

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

April 2014

On April 1 the Associated Press reports, “Beating expectations, ...Obama’s health care overhaul was on track to sign up more than 7 million Americans for health insurance on deadline day Monday [March 31], government officials told The Associated Press. The 7 million target, thought to be out of reach by most experts, was in sight on a day that saw surging consumer interest as well as vexing computer glitches that slowed sign-ups on the HealthCare.gov website... Seven million was the original target set by the Congressional Budget Office for enrollment in taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance through new online markets created under Obama’s signature legislation.” (Even if seven million individuals *did* enroll in ObamaCare—and that number is likely wildly inflated because it includes duplicate enrollments of applicants who had so much trouble with Healthcare.gov that they enrolled one or more additional times just to “play it safe”—it is unclear why that should be considered a success when Obama himself has claimed there are as many as 47 million uninsured Americans. Enrolling seven million still leaves 40 million uninsured, without even addressing the question of the cost of ObamaCare. If the Affordable Care Act costs the federal government an estimated \$1.8 trillion over 10 years, or \$180 billion per year, each of the seven million ObamaCare enrollees is costing the taxpayers \$25,714. Nevertheless, even if Republicans take control of the Senate and win the presidency in 2016, unless they repeal ObamaCare the nation will likely be stuck with it forever. Once millions of Americans—regardless of political party—get used to someone else subsidizing their health care premiums, they will not vote to end those hand-outs. Senators Rand Paul (R-KY), Mike Lee (R-UT), and Ted Cruz (R-TX) know that, but the GOP establishment seems not to know—or not to care.) [57008, 57010, 57034]

Obama brags that 7.1 million Americans have enrolled in ObamaCare. (He does not define the word “enrolled,” say how many have actually paid for coverage, state how many of those 7 million had insurance until the Affordable Care Act caused the loss of their prior policies, or report on how many of the 7.1 million will have their premiums subsidized by the taxpayers.) Speaking from the White House Rose Garden Obama states, “No, the Affordable Care Act hasn’t fixed our long broken health care system, but this law has made our broken system a lot better.” (Millions of Americans have been led to believe that the legislation would, in fact, “fix” the health care system—and voted for Obama because of that promise. Now he says that his law—which will cost the taxpayers more than \$2 trillion over 10 years—will *not* fix it. He does not say how much more he would need to spend to “really” fix it.) [57019, 57024, 57032, 57059, 57077, 57078]

Obama states, “The debate over repealing this law is over, the Affordable Care Act is here to stay,” and slams the law’s opponents with a typical straw man argument: “I’ve got to admit, I don’t get it. Why are folks working so hard for people not to have health

insurance? Why are they so mad about the idea of folks having health insurance?” (As usual, Obama intentionally mischaracterizes the arguments of his opponents. Opponents of ObamaCare do not want people not to have health insurance, but they generally want individuals and families to buy their own insurance—rather than have it subsidized in part or in full by the taxpayers.) “Many of the tall tales that have been told about this law have been debunked,” claims Obama. “There are still no death panels. Armageddon has not arrived.” (There *is* a “death panel; it is called the Independent Payment Advisory Board, an unelected panel that has the power to tell physicians and hospitals what treatment is appropriate—all in the interests of saving money, rather than lives. As far as the arrival of Armageddon, that is debatable. Six million Americans who have seen their health insurance policies canceled because of ObamaCare might argue that Armageddon has already arrived.) [57019, 57024, 57032, 57059, 57077, 57078, 57259]

Obama “plays the race card,” saying, “Regardless of your politics or your feelings about me, or your feelings about this law, [increasing health-care coverage is] something that’s good for our economy, and it’s good for our country.” (Interestingly, Obama is animated and energetic during his comments, as he alternately gloats about his accomplishment and criticizes the GOP. This is a complete reversal of his appearance during his recent trip overseas, where it was obvious he cared not one whit about foreign policy, was in over his head with Russia, Crimea, and Ukraine, and wished the problems would all just go away. But a return to his home turf and imposing absurd and expensive “big government” to domestic problems seems to reinvigorate him.) Obama’s announcement comes during the day—because the major television networks refuse his request for free air time during the prime time evening hours. Interestingly, Obama thanks Vice President Joe Biden, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), and others for their Affordable Care Act efforts, but neglects to note Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius—who is seated directly in front of him. (It is clear that her administration days are numbered.) [57059, 57154, 57160, 57168, 57171, 57422]

Obama also releases a statement that reads in part, “[T]his afternoon, we announced that 7.1 million Americans have now signed up for private insurance plans through the new Health Insurance Marketplaces. 7.1 million. That doesn’t count the more than 3 million young adults who have gained insurance under this law by staying on their families’ plans. It doesn’t count the millions more who have gotten covered through the expansion of Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. It doesn’t include the more than 100 million folks who now have better care—who are receiving additional benefits, like mammograms and contraceptive care, at no extra cost.” (Obama’s “at no extra cost” claim is a lie. No insurance company can provide additional, mandated benefits without increasing premiums to pay for them. No benefits are “free,” just as a product that is sold with “free delivery” merely has the delivery cost built into the sales price.) “Now, millions of our fellow Americans have the comfort and peace of mind that comes with knowing they’re no longer leaving their health and well-being to chance.” (ObamaCare does not change the odds of becoming sick or injured. That is still dependent on “chance.”)

“And while our long-broken health care system may not be completely fixed,” continues the statement, “it’s without question a lot better. That’s something to be proud of—and there’s no good reason to go back.” (The system may be “fixed” for those Americans who now have the luxury of taxpayers footing the bill for some or all of their health insurance premiums, but it is by no means “fixed” for those who are not entitled to subsidies and who face higher premiums and taxes.) “Regardless of your politics, or your feelings about the Affordable Care Act, millions more Americans with health coverage is something that’s good for our economy and our country.” (Whether millions more Americans have health care is disputable—and depends on *who* it was who enrolled in ObamaCare.) “At the end of the day, that is what this law—and the other reforms we’re fighting for, from a 21st-century immigration system to a fairer wage for every American who’s willing to work for it—are all about: Making sure our country lives up to our highest ideals.” (To Obama, the “highest ideals” includes amnesty for illegal immigrants and a job-killing increase in the minimum wage.)

The increasingly delusional House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), tells reporters, “It is really so heart-warming for those of us who worked so hard [to ensure that] many more people in our country would have access to healthcare. There are those critics, bumps in the road, but they’ve only been turbulence. They have not been an obstacle to the American people having healthier life that our that our founders wanted for them. [They wanted] “life—a healthier life—liberty and the freedom to pursue their happiness, not [be] job-locked, but having benefits that having health-care policies that are portable [sic], they could be self-employed, be a photographer—they could start their own business, they could change jobs, they could reach their aspirations. And isn’t that a wonderful thing for a society and for an economy?” (The likelihood that Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Washington, and their fellow lovers of liberty wanted government-mandated health care for Americans so they could pursue their dreams of becoming taxpayer-subsidized photographers is zero.) Having a greater grasp of reality than Pelosi, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states that ObamaCare “continues to wreak havoc on American families, small businesses, and our economy, and as I’ve said many times, the problem was never just about the website, it’s the whole law.” [57081, 57082]

Pelosi is asked by a reporter, “[I]sn’t the real measure of success, not the raw number who signed up [for ObamaCare], but how many of those who signed up were not insured before?” Pelosi responds, “No, that’s not—the measure is twofold. The message is how many people have access to health care—quality, affordable health care and insurance. The real reason to do the Affordable Care Act... was the cost of health care in our country was unsustainable—unsustainable to individuals, to small businesses, to corporate America, the competitive issue internationally, and also to state and local and certainly the federal budget. So what this legislation has done is it will save a trillion dollars over the lifetime of the bill, and it will—it will reduce costs for people. And even if they pay a little more in some cases, they’re getting much better care. So this is about quality and affordability, and the affordability, that’s why it has that name. So that is what I think is the measure.” (ObamaCare will not “save a trillion dollars.” It will cost as

much as \$2 trillion over 10 years—in federal spending alone. In addition, it will make health insurance more expensive, not less expensive.) [57084]

While Obama runs his ObamaCare “mission accomplished” victory lap, Reuters reports that “insurers are already anticipating the need to raise prices for 2015 and fear that it will put them at the center of the political blame game over ...Obama’s healthcare law. ...[I]nsurers have already said that the first group of new enrollees under Obamacare, as the law is widely known, represent a higher rate of older and costlier members than hoped. To keep their health plans from losing money in the coming years, many expect monthly premium rates to rise by double-digit percentages in some parts of the country. That could set the stage for a public outcry ahead of congressional elections this year, giving ammunition to Republicans and creating new friction with the White House that could endure into the 2016 presidential election. ‘I do think that it’s likely premium rate shocks are coming. I think they begin to make themselves at least partially known in 2015 and fully known in 2016,’ said Chet Burrell, chief executive officer of CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. ‘That will be different in different parts of the country. I don’t think it will be uniformly the same.’” [57177, 57178]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Before the Obama administration gave an inaccurate narrative on national television that the Benghazi attacks grew from an anti-American protest, the CIA’s station chief in Libya pointedly told his superiors in Washington that no such demonstration occurred, documents and interviews with current and former intelligence officials show. The attack was ‘not an escalation of protests,’ the station chief wrote to then-Deputy CIA Director Michael J. Morell in an email dated Sept. 15, 2012—a full day before the White House sent Susan E. Rice to several Sunday talk shows to disseminate talking points claiming that the Benghazi attack began as a protest over an anti-Islam video. That the talking points used by Mrs. Rice, who was then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, were written by a CIA that ignored the assessment by its own station chief inside Libya, has emerged as one of the major bones of contention in the nearly two years of political fireworks and congressional investigations into the Benghazi attack. What has never been made public is whether Mr. Morell and others at the CIA explicitly shared the station chief’s assessment with the White House or State Department. Two former intelligence officials have told The Washington Times that this question likely will be answered at a Wednesday hearing of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence during which Mr. Morell is scheduled to give his public testimony. One former intelligence official close to Mr. Morell told The Times on the condition of anonymity that ‘the whole question of communication with the station chief will be addressed in his testimony.’ ‘We’re confident that it will clarify the situation in the minds of many who are asking,’ the former official said. Another former intelligence official told The Times that Mr. Morell did tell the White House and the State Department that the CIA station chief in Libya had concluded that there was no protest but senior Obama administration and CIA officials in Washington ignored the assessment.” [57014]

At the White House, Obama greets the Boston Red Sox. A player named David Ortiz takes a photo of himself with Obama using his cell phone. (The photo is then promoted by Samsung, with the caption, “This photo was taken with a #GalaxyNote3.” How much Ortiz was paid by Samsung is not known; he signed a product endorsement contract with the company one day earlier.) [57127, 57170]

On the floor of the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) criticizes Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) for “getting in the weeds” with the details of ObamaCare, rather than “look[ing] at the overall context of this bill [the Affordable Care Act].” (Coburn is being treated for prostate cancer, and lost his preferred doctor because of ObamaCare. Reid apparently believes that complaining about losing one’s cancer specialist is “getting in the weeds” and unimportant.) [57055]

HuffingtonPost.com reports, “The Obama administration has conducted warrantless searches of Americans’ communications as part of the National Security Agency’s surveillance operations that target foreigners located outside of the U.S., the administration’s top intelligence official confirmed in a letter to Congress disclosed Tuesday. These searches were authorized by a secret surveillance court in 2011, but it was unclear until Tuesday whether any such searches on Americans had been conducted. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Mark Udall (D-CO) state, “Senior officials have sometimes suggested that government agencies do not deliberately read Americans’ emails, monitor their online activity or listen to their phone calls without a warrant. However, the facts show that those suggestions were misleading, and that intelligence agencies have indeed conducted warrantless searches for Americans’ communications.” [57134]

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), chairman of the House Budget Committee, releases a budget proposal that repeals ObamaCare and allegedly reduces anticipated increases in federal spending by \$5.1 trillion over 10 years and would supposedly lead to a balanced budget. Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson observes, “It has zero chance of becoming law, but its very existence makes clear that Ryan and his colleagues take their responsibilities—and the law—seriously. The GOP proposal offers a number of object lessons in political priorities, especially when contrasted with Democrats’ alternatives, or lack thereof.” (Ryan’s proposal does *not* cut spending; it merely reduces the amount of projected growth in spending. Nevertheless, the Democrat-controlled Senate—which has produced a budget in only four of the last five years—will never allow it to become law.) Former Bill Clinton political strategist Dick Morris suggests that House Republicans reject Ryan’s proposal: “Why should the Republican Party give the Democrats ammunition for the next five elections. Why should House Republicans put their necks on the line every two years for changes that are proposed to take effect a decade hence?” [57038, 57047, 57093, 57123, 57138, 57202, 57236, 57556, 57990]

Morris has a valid point. At the University of Michigan, Obama tells an audience of 1,400 that if Ryan’s budget proposal were sold at the nearby Zingerman’s Deli, “They’d have to call it the “stinkburger,” or, or, or, or the, or the “meanwich.” The remark may be

childish, but he sends a clear message: “The Democrats will keep the gravy train going.” Whether Obama said that Ryan’s mother “wears combat boots” is not reported. (Columnist George Will later writes, “Try to imagine Franklin Roosevelt or Dwight Eisenhower or John Kennedy or Ronald Reagan talking like that. It is unimaginable that those grown-ups would resort to japes that fourth-graders would not consider sufficiently clever for use on a playground.”) [57038, 57047, 57093, 57123, 57138, 57202, 57236, 57556, 57990]

