signed by Clinton proves she was lying when she told Congress she had not approved security reductions in Benghazi. The White House claims that Clinton’s signature on a document does not mean she knew what was in the document.) Erika Johnsen reports at HotAir.com: “Chairman Issa is already promising to convene another hearing sometime next month on the ‘Benghazi terrorist attacks to examine evidence that Obama Administration officials have attempted to suppress information about errors and reckless misjudgments,’ and in the meantime, the joint House committees conducting the ongoing investigation would like ...Obama to publicly release more of the documents relating to the attack...” [44439, 44456, 44457, 44461, 44498, 44520]

Obama cancels plans to address Planned Parenthood’s annual fundraising dinner on the evening of April 25. Instead, he will speak to the group on April 26. [44459]

TheRightScoop.com points out that Abdul Rahman Ali Al-Harbi, the Saudi student who was injured in the Boston Marathon bombing and who was visited by Michelle Obama in the hospital, has visited the White House on numerous occasions. (His name appears on the White House visitor logs multiple times.) [44460, 44477]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “House Republicans on Wednesday asked President Obama to release to the public a State Department cable the GOP says would show former Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton approved cutting security at the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, ahead of last year’s deadly attack. ‘An April 19, 2012, cable bearing Secretary Clinton’s signature acknowledged requests for additional security, but nevertheless ordered the withdrawal of security assets to proceed as planned,’ the chairmen of five House committees wrote in a letter to Mr. Obama. ‘Given the gravity of this issue, we request that you immediately make the April 19, 2012, State Department cable public.’” [44466]

According to a Fox news poll, “Fifty-two percent [of surveyed Americans] have a favorable opinion of Obama... while 49 percent of voters have a favorable view of [George W.] Bush. There is a wide partisan gap: Republicans (79 percent) are three times as likely as Democrats (24 percent) to have a positive opinion of Bush. The gap is even wider on Obama’s favorable rating: Five times as many Democrats (86 percent) as Republicans (17 percent) like the current occupant of the White House. ...Overall, Bush had an average 51 percent approval rating across his entire presidency. Up to this point in his presidency, Obama has an average approval rating of 48 percent.” [44468]

Michelle Obama delivers a speech to employees of the Department of the Interior. She states, “I want you to know how much Barack and I truly appreciate everything that you do, and I know you don’t hear that. People don’t even know you exist. It’s so true. I mean, federal workers are this invisible face. No one knows what they do, what it means, how much they benefit us. So on behalf of myself and [my husband] and the first family, I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you. I want you to know how proud we are of all that you do. We want you to know how grateful we are to your families, for the sacrifices that you make oftentimes to do what you do. So hang in there and know that what you do is extremely important. Hang in there. We need you. This country needs you. Our children need you.” [44473]

The Senate Judiciary Committee holds a hearing to discuss the administration’s drone policies—and Obama neglects to send a representative to defend his policies. [44484]

USAToday.com reports, “The mosque attended by the two brothers accused in the Boston Marathon double bombing has been associated with other terrorism suspects, has invited radical speakers to a sister mosque in Boston and is affiliated with a Muslim group that critics say nurses grievances that can lead to extremism. Several people who attended the Islamic Society of Boston mosque in Cambridge, Mass., have been investigated for Islamic terrorism, including a conviction of the mosque’s first president, Abdulrahman Alamoudi, in connection with an assassination plot against a Saudi prince.” (Alamoudi is a friend of Grover Norquist, founder and president of Americans for Tax Reform. Although Norquist opposes tax increases, he supports the Senate’s proposed illegal immigrant amnesty legislation. Norquist’s wife is a Palestinian Muslim.) [44469, 44470, 44471, 44497]

At HumanEvents.com Ann Coulter writes, “On CNN’s ‘State of the Union’ last weekend, Sen. Lindsey Graham’s response to the Boston Marathon bombers being worthless immigrants who hate America—one of whom the FBI cleared even after being tipped off by Russia—was to announce: ‘The fact that we could not track him has to be fixed.’ Track him? How about not admitting him as an immigrant? ...My thought is, maybe we should consider admitting immigrants who can succeed in America, rather than deadbeats. But we’re not allowed to ‘discriminate’ in favor of immigrants who would be good for America. Instead of helping America, our immigration policies are designed to help other countries solve their internal problems by shipping their losers to us. The problem isn’t just illegal immigration. I would rather have doctors and engineers sneaking into the country than legally arriving ditch-diggers. ...I don’t want to hear about the black crime rate or the Columbine killers. We’re talking about immigrants here! There should be ZERO immigrants committing crimes. There should be ZERO immigrants accepting government assistance. There should be ZERO immigrants demanding that we speak their language. We have no choice about native-born losers. We ought to be able to do something about the people we chose to bring here. Meanwhile, our government officials just keep singing the praises of “diversity,” while expressly excluding skilled immigrants who might be less inclined to become ‘disaffected’ and lash out by killing Americans.” [44472]

Politico reports, “Congressional leaders in both parties are engaged in high-level, confidential talks about exempting lawmakers and Capitol Hill aides from the insurance exchanges they are mandated to join as part of ...Obama’s health care overhaul, sources in both parties said. The talks—which involve Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), the Obama administration and other top lawmakers—are extraordinarily sensitive, with both sides acutely aware of the potential for political fallout from giving carve-outs from the hugely controversial law to 535 lawmakers and thousands of their aides. Discussions have stretched out for months, sources said. ...The problem stems from whether members and aides set to enter the exchanges would have their health insurance premiums subsidized by their employer—in this case, the federal government. If not, aides and lawmakers in both parties fear that staffers—especially low-paid junior aides—could be hit with thousands of dollars in new health care costs, prompting them to seek jobs elsewhere. Older, more senior staffers could also retire or jump to the private sector rather than face a big financial penalty.” House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) Tweets: “We’re not sneaking any language into bills to solve Dems’ #hcr [health care] problem. The solution to this & other ObamaCare nightmares is #fullrepeal.” Brian McGuire, a spokesman for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), states, “It’s no surprise that Democrats would want to exempt themselves from the train wreck they created in Obamacare, but Senator McConnell believes the entire country should be exempt from this historic mistake. The law is a disaster and needs to be repealed.” [44474, 44489, 44507]

Congressman John Mica (R-FL) charges that the Obama administration is purposefully causing delays in air traffic: “This is inflicted, orchestrated by the administration. This is a political decision made on high to try to inflict pain on the public and then point the

finger at Republicans [for problems caused by sequestration cuts]. ...It's a political ploy that is an insult to Congress and to the American taxpayer." [44486]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "This [Boston bombers] cluster\*\*\* is looking more and more like Benghazi. And to think that Obama put the FBI in charge of the Benghazi investigation—now we know why. See no jihad, hear no jihad, speak no jihad. The latest bombshell is stunning. After the Russians went to the FBI with concerns over Tamerlan Tsarnaev's jihad activity and were summarily ignored, the Russians went to the CIA, who wanted to put the Boston bomber on the terror watch list. But it was not to be, not in O-merica. But the Obama culture of incompetence and sharia sensitivity goes far beyond the FBI. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano keeps changing her story. DHS never heard about [anything] until they had. Napolitano said at Tuesday's hearing on immigration reform that her agency knew of alleged Boston bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev's trip to Russia last year, even though his name was misspelled on a travel document. This was news to Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who told the secretary that it contradicted what he'd been told by the FBI. ...The lying is profound, and mirrors the constantly changing narrative on the Saudi national who was first grilled in the Boston bombing." [44475, 44476]

DailyCaller.com reports that an email from Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) which urges supporters to donate to a fund aiding Boston Marathon bomb victims also "provides a donation link through the website of the official pro-Obama fundraising and messaging nonprofit, Organizing for Action (OFA). ...Warren's email, sent Tuesday evening, explicitly ties the Boston Marathon charity cause [One Fund Boston] to a political operation." [44485]

Joe Oliver, Canada's minister of natural resources, tells a Washington, D.C. audience, "Make no mistake: Canadian resource development and export, including from the oil sands, will continue, Keystone or no Keystone. Anyone who equates the rejection of Keystone XL with some kind of body blow to the oil sands is just plain wrong." Oliver warns that an Obama administration rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline "would represent a serious reversal in our long-standing energy relationship." [44491, 44492]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Tom Cotton (R-AR) states, "I rise today to express grave doubts about the Obama Administration's counterterrorism policies and programs. Counterterrorism is often shrouded in secrecy, as it should be, so let us judge by the results. In barely four years in office, five jihadists have reached their targets in the United States under Barack Obama: the Boston Marathon bomber, the underwear bomber, the Times Square Bomber, the Fort Hood shooter, and in my own state—the Little Rock recruiting office shooter. In the over seven years after 9/11 under George W. Bush, how many terrorists reached their target in the United States? Zero! We need to ask, 'Why is the Obama Administration failing in its mission to stop terrorism before it reaches its targets in the United States?'" [44505]

Attorney General Eric Holder addresses the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund awards event: "Creating a pathway to earned citizenship for the 11

million unauthorized immigrants in this country is absolutely essential. The way we treat our friends and neighbors who are undocumented by creating a mechanism for them to earn citizenship and to move out of the shadows transcends the issue of immigration status. This is a matter of civil and human rights. It's about who we are as a nation, and it goes to the core of our treasured American principle of equal opportunity." (In Holder's opinion, entering the United States illegally is a "civil and human right.") [44514]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, "But I think what's really happening here is you're getting a huge embarrassment and defensive actions on the part of the administration as it's beginning to unfold how much they screwed up here [by not dealing with the Tsarnaev in time to prevent the Boston Marathon bombings]. We now know that there were *three* agencies of this administration that had information about the brother, the elder brother. CIA, FBI, and, as we heard yesterday, the Secretary of Homeland Security said there was a ping in the system when he went over and visited Russia. So—and the fact that not one of the three contacted or exchanged information with the other two is really damning, particularly if you put it in the context of where you're standing today. The one thing that the Bush administration and the presidency did is it kept us safe, but not only in its own seven years, had it established the entire infrastructure. It redid the entire organization of the intelligence agencies in order to make sure that we wouldn't have a repeat of 9/11 where one agency isn't hearing what the other agency knows. And that has persisted, but it looks as if in this administration it has all fallen apart." [44508]

In Dallas, Obama attends a fundraiser for the Democrat National Committee. [44459]

On April 25 Obama attends the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Center at Southern Methodist University in Texas. Also attending the ceremony are former presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. Obama tells the crowd of about 10,000, "We know President Bush the man. To know the man is to like the man. Because he's comfortable in his own skin. He knows who he is. He doesn't put on any pretenses. He takes his job seriously, but he doesn't take himself too seriously. He is a good man." The classless and shameless Obama also uses his speech to plug immigration reform legislation. George W. Bush states, "One of the benefits of freedom is that people can disagree. It's fair to say I created plenty of opportunities to exercise that right. But when future generations come to this library and study this administration, they're going to find out that we stayed true to our convictions. ...In democracy, the purpose of public office is not to fulfill personal ambition. Elected officials must serve a cause greater than themselves. The political winds blow left and right, polls rise and fall, supporters come and go. But in the end, leaders are defined by the convictions they hold. As president, I tried to act on these principles every day. It wasn't always easy and it certainly wasn't always popular... And when our freedom came under attack, we made the tough decisions required to keep the American people safe. ...It's the honor of a lifetime to lead a country as brave and as noble as the United States. Whatever challenges come before us, I will always believe our nation's best day lie ahead. ...God bless America." [44483, 44506, 44518, 44535, 44536, 44569]

At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod writes: “At the pageant rich ceremony, when the U.S. Army Chorus performed the exquisitely moving *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, not everyone had goosebumps. While listening to the hymn’s soul-stirring words, you can see for yourself on the YouTube capturing the momentous event what the five presidents and their wives were doing as it was being sung. On the far left of the stage, Michelle Obama was wearing her trademark frown. Hillary Clinton preened from behind her husband’s shoulder, and [in the video] you can see for yourself ...Obama gesticulating and yakking away to Barbara Bush during most of the five-minute performance. ...Given the beauty of its words, and though unintentional as it may have been, this time when the U.S. Army Chorus performed the mighty *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, it could have been America’s Swan Song. It is for shame that none of the five presidents or their wives who attended Thursday’s Bush presidential center dedication mentioned the glaring decline of America by political deliberate means. America’s sinking below the waves and the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* is playing just like the band played *Nearer My God to Thee* when the Titanic was sinking.” [44569]

At WashingtonTimes.com Joseph Curl writes, “Shortly after Barack Obama was elected in 2008, a fellow reporter who’d covered President George W. Bush all eight years told me she’d had enough of the travel and stress and strain of the White House beat, that she was moving on. We reminisced about all the places we’d been, all the crazy days and wild nights, all the history we’d seen—first hand. Just before we said our goodbyes, I asked her if she’d miss covering ...Obama. ‘Not at all. He’s an inch deep. Bush is a bottomless chasm, a deep, mysterious, emotional, profound man. Obama is all surface—shallow, obvious, robotic, and, frankly, not nearly as smart as he thinks. Bush was the one.’ Her words, so succinct, have stuck with me ever since. By the way, she’s a hardcore Democrat.” [44523]