Former Alaska governor and vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin writes, “The latest Ryan... Budget is not an April Fool’s joke. But it really IS a joke because it is STILL not seeing the problem; it STILL is not proposing reining in wasteful government overspending TODAY, instead of speculating years out that some future Congress and White House may possibly, hopefully, eh-who-knows, take responsibility for today’s budgetary selfishness and shortsightedness to do so. THIS is the definition of insanity. Do we still not understand how dangerous it is to allow government to grow unchecked as we shackle ourselves with massive debt—a good portion of which is held by foreign nations who don’t necessarily like us? If we can’t balance the budget today, what on earth makes us think it will happen at some future date? The solution is staring us in the face. We need to rein in spending today, and don’t tell me there is nothing to cut when we know every omnibus bill is loaded with pork and kickbacks.” [57140]

With Democrats opposing a repeal of ObamaCare and campaigning on a “let’s just fix the problems with it” mantra, NBC’s Chuck Todd asks Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), head of the Democrat National Committee, what fixes she supports. She responds, ‘Well, there’s no specific bill right now actually that I would, uh... because it’s... you know, I think there are issues that are gonna [sic] be issues that arise around the margins that, if we just have a chance to sit down with Republicans... we could, we could we could hammer out, uh, problems that arise... No, [there is] nothing glaring that, that, I’m not saying there are not problems but, you know, there are, there are always gonna [sic] be, you know, tics in a law that arise and what we should be doing is sitting down and working those out.’ (Some might expect many Democrats to spend the next six months evading the issue as does Wasserman Schultz—albeit in a possibly less inelegant manner. On Fox News, Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich comments, “The enrollment period, ending technically today but really being extended out until people can get through that line, isn’t going to change anything for Democrats. ... Democrats on the campaign trail aren’t out there saying ‘this is working great for all of you.’ They’re saying, ‘we really need to fix this.’ But they’re not offering any specific solutions on how to do that.” At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, “Oh, *now* you want to ‘sit down’ and hammer out problems with Republicans? Maybe you should have thought of that before you rammed through Obama’s crowning legislative achievement without a single Republican vote.”) [57039, 57041, 57079]

Meanwhile, *The Washington Post* gives Wasserman Schultz “two Pinocchios” for her claim that “60 percent [of women] use [birth control] for something other than family planning.” She claims she was ‘misquoted by a “conservative newspaper,” but, according

to BizPacReview.com, a recording of her statement proves otherwise. (Although many women use birth control solely for treatment of medical conditions—such as acne, cramps, or menstrual pain—the percentage is closer to 14 than 60. Wasserman Schultz exaggerated the percentage to argue that the Supreme Court should decide against Hobby Lobby. But she is wrong on that issue as well. That company’s employee insurance policies already cover contraceptives—either solely for birth control or for medical reasons. Hobby Lobby objects only to providing abortion-inducing drugs—none of which are used for other medical reasons. The Hobby Lobby court case is about abortion, not birth control. At HotAir.com Duane Patterson writes, “If the Court rules against Hobby Lobby... there’s no limit to what the government can mandate closely-held corporations have to do, including providing for the termination of life.”) [57063]

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) calls ObamaCare a “botched law that has caused millions of Americans to lose their health insurance.” He tells Newsmax.com, “It has forced individuals to sign up for more expensive health insurance or face a penalty. It has resulted in cancer patients losing access to their doctors—and it is slashing full-time jobs across the country. At 1600 Pennsylvania, that’s cause for a celebration. On Main Street, it’s a tragedy.” Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) calls Obama’s gloating “the ultimate April Fools’ Day joke.” [57063]

FoxNews.com reports, “The FBI is searching for a recent Army recruit believed to be planning a ‘Fort Hood-inspired jihad against U.S. soldiers.’ ...The alert, whose legitimacy was confirmed by military and law enforcement officials, stated that a man identified as Booker had told friends of his ‘intention to commit jihad.’ Booker, who is also known as Muhammad Abdullah Hassan, was recruited by the U.S. Army in Kansas City, Mo., in February 2014 and was scheduled to report for basic training on April 7. But he was discharged last week, apparently after law enforcement authorities learned of his alleged plan.” [57113]

Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) suggests that owners of 1.5 million General Motors vehicles that are being recalled due to possibly faulty ignition switches stop driving those cars immediately. (The vehicles include the Chevy Cobalt, which Obama encouraged people to buy during a 2009 address related to the taxpayer bailout of GM. At a Chevrolet factory in Lordstown, Ohio, Obama said, “the Chevy Cobalt that you build here was one of GM’s most sought-after cars under that [cash-for-clunkers] program. Dealers across the country started running out of it and needed you to build more.” In 2010 Blumenthal used his support for the GM bailout in one of his campaign ads.) [57042, 57043, 57044, 57203]

The House of Representatives votes 378–34 to approve legislation providing economic assistance to Ukraine and placing additional sanctions on Russia.

At ThePostEmail.com, editor Sharon Rondeau interviews constitutional scholar Mitch Van Biljon, who reaffirms what *The Obama Timeline* and many others have consistently argued: that the term “natural born citizen” means born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen

parents. Van Biljon cites four U.S. Supreme Court cases that address the term and support the argument. Van Biljon believes that Obama was not born in the United States, that his parents are not who he claims, and that Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Cold Case Posse will provide proof of those claims. [57049]

Breitbart.com reports, "Chelsea Clinton's mother-in-law, former Rep. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky (D-PA), is under fire for reportedly enriching herself from her taxpayer-funded charity—years after she left Congress. Margolies, who is attempting to regain her PA-13 seat and is the frontrunner in the May 20 Democratic primary, established the nonprofit Women's Campaign International (WCI) 'in 1998 with the goal of helping women get elected to office in foreign countries' and paid herself a '\$1,000-a-week salary to start.' That changed, though, when the charity secured a \$600,000 grant from the Clinton Administration's U.S. Agency for International Development, according to reports, and she was facing a myriad of personal problems. Her then-husband, former Rep. Ed Mezvinsky (D-IA), was 'indicted for fraud and bound for prison,' and she had to file for bankruptcy protection. The Huffington Post reported that Margolies then decided to double 'her own salary as head of a small, largely taxpayer-funded charity into the six figures, attempted to have the charity renovate and lease a mansion in which she would live, billed the charity for her automobile lease and other expenses, and required charity staff to assist with her other responsibilities as a faculty member at a local university.'" [57157]

On *Special Report*, moderator Brett Baier comments on the Obama administration's claim that 7.1 million people have enrolled in ObamaCare: "You know, when all the questions were about the health care plans that people lost because they were told that their plans didn't match up, it was about 6 million or more, and the administration at that time said that is a 'small sliver.' 'It is only 5 percent of the population.' But now, at 7 million, it is this 'bring out the balloons and cheer in the Rose Garden.' But that 6.2 was a sliver." Columnist Charles Krauthammer responds, "I understand. It's a sliver if it hurts you, and it's gigantic if it helps you. Look, and it's also—look, this is a phony number and it's wonderfully precise. You know, these guys [in the Obama administration] without any idea what the numbers are, and all of a sudden it's to a decimal point. ... But of course it's meaningless because... we don't know how many of them have paid... but the more important [question] is how many were previously uninsured." (According to a study by McKinsey & Co., only about 10 percent of ObamaCare enrollees had been without insurance.) [55972, 55973, 56019, 57025, 57030, 57058, 57065, 57070, 57111]

"The point of the plan, the point of revolutionizing a sixth of the economy, the point of kicking off a program that's gonna [sic] cost \$2 trillion over a decade was to insure he uninsured. If it turns out that the overwhelming majority of the so-called 7.1 [million] were people who had health insurance, liked their health insurance, were renewing their health insurance, and got kicked off their health insurance, whose lives are disrupted, premiums are raised, deductibles are raised, and lost their doctors are now among the 7.1, so it's a net negative. But they won't tell us the number. And the real issue here, for the political impact, will the media still pursue the real numbers? Are they gonna [sic], seven

is done and they're not gonna [sic] revisit how many have actually paid, how many were previously uninsured, and of course how many are young and healthy." (If there were 47 million uninsured Americans, as Obama has claimed, then ObamaCare is arguably a colossal failure. If that number was highly inflated, then it is absurd to spend \$200 billion per year to help a mere 7.1 million people. The government could just as easily send them each a check for \$10,000 every year with a note that reads, "Here. Go buy yourself an insurance policy." That would have cost "only" \$71 billion per year, rather than \$200 billion, and no one's insurance would have been canceled.) [55972, 55973, 56019, 57025, 57030, 57058, 57065, 57070]

On *The Tonight Show*, host Jimmy Fallon says, "The White House says it has surpassed its goal for people enrolled in ObamaCare. It's amazing what you can achieve when you make something mandatory and fine people if they don't do it and then keep extending the deadline for months.. It's like a Cinderella story. It's just a beautiful thing. You make everyone do it. If you still haven't enrolled, you might have to pay a penalty called the 'Individual Shared Responsibility Payment,' which is one percent of your salary. Then Americans said, 'Hey, good thing I don't have a job.'" [57057, 57110]

On April 2 Todd B. Jones, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), is grilled by a House committee about the agency's questionable tactics in running undercover arms sales operations. Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich writes, "The tactics, first exposed by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, include everything from teaching people how to illegally saw off shotguns, using brain damaged and mentally disabled teenagers for stings, asking mentally disable teenagers to get a giant squid tattooed on their neck, losing fully-automatic machine guns, damaging private property, exposing the names of undercover agents and more. Chairman of the House Oversight Committee Darrell Issa [R-CA] issued a subpoena to Jones in March after he failed to produce documentation surrounding six different ATF storefront operations around the country. Jones still hasn't complied with that subpoena..." [57054]

The ATF's Jones is questioned by Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) about ATF agent visits to the home of Catherine Engelbrecht after she applied for tax-exempt status for her conservative organization, True the Vote. Jones notes that Engelbrecht has had a federal firearms license for 12 years, and says, "And suddenly she applies for tax exempt status, and you're knocking on her door twice in 13 months. ...She gets the full weight of the federal government coming down on her and her family and her business, and all she's trying to do is get a tax-exempt status [in a process] that had been routine for 50 years, and suddenly now the federal government [is] saying, no, no, no, you're not going to get that tax-exempt status, and we're going to send four federal agencies out to harass you..." CNSNews.com points out, "In February, Engelbrecht testified that in nearly two decades of running their small business, 'my husband and I never dealt with any government agency, outside of filing our annual tax returns. We had never been audited, we had never been investigated, but all that changed upon submitting applications for the nonprofit statuses of True the Vote and King Street Patriots.' She says she was audited by the IRS, visited by [Congressman] Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and received more than

one inspection visit from ATF and OSHA. ‘I found myself a target of this federal government,’ she told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in February.” Jones tells Jordan, “Well, it’s unfortunate that you and Miss Engelbrecht think it’s harassment. From our perspective, it’s part of a regulatory function.” Jones’ responses to Jordan include, “Not to my knowledge,” “I have no idea...” and “I don’t know.” [57145, 57383]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, B. Todd Jones is an old friend and confidant of Attorney General Eric Holder. They worked together under then-Attorney General Janet Reno during the Waco, Texas raid that resulted in the deaths of dozens—including children—at the hands of the federal government. Jeff Knox, director of The Firearms Coalition, has called Jones the “fox” appointed by Obama and Holder to guard the ATF “henhouse.” Jones is likely aware of some of the background of the disastrous Operation Fast and Furious. Jones has been criticized by issuing a warning to ATF employees that they should keep quiet rather than be “whistleblowers.” In a video message to all employees Jones said, “If you make poor choices, that if you don’t abide by the rules, that if you don’t respect the chain of command, if you don’t find the appropriate way to raise your concerns to your leadership, there will be consequences...” [25324, 34532]

Former deputy CIA director Michael Morell, questioned by the House Intelligence Committee, says the mistaken Benghazi talking points were not caused by White House politics. Morell claims, “I took out the word ‘Islamic’ in front of ‘extremist.’ Um, and I took it out for two reasons. Um, most importantly I took it out because, uh, we were dealing with protests and demonstrations across much of the Muslim world as a result of the video [that virtually no one had or has seen]. And the last thing I wanted to do was to, uh, do anything to further inflame those passions.” (Morell is lying, and shamelessly expects Americans to believe that his removal of references to Islamic terrorism and al-Qaeda had *nothing* to do with politics.) According to DailyCaller.com, Morell “blam[ed] the fake talking points on CIA analysts’ over-reliance on media reports and communication intercepts instead of eyewitness accounts from Libya. ...[R]eports earlier this week indicated that the CIA station chief in Libya unequivocally told him that the death of four Americans was caused by a terrorist attack, not a spontaneous demonstration. That eyewitness information was received by Morrell—then the acting head of the CIA—a full day before then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice told the nation the attack resulted from a protest against an anti-Islamic YouTube video. Republican lawmakers demanded that Morrell explain why this information and other on-the-ground accounts were not reflected in the talking points, and why Morrell removed references to al-Qaida. The ex-CIA chief blamed his intelligence analysts again and again for the mix-up, arguing that the CIA researchers tasked with discovering the truth relied largely on communication intercepts and media reports.” [57060, 57080, 57101, 57156, 57260, 57689]