FoxNews.com reports, “The mother of Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev knew as early as 2011 that her son had been radicalized and sent text messages to family in Russia suggesting he was willing to die for Islam, the FBI told lawmakers this week according to two officials with knowledge of the Capitol Hill briefing. ...The FBI filed a federal criminal complaint against the 19-year-old on Sunday [April 22], and federal District Court Judge Marianne Bowler arrived at the hospital where he is being treated to preside over his initial hearing Monday, when she read him his Miranda rights. FBI officials told The Associated Press Wednesday that Tsarnaev acknowledged to investigators his role in the attacks before he was advised of his constitutional rights. He reportedly said he was only recently recruited by his brother to be part of the attack. But Fox News’ sources say there was confusion about Bowler’s timing, with some voicing concerns that investigators were not given enough time to question Dzhokhar under the ‘public safety exception’ invoked by the Justice Department. Two officials with knowledge of the FBI briefing on Capitol Hill said the FBI was against stopping the investigators’ questioning and was stunned that the judge, Justice Department prosecutors and public defenders showed up, feeling valuable intelligence may have been sacrificed as a result. The FBI had been questioning Tsarnaev for 16 hours before the judge called a start to the court proceeding, officials familiar with the Capitol Hill briefing told Fox News.” [44487, 44488, 44504, 44524, 44537, 44538, 44539, 44540, 44547]

“Moreover, the FBI informed lawmakers that the suspect had been providing valuable intelligence, but stopped talking once the magistrate judge [Marianne Bowler] read him his rights. ... The public safety exception to Miranda lasts only 48 hours.” (According to FrontPageMag.com, “Judge Bowler has some interesting international connections. She is a member of the Member of the International Judicial Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Apparently in that capacity, she visited and spoke on legal issues at a number of Muslim countries, becoming the first female judge to speak in Kuwait, appearing also in Egypt and in the United Arab Emirates. Oddly enough, aside from a visit to the US embassy in Belgrade, those are the only international appearances that she lists and they all take place in Muslim countries.”) [44487, 44488, 44504, 44524, 44537, 44538, 44539, 44540, 44547]

On *On the Record* with Greta Van Susteren, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani calls the judge’s demand that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev be read his “Miranda right” sooner than was necessary “mind-boggling. ... This guy is kind of telling you about how he’s coming to New York [after the Boston attack] and do a bombing, a judge walks in and we cut off the questioning? What are we, crazy? ... Some of the explanations that I’m getting make me very nervous that the FBI is erring on the side of caution, when I want them to err on the side of safety.” Of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s decision to not release information about welfare benefits paid to the bombers and their families, Giuliani says, “What possible privacy interest do you have in that? They either got welfare or they didn’t get welfare. And that would also be important to how were they financed. I’d like to know how much they were getting in welfare. A trip to Russia for six months is a pretty darn expensive proposition. I’ve wondered, was anybody [other than U.S. taxpayers] financing them? ... I can’t figure out what the heck the privacy interest is, except maybe an embarrassment that by mistake, Massachusetts was giving welfare to potential terrorists.” [44537]

AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller observes that Obama is “Once again coming to the aid of jihadists. This is a pattern with the Muslim Brotherhood stooge in the White House. On Christmas day in 2009, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (aka The Underwear Bomber), tried to blow up a plane with an underwear bomb. Using the Public Safety Exception, Abdulmutallab was interrogated—but only for 50 minutes. In a similar move, the White House withheld evidence in the Fort Hood jihad, which stymied the prosecution of the cold-blooded devout Muslim.” [44487, 44488, 44504, 44524, 44537]

Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts refuses to respond to media requests for information about state welfare benefits paid to Boston bombing terrorists Tamerlan Tsarnaev and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and their family. Unemployment benefit information and university records are also being kept private by the state and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Whether either of the bombers had a federally subsidized “Obama phone” is also not known. [44516]

NYTimes.com reports, “Democratic senators, at a caucus meeting with White House officials, expressed concerns on Thursday about how the Obama administration was

carrying out the health care law they adopted three years ago. Democrats in both houses of Congress said some members of their party were getting nervous that they could pay a political price if the rollout of the law was messy or if premiums went up significantly.” [44517]

Politico reports, “The White House on Thursday released a letter sent to congressional leaders confirming it has evidence that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons. ‘Our intelligence community does assess with varying degrees of confidence that the Syrian regime has used chemical weapons on a small scale in Syria, specifically the chemical agent sarin,’ the letter reads. ...Obama has previously said the use of chemicals weapons would be a ‘red line’ that could trigger a new phase of intervention in the two-year-old civil war.” (Not everyone in the Obama administration considers poison gas troublesome. One “unnamed official” tells *The New York Times*, “How can we attack another country unless it’s in self-defense and with no [United Nations] Security Council resolution? If he [Syrian President Bashir al-Assad] drops sarin on his own people, what’s that got to do with us?” A better question might be: “If a dictator is willing to gas his own people, why would he not do worse things to his enemies outside the country?”) [44659]

The U.S. Senate passes legislation eliminating furloughs of air traffic controllers by shifting \$253 million to the Federal Aviation Administration. (On April 26 the House of Representatives approves the “call Obama’s bluff” legislation by a vote of 361–41.) [44546]

CNSNews.com reports, “The latest available data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) shows that a record number 23 million households in the United States are now on food stamps... an increase of 889,154 families from January 2012... The most recent statistics from the United States Census Bureau—from December 2012—puts the number of households in the United States at 115,310,000. If you divide 115,310,000 by 23,087,866, that equals one out of every five households now receiving food stamps. ...[F]ood stamp rolls in America recently surpassed the population of Spain. A record number 47,692,896 Americans are now enrolled in the program and the cost of food stamp fraud has more than doubled in just three years.” [44525, 44526]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Department of Agriculture, via the Mexican government, assures potentially ineligible immigrants that they can still apply for food stamps on behalf of their eligible children without giving information about their immigration status, according to documents released Thursday by Judicial Watch. A USDA Spanish language flyer provided to the Mexican Embassy, according to Judicial Watch, reads that if potentially ineligible immigrants want to obtain benefits for their children they ‘need not divulge information regarding your immigration status in seeking this benefit for your children.’” [44527]

According to a Duke University study, 65 percent of coal-powered generating plants in the United States could be shut down because of Environmental Protection Agency regulations. [44533]



At WeeklyStandard.com Stephen F. Hayes reports, “Law enforcement officials are carefully reexamining any possible role that Katherine Russell Tsarnaev, the wife of Tamerlan Tsarnaev, played in the Boston Marathon bombings on April 15, according to three federal officials with knowledge of the investigation. The intense scrutiny comes as a result of information provided by Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in his on-again, off-again interrogation by FBI officials before he was read his rights by a federal magistrate. According to those officials, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev told interrogators that the information that set in motion the series of events leading to Tamerlan’s death and Dzhokhar’s apprehension came in a phone call from Katherine Russell Tsarnaeva to her husband. ‘She notified him and there certainly didn’t seem to be any notion of surprise—just a report that ‘you’re being watched,’ said one official with knowledge of the investigation. Tsarnaev had seen the photographs and videos distributed by the FBI on television and called her husband to give him a heads up. ...An attorney for Katherine Russell Tsarnaeva said earlier this week that her client knew nothing about her husband’s plans and wanted to help authorities conducting the investigation. ‘She is doing everything she can to assist with the investigation,’ said Amato DeLuca, her attorney, in a statement. ‘The report of involvement by her husband and brother-in-law came as an absolute shock to them all.’” [44544, 44545]

On April 26 Obama addresses the Planned Parenthood National Conference. He charges that Republicans have “been involved in an orchestrated and historic effort to roll back basic rights when it comes to women’s health. When politicians try to turn Planned Parenthood into a punching bag, they’re not just talking about you; they’re talking about the millions of women who you serve. And when they talk about cutting off your funding, let’s be clear, they’re talking about telling many of those women, ‘You’re on your own.’ ...Planned Parenthood is not going anywhere. It’s not going anywhere today. It’s not going anywhere tomorrow. As long as we’ve gotta [sic] fight to make sure women have access to quality, affordable health care, and as long as we’ve got to fight to protect a woman’s right to make her own choices about her own health, I want you to know that you’ve also got a [person in me] who’s gonna [sic] be right there with ‘ya [sic], fighting every step of the way. Thank you, Planned Parenthood. God bless you. God bless America.” (Not surprisingly, Obama does not mention the murder trial of abortionist Kermit Gosnell or the fact that Planned Parenthood performs abortions at the rate of one every 94 seconds; 333,964 babies were killed by the organization in 2011.) [44510, 44511, 44512, 44513, 44521, 44564]

According to CNSNews.com, “Since Obama’s first inauguration on Jan. 20, 2009, the federal debt has climbed \$6,167,472,778,984.22. That equals about \$53,616 for each of the 115,031,000 households the Census Bureau currently estimates are in the country. By contrast, the Census Bureau’s most recent estimate of the median household income was \$50,502 (for 2011).” [44565]

In *The Wall Street Journal* Peggy Noonan writes, “Barack Obama was elected ...in 2008 because he was not George W. Bush. In fact, he was elected because he was the furthest thing possible from Mr. Bush. On some level he knew this, which is why every time he

got in trouble he'd say Bush's name. *It's all his fault, you have no idea the mess I inherited.* As long as Mr. Bush's memory was hovering like Boo Radley in the shadows, Mr. Obama would be OK. This week something changed. George W. Bush is back, for the unveiling of his presidential library. His numbers are dramatically up. You know why? Because he's the furthest thing from Barack Obama. Obama fatigue has opened the way to Bush affection. ...Here's a hunch: The day of the opening of the Bush library was the day Obama fatigue became apparent as a fact of America's political life. When Bush left office, his approval rating was down in the 20s to low 30s. Now it's at 47%, which is what Obama's is. That is amazing, and not sufficiently appreciated. ...Obama was more formal than the other speakers and less confident than usual, as if he knew he was surrounded by people who have something he doesn't. 'No matter how much you think you're ready to assume the office of the president, it's impossible to understand the nature of the job until it's yours.' This is a way of seeming to laud others when you're lauding yourself. He veered into current policy disputes, using Mr. Bush's failed comprehensive immigration reform to buttress his own effort. That was manipulative, graceless and typical." [44522]

Noonan concludes, "...At the end Mr. Bush wept, and not only because the Bush men are weepers but because he means every word of what he says, and because he loves his country, and was moved. [House Speaker] John Boehner weeps too when he speaks about what America means to him. You know why they do that? Because their hearts are engaged. And really, that's not the worst thing. Back to the point. What was nice was that all of them—the Bush family, the Carters and Clintons—seemed like the old days. 'The way we were.' They were full of endurance, stamina, effort. Also flaws, frailty, mess. But they weren't ...creepy. Anyway, onward to Obama fatigue, and the Democratic Party wrestling with what comes next. It's not only the Republicans in a deep pit." [44522]

Wired.com reports, "The U.S. intelligence community has uncovered strong evidence that chemical weapons have been used in Syria. Several blood samples, taken from multiple people, have tested positive for the nerve agent sarin, an American intelligence source tells Danger Room. President Obama has long said that the use of such a weapon by the Assad regime would cross a 'red line.' So now the question becomes: What will the White House do in response?" [44530, 44562]

According to the Associated Press, "U.S. intelligence agencies added the mother of the Boston bombing suspects to a government terrorism database 18 months before the bombings, two officials told The Associated Press. She called it 'lies and hypocrisy' and said she has never been linked to crimes or terrorism. The CIA asked for the Boston terror suspect and his mother to be added to a terrorist database in the fall of 2011, after the Russian government contacted the agency with concerns that both had become religious militants, according to officials briefed on the investigation. About six months earlier, the FBI investigated Tamerlan Tsarnaev and his mother, Zubeidat Tsarnaeva, also at Russia's request, one of the officials said. The FBI found no ties to terrorism. The revelation that the FBI had also investigated Zubeidat Tsarnaeva and the CIA arranged for her to be added to the terrorism database deepened the mystery around the family. The Tsarnaevs are ethnic Chechens from southern Russia who immigrated to the Boston

area in the past 11 years. Tsarnaeva, a naturalized U.S. citizen who has appeared on television interviews since the attacks and reversed her decision to return to the U.S. after the bombings, has said her sons could never have been behind the deadly attacks and believes they were framed.” (Pamela Geller comments at AtlasShrugs.com: “[This is] Further proof of the epic failure of Obama’s homeland security apparatus. The DHS is worthless, so busy are they targeting tea partiers, vets, and blog readers. Bomb mom sounds like the thousands of other proud Muslim moms who spawned jihadists. The Boston bomb mom’s ‘lawyer’ told her to not worry, she would not be arrested. Who’s her lawyer, Eric Holder?”) [44541, 44542]

FoxNews.com reports, “A jury in South Bend, Indiana has found that fraud put ...Obama and Hillary Clinton on the presidential primary ballot in Indiana in the 2008 election. Two Democratic political operatives were convicted Thursday night in the illegal scheme after only three hours of deliberations. They were found guilty on all counts. Former longtime St. Joseph County Democratic party Chairman Butch Morgan Jr. was found guilty of felony conspiracy counts to commit petition fraud and forgery, and former county Board of Elections worker Dustin Blythe was found guilty of felony forgery counts and falsely making a petition, after being accused of faking petitions that enabled Obama, then an Illinois Senator, to get on the presidential primary ballot for his first run for the White House. Morgan was accused of being the mastermind behind the plot. According to testimony from two former Board of Election officials who pled guilty, Morgan ordered Democratic officials and workers to fake the names and signatures that Obama and Clinton needed to qualify for the presidential race. Blythe, then a Board of Elections employee and Democratic Party volunteer, was accused of forging multiple pages of the Obama petitions.” [44531]

WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler writes at Politico of Obama’s “hubris problem.” “Tuesday morning, a peculiar announcement trickled out of the White House press office: ...Obama would be holding a moment of silence for the victims of the Boston bombings. At the White House. By himself. No press or other intruders allowed. Except the White House photographer. That Obama assumed Americans would want an iconic photo of him privately mourning the victims of the bombings was emblematic of a kind of hubris that has enveloped [Obama] and his White House as [he] commences his second term. Hubris in a leader is an obnoxious thing, leading to imperiousness in governing. And it’s also a dangerous thing for a second-term president, often spelling trouble. Unfortunately, [Obama’s] acts of high handedness and self-absorption have been accumulating in the past several months at a blistering pace.” [44532]

On April 27 the Associated Press reports that “Russian authorities secretly recorded a telephone conversation in 2011 in which one of the Boston bombing suspects vaguely discussed jihad with his mother, officials said Saturday, days after the U.S. government finally received details about the call. In another conversation, the mother of now-dead bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev was recorded talking to someone in southern Russia who is under FBI investigation in an unrelated case, officials said.” [44551]

NYPost.com reports, “An apparent piece of landing gear from a passenger jet used in the Sept. 11 attacks was found behind the site of the controversial Ground Zero mosque, police said. The piece of gear was discovered Wednesday, wedged between the rear of 51 Park Place, the mosque site, and the building behind it, 50 Murray Street.” (Mosque developers have falsely argued for years that their development is not insensitive because it is nowhere near Ground Zero.) [44552, 44553]

StandWithArizona.com reports, “Last week, ICE union chief Chris Crane won a stunning initial court victory in his lawsuit against the Obama Administration. As we reported, Federal Judge Reed O’Connor told the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that they had no power to refuse to deport illegal aliens, and that he was likely to strike down Obama’s virtual ‘DACA’ amnesty for millions of illegal aliens. The ruling stunned Washington, and Crane’s lawsuit could derail Obama’s four-year effort to undermine immigration enforcement nationwide. In Senate testimony... President of the National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council Crane slammed the Obama administration and the Senate’s Gang of Eight for including advocates for illegal aliens, but excluding law enforcement from providing input on the new ‘immigration reform’ legislation. Crane testified before the Senate, expressing his disgust that law enforcement was shut out of the negotiations on immigration reform. Crane was sitting right next to National Council of La Raza (‘The Race’) president Janet Murguia when he made his comments. La Raza—a racist intimidation group originally funded by the Mexican Government—was outrageously welcomed to help write the immigration bill, while law enforcement agents were shunned. Crane recounted to the Judiciary Committee how he was physically escorted out of a Gang of Eight press conference last week and ‘spoken to with anger and disrespect.’ ‘Never before have I seen such contempt for law enforcement officers as what I’ve seen from the Gang of Eight,’ he said.” [44568]

Obama appears at the annual White House Correspondents Dinner. Obama tells the audience of (mostly) leftist members of the media and entertainers (e.g., Barbara Streisand), “Rush Limbaugh warned you about this—second term, baby. We’re changing things around here.” Noting that four years in the White House has taken its toll, Obama quips, “I’m not the strapping young Muslim socialist I used to be.” (The Associated Press omits the word “Muslim” when reporting the joke.) Obama refers to the George W. Bush Presidential Library and says, “Some have suggested we put [my own library] in my birth place, but I’d rather keep it in the United States.” (At GatewayPundit.com Jim Hoft later observes, “Conan O’Brian and Barack Obama ripped Matt Drudge, the NRA, George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, and the NRA. The lapdog media in the audience loved it. When a Republican is president the host rips the president. When a Democrat is president the host rips Republicans. This game is getting old. Barack Obama told the audience the sequester was the GOP’s idea. A lie. And Conan O’Brian ripped the GOP, Justice Clarence Thomas, Mitch McConnell, southern Republicans, South Carolina, Paul Ryan, etc. and then thanked Obama for his handling of the Boston terrorist attack.”) [44515, 44529, 44549, 44550, 44554, 44557, 44559, 44560, 44563, 44570, 44571, 44572]

On April 28 Newsmax.com reports, “The House Natural Resources Committee has issued a statement lambasting the Obama administration for dragging its feet in issuing

permits for oil and gas drilling on federal lands. According to the committee's statement, it takes the Bureau of Land Management an average of 307 days to process a permit to drill, nearly twice as long as the 154 days it took in 2005. '...Obama has touted that U.S. oil and natural gas production is at its highest levels in years, but he's only telling half the story,' according to the committee's statement. 'The recent increase in U.S. oil and gas production can all be attributed to state and private lands—not federal.' Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (R-WA) said: 'The Obama administration's federal energy policies are costing American jobs, impeding economic growth and recovery, and robbing the U.S. Treasury of much needed revenue to help us balance our budget. We've seen how energy production on state lands can create new jobs ...[and] ease the pain of high gasoline prices. So why is the Obama administration refusing to take the same steps as the states to develop these resources?' [44556]

On ABC's *This Week*, George Will observes that President Lyndon B. Johnson "understood that politics is a transactional business—you give something, you get something." Obama, on the other hand, "has an inordinate faith in the power of his rhetoric. He campaigned against Scott Brown, against Chris Christie, against Bob McDonnell, he campaigned hard for the Democratic candidates in 2010. They got shellacked. He campaigned for Obamacare. It's still very unpopular. His rhetoric is overrated. It is no basis for government." [44561]

On NBC's *Meet the Press*, correspondent Chuck Todd tells host David Gregory, "I can tell you there is regret about that [chemical weapons] red line comment." Gregory asks, "In the White House?" Todd responds, "In the White House in this respect. You don't draw—I mean, they meant it. They do mean it on the chemical weapons. But saying it creates this political conversation. They didn't want to go public last week that they had this early evidence yet. They weren't ready. And yet they knew Congress was going to get this briefing and it was all going to get out, so they decided to go public with it last week because they felt they had no choice, that it was all going to start leaking out... but they're not ready. There is no good answer." (At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, "This is the reverse of Teddy Roosevelt's famous axiom, 'Speak softly and carry a big stick.' In this case, Obama spoke loudly while unsure of whether to pick up a stick at all. That has some inside and outside of the US worried about American credibility in other conflicts, specifically with Iran." [44562]

On *Fox News Sunday*, members of the panel criticize Obama over his statement that use of chemical weapons in Syria crosses a red line. Host Chris Wallace states, "Obama put himself in a box here on Syria. He kept talking for months about 'red lines' ...but he's clearly mindful of bad intelligence that led into the invasion of Iraq, and it's also clear... that he never wanted to get involved militarily in Syria." Senior political analyst Brit Hume adds, "What he's trying to do now is insist on ironclad proof—you wonder if he doesn't want an ironclad affidavit signed by Bashar al-Assad himself saying, 'Yes, indeed, we did use sarin gas on those people. Short of that I'm not sure he's going to do anything. ...[Obama] didn't want to intervene to stop the deaths of what is now 70,000 people, I don't think he is [now] going to [act] on, at least arguably incomplete evidence... My sense is [that Obama] didn't want to do anything and, for now at least, he

isn't going to do anything. ...But around the world this kind of apparent indecisiveness and weakness has a price. It emboldens enemies, it discourages allies, and it is a problem." [44558]