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann tells Morell, “We spoke with him [the CIA station chief in Benghazi] yesterday behind closed doors. He was adamant from the very beginning that this was not a spontaneous protest. We heard from him directly yesterday

that at no time did he believe it was based upon the video.” It isn’t just him. ...It’s the chief of base. It’s those who came from the annex. It’s the political officers. All of them agreed. You take that versus some press reports and one signal—the weight and balance aren’t even equal. It isn’t even equal. The evidence overwhelmingly pointed to an attack, an attack that was al-Qaida or jihadist related.” Morell insists on defending the Obama administration, despite evidence to the contrary: “The narrative that the attack evolved spontaneously from a protest was a narrative that intelligence community analysts believed. There is no politics there whatsoever.” Morell also makes the outlandish claim that references to CIA warnings of possible al Qaeda terrorist attacks that were issued before the attack in Benghazi were removed from the talking points because he “saw the language as self-serving and defensive on the agency’s part. Here was a tragic event, and we were saying, ‘We told you so.’ This was wrong, in my view, and would have been seen as an attempt to make the CIA look good and shift any possible blame for failing to see the risk of an attack from the agency to the State Department.” (In other words, “We omitted the truth because we did not want the State Department—that is, Hillary Clinton and Obama—to look bad.” The CIA’s job is of course to provide intelligence—not to hide it based on political consequences; it is to *inform* policy, not to make it.) [57060, 57080, 57101, 57156, 57260, 57689]

It is worth noting that Morell (who more than a few observers will claim was lying under oath) now works as a consultant to Beacon Global Strategies—which former CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson notes is “a communications firm operated primarily by former Obama administration and Hillary Clinton officials. On *Justice with Jeanine*, Judge Jeanine Pirro later says of Morell, “Mr. CIA, you didn’t just sell your agency to the politics of the Obama re-election campaign and the cover-up for the Hillary 2016 campaign, you sold your soul—and you perjured yourself for money.” [57101, 57102, 57103, 57104, 57105, 57156, 57524]

General Motors’ CEO, Mary Barra, is questioned by the House Energy and Commerce Committee about an ignition switch design flaw that has resulted in the deaths of at least 13 drivers over several years. Barra says, “I cannot tell you why it took years for a safety defect to be announced. I can tell you that we will find out.” According to WashingtonPost.com, “GM has recalled 2.6 million Chevrolet Cobalts and other small vehicles because of the faulty switches. Lawmakers said GM could have fixed the defective switch for as little as 57 cents per vehicle. Still, the automaker waited more than a decade to issue a recall, despite mounting evidence of a problem, including 133 complaints to dealers and numerous legal settlements paid to families of people who perished in related accidents.” Reuters notes that Barra “stopped short of promising to reveal the company’s entire internal [investigative] report, instead saying she would release what GM considered ‘appropriate.’” (Barra, who was named CEO in mid-January 2014, was a guest of Obama at his State of the Union address, in which he said, “Our success should depend not on accident of birth, but the strength of our work ethic and the scope of our dreams. That’s what drew our forebears here. It’s how the daughter of a factory worker [Barra] is CEO of America’s largest automaker.”) The committee does not question Steve Rattner, Obama’s former “car czar” during the GM bailout. (Taxpayers might be interested in knowing whether Rattner knew of the problems GM

had with the faulty part, which it had known of since 2001.) [57066, 57067, 57068, 57069]

According to DetroitNews.com, the budget for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is about \$800 million per year, yet its defect investigations unit has a budget of only \$10.1 million and 51 employees. Some might argue that a bit more of that \$800 million could be diverted to investigating defects. (Some might also wonder why the government could find hundreds of millions of dollars to spend on developing Healthcare.gov but could not find a few million more to investigate fatal crashes resulting from faulty ignition switches that shut off airbags at the moment they are needed.) [57130]

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. ...[A]dministration 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.” (In other words, the Obama administration wants banks to make risky loans to people who may not be able to pay them back, but rather than put the banks at risk the taxpayers would be out at risk. This is a recipe for another housing bubble to inflate—and then burst. At LewRockwell.com Dan Sanchez later writes, “This is all very ominous, because it is this kind of moral hazard that helped precipitate the last housing bubble and crash, which in turn inaugurated the financial crisis we are still suffering through. ...Money-printing, ‘American Dream’ policies and rhetoric, government-lowered lending standards, and moral hazard; this is a nightmare we’ve had before.”) [60863, 60864]

Attorney Dr. Orly Taitz is slightly injured when a truck strikes her car from behind. (Taitz has filed several lawsuits challenging Obama’s eligibility to serve as president.) [57204]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Charles Koch—chairman and CEO of Koch Industries and one of the Koch brothers the political left so loves to hate—writes, “I have devoted most of my life to understanding the principles that enable people to improve their lives. It is those principles—the principles of a free society—that have shaped my life, my family, our company and America itself. Unfortunately, the fundamental concepts of dignity, respect, equality before the law and personal freedom are under attack by the nation’s own government. That’s why, if we want to restore a free society and create greater well-being and opportunity for all Americans, we have no choice but to fight for those principles. I have been doing so for more than 50 years, primarily through educational

efforts. It was only in the past decade that I realized the need to also engage in the political process. A truly free society is based on a vision of respect for people and what they value. In a truly free society, any business that disrespects its customers will fail, and deserves to do so. The same should be true of any government that disrespects its citizens. The central belief and fatal conceit of the current administration is that you are incapable of running your own life, but those in power are capable of running it for you. This is the essence of big government and collectivism.” [57254]

“...Instead of encouraging free and open debate, collectivists strive to discredit and intimidate opponents. They engage in character assassination. (I should know, as the almost daily target of their attacks.) This is the approach that Arthur Schopenhauer described in the 19th century, that Saul Alinsky famously advocated in the 20th, and that so many despots have infamously practiced. Such tactics are the antithesis of what is required for a free society—and a telltale sign that the collectivists do not have good answers. ...I have spent decades opposing cronyism and all political favors, including mandates, subsidies and protective tariffs—even when we benefit from them. I believe that cronyism is nothing more than welfare for the rich and powerful, and should be abolished. ...Instead of fostering a system that enables people to help themselves, America is now saddled with a system that destroys value, raises costs, hinders innovation and relegates millions of citizens to a life of poverty, dependency and hopelessness. This is what happens when elected officials believe that people's lives are better run by politicians and regulators than by the people themselves. Those in power fail to see that more government means less liberty, and liberty is the essence of what it means to be American. Love of liberty is the American ideal. If more businesses (and elected officials) were to embrace a vision of creating real value for people in a principled way, our nation would be far better off—not just today, but for generations to come. I'm dedicated to fighting for that vision. I'm convinced most Americans believe it's worth fighting for, too.” (While Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) continues to whine about the undue influence Koch Industries has on politics, according to OpenSecrets.org it is far down the list of top donors, at number 46. FreeBeacon.com points out, “According to campaign finance records, former Koch Industries lobbyist Robert P. Hall III donated \$500 to Reid's campaign in 2003.” Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) has also eagerly received contributions from KochPAC, a Koch political action committee. Since 2000, Senator May Landrieu (D-LA) has received \$55,000 from KochPAC—yet has a campaign ad criticizing the Koch brothers. In fact, the list of Democrats in the House and the Senate who have accepted Koch campaign contributions between 2006 and 2014 is quite lengthy, and includes Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).) [57254, 57256, 57257, 57261, 57303, 57311, 57323, 57394, 57569]

Judicial Watch reports, “In the latest Mexican military incursion into the United States, two heavily armed camouflaged soldiers from Mexico actually crossed 50 yards inside Arizona and held American Border Patrol agents at gunpoint in a tense confrontation. Armed with assault-style weapons, the Mexican soldiers retreated back south after a 35-minute standoff as if nothing ever happened and the Obama administration just let it slide. The unbelievable foray was made public by a mainstream newspaper that obtained

government documents with alarming details of the January 26 incident. Specifically, the paper cites the Border Patrol Foreign Military Incursion report and a separate letter from U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske, an Obama appointee who was recently sworn in.” [57265]

NationalJournal.com reports, “One of the biggest players in Obamacare’s exchanges says 15 to 20 percent of its new customers aren’t paying their first premium—which means they’re not actually covered. The latest data come from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members—known collectively as ‘Blues’ plans—are participating in the exchanges in almost every state. Roughly 80 to 85 percent of people who selected a Blues plan through the exchanges went on to pay their first month’s premium, a BCBSA spokeswoman said Wednesday. The new statistics, particularly from such a large carrier, help define how many people are actually getting covered under the Affordable Care Act. The Blues’ experience is in line with anecdotal estimates from other insurance executives, who indicated earlier in the enrollment process that they received payments from about 80 percent of people who selected their plans. ...If the nationwide payment rate, across all carriers, remains at 80 to 85 percent, the 7.1 million sign-ups Obama announced Tuesday would translate into somewhere between 5.7 and 6 million people who are actually covered.” [57152]

TimesUnion.com reports, “Two Capital Region health insurers lost tens of millions of dollars last year and blamed their poor performances to costs linked to the Affordable Care Act and other new regulations. Albany-based Capital District Physicians’ Health Plan lost \$43.9 million. MVP Health Care of Schenectady lost \$13.6 million. ... CDPHP lost \$43.9 million on revenues of \$2 billion last year, despite a 9 percent increase in members.” [57153]

Newman Regional Health hospital in Emporia, Kansas, announces it is laying off 15 employees because of ObamaCare. [57198, 57199]

In a 5–4 decision in *McCutcheon, et al v. Federal Election Commission*, the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down limits on total contributions to candidates and political parties. According to ABC, “This ruling does not change the rules which limit what an individual can spend on one particular candidate [\$2,600 per election], only the rules limiting what people can spend in total. ...In particular, Wednesday’s decision voided the overall federal limit on individuals’ contributions—\$123,200 in 2013 and 2014, broken down as \$48,600 to all candidates combined and \$74,600 to all party committees and political action committees in total. Limitations on the amounts a donor may give an individual candidate or committee remain in effect.” The Court states that the overall limits “intrude without justification on a citizen’s ability to exercise ‘the most fundamental First Amendment activities.’” [57071, 57072, 57092, 57099, 56112, 57125, 57126, 57129, 57142, 57210, 57318]

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts states, “Contributing money to a candidate is an exercise of an individual’s right to participate in the electoral process

through both political expression and political association. A restriction on how many candidates and committees an individual may support is hardly a ‘modest Restraint’ on those rights. The Government may no more restrict how many candidates or causes a donor may support than it may tell a newspaper how many candidates it may endorse.” Writing for the minority, Justice Stephen Breyer states that campaign contribution limits are compatible with the First Amendment, which “advances not only the individual’s right to engage in political speech, but also the public’s interest in preserving a democratic order in which collective speech matters.” (In other words, individual rights must be sacrificed for “the collective.”) House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) whines that the decision “only serves to widen the floodgates of special interest spending”—as if an individual U.S. citizen does not have the right to act to support more than one candidate who supports his interests. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) calls the decision “another step on the road to ruination.” [57071, 57072, 57092, 57099, 56112, 57125, 57126, 57129, 57142, 57210, 57318]

Obama tells an audience of students at the University of Michigan, “I’m determined to do my part to lift wages, improve take-home pay any way I can. Here’s the problem. You’ve got some Republicans saying we shouldn’t raise the minimum wage because... they said this, because, well, it just helps young people. Now, first of all, I think it’s pretty good to help young people. You know, I, I don’t know what’s wrong with helping young people. You know, the folks who say that probably...[the] next thing you know, they’ll say, get off my lawn!” (As usual, Obama misstates the arguments of Republicans. They argue not that raising the minimum wage is bad because it “helps young people;” they argue that it hurts young people because it makes it more difficult for them to find a job.) [57147, 57161, 57202]

At DailyCaller.com the Cato Institute’s Trevor Burrus comments on the Supreme Court’s decision: “[T]he decision is a principled interpretation of the First Amendment that would have garnered wide support from many on the left just 30 years ago. What is truly frightening about the decision is that the four dissenting justices are promoting a vision of the First Amendment that is absolutely incompatible with limited government and free speech. ...Imagine a park where people went to hand out political pamphlets. Due to the amount of paper, littering becomes a problem, and in order to combat littering the government outlaws all political pamphleteering in the park. Such a law would be struck down as unconstitutional because it addressed a narrow and compelling problem, littering, with a legal sledgehammer that prohibits legitimate and important political speech. The First Amendment requires a scalpel, not a sledgehammer. This goes double for political speech. ...Writing in dissent, Justice Stephen Breyer, joined by Justices [Elena] Kagan, [Sonia] Sotomayor, and [Ruth Bader] Ginsburg, argued that a new version of ‘corruption,’ that is, the corruption of the marketplace of ideas, should become part of the Court’s jurisprudence. In that version of corruption, the government is affirmatively in charge of making sure ‘a few large donations’ don’t ‘drown out the voice of the many.’ While this may sound initially attractive, a moment’s thought makes it clear that this view is untenable. Elected officials cannot be trusted to fairly regulate the process upon which their jobs depend and the government could have no meaningful principle to determine how loud someone should be allowed to speak or even what the

‘voice of the many’ is saying. The frightening thing about McCutcheon is that a near-majority of the Court holds this view that turns the First Amendment on its head. If we don’t limit the doctrine of corruption to actual candidates, if we empower the government to regulate a ‘corrupt’ marketplace of ideas, then there is no reason to limit it to elections. The subscription base of the *New York Times* is certainly too large, perhaps we should limit how many copies can be printed? And, Oprah, well she is certainly too influential, so while we’ll allow her to speak privately, we’ll make it illegal for her to use her network for political speech. Campaign finance law may be complex, but what’s at stake is simple. It is too bad that four justices don’t seem to understand this.” [57128]

According to a Quinnipiac poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 42/50 percent, while ObamaCare’s are 41/55. On health care in particular, Obama is 39/58. On foreign policy he is also underwater: 39/55. [57073, 57074, 57100, 57806]

CNSNews.com reports that the Obama administration has issued “a budget request for international organizations that is 33 percent bigger than last year’s, including a 43 percent hike in U.S. contributions to peacekeeping missions. The administration’s fiscal year 2015 budget request for the U.N. and other organizations is \$4.036 billion, up from \$3.031 billion in FY2014. For contributions to peacekeeping missions, it is asking for \$2.518 billion, up from \$1.765 last year. The \$2.518 billion for peacekeeping amounts to 28.36 percent of the U.N.’s total peacekeeping budget. The U.S. also provides 22 percent of the separate U.N. operating budget. The U.N. has 193 member states.” [57083]

In Nevada, a class action lawsuit is filed against the state’s ObamaCare exchange by residents who signed up for coverage but state they have yet to receive coverage. According to CBS, “Law firm Callister & Associates filed the lawsuit on behalf of Larry Basich, who signed up for state health insurance and paid premiums as far back as November, but then was not covered following a Jan. 3 triple bypass procedure that saw his \$400,000 in medical expenses passed between the wrong insurance companies, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reports. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court of Nevada on Tuesday alleges gross negligence and failure to do due diligence against the state of Nevada, the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange (which runs Nevada Health Link), and the company that won the contract to build the exchange, Xerox.” [57087, 57088]

FreeBeacon.com reports that ObamaCare “will cost large companies between \$4,800 and \$5,900 more per employee and add hundreds of millions to their overhead, according to a new survey. The American Health Policy Institute conducted a confidential survey of 100 large employers—those with 10,000 or more employees—asking what costs they expect to incur from Obamacare over the next decade. Factoring in the health care law’s added mandates, fees, and regulatory burdens, employers anticipate cost hikes between \$163 million and \$200 million in 2016, a 4.3 percent increase. By 2023, employers will be paying 8.4 percent more than ‘what they would otherwise be spending’ for their employees’ health care.” (Unlike the federal government, businesses cannot print money. The cost of increased health care expenses will likely be compensated for with a

combination of increased prices and lower wage and salary increases—and employees paying a greater percentage of the insurance premiums.) [57090]

According to WesternJournalism.com, “Either it is the biggest conspiracy in U.S. history since the JFK assassination, or an elaborate hoax has been perpetrated on the world. Intellihub investigative reporter Shepard Ambella discovered that Phillip Wood, an American high-level executive at IBM, who was on Malaysian Flight 370, sent a text message and a pitch black photo from his iPhone on March 18 at 6:22 p.m., posted to [an] internet message board—ten days *after* the plane disappeared—with the following message: ‘*I have been held hostage by unknown military personnel after my flight was hijacked... I work for IBM and I have managed to hide my cellphone... I have been separated from the rest of the passengers and I am in a cell. My name is Philip Wood. I think I have been drugged as well and cannot think clearly.*’ This could be a hoax, except for the accompanying photo that was sent with the text. While the photo is simply a darkened image, as most people know, iPhones embed a staggering amount of metadata when a photo is taken, that include the exact GPS longitude and latitude coordinates of the phone. The coordinates indicate that Wood, according to Google Maps, is inside a large building on the Diego Garcia Naval Base. That the U.S. military hijacked Malaysian Flight MH370, diverted it to Diego Garcia and has imprisoned and/or killed the 239 passengers [sic].” [57091]

Author Jack Cashill (*Deconstructing Obama*), who has written of flight MH 370, “The one safe thing we can say at this point about the ‘unprecedented mystery’ ...is that the authorities are not sharing what they know and probably never will,” reminds WND.com readers of the 1996 crash of a military plane that took the life of Bill Clinton’s Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown. The U.S. ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, falsely claimed, “The weather yesterday, as the plane flew in, was terrible. In fact, people in Dubrovnik say that this is the worst storm in a decade.” That was an outright lie. Cashill notes, “Two days later, at the U.S. Army base at Dover, Del., Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) photographer U.S. Navy CPO Kathleen Janoski noted a nearly perfectly circular hole in the top of Brown’s head. It would measure just about .45 of an inch in diameter. ‘Wow. That looks like a bullet hole,’ said Janoski. U.S. Army Lt. Col. David Hause, an experienced deputy medical examiner, took a look. ‘Sure enough,’ he remembers saying. ‘It looks like a gunshot wound to me, too.’ Their concerns were ignored. Under pressure from the White House, authorities would not call in the FBI, nor ask the Brown family to permit an autopsy, nor take the opportunity to look for an exit wound or test for gunshot residue. On that same day, Croatian authorities reported that Niko Jerkuic, the man responsible for the airport’s aviation systems, had fatally shot himself in the chest. The USAF was to interview him the next day.” [57214, 57884]

Brown had been on his way to Dubrovnik “to broker a sweetheart deal between the Enron Corporation and the neo-fascists who ran Croatia. The Enron execs took their own plane. ...When questioned by the Air Force, Ambassador Galbraith observed that a Croatian-American woman named Zdenka Gast had been scheduled to fly with Brown but thought better of it. ...Inquiring into Gast’s background, I came across a photo in a Croatian

language magazine. In the center of three smiling women, all linked arm in arm, was Gast. On her left was Alexis Herman who had sent Brown on his fateful trip. On her right was none other than Hillary Clinton. The occasion was Herman's White House wedding. Only 40 people were in attendance." (The implication is that Gast knew in advance it would not be wise to board the plane, and that Brown had survived the crash but was then killed with a bullet in the head. At the time of his death, Brown was under investigation by an independent counsel for corruption, leading some to believe that Brown was killed to prevent him from revealing information that might be damaging to the Clintons.) *The Obama Timeline* believes that Brown was murdered, and also believes TWA Flight 800 was brought down on July 17, 1996 not by a fuel tank explosion (as the Clinton administration wanted Americans to believe) but by a missile—as demonstrated by Cashill in his book *First Strike: TWA Flight 800 and the Attack on America*. It may very well be the case that the truth about Flight MH370 is also being kept secret by the U.S. government.) [57214, 57884]

In a public address, former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says, "We can rest the day that we raise the flag of martyrs over the White House." [57120]

Newsbusters.org notes that, according to a Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation poll, "sixty-five percent of post-9/11 veterans found Bush to be a good commander in chief whereas just 42 percent said the same about ...Obama [and] ...Democrats are more than twice as likely to say Bush was a good commander in chief as Republicans are to say Obama is (46 percent vs. 17 percent). As of now, this piece only exists on the Washington Post website, but given that the findings are a product of the Post itself, one wonders if the Post will include the article in its print newspaper despite it showing bad news for ...Obama." [57143]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The Environmental Protection Agency has been conducting dangerous experiments on humans over the past few years in order to justify more onerous clean air regulations. The agency conducted tests on people with health issues and the elderly, exposing them to high levels of potentially lethal pollutants, without disclosing the risks of cancer and death, according to a newly released government report. These experiments exposed people, including those with asthma and heart problems, to dangerously high levels of toxic pollutants, including diesel fumes, reads a EPA inspector general report obtained by The Daily Caller News Foundation. The EPA also exposed people with health issues to levels of pollutants up to 50 times greater than the agency says is safe for humans." [57119, 57135, 57136]

According to NationalReview.com, "North Carolina's Board of Elections found that tens of thousands of registered voters from the state have personal information matching that of registered voters in other states, and appear to have voted in states other than North Carolina in 2012. In some cases, votes were cast under names of individuals who had passed away before Election Day. The review searched databases in 27 other states and 101 million voter records for information such as matching names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers. The review found that 35,570 North Carolina voters from 2012

shared the same first names, last names, and dates of birth with individuals who voted in other states. Another 765 Tar Heel State residents who voted in 2012 had the same names, birthdays, and final four digits of a Social Security number as voters elsewhere. Meanwhile, the election board's executive director, Kim Westbrook Strach, told lawmakers that 81 deceased North Carolinians apparently voted in 2012 as well." (One common method of voter fraud is practiced by students at out-of state colleges and "snowbirds" with retirement getaways in southern states. The vote in person at their temporary location and by absentee ballot for their permanent residence.) [57115, 57151, 57493]

Another mass shooting occurs at Fort Hood, Texas. The killer, who takes his own life after killing three others and injuring 16, is identified as 34-year-old Army Specialist Ivan Lopez, a truck driver from Puerto Rico. Lopez has reportedly been under evaluation for "behavioral health and mental health issues." (Although he served four months in Iraq, he did not see combat.) [57052, 57089, 57114, 57133, 57137, 57148]

Obama interrupts his dinner at a Chicago fundraiser to make a brief statement about the shooting—and then heads to a second fundraiser in the same city. He says, "We're heartbroken that something like this might have happened again," and "We are going to get to the bottom of exactly what happened." (Some Americans are still waiting for him to "get to the bottom" of the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood shooting—which is administration labeled "workplace violence," rather than an act of terrorism or jihad by the Muslim killer, Major Nidal Malik Hasan. After the 2009 Fort Hood massacre, *The Washington Times* reminded readers, "Among President Clinton's first acts upon taking office in 1993 was to disarm U.S. soldiers on military bases. In March 1993, the Army imposed regulations forbidding military personnel from carrying their personal firearms and making it almost impossible for commanders to issue firearms to soldiers in the U.S. for personal protection. For the most part, only military police regularly carry firearms on base, and their presence is stretched thin by high demand for MPs in war zones. Because of Mr. Clinton, terrorists would face more return fire if they attacked a Texas Wal-Mart than the gunman faced at Fort Hood, home of the heavily armed and feared 1st Cavalry Division. That's why a civilian policewoman from off base was the one whose marksmanship ended Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan's rampage.") [5930, 5939, 5942, 5943, 5944, 5973, 5977, 5984, 6048, 6165, 57053, 57098, 57114, 57116, 57117, 57118, 57122, 57144, 57146]

On April 3 Brendan Eich, the inventor of JavaScript and CEO and co-founder of Mozilla, resigns after pressure from leftists over the fact that in 2008 he donated \$1,000 to support California's Proposition 8—a statewide referendum that called for limiting marriage to a man and a woman. (The referendum passed but was struck down by the courts. Eich's donation to the Proposition 8 campaign was only known because the IRS illegally leaked a copy of the National Organization for Marriage's 2008 tax return to a gay-advocacy group—which then used it for retaliation against donors.) [57094, 57095, 57096, 57097, 57109, 57163, 57164, 57181, 57182, 57183, 57184, 57191, 57192, 57201, 57206, 57211, 57220, 57221, 57225, 57241, 57252, 57262]

Rush Limbaugh notes that leftist fascists force[d] out” Eich for “holding the same opinion Obama held in 2008.” Limbaugh says, “Political correctness doesn’t even get close to describing what this ‘story,’ for lack of a better term, is all about. ...He donated a paltry \$1,000, and now he has been drummed out of Mozilla. As such, he’s been drummed out of the tech business now, more than likely, because he believes that marriage is a union of a man and a woman. He is being described now as a bigot and ‘filled with hatred’ because he believes that marriage is a union of a man and a woman. He tried to hang on when the controversy hit. He said, ‘Look, my personal political views have nothing to do with the way I plan on running Mozilla.’ That didn’t fly. They had to get the scalp. They had to take him out. They had to send a message to anybody else that your view must comply. If you are in the tech industry, and if you work anywhere in the tech business, and you’re gonna become a powerful executive anywhere, you had better toe the line. You had better be in favor of everything the militant gay activists are in favor of or ‘We’re gonna claim your scalp. We’re going to destroy your career.’ And everybody is afraid of them. So Brendan Eich is gone, for the identical position that ...Barack Obama held at the exact same time, in 2008.” Even Andrew Sullivan, a journalist and outspoken advocate for gay marriage, writes, “Will he now be forced to walk through the streets in shame? Why not [place him in] the stocks? The whole episode disgusts me— as it should disgust anyone interested in a tolerant and diverse society.” DailyCaller.com quips that Hillary Clinton cannot be CEO of Mozilla or president of the United States because she supported the Defense of Marriage Act—and her husband even signed it into law. [57094, 57095, 57096, 57097, 57109, 57163, 57164, 57181, 57182, 57183, 57184, 57191, 57192, 57201, 57206, 57211, 57220, 57221, 57225, 57241, 57252, 57262]

At the daily press briefing, White House spokesman Josh Earnest is asked, “[Obama] himself in 2008, when this person [Brendan Eich] donated \$1,000 to that cause, also was against same-sex marriage. Does the White House think that, even though [Obama] has ‘evolved’ on this issue and now supports same-sex marriage, that there should be tolerance on the issue and that there should be other views heard?” Earnest dodges the question, saying, “Well, I certainly understand why an issue like this has been on the news and why a lot of you are talking about it. But I’m not gonna [sic] be in a position to weigh in on decisions made by a private company like this.” (Rush Limbaugh responds, “No, of course not! Absolutely! We’re not gonna weigh in on the decisions of a private company. You can bet that if Brendan Eich had been removed for supporting same-sex marriage, the White House would have something to say. Hobby Lobby is a private company, and I think the White House has said things about it. The Catholic Church is a self-contained church; they’ve had a lot to say about the Catholic Church. Fox News is a private company, and Obama has had a lot to say about Fox News. I am a private citizen. They’ve had a lot to say about me. Obama can’t even pretend to be on the side of tolerance, not even once? They have to run away from this. They didn’t decline comment on Sandra Fluke. They didn’t decline comment on Trayvon Martin. They didn’t decline comment on Jason Collins.”) [57094, 57095, 57096, 57097, 57109]

No reporter bothers to ask Earnest why it is acceptable for Mozilla to have corporate convictions but not acceptable for Hobby Lobby.