Jessica Chasmar reports at [WashingtonTimes.com](http://WashingtonTimes.com), "Rep. Trey Gowdy, appearing on Fox News on Saturday afternoon, promised that 'explosive' congressional hearings over the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, are 'coming quickly.' 'There are more Benghazi hearings coming; I think they're going to be explosive,' Mr. Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican who is a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, told Fox's Uma Pemmaraju. Mr. Gowdy wasn't able to give out too many details, but he hinted that the public for the first time might hear from witnesses to the terror attack that left four Americans dead. 'I am bound by certain measures of confidentiality, but I would tell you that you are getting very warm,' Mr. Gowdy said when asked by Ms. Pemmaraju whether witnesses could be coming forward. '[The hearings] are coming sooner rather than later.' He said several questions need to be answered, such as why there was a failure of security, 'what happened during the siege itself and why aid was not sent,' and whether the testimony by Susan E. Rice, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, was 'grossly negligent or whether it was intentionally misleading.' Mr. Gowdy added that in a trial, 'direct evidence, direct testimony by eyewitnesses is always the most compelling.' 'Trust me when I tell you [that] you will want to follow the hearings that are coming up,' he reiterated." [44566]

At [Breitbart.com](http://Breitbart.com) Wynton Hall writes, "A new report by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Institute (GAI) finds that ...Obama has spent [only] 3.6% of his total work time... in economic meetings of any kind. The study... based its findings on the official White House calendar, Politico's comprehensive presidential calendar, and media reports through March 31, 2013. The study defined [Obama's] work week as a six-day, 10-hour-a-day time period. 'You should know that keeping the economy growing and making sure jobs are available is the first thing I think about when I wake up every morning,' Obama said in 2011 to an audience of UPS workers. 'It's the last thing I think about when I go to bed each night.'" [44567]

On April 29 Obama nominates Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Anthony Foxx to succeed Ray LaHood as Secretary of Transportation.

Obama telephones the National Basketball Association's Jason Collins to congratulate him on his "courage" for announcing he is gay. Meanwhile, Michelle Obama sends a Twitter message: "So proud of you, Jason Collins! This is a huge step forward for our country. We've got your back!" (Why the announcement is a "huge step" for the country is not known. A huge step forward might be many of the 12 million unemployed Americans finding jobs—but Mrs. Obama and her husband apparently do not "have the backs" of those people.) Collins tells *Sports Illustrated*, "I've never sought the spotlight. Though I'm coming out to the world, I intend to guard my privacy." (Some might argue that such a public pronouncement is inconsistent with avoiding the spotlight and guarding privacy.) [44578, 44590, 44592, 44603, 44619]

Speaking at the National Academy of Sciences, Obama says, “Part of what has made the academy so effective is that all the scientists elected to your elite ranks are volunteers, which is fortunate because we have no money anyway. For 150 years, it has tried to answer big questions, solve tough problems, not for yourselves, but for the nation.” (Later in the address Obama calls for more federal spending on science—even though there is no money.) [44587]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, “Investigators have found female DNA on at least one of the bombs used in the Boston Marathon attacks, though they haven’t determined whose DNA it is or whether its presence means a woman helped the two brothers suspected in the bombings, according to U.S. officials briefed on the probe. In another development, Russian officials revealed details about contacts between the older brother and suspected Islamist radicals in the Caucasus, including Internet exchanges that led to concerns by investigators that he was trying to join up with jihadist fighters.” [44573, 44584, 44631]

At Breitbart.com Kerry Picket reports, “A special operations member who witnessed the attack on the U.S. Mission unfold in Benghazi, Libya on September 11 last year, as well as debriefed those who took part in the response, spoke with Fox News’ Adam Housley on Monday night and revealed information that directly contradicts the administration’s insistence that there was not enough time nor resources to send to Benghazi to help State Department employees, contractors, and intel[ligence] operatives who were under a terrorist attack. FNC kept their source’s identity hidden, as witnesses to the Benghazi attack have reportedly been intimidated by the administration into silence. The assault left four Americans dead, including U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens.” [44580, 44581, 44582, 44593]

FoxNews.com reports, “At least four career officials at the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency have retained lawyers or are in the process of doing so, as they prepare to provide sensitive information about the Benghazi attacks to Congress, Fox News has learned. Victoria Toensing, a former Justice Department official and Republican counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee, is now representing one of the State Department employees. She told Fox News her client and some of the others, who consider themselves whistle-blowers, have been threatened by unnamed Obama administration officials. ‘I’m not talking generally; I’m talking specifically about Benghazi—that people have been threatened,’ Toensing said in an interview Monday. ‘And not just the State Department. People have been threatened at the CIA. ...It’s frightening; and they’re [making] doing some very despicable threats to people. Not, ‘we’re going to kill you,’ or not, ‘we’re going to prosecute you tomorrow;’ but they’re taking career people and making them well aware that their careers will be over [if they cooperate with congressional investigators].” (Such threats would clearly be an impeachable offense if they can be linked directly to Obama.) [44582, 44583, 44593]

Matthew Boyle reports at Breitbart.com: “The immigration bill introduced to the Senate a week and a half ago would, if passed, allow illegal immigrants to access state and local welfare benefits immediately, Breitbart News has learned. The financial impact of allowing potentially millions of immigrants onto state and local public assistance could

overwhelm these programs' budgets. Senate Budget Committee ranking member Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) uncovered this loophole in the bill and many others, and he will circulate a memo detailing the gaps in the bill on Tuesday." Sessions tells Breitbart News, "The Gang of Eight made a promise that illegal immigrants will not be able to access public benefits. We already know that, once granted green cards and ultimately citizenship, illegal immigrants will be able to access all public benefit programs at a great cost to taxpayers. We have, however, identified a number of loopholes that would allow illegal immigrants to draw public benefits even sooner than advertised." [44589]

VanityFair.com calls Obama "lean back," writing, "His body language in the Oval Office, the Situation Room, and other top Cabinet-level meetings indicates a man who is ready to let it all hang loose. He's often in shirtsleeves, with his feet up, and frequently will be the only member of a meeting with a knee on the table." (President Ronald Reagan not only would never put his feet on his desk, he always wore a suit coat when working in the Oval Office.) [44598]

*Wall Street Journal* reader Harriet Hart observes, "So far I haven't seen any commentary on the correlation between ...Obama's training as a community organizer and the sequester fiasco. Community organizers' main efforts are to stir up public sentiment to achieve special goals without implementing any solutions. Solutions are the province of someone else. The present administration has used this tactic endlessly, most noticeably with the White House tour shutdown during spring break and now flight-controller furloughs. This is definitely not an effort to solve problems but rather an attempt to stampede citizens to a desired result. We don't need a community organizer in the White House. We need an executive, but of course ...Obama abhors that category of human endeavor." [446126]

On April 30 *The Sun* reports, "An ex-girlfriend of dead Boston bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev has told how he tried to brainwash her into becoming a Muslim fanatic who hated America. Nadine Ascencao, 24, said Tamerlan made her wear an Islamic hijab and pray to Allah and slapped her when she wore Western clothes. But she was so blindly in love with the handsome boxer who had taken her virginity, she did her utmost to make him happy. Nadine said: 'I went to his mosque a couple of times and even looked into converting to make him happy. I thought, 'This is crazy'—but I still did it for him. 'Tamerlan had taken my virginity and said he loved me because I was pure and hadn't been with any other guys. I was in love and scared he'd leave me if I didn't do what he said. Looking back I had a lucky escape.'" [44574]

Public support for ObamaCare plummets to only 35 percent, according to a poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation. [44575, 44576, 44596]

Fox Business News reports, "The Institute for Supply Management-Chicago's PMI gauge fell to 49.0 in April from 52.4 the month before. Economists expected a slight uptick to 52.5. Readings above 50 point to expansion in the Midwest manufacturing sector, while those below indicate contraction."