RT.com reports that Obama's leftist billionaire buddy George Soros has been making "major donations... to help legalize marijuana. ...Advocacy groups are leading the campaign to crush marijuana prohibition from coast-to-coast, and 83-year-old Soros is helping line the pockets of those making that push." According to The Washington Times, "Through a network of nonprofit groups, Mr. Soros has spent at least \$80 million on the legalization effort since 1994, when he diverted a portion of his foundation's funds to organizations exploring alternative drug policies, according to tax filings." [57537]

Kentucky.com reports, "Clothing company Fruit of the Loom announced Thursday that it will permanently close its plant in Jamestown and lay off all 600 employees by the end of the year. ...The company, owned by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway but headquartered in Bowling Green, said the move is 'part of the company's ongoing efforts to align its global supply chain' and will allow the company to better use its existing investments to provide products cheaper and faster. The company said it is moving the plant's textile operations to Honduras to save money." [57253]

According to HawaiiReporter.com only 7,242 Hawaiians have enrolled in ObamaCare, despite the \$204 million the state spent developing its exchange. (Each enrollee has therefore cost the taxpayers \$28,169.) Tom Matsuda, interim director of Hawaii Health Connector, blames the low enrollment on the state's "diverse population" and the fact that many Hawaiians do not speak English "very well." (The state exchange's "operational costs" are expected to be an additional \$15 to \$24 million per year.) [57385]

Former Reagan budget director David Stockman writes, "Even if it sticks to the taper, the [Federal Reserve's] balance sheet will have expanded by 5X—from \$900 billion to \$4.5 trillion—in 70 months. Yet it has no intention whatsoever of unwinding this stupendous emission of fiat credit. Indeed, selling-down its massive piles of treasuries and MBS [mortgage-backed securities] would ignite the mother of all melt-downs in the fixed income markets, which have gorged on over-valued paper that was priced by the Fed's huge, artificial bid in the debt markets. ...[H]ow is it that the Fed is more profitable than the wholesale, retail, entertainment, food service and hospitality industries of America combined? Self-evidently, it's the magic of printing press money: The Fed buys treasuries and MBS with a coupon; pays for them by issuing new liabilities without a coupon; collects the spread which gets recorded as a 'profit;' and then returns this 'profit' to Uncle Sam at year-end. Had the Treasury Department dusted off Lincoln's playbook, instead, it could have simply issued 'greenbacks,' and dispensed with the round trip. In less polite company it might be called a fiscal circle jerk. ...[T]he last 35 years have brought the greatest exercise in mission creep ever undertaken by an agency of the state. That explains why the monetary politburo persists in its absurd quest to force more debt into an economy which is already saturated with \$59 trillion of the same. To pretend, as does [Federal Reserve Board chairman Janet] Yellen and most of the monetary politburo that they must plow ahead printing money at lunatic rates because Congress so mandated

it, is the height of mendacity. The Fed has seized power and is not about to let go—common sense be damned, and the Constitution, too.” [57121]

The Missouri House of Representatives votes 110–36 to approve legislation that would nullify every federal gun control law. [57205]

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI) tells Time.com, “We have [the names of] numerous people that we know participated in the Benghazi attacks affiliated with al-Qaeda that are still on the battlefield. We have the capacity to get them but there’s no planning to get them. We have other serious al-Qaeda threats that normally we would take off the battlefield, but because of this Administration’s more kinder, gentler approach we have not done that.” [57207]

According to a committee aide, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will vote April 10 on whether former IRS official Lois Lerner will be held in contempt for refusing to respond to questions about the agency’s targeting of conservative groups. Assuming the committee votes to do so, the full House of Representatives would then vote on whether to hold her in contempt of Congress. Committee chairman Darrel Issa (R-CA) states, “Ms. Lerner’s involvement in wrongdoing and refusal to meet her legal obligations has left the Committee with no alternative but to consider a contempt finding.” (According to NationalReview.com, “If the House ultimately holds Lerner in contempt, a statute directs the district attorney to refer the matter to a grand jury. Criminal charges could result in a jail sentence between one month and one year or a fine between \$100 and \$1,000.”) [57107, 57108]

The House of Representatives votes 248–179 to eliminate the ObamaCare rule that defines a 30-hour workweek as full-time employment, and replace it with a 40-hour rule. (A fair number of employers have reduced the working hours of their employees to less than 30 in order to avoid having to provide them with health insurance.) [57158]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) states, “As I was told today, [Fort Hood shooter Ivan Lopez] bought his gun a day or two before he killed these people. Couldn’t we at least have background checks so that people who are ill mentally, or who are felons, shouldn’t be able to buy guns?” (Lopez bought his pistol legally and did undergo a background check.) [57200]

Senator Al Franken (D-MN) has a favorable/unfavorable rating of 41/45 in an American Encore/Magellan Strategies poll, and only 40 percent of Minnesotans believe he deserves reelection. Sixty percent of those polled think the nation is “on the wrong track.” (Minnesota has not generally been considered a likely Senate pick-up for the GOP, but with Franken’s numbers that low some pundits may be rethinking the possibility. In other recent polls, political strategist Dick Morris notes that Republicans lead the Democrats in Senate races in Michigan (40-38), North Carolina (46-45), Alaska (47-43), Montana (51-

37), Louisiana (46-42), South Dakota (51-31), and West Virginia (49-35). Republicans are within three points in Arkansas, Iowa, and Colorado.) [57131, 57132]

According to FrontPageMag.com, “Former Secretary of State and potential Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, recently cancelled her plans to appear as the keynote speaker for the 17th Annual Western Healthcare Leadership Academy on April 11 in San Diego, amidst planned fervent protests from local San Diego residents. Protesters have organized under the banner of ‘The Difference Matters’ coalition, a group that primarily consist of local San Diego women who refuse to allow Clinton into their community because of her role in the Benghazi cover up scandal. Pat Smith, one of the protest’s original organizers and the mother of Sean Smith, an American soldier who was killed in the Benghazi attacks, will lead the protest beginning April 11th.” (According to TeaPrty.org, Clinton is now scheduled to deliver her speech via satellite.) [57159, 57209, 57231, 58580]

Hillary Clinton does appear at the Women of the World Summit in New York City, where she is asked, “When you look at your time as Secretary of State, what are you most proud of? And what do you feel was unfinished, and maybe have another crack at one day?” She responds, “Look, I really see my role as Secretary, in fact leadership in general in a democracy, as a relay race. When you run the best race you can run, you hand off the baton. Some of what hasn’t been finished may go on to be finished, so when ...Obama asked me to be Secretary of State I agreed. We had the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, we had two wars. We had continuing threats from all kinds of corners around the world that we had to deal with. So it was a perilous time frankly. What he said to me was, ‘Look, I have to be dealing with the economic crisis, I want you to go out and represent us around the world.’ And it was a good division of labor because we needed to make it clear to the rest of the world, that we were going to get our house in order. We were going to stimulate, and grow, and get back to positive growth and work with our friends and partners. ...So I think we did that. I’m very proud of the stabilization and the really solid leadership that the administration provided that I think now, leads us to be able to deal with problems like Ukraine because we’re not so worried about a massive collapse in Europe and China—trying to figure out to do with all their bond holdings and all the problems we were obsessed with. I think we really restored American leadership in the best sense. That, once again, people began to rely on us as setting the values, setting the standards. I just don’t want to lose that because we have a dysfunctional political situation in Washington. Then of course, a lot of particulars, but I am finishing my book so you’ll be able to read all about it.” [57190, 57208]

The supermarket tabloid *National Enquirer* feeds the flames of unhappy marriage rumors by reporting that Obama and his wife “waged their worst White House fight ever over her lavish vacation trip to China! Sources tell The ENQUIRER that Obama exploded when Michelle refused to cancel her pricey getaway... Instead of postponing her trip, a furious Michelle—still seething over the embarrassing ‘selfie’ Barack recently snapped with a leggy blonde head of state—announced that she was taking her mother along for company. She further declared that she didn’t want reporters covering her activities

overseas. ‘This was a blowout of epic proportions—probably the nastiest White House fight they’ve ever had,’ a Washington, D.C., insider told The ENQUIRER. ‘They were both screaming at one another. . . . But he’s defenseless to stop Michelle because their marriage has collapsed. She’s doing what she wants—and that’s seeing the world on the American taxpayers’ dime.’” [57165]

In a profanity-laced tirade, popular *Opie & Anthony Show* radio talk show hosts Greg “Opie” Hughes and Anthony Cumia lambaste ObamaCare after they learn their health insurance policies have been canceled as a result of the Affordable Care Act. [57166, 57169, 57176]

The head of the Maryland Health Insurance Exchange tells the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that 60,000 of the state’s residents have signed up for ObamaCare, while 73,000 have lost their insurance because of the law. [57188]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Russia has raised the price Ukraine must pay for its natural gas supplies for the second time this week, increasing them 80 percent since Monday. On Tuesday, the state-owned gas company Gazprom announced it was ending Ukraine’s natural gas discount. This raised the price Ukraine paid for Russian gas from about \$268 per thousand cubic meters to about \$385 per thousand cubic meters. On Thursday, Gazprom announced another price hike, from \$385 to \$485 per thousand cubic meters. Gazprom says the price hikes were due to Ukraine’s \$2.2 billion energy debt it had built up with the company.” [57167]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Israel’s top negotiator said Thursday that Israel will not release a fourth batch of Palestinian prisoners, a move that brings the sputtering U.S.-backed peace talks ever closer to collapse. In an all-night meeting brokered by U.S. diplomat Martin Indyk, Israel’s chief negotiator Tzipi Livni told her Palestinian counterparts that since the Palestinians had taken unilateral steps toward greater recognition by the United Nations, the Israeli government would cancel the final release of 26 long-serving Palestinian prisoners, according to Israeli officials close to the talks. At the meeting, Israel also called upon the Palestinians to withdraw the letters they had signed to accede to 15 U.N. treaties and protocols and return to the negotiating table. To bring the Palestinians back into the talks, U.S. diplomats had persuaded the Israelis to promise last summer to free 104 long-serving Palestinian inmates, many convicted of murdering Israeli civilians. So far, 78 have been freed, but the final group has not.” (Secretary of State John “I want a Nobel Peace Prize” Kerry is no doubt overwhelmingly disappointed. According to the *Post*, “[T]here are some around Kerry—including on his senior staff and inside the White House—who believe the time is approaching for him to say, ‘Enough’ [and accept that an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal is not likely anytime soon]. . . . ‘A point will come where he has to go out and own the failure,’ an official said. For now, the official said, Kerry needs to ‘lower the volume and see how things unfold.’”) [57172, 57175, 57194]

FoxNews.com reports, “Cash-strapped state and local prisons increasingly are using the Affordable Care Act to pay for their inmates’ medical costs, taking advantage of a little-known provision that lets them shift some of those expenses to the federal government. Ohio, Illinois and Iowa are among the states trying to offload the rising costs of health care—which include mental health programs—by enrolling inmates into a new expanded Medicaid program when they get sick. But it doesn’t stop there. The states also are working to enroll them even before they’re released from prison, so they have coverage when they get out.” [57195]

The White House announces that the unchangeable March 31 deadline for ObamaCare enrollments has been extended to April 15. (The excuse given for the extension is that the Healthcare.gov web site was down part of March 31. *The Obama Timeline* believes the site was intentionally brought down for the sole purpose of providing just such an excuse for the deadline extension.) [57197]

Remarkably, former President Jimmy Carter states a travel visa should be issued to Iran’s newly-named ambassador to the United States, Hamid Aboutalebi, even though he was one of the perpetrators of the 444-day hostage-taking of 52 Americans in 1979. Carter tells WTOP, “You know, those were college students at that time, and I think that they have matured. ...I think it would be inappropriate for the United States to try to block someone that Iran wanted to choose.” [57198, 57240]

Breitbart.com reports, “An amnesty advocate that [sic; who] ...Obama’s White House publicly promoted as part of its ‘Champion of Change’ series has been indicted in federal court on charges of fraud. Bonnie M. Youn, who Obama’s White House touts on its website as ‘a recognized Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community leader in Georgia,’ was indicted on three criminal charge counts in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia Atlanta Division on April 1, according to publicly filed court documents. The first indictment count alleges Youn committed perjury with regard to an alien illegally in the United States. The second indictment count alleges that Youn violated a federal immigration law that prohibits bringing illegal aliens into the United States and harboring them, alleging she did so ‘for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain.’ The third indictment count alleges Youn illegally tampered with witness testimony, specifically alleging she influenced the illegal alien—whose identity is kept anonymous in the indictment—to provide false information about employment in the United States to federal agents.” (The White House later removes Youn’s biography from its Champions of Change web page.) [57213, 57214, 57215, 57510]

On April 4 the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the number of unemployed Americans increased by 27,000 in March. The unemployment rate remains 6.7 percent. [57086, 57106, 57173, 57174, 57179, 57180, 57189]

According to a Gallup poll, “Illinois residents trust their state government to handle their state’s problems far less than residents in any other state. Twenty-eight percent of Illinois

residents trust their state government ‘a great deal’ or ‘a fair amount.’ In contrast, at least 75% of North Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah residents trust their state governments.”
[58081, 58082]

Reuters reports, “Boeing Co, the world’s biggest airplane maker, and engine maker General Electric Co said on Friday they had received licenses from the U.S. Treasury Department to export certain spare parts for commercial aircraft to Iran under a temporary sanctions relief deal that began in January. GE spokesman Rick Kennedy said the Treasury had approved the company’s application to service 18 engines sold to Iran in the late 1970s. ...He said GE officials would meet with officials from Iran flag carrier Iranair and MTU in Istanbul next week to discuss Iran’s needs.” At PJMedia.com Michael Ledeen questions the reasonableness of the decision: “Iran uses its commercial aircraft for military purposes (one of the reasons that every flight between Tehran and Caracas is so worrisome), and the mullahs have been limited by the degradation of the national fleet. The Boeing planes and GE engines date to the 1970s, and very few of them are in service. Back in the mid-eighties, when I spent quite a bit of time with Iranian officials, they repeatedly asked for spare parts, both for the passenger planes and for the aging military craft, the F4s and F5s. Secretary of Defense [Caspar] Weinberger of course vetoed any such discussions, and the embargo has held until just now. Now we’re arming Iran. ...Our enemies are indeed vulnerable. I keep pointing to their fear of their own people. Assad in Damascus, Khamenei in Tehran and Maduro in Caracas are all cases in point. We could do a lot in those places, probably bring down the dictators without firing a shot. But for that to happen, we need a [leader] that [sic; who] believes in America. As [John] Schindler says, ‘We will have many allies in resisting Russian aggression if we focus on issues of freedom and sovereignty, standing up for the rights of smaller countries to choose their own destiny.’ The same applies to Putin’s comrades from Pyongyang to Nicaragua. But, as the Ukrainian revolutionaries have found, and as the aftermath of our victory in Iraq has demonstrated, the battle against evil is not going to end on this earth, and if you fail to challenge the heart of the current darkness, you may well find things worse than they were before. Our enemies are bursting with confidence. They think they’ve got us. Bret Stephens: ‘Mr. Putin knows Mr. Obama. He knows that [Obama] has the digestive fortitude of a tourist in Tijuana.’ As Mr. Obama runs for the Pepto Bismol, he’s arming our enemies for the next round. So it’s gonna get worse.”
[57307, 57308]

Attorney General Eric Holder tells a House committee he is looking into new technology to control gun use: “By making them [safer] either through finger print identification, the gun talks to a bracelet or something that you might wear, how guns can be used only by the person who is lawfully in possession of the weapon [sic]. It’s those kinds of things that I think we want to try to explore so that we can make sure that people have the ability to enjoy their Second Amendment rights, but at the same time decreasing the misuse of weapons that lead to the kinds of things that we see on a daily basis.” (Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich responds, “[It’s] Funny how people like Holder are always concerned about tracking the guns of Americans, yet failed to track 2500 AK-47s and .50 caliber rifles that the Department of Justice sent to violent Mexican drug cartels between 2009 and 2010. Allowing the government to use technology to regulate anything

is a slippery slope, but especially when it comes to firearms and ‘safety.’ Not to mention, these kinds of reforms only punish the law abiding [citizens], not criminals looking to do harm. ...As a reminder, Attorney General Eric Holder is still in contempt of Congress for his stonewalling and failure to cooperate with the Oversight Committee Investigation into Operation Fast and Furious. Further, lets not forget Holder is also the guy who said we should ‘brainwash’ people against guns.”) Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) later asks Holder to clarify his intentions with regard to “smart gun” technology, writing, “Your testimony has raised serious concerns for my constituents given ...Obama’s track-record of acting beyond the scope of his legal authority and your hostility to the individual right to self-defense under the Second Amendment.” (At Townhall.com Katie Kieffer notes that Holder’s “plan to seize \$2 million from taxpayers and dump it into *federal* research for smart guns” comes just “days after Silicon Valley venture capitalist Ron Conway offered a \$1 million prize to *privately* fund ‘smart gun’ development.”) [57276, 57277, 57291, 57298, 57879, 58601]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, Holder also “disputed a Government Accountability Office report on his use of Justice Department airplanes for personal trips, saying it overstated the number of trips he took and failed to recognize that some trips were job-related.” [57223, 57224]

WealthyDebates.com lists some of the many recent and upcoming business closings: Staples (will close 225 stores by 2015); Radio Shack (as many as 1,100 store closings); Albertsons (closed 26 stores in early 2014); Abercrombie & Fitch (220 stores by the end of 2015); Barnes & Nobles (about 218 stores to close); J.C. Penney (33 store closings and 2,200 layoffs); Toys R Us (100 stores to close); Sweetbay Supermarkets (closing all 17 Tampa area stores); Sears Holdings (as many as 500 stores to close); Quiznos (filed for bankruptcy, may close 2,100 restaurants); Sbarro (closing 155 restaurants); Ralph’s supermarkets (15 stores in California to close). [57228]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tweets a graphic describing ObamaCare using Frederic Bastiat’s famous “broken window fallacy.” The graphic asks, “Why did millions sign up for Obamacare? Pretend the government started selling car windows and then mandated everyone own government-approved car windows. Then, government employees come to punch out your car windows. *Bam!* The government declares its new window business a huge success.” [57237, 57238]

Hillary Clinton tweets, “Great to meet the strong & brave young women from Pussy Riot, who refuse to let their voices be silenced in Russia.” (Whether Clinton’s support of singers who were arrested for desecrating a Christian church will cause her to lose votes in 2016 remains to be seen. But it is almost a certainty that she will be the first presidential candidate every to have publicly used the words “Pussy Riot.”) [57251]

WeeklyStandard.com reports, “In late March, ...Obama took a week-long trip through Europe which included a stop of less than 24 hours in Brussels, Belgium for meetings with the European Union and NATO. [Obama] stayed at The Hotel, a twenty-seven story

hotel in the center of the city. The estimated cost for [his stay, including about two weeks for an advance team, was \$1,522,646.36.” [57186]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Peggy Noonan calls ObamaCare “a catastrophe like no other. ...[S]tep back and view the thing at a distance. Support it or not, you cannot look at ObamaCare and call it anything but a huge, historic mess. It is also utterly unique in the annals of American lawmaking and government administration. Its biggest proponent in Congress, the Democratic speaker of the House, literally said—blithely, mindlessly, but in a way forthcomingly—that we have to pass the bill to find out what's in it. It is a cliché to note this. But really, Nancy Pelosi’s statement was a historic admission that she was fighting hard for something she herself didn’t understand, but she had every confidence regulators and bureaucratic interpreters would tell her in time what she’d done. This is how we make laws now. Her comments alarmed congressional Republicans but inspired Democrats, who for the next three years would carry on like blithering idiots making believe they’d read the bill and understood its implications. They were later taken aback by complaints from their constituents. The White House, on the other hand, seems to have understood what the bill would do, and lied in a way so specific it showed they knew exactly what to spin and how. ...What the bill declared it would do—insure tens of millions of uninsured Americans—it has not done. There are still tens of millions uninsured Americans. On the other hand, it has terrorized millions who did have insurance and lost it, or who still have insurance and may lose it. ...The program is unique in that the bill that was signed four years ago, on March 23, 2010, is not the law, or rather program, that now exists. Parts of it have been changed or delayed 30 times. It is telling that [Obama] rebuffed Congress when it asked to work with him on alterations, but had no qualms about doing them by executive fiat. ...[T]he program’s supporters have gone on quite a rhetorical journey, from ‘This is an excellent bill, and opponents hate the needy’ to ‘People will love it once they have it’ to ‘We may need some changes’ to ‘I’ve co-sponsored a bill to make needed alternations’ to ‘This will be seen by posterity as an advance in human freedom.’ ...Republicans of all people should not go for the happy face. They cannot run only on ObamaCare this year and later, because it’s not the only problem in America. But it’s a problem, a big one, and needs to be hard and shrewdly fought.” [57193]

On the Record’s Greta Van Susteren, noting that Obama was refused free prime time coverage from the major networks for his announcement that ObamaCare had enrolled 7.1 million people, offers him time on her own program: “He wants time, I [have] got it. I’ll give him 10 minutes, uninterrupted, to talk to the nation about the 7.1 million... In exchange for the free air time ...Obama needs to give me 10 minutes—10 minutes of a real interview, not one of those filibustering ones where he talks, talks, talks until his time is up—but one with quick questions and quick answers. ...Fair deal?” [57246]

On April 5 Pamela Geller writes, “The jihad terror-trainings compounds in the U.S., a news story I first broke back in 2007, are growing. And now I have obtained exclusive information showing that one of them has placed members on local police forces, ensuring that nothing is done to stop or even monitor their activities. PJ Media reported,

‘Federal Bureau of Investigations documents detailing a 22-site network of terrorist training villages sprawled across the United States. According to the documents, the FBI has been concerned about these facilities for about 12 years, but cannot act against them because the U.S. State Department has not yet declared that their umbrella group, MOA [Muslims of the Americas]/Jamaat ul-Fuqra, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.’ The Texas compound is called ‘Mahmoudberg,’ located in south Texas’ Brazoria County on County Road 3 near the town of Sweeny, which has a population of about 4,000. Jamaat ul-Fuqra was the jihad terrorist organization that murdered journalist Daniel Pearl—he had gone to try to interview its leader. According to an informed source, one of Pearl’s murderers now lives at Mahmoudberg. I have also discovered that another member of the MOA compound in Sweeny is a police officer for the nearby city of Freeport; his name is Hussein Jones. Informed and well-placed sources have informed me that a few years ago, there was a shooting on the compound. County officers were called, as well as EMS. However, when they arrived, they faced hostile members of the compound who would not allow them inside. ...My sources tell me also that the compound is made up of mobile buildings that the group regularly rearranges, always positioning them in a way so that if law enforcement had to storm the compound, they would be sitting ducks with a sure tactical disadvantage. Police officials say there are no laws to stop this group from what they are doing, and they cannot do anything until they break some kind of law.” [57149, 57150]

A March 20–24 Associated Press/GfK poll prompts Obama’s former campaign guru, David Axelrod, to tweet, “Every bit of evidence points to stronger GOP turnout in a low turnout elections this fall. Major hurdle for Ds. [Democrats].” According to FoxNews.com, “Thirty-seven percent in the poll last month chose Republicans, compared to 36 percent who said they would rather see Democrats in charge, with the November general elections seven months away. Asked the same question in January, 39 percent favored the Democrats and 32 percent favored Republicans. In the new poll, registered voters, who are most strongly interested in politics, favored the Republicans by 14 percentage points—51 percent to 37 percent. In January, they were about evenly split, with 42 percent preferring Democrats and 45 percent the Republicans.” [57212]

ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau interviews unslaveamerica.com’s Tracy Fair, who has reviewed White House visitor logs in an effort to determine who was at the White House on September 11, 2012—the night of the terrorist attack in Benghazi. Although it is known that Obama attended a fundraiser in Las Vegas the next day, the White House had a substantial number of visitors on the evening of September 11—and the visitor logs reflect the purpose as “West Wing Tour.” Among those at the White House that evening were various attorneys, union leaders, numerous people named Mohammad, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), and Marilyn Tavenner (administrator of Medicare and Medicaid Services). For more than a year many have wondered what Obama was doing the night of September 11, 2012. Another question worth asking is, “What were all those people doing at the White House that evening?” [57216, 57266, 57368]

On April 6 Townhall.com's Michael Schaus slams Obama's weekend radio/Internet address, in which he relies on lies and his usual straw man arguments. Obama states, "[T]he budget I sent Congress earlier this year is built on the idea of opportunity for all. It will grow the middle class and shrink the deficits we've already cut in half since I took office." Schaus writes, "Um... Really? The guy that added \$7 trillion in new debt (so far) is trying to take credit for 'cutting deficits?' Well, I guess that explains why our nation is in poor economic shape: Our Harvard graduate in the White House seems a little confused by simple math. To put things into perspective: we're still running deficits that are larger than any deficits seen before the age of 'hope and change,' despite us having raked in record-breaking revenues. ...Obama has 'cut the deficit in half' [only] from his initial spending spree..." (Obama first almost tripled President Bush's final deficit, and it has now since been reduced. Nevertheless, each of Obama's deficits is still far greater than any of Bush's.) Obama criticizes the GOP budget proposal, saying, "Now, they won't tell you where these cuts will fall. But compared to my budget, if they cut everything evenly, then within a few years, about 170,000 kids will be cut from early education programs. About 200,000 new mothers and kids will be cut off from programs to help them get healthy food. Schools across the country will lose funding that supports 21,000 special education teachers." (Of course, the GOP proposal does suggest "cut[ting] everything evenly." First, it does not even suggest cuts; it only suggests reductions in increases. Secondly, it is absurd for Obama to argue that reducing total spending increases by X percent means that every single federal program will be impacted equally. Some programs can be allowed to grow more, while others can be stripped to the bone. Obama shamefully suggests the GOP wants to starve children. When listening to an Obama speech, some no doubt recall what political observer philosopher Kenneth Minogue once called an antagonist: "a pyromaniac in a field of straw men.") [57222]