Obama holds a brief press conference, in which he takes only five questions. Fox News Channel's Ed Henry asks Obama about the use of chemical weapons in Syria and why his administration is preventing Benghazi survivors from testifying about their first-hand accounts of the attacks on September 11, 2012. Obama says, "For several years now, what we've been seeing is a slowly unfolding disaster for the Syrian people. ... What we now have is evidence that chemical weapons have been used inside of Syria, but we don't know how they were used, when they were used, who used them—we don't have a chain of custody that establishes what exactly happened. When I am making decisions about America's national security, and the potential for taking additional action in response to chemical weapons use, I've got to make sure I've got the facts. ... We already are deeply engaged in trying to bring about a solution in Syria." On the issue of White House pressure being applied to Benghazi whistleblowers, Obama pleads ignorance: "Ed, I'm not familiar with this notion that anybody's been blocked by testifying." Henry: "They've hired an attorney because they're saying that they've been blocked from coming forward." Obama: "I'm not familiar with it. (On Twitter, Michelle Malkin offers some questions no one in the White House press corps would dare ask: "Why do you ignore the racist, eugenics-rooted agenda of Planned Parenthood? Have you phoned [Kermit] Gosnell's victims?" "Hey, how about a sit-down interview with [CBS reporter] Sharyl Attkisson on [the] Benghazi cover-up?" [44579, 44586, 44591, 44640])

ABC's Jonathan Karl asks Obama, "[D]o you still have the juice to get the rest of your agenda through Congress?" Obama responds, "Well, if you put it that way, Jonathan, maybe I should just pack up and go home. Golly. ... Rumors of my demise may be a little exaggerated at this point." [44597]

Obama is asked by CNN's Jessica Yellin, "[Senator] Lindsey Graham [R-SC], who is a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, has said that Benghazi and Boston are both examples of the U.S. going backwards on national security. Is he right? And did our intelligence miss something?" Obama answers, "No, Mr. Graham is not right on this issue, although I'm sure he generated some headlines. I think that what we saw in Boston was state, local, federal officials, every agency rallying around a city that had been attacked—identifying the perpetrators just hours after the scene had been examined. We now have one individual deceased, one in custody. Charges have been brought. I think that all our law enforcement officials performed in an exemplary fashion after the bombing had taken place. And we should be very proud of their work, as obviously we're proud of the people of Boston and all the first responders and the medical personnel that helped save lives." (Obama misses Graham's point entirely. The issue is not how well Americans responded to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi and Boston, but why they were not prevented in the first place.)

Obama again calls on Congress to support his plans to close the terrorist detention center at Guantanamo, Cuba: "I continue to believe that we've got to close Guantanamo. I think, well, you know, I think it is critical for us to understand that Guantanamo is not necessary to keep America safe. It is expensive. It is inefficient. It hurts us, in terms of our international standing. It lessens cooperation with our allies on counter-terrorism efforts. It is a recruitment tool for extremists. It needs to be closed. ... I don't want these

individuals to die. Why are we doing this? We've got a whole bunch of individuals who have been tried who are currently in maximum security prisons around the country... It's been done in a way that's consistent with our Constitution, consistent with due process, consistent with rule of law, consistent with our traditions." (Many Americans likely do not care if terrorists choose to die in a hunger strike. Why Obama does not believe that detainees could just as easily stage hunger strikes at prisons within the United States is not known.) [44605, 44610]

DailyCaller.com remarks that Obama "spent most of his surprise April 30 press conference on the defensive, blaming the Senate, budget cuts, Republicans, Syria's dictator and much else for the shaky start to his second term. He had nothing major or new to announce, and no theme or message to steer media coverage." Obama "tried to blame United States' stalled economy on the GOP's agreement to sign his 2011 proposal for a budget sequester. The 48-minute press conference ended with the departing president turning back to the podium to congratulate a basketball player [Jason Collins] for being gay," saying, "We judge people on the basis of their character and their performance. I'm very proud of him." [44604]

At Time.com Zeke J. Miller writes, "After the first 100 days of his second term ... Obama just can't stop talking about the limits of his own power. At a press conference Tuesday morning, he said he wanted a smooth roll out for ObamaCare, but then added, 'even if we do everything perfectly, there'll still be, you know, glitches and bumps.' He reaffirmed his desire to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, but said 'Congress determined that they would not let us close it.' He argued for an end to the sequester, only to add that he doesn't have enough sway with Congress to make it happen. ... In the White House briefing room, [Obama] stayed largely on defense, ticking through the topics offered to him by reporters by explaining all that he could not do. ... The first 100 days have not exactly gone according to plan: Gun control measures in which he invested his political capital died weeks ago, immigration reform faces a perilous path in the House of Representatives, budget and deficit reduction talks are mired in slow moving back room negotiations, and the sequester remains in place with a few targeted exceptions. As nearly every legislative priority has stalled, his approval rating has fallen below 50 percent." [44614]

*The New York Times'* Maureen Dowd comments on Obama's "it's the fault of Congress" excuse: "The job of the former community organizer and self-styled uniter is to somehow get this dunderheaded Congress, which is mind-bendingly awful, to do the stuff he wants them to do. It's called leadership. He still thinks he'll do his thing from the balcony and everyone else will follow along below. That's not how it works." [44615]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments on the Benghazi whistleblowers and the Obama administration's attempts to silence them: "The word for it is stonewalling and it's a word that's generally applied if you have a Republican in office. But if you have a Democrat in office, the mainstream media are quite uninterested in stonewalling, won't call it that and have a lack of interest in people who want to bring in information. If you blow a whistle against a Bush or against a Reagan, you become a national hero on