On *State of the Union*, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) says, "We are celebrating the fact that we have over 7 million signed up [for ObamaCare]. ...It's really pretty exciting. We are very proud of what we have accomplished. ...Democrats embrace the Affordable Care Act. We're very proud of it." Pelosi states that House Democrats will release a budget proposal on April 7. Asked by host Candy Crowley, "And does it balance?" Pelosi says, "It's about growth, and growth will take us to balance. It takes us to about 2 percent of GDP deficit, which everybody says is very manageable." (In other words, the Democrat proposal does not lead to a balanced budget. Two percent of GDP is about \$340 billion per year—which Pelosi apparently believes is a "very manageable" annual deficit.) [57229, 57250]

On *Face the Nation*, Obama advisor Dan Pfeiffer suggests there may no longer be any "selfies" photographs at the White House as a result of the photograph taken by Boston Red Sox player David Ortiz with his Samsung cell phone camera. Pfeiffer says Obama "obviously didn't know anything about Samsung's connection to this. And perhaps maybe this will be the end of all selfies. ...In general, whenever someone tries to use [Obama's] likeness to promote a product, that's a problem." [57242, 57274]

On ABC's *This Week*, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich says of the firing of Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich simply for having contributed to an anti-gay marriage referendum, "People ought to recognize, if you're a young faculty member, in a lot of places if you're a young member of a news department and you have the wrong views—meaning conservative—you have no career. This is just the most open, blatant example of the new fascism, which says, 'if you don't agree with us 100 percent, we have the right to punish you.' ...I think the question is do you want to live in an open and tolerant society, or do you want impose your views at the cost of people's jobs?" [57245]

On Fox News, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush comments on illegal immigration: "The way I look at this is someone who comes to our country because they couldn't come legally, they come to our country because their family's dad who loves their children was worried that their children didn't have food on the table, and they wanted to make sure their family was intact. And they crossed the border because they had no other means to work to be able to provide for their family. Yes, they broke the law, but it's not a felony. It's kind of, it's an act of love. It's an act of commitment to your family. I honestly think that's a different kind of crime that should be, there should be a price paid, but it shouldn't be—it shouldn't rile people up that people are actually coming to this country to provide for their families." (Bush's statement will not win him many friends among voters who oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants. While it is true that immigrants entering the United States—legally or illegally—no doubt do so in order to improve the lives of themselves and their families, there is a difference between entering the country to work and entering to go on welfare. Both may improve lives, but only one method unfairly comes at someone else's expense.) While Bush calls illegal immigration "an act of love," Obama's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has called stories of pregnant women who cross the border illegally in order to give birth in the United States "inspiring." [57235, 57244, 57248, 57249, 57290, 57719]

Pro-Russian demonstrators seize control of government buildings three cities in eastern Ukraine. (It is assumed that many of the demonstrators are paid by Russia, in an effort to "prove" that Ukrainians, like the Crimeans, want to be annexed to Russia. It can also be assumed that some type of violence will eventually take place in which some Russian-speaking Ukrainians are killed, thereby giving Russian President Vladimir Putin an excuse to send troops into Ukraine to "preserve the peace." Putin likely believes Obama will respond with nothing more than a statement of protest—and no significant action.) [57319]

TheUlstermanReport.com writes, "This past week saw former acting CIA Director Michael Morell testifying before a Congressional committee on what did, and didn't happen before, during, and immediately after the Benghazi Massacre. While the Mainstream Media is working hard to dismiss Morell's testimony, and claim it adds nothing new to the overall conversation, Morell did in fact present something new, and very damning against the Obama administration. First, Morell admitted that the White House and State Department were informed within 24 hours of conflicting reports regarding whether or not the attack on the Benghazi consulate was a terrorist act, or

merely a demonstration against an largely unknown anti-Muslim YouTube video. The ranking CIA officer in Libya at the time indicated to Morell it was a terrorist attack, while intelligence analysts back in Washington D.C. favored the demonstration scenario. A terrorist attack would be damaging to the Obama administration, while a demonstration would offer far less damage. ...Second, Morell admitted he 'went around' then CIA Director David Petraeus, whose own official report was deemed by Morell as being too aggressive against the Obama State Department. Petraeus had for months warned of increasing dangers in Libya, warnings that were largely ignored by the administration. So while indicating there was no cover-up following the Benghazi Massacre, Morell was in fact outlining the details of that very cover-up!" [57232]

"To have Morell admit he altered the now infamous talking points by removing much the Petraeus approved version because Morell thought that version to be 'not appropriate' is itself, astounding. In most any other administration, such a change would have resulted in the Morell's prompt removal from his position as CIA Deputy Director. In the Obama administration, Petraeus was dispatched via the sudden disclosure he was briefly involved with another woman outside his marriage (any idea as to who might have disclosed that to certain media sources?) after which Michael Morell was then promoted to acting CIA Director. Let that one sink in reader. The man who protected Barack Obama politically following by removing the truth from the post-Benghazi Massacre talking points, was rewarded—big time. It is the same scenario that took place with officials involved in the Fast and Furious scandal, the DOJ scandal(s), the IRS scandal, and any number of other assorted wrong perpetrated by this administration. Participate in the cover up, and you will be rewarded. It is the Obama way. So ignore the media spin on the Morell testimony. Though his testimony attempted to continue to shield the White House from direct implication in the Benghazi Massacre, he admitted to offering that same White House the version of events favored by then CIA Director David Petraeus, a version that indicated it was a terrorist attack, and one that had been warned was coming months prior. Days later, Barack Obama stood before the world at the United Nations and spoke out against the anti-Muslim YouTube video. There was no mention of a terrorist attack in Benghazi. The move to dispatch Petraeus was already underway, and the man who made the lie possible was being promoted in Petraeus's soon to be absence. Americans died. Obama lied." [57232]

Newsmax.com reports, "Several Democrats—including some lawmakers whose re-election bids are seen as vulnerable in this year's midterm races—are joining Republicans in calling for the Obama administration to stop proposed cuts to the Medicare Advantage program. Administration officials plan to announce the 2015 rates for the program on Monday, reports The Hill, and could prove a sensitive issue as both parties are courting the senior citizens who tend to turn out in high numbers to vote in midterms. Republicans say the program is a valid private alternative to Medicare, as it allows seniors to enroll in plans offered by private insurers, who are then directly paid by the federal government. Until now, Democrats have complained that the plan receives a disproportionate [sic; disproportionate] amount of money compared to the Medicare program, and Obamacare was partially funded through \$200 billion in cuts over 10 years." [57243, 57393]

According to NJ.com, “While the federal government was trumpeting the benefits of Obamacare to boost enrollment earlier this year, about 1,800 families in New Jersey were receiving letters telling them their children would be losing their health coverage last week. The Affordable Care Act—the federal law that mandates everyone have insurance—effectively killed FamilyCare Advantage, a low-cost option for kids in New Jersey created six years ago for parents who earned too much to qualify for Medicaid and other subsidized programs but too little to buy on a policy on their own. The state program was the first of its kind in the nation. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey was the only insurance carrier that agreed to offer the FamilyCare Advantage plan, which covered most medical, dental and vision needs for the relative bargain of \$144 a month per child. But it didn’t offer mental health treatment and several other services Obamacare requires, and that was the fatal flaw, said Sen. Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex), who sponsored the law creating the program. Vitale said he tried for several months to broker a deal between Horizon and the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, but neither side could agree on how to make it affordable and legal. The program ended last week.” [57247]

On April 7 Cato Institute tax expert Daniel J. Mitchell asks at Townhall.com, “[W]hat’s so impressive about getting some people to sign up for [ObamaCare] plans when they can get something that’s subsidized by taxpayers or other consumers? ... People are being both coerced and bribed to sign up for Obamacare, in many cases after the law forced the cancellation of plans that they liked. So why are we supposed to applaud the fact that a small fraction of the population has chosen the only possible option?” [57238, 57239]

DailyCaller.com reports, “IRS agents testified before Congress that the agency’s political targeting did not apply to progressive groups as Democrats and the media have claimed, according to a bombshell new staff report prepared by the House Oversight Committee chairman, Rep. Darrell Issa [R-CA]. IRS agents testified before Oversight that ACORN groups were scrutinized because the agency thought they were old organizations applying as new ones. Emerge America was scrutinized for potential ‘improper private benefit.’ No evidence exists that the IRS requested additional information from any Occupy Wall Street group. ‘Only seven applications in the IRS backlog contained the word ‘progressive,’ all of which were then approved by the IRS, while Tea Party groups received unprecedented review and experienced years-long delays. While some liberal-oriented groups were singled out for scrutiny, evidence shows it was due to non-political reasons,’ according to the Oversight staff report, which was obtained by The Daily Caller. ‘[T]he Administration and congressional Democrats have seized upon the notion that the IRS’s targeting was not just limited to conservative applicants,’ the report states. ‘These Democratic claims are flat-out wrong and have no basis in any thorough examination of the facts. Yet, the Administration’s chief defenders continue to make these assertions in a concerted effort to deflect and distract from the truth about the IRS’s targeting of tax-exempt applicants.’ ‘[T]here is simply no evidence that any liberal or progressive group received enhanced scrutiny because its application reflected the organization’s political views,’ the report stated.” [57255, 57289]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “58% of Likely U.S. Voters have at least a somewhat unfavorable opinion of the health care law [ObamaCare], with 43% who view it Very Unfavorably. Just 39% have a favorable view of the law, including 16% with a Very Favorable one.” [57258, 57259]

Breitbart.com reports that Obama “is scheduled to visit Fort Hood on Wednesday to attend a memorial service for the shooting victims.” But he “was already scheduled to travel to Texas that day for a big Democratic fundraiser with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).” (The Fort Hood visit makes the trip “official,” thus making it possible for Obama to get the taxpayers to cover the cost of much of the trip.) [57263, 57264]

The Middle East Media Research Institute reports, “In a March 17, 2014 interview with the Iranian daily *Khorasan*, former Atomic Energy Organization of Iran director Fereydoon Abbasi, who headed the agency under president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, revealed that over the years Iran had concealed from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) information on its nuclear program, on its activity at the heavy water reactor in Arak, and on the location and activity of its production workshops.” [57268, 57269]

Italy’s *il Faro* summarizes journalist Seymour Hersh’s investigation of the chemical weapons attacks in Syria: “The bottom line: Turkey was almost certainly the party responsible for the attack, hoping it would force Obama to honour his threatened ‘red line’ if Assad used chemical weapons. Was the Assad regime to be brought down by a US military campaign, Turkey assumed it would be able to turn Syria into a client state. ...Obama’s sudden climb-down on his threatened military strike against Assad was in part forced on him by a chemical analysis of samples of the sarin used in Ghouta, which showed that its signature did not match that of the stockpiles held by the Assad regime. Despite US claims, the White House knew that the Syrian rebels had developed chemical weapons production facilities. UN investigators thought the Syrian opposition were the most likely culprits behind earlier chemical weapons attacks, in April and May 2013. ...The military strike being prepared by the White House after the Ghouta attack was, far from small-scale, as secretary of state John Kerry intimated, modeled on the shock and awe campaign against Saddam Hussein. Under White House pressure, the US attack plan evolved into ‘a monster strike’: two wings of B-52 bombers were shifted to airbases close to Syria, and navy submarines and ships equipped with Tomahawk missiles were deployed. ‘Every day the target list was getting longer,’ the former intelligence official told me. ...The new target list was meant to ‘completely eradicate any military capabilities Assad had’, the former intelligence official said. The core targets included electric power grids, oil and gas depots, all known logistic and weapons depots, all known command and control facilities, and all known military and intelligence buildings. The US developed a back channel of weapons-smuggling to the Syrian rebels, known as the rat line, in cooperation with Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, using the ‘liberated’ arsenals from Libya following the west’s ousting of [Moammar] Gaddafi.” [57270, 57271, 57272, 57273]

“The rat line, authorised in early 2012, was used to funnel weapons and ammunition from Libya via southern Turkey and across the Syrian border to the opposition. Many of those in Syria who ultimately received the weapons were jihadists, some of them affiliated with al-Qaida. ...By the terms of the agreement, funding came from Turkey, as well as Saudi Arabia and Qatar; the CIA, with the support of MI6, was responsible for getting arms from Gaddafi’s arsenals into Syria. ...The operation was run by David Petraeus, the CIA director who would soon resign when it became known he was having an affair with his biographer. The job of the US consulate in Libya—the one where ambassador Christopher Stevens was killed—was to provide logistical assistance with the rat line. That was the reason the consulate was attacked. The consulate’s only mission was to provide cover for the moving of arms,’ the former intelligence official, who has read the annex, said. ‘It had no real political role.’ ...Washington abruptly ended the CIA’s role in the transfer of arms from Libya after the attack on the consulate, but the rat line kept going. ...By late 2012 the US had assessed that the rebels were losing the civil war, and started to downgrade their involvement in the rat line. That left Turkey’s [Prime Minister] Recep Erdogan the main loser. The American decision to end CIA support of the weapons shipments into Syria left Erdogan exposed politically and militarily.” [57270, 57271, 57272, 57273]