TV; if you blow it against Obama, you get into a cone of silence except here [on Fox News] and in other extremely select media outlets. These are very serious charges. The first is that there was a way to help to rescue, perhaps, save some of the Americans that were killed and to prevent the second attack, which happened after seven hours. [It] contradicts some of the stuff that we have been told. And the second charge is there are people who are honest and honorable career civil servants in State and in CIA who are being openly threatened for wanting to tell the truth about what happened, presumably because it contradicts the administration's story. And, again, I think—that's one scandal. The other scandal is the unbelievable lack of interest by the mainstream media. We have had three episodes here. The scandal about what happened before, the lack of protection. Hillary Clinton saying she didn't know anything about the request for security. And we learned from the Republican report, [that] in fact she signed off on a cable that acknowledged the request for security and actually removed security assets. The more that we learn about this, the more we see stonewalling and cover up." [44594]

On *On the Record* with Greta Van Susteren, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) says he does not trust the Accountability Review Board to investigate the incidents in Benghazi: "There's a reason students don't grade their own papers; there's a reason defendants don't sentence themselves; and there's a reason the State Department doesn't get to investigate themselves to determine whether or not it made errors in Benghazi. That's Congress's job. So, yes, it would be a wild understatement for us to say we do not have confidence in the Accountability Review Board and its conclusions." (Eyewitness testimony is expected at a Congressional hearing on May 8.) [44626, 44629]

WND.com reports, "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was arrested and held for seven hours Monday and warned to keep his mouth shut about matters detrimental to the Islamic regime before he was released, according to a source within the Revolutionary Guard's intelligence unit. After his visit to Tehran's 26th international book fair Monday, the source said the head of Ahmadinejad's security team informed the Iranian president that he had been asked to appear at the supreme leader's office for an urgent matter. On the way to the meeting, contact between the security team within the president's convoy was disconnected while three other cars joined the convoy, instructing the lead car to take a different direction. Ahmadinejad, instead of being taken to the supreme leader's office, was taken to a secret location in one of the buildings belonging to the Foreign Ministry, which is under the control of the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence unit." [44588]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "A revealing new book from one of media's longest-serving White House correspondents reports that ...Obama surrounds himself only with 'idolizers,' and top aides make sure that those whose views might 'shake him up too much' are shoved aside. In 'Prisoners of the White House, the Isolation of America's Presidents and the Crisis of Leadership,' U.S. News correspondent Kenneth T. Walsh also discloses the extent to which Obama relies on polling for his political decisions, including a never-before revealed re-election project to investigate the thoughts and feelings of 'up for grabs' voters and another dedicated to helping him build a lasting legacy. Walsh, who has covered the White House for 25 years and written several books on the presidency, ...found that ...[Obama] often relies on a tiny cadre of Chicago aides,

thus living in ‘a bubble within the bubble.’ He called top Chicago aide Valerie Jarrett ‘one of the leading idolizers’ who blocks the access of critics to her boss. ‘Jarrett has gone too far in limiting others’ access to [Obama], according to a number of White House and congressional sources,’ writes Walsh in the book, due out June 1. ‘Her goal is to keep Obama in a cocoon of admirers who won’t, in her mind, shake him up too much or present views that might be contrary to her understanding of Obama’s positions. ...The book from Paradigm Publishers also reports that [Obama] has been meeting with scholars to plot out his legacy. The most recent was a January dinner of salad and pastry-wrapped beef. ‘Obama discussed history with his guests for two hours. He was particularly interested in their thoughts on how he could ensure a successful second term and what kind of legacy he could create,’ reports Walsh of Obama’s meeting with seven scholars.’” (A mentally balanced individual would simply do his job as best as he could and let history be the judge. Obama would never allow himself to do that. Instead, he attempts to influence the writers of that history.) [44595]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The Saudi embassy in Washington, D.C. today denied its government warned the U.S. about accused Boston bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev. According to a highly placed source who spoke to MailOnline, the Saudis sent a written warning about Tsarnaev to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2012. That was long before pressure-cooker blasts killed three and injured hundreds. The official told MailOnline about a written warning from the Saudi government to the Department of Homeland Security, and said he had direct knowledge of that document. But the Middle Eastern nation’s embassy in Washington denied that account on Wednesday.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller comments, “First the Russians, now the Saudis. Further evidence of Obama’s epic failure in keeping this country safe. He scrubbed counter terror manuals and training materials of jihad and Islam. His director of the CIA, John Brennan, speaks of jihad ‘as a legitimate tenet of Islam.’ Obama’s pro-jihad foreign and domestic policies have resulted in the slaughter of American citizens here and abroad.” [44599, 44608]

*The Washington Post* reports that Obama “is preparing to send lethal weaponry to the Syrian opposition and has taken steps to assert more aggressive U.S. leadership among allies and partners seeking the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad, according to senior administration officials. The officials said they are moving toward the shipment of arms but emphasized that they are still pursuing political negotiation. To that end, the administration has launched an effort to convince Russian President Vladimir Putin that the probable use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government—and the more direct outside intervention that could provoke—should lead him to reconsider his support of Assad. But Obama, who spoke by telephone with Putin on Monday and is sending Secretary of State John F. Kerry to Moscow in the coming days, is likely to make a final decision on the supply of arms to the opposition within weeks, before a scheduled meeting with Putin in June, the officials said.” [44618]

According to *The Washington Post*, “The Pentagon has deployed a small number of troops to Mali to support allied forces fighting there, despite repeated pledges by the Obama administration not to put ‘boots on the ground’ in the war-torn African country.

About 10 U.S. military personnel are in Mali to provide ‘liaison support’ to French and African troops but are not engaged in combat operations, said Lt. Col. Robert Firman, a Pentagon spokesman. Twelve others are assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, the capital, he added. The Pentagon had previously said that it had no intention of sending troops to Mali and that it would involve itself in the conflict only at arm’s length—by providing aerial refueling to French warplanes and sharing intelligence with allies. It also said that it would ferry soldiers from neighboring African countries to Mali on U.S. troop transport planes but that the aircraft would not remain in the country.” (At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “Obama is sending troops into Mali now? To fight what and who? He refuses to address the jihadi threat, so just whose side is he on in Mali? Mali fell to jihadists after Obama assisted in the removal of Qaddafi. And what did we get in return? Dead Americans, including an American ambassador. He has no coherent strategy and he refuses to accept the reality that jihad is the enemy. So what is he doing in Mali? And how is it that [Obama] sends our boys and girls into country after country without so much as a raised eyebrow from the enemedia? It’s astounding.”) [44657, 44658]

Obama proclaims May 1 “Loyalty Day.” In his declaration, Obama states, “This Loyalty Day, I call upon all the people of the United States to join in support of this national observance, whether by displaying the flag of the United States or pledging allegiance to the Republic for which it stands.” (May 1, or “May Day,” is universally recognized as a day of celebration for socialists around the world.) [44679, 44680]

On the *Tonight Show*, Jay Leno quips, “...Obama held a press conference earlier today, and he said he still wants to close the Guantanamo Bay prison facility but he doesn’t know how to do it. He should do what he always does: declare it a small business and tax it out of existence. It will be gone in a minute. Be gone in a minute! One month! Be out of there!” [44603]