Pamela Geller comments on the Hersh report: “Obama was avid to get into war in Syria—so avid that he lied repeatedly to justify a U.S. intervention. But now the truth is coming out: it was Turkey all along, not [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad, who launched the sarin attack. Turkey—Obama’s close friend Recep Tayyip Erdogan. And now the United States is supplying the Syrian jihadists with weapons. The Obama Administration is one of the most shameful periods in American history.” (Some might suggest that Erdogan was trying to trick Obama into attacking Syria to bring down the Assad regime. Others may believe that Obama knew all along that Erdogan was orchestrating the chemical attacks and would use them as an excuse for an attack so that Turkey could eventually control Syria, but Obama erred in believing that he could get support from Congress and the public to conduct a military operation. Still others doggedly defend Obama, insisting that the chemical weapons were used by the Assad regime—despite evidence to the contrary.) [57272, 57273]

The Supreme Court refuses to hear the appeal (*Elane Photography v Willock*) of New Mexico wedding photographer Elane Huguenin, who a lower court ruled did not have the right to refuse to film a lesbian couple’s “commitment ceremony.” Jordan Lorence, an Alliance Defending Freedom attorney who represented Huguenin, tells Fox News’ Todd Starnes, “It is disconcerting because the [state] decision was so harsh that this small company can now be forced by state anti-discrimination laws to create messages that they don’t agree with. This new authoritarianism—forcing people to bow the knee to a new orthodoxy or they be punished—is very chilling. ...When people say things like gay rights trump religious rights, what they are saying is the government can force people to believe a certain way—and that is something that in a free society should not be tolerated. ...We are now going to see more situations where people are going to be forced to choose between what they believe about marriage—and their job or their business. What

concerns me is there will be an effort to expand these types of hunting down people with wrong opinions. I don't know how far this can go.” (Interestingly, the name Huguenin may remind some of the Huguenots—members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France who were persecuted for their religious beliefs in the 16th and 17th centuries.) It is worth noting that in order for a case to be heard before the Supreme Court, at least four of the nine Justices must agree that it is worth considering. Therefore, there were fewer than four willing to hear the Huguenin appeal—meaning that six or more of the nine Justices have little or no regard for the rights of business owners who choose to follow their religious beliefs every day and not just on special occasions.) [57275, 57294]

Led by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), the Senate votes by acclamation to pass legislation allowing the Obama administration to more easily block the granting of a travel visa to Iran's new ambassador to the United Nations, Hamid Aboutalebi. Cruz states, “He is a known terrorist. He participated in holding Americans hostage for 444 days. Their naming him was a deliberate slap in the face. It was intended to be contemptuous to America. ... Under the existing statute, if the Taliban in Afghanistan had nominated Osama bin Laden to be its ambassador to the U.N., we'd have to let him in, give him a visa and let him move to Manhattan. Now that's obviously absurd.” (The legislation does not actually prohibit Aboutalebi from being granted a visa. The State Department can still do so—if it chooses to defy the Senate.) HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, “The State Department should tell Iran that it refuses to credential anyone who participated in the violation of diplomatic immunity in the past—and that they can send Aboutalebi, but he should bring his lawyer and prepare to face criminal charges over what happened in Tehran 35 years ago.” [57281, 57282, 57295, 57296, 57485]

According to a Morgan Stanley survey of 148 insurance brokers, the average increase in health insurance premiums is 12 percent in the small group market and 11 percent in the individual market. The increases are the largest in three years and are due mostly to the Affordable Care Act. (In Delaware, the average premium increase is a full 100 percent. In New Hampshire it is 94 percent.) [57288, 57315, 57350, 57551]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) calls on Secretary of State John Kerry to provide Congress with an assessment of the crisis in Venezuela. In a letter to Kerry, Rubio writes, “To date, the government's barbaric repression has resulted in 39 deaths, more than 2,200 detentions, and at least 50 documented cases of torture. There is evidence that several of these atrocities are being committed by uniformed members of the Venezuelan National Guard, a component of the Venezuelan Armed Forces, as well as paramilitary elements of the so-called ‘People's Guard’ that is closely affiliated with the National Guard. We have additional reports of radical leftist armed groups as well as Cuban regime intelligence officials and operatives working on behalf of the Maduro government to intimidate opposition members and, at times, carry out attacks against protesters. As you would agree, it is more important than ever for the American public and lawmakers to clearly understand the nature of the situation in Venezuela and its repercussions for American interests and those of the broader Western Hemisphere.” [57306]

HotAir.com reports that National Labor Relations Board’s general counsel Richard Griffin “wants to force employers to consult with a union when it comes to relocation decisions. This is a massive change to the current way that economic decisions are made, and would cause the cost of doing business everywhere to skyrocket. ...Unions already are favored in the status quo, and this would be an unnecessary step to empower them further. This would also fly in the face of the way that the Supreme Court has interpreted the union-employer relationship, and that the proposal would make unions incredibly powerful when it came to collective bargaining. ...Obama’s NLRB, as we’ve seen, is composed of people who are dedicated to reversing the shrinking power base of unions. This proposal to force employers to get the approval of labor unions for relocation decisions would hurt the American economy for the benefit for a major Democratic party constituency.” [57302]

The Senate votes 59–38 to once again extend unemployment benefits, with no reasonable provision in the legislation to cover the \$10 billion cost. The five-month extension now goes to the House, where Republicans will either have to cave in and also approve the extension, or face six months of Democrat campaign ads claiming they want the unemployed to suffer and starve to death. Obama states, “Today the Senate acted in a bipartisan way to reinstate emergency unemployment insurance for 2.3 million Americans who depend on it as they search for work. As I’ve said time and again, Washington needs to put politics aside and help these hard-working, responsible Americans make ends meet and support their families as they look for a job. Each week Congress fails to act on this crucial issue, roughly 70,000 long-term unemployed Americans lose their vital economic lifeline. I urge House Republicans to stop blocking a bipartisan compromise that would stem this tide, take up the bill without delay, and send it to my desk. Let’s remove this needless drag on our economy and focus on expanding opportunity for all Americans.” (Obama does not explain why paying people *not* to work would be a “drag on the economy.”) At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson notes that “House leadership is, for now, holding to its demands that any extension of the unemployment insurance include job-creating measures such as approval of the Keystone XL pipeline or Obamacare fixes.” House Minority Leader calls GOP opposition to a “clean” bill “immoral” and “unconscionable.” (Neither Obama nor any other Democrat provides a date beyond which they would *not* extend unemployment benefits—but it is a safe bet that it would likely be after the November 2016 election.) [57309]

Preparing for an onslaught of “Republican war on women” attacks from the White House and Democrat candidates, Betsey Stevenson, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, tells reporters that women are “stuck at 77 cents on the dollar, and that gender wage gap is seen very persistently across the income distribution, within occupations, across occupations, and we see it when men and women are working side by side doing identical work.” WashingtonExaminer.com writes, “That sounds awfully specific. Stevenson certainly sounds like she’s saying men and women doing the exact same job are earning very different pay. ...Except, as soon as Stevenson was actually questioned about the statistic by McClatchy reporter Lindsay Wise, the White House adviser crumbled, admitting her earlier comments were inaccurate. ‘If I said 77 cents was equal pay for equal work, then I completely misspoke,’ Stevenson said. ‘So let me just

apologize and say that I certainly wouldn't have meant to say that.' '... Seventy-seven cents captures the [average] annual earnings of full-time, full-year women divided by the [average] annual earnings of full-time, full-year men,' Stevenson clarified. 'There are a lot of things that go into that 77-cents figure, there are a lot of things that contribute and no one's trying to say that it's all about discrimination, but I don't think there's a better figure.' No one's trying to blame discrimination? Isn't that what the entire Paycheck Fairness Act and Equal Pay Day are based on?" According to JSONline.com's Christian Schneider, Stevenson later tells MSNBC, "I agree that the 77 cents on the dollar is not all due to discrimination. No one is trying to say that it is. But you have to point to some number in order for people to understand the facts." (In other words, "You have to lie for political purposes.") Schneider observes, "[M]iraculously, women seem to make a lot less money during election years in which Democrats are on the ropes.") [57299, 57300, 57347, 57371, 57372, 57512, 57557, 57568, 57570]

At the daily press briefing, Obama's press secretary Jay Carney is asked why women working in the White House earn on average only 88 cents for every dollar men earn. Carney makes the remarkable statement that the pay difference in the White House is not as great as it is in the overall economy—which sounds remarkably like, "Well, yes, we discriminate against women—but not as much as everybody else." Carney then defends the difference by pointing to reasonable factors (such as experience and the type of work performed)—factors that Obama and his fellow Democrats seem to ignore when discussing national statistics. [57293, 57299, 57300, 57301, 57310, 57316, 57317, 57349, 57347]

Jennifer Palmieri, who Michelle Malkin refers to as "Obama's communications flack and chief social media gender warrior," tweets, "Love all these guys, but note that 6 of 7 news orgs in front row sent men to ask ...abt [about] the problem of gender pay inequity." Fox News' Ed Henry tweets back, "WH sent man [Jay Carney] to podium, right?" (Palmieri, notes Malkin, helped defend Bill Clinton against "bimbo eruptions," and then "served as spokeswoman for adulterous crapweasel John Edwards.") [57324, 57333, 57334, 57335]

On *The Kelly File*, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells host Megyn Kelly, "When someone asked me the question, 'Well, who should be fired [over the IRS targeting of conservative groups]?' I said I don't know. I don't care who is going to be fired. I want to know who is going to jail. The fact is that the IRS—there are specific laws that protect taxpayers and force the IRS to comply with the law. Somebody at the IRS violated the law. Whether it was Lois Lerner or not, we'll find out." Boehner states that legislators will press Attorney General Eric Holder to consider a criminal case against ex-IRS official Lerner for "misleading the Congress," and that the House would hold her in contempt if she does not soon cooperate. (Boehner would be wise not to hold his breath while he waits for Holder to take action.) [57267, 57305]

On April 8 Attorney General Eric Holder appears before the House Judiciary Committee, and engages in a heated exchange with Congressman Louis Gohmert (R-TX). Gohmert

addresses Holder's continued failure to provide requested documents, and says, "I realize that [the] contempt [of Congress charge against you] is not a big deal to our attorney general, but it is important that we have proper oversight." Holder: "You don't want to go there, buddy. You don't want to go there, okay?" Gohmert: "I don't want to go there?" Holder: "No." Gohmert: "About the contempt?" Holder, pointing his finger at Gohmert: "You should not assume that, uh, that is not a big deal to me. I think that it [the charge] was inappropriate and it was unjust, but never think that that was not a big deal to me. Don't ever think that." Gohmert: "Well, uh, I'm just looking for evidence, and normally we're known by our fruits, and there have been no indications that it was a big deal because your department has still not been forthcoming in producing the documents that were the subject of the contempt—" Holder: "The documents that we were prepared to make available then we're prepared to make available now—that would have obviated the whole need. This was all about the gun lobby, and a desire to have—" Gohmert: "So, we've been trying to get to the bottom of [Operation] Fast and Furious, where people died, where at least a couple hundred Mexicans died, and we can't get the information to get to the bottom of that? So I don't need lectures from you about contempt—" Holder: "And I don't need lectures from you either." Gohmert: "...and it is very difficult to deal with asking questions, and as a former judge I'd never have asked questions of someone who's been held in contempt." [57278, 57292, 57304, 57312, 57336, 57337, 57341, 57362, 57369]

Holder also tells the committee that he and Obama have a "vast amount" of discretion when enforcing laws, "but that discretion has to be used in an appropriate way so that you're acting consistent with the aims of the statute but at the same time making sure that you are acting in a way that is consistent with our values, consistent with the Constitution and protecting the American people. Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) responds, "The Justice Department's decision not to enforce the Controlled Substances Act in states whose laws violate federal law is not a valid exercise of prosecutorial discretion, but a formal department-wide policy of selective non-enforcement of an Act of Congress. ...The attorney general's directive [to not prosecute some drug crimes], along with contradicting an act of Congress, puts his own front-line prosecutors in the unenviable position of either defying their boss or violating their oath of candor to the court." (Holder has advised prosecutors to withhold information from courts—such as the amount of drugs found in an arrest—in order to prompt reduced sentences. The issue relates to mandatory minimum sentencing. For example, if possession of a certain amount of a particular drug requires a prison sentence of 10 years, not telling the court how much was found on the drug user or dealer during the arrest could lead the judge to impose a much lighter sentence. Withholding that information is Holder's way of getting around mandatory minimum sentencing laws that he believes unfairly target "his people.") [57343, 57344, 57351, 57501]

When Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-TX) is offered time by the committee to ask Holder questions, he responds, "I'm committed to maintaining the constitutional balance of power and the authority this branch, this legislative branch, has, and I just don't think it's appropriate that Mr. Holder be here. If an American citizen had not complied with one of the Justice Department subpoenas, they would be in jail, not testifying, but I

realize there are questions to be asked, and I'll yield the remainder of my time to [Congressman] Trey Gowdy [R-SC]." (Interestingly, it is Gohmert's exchange with Holder that gets the most media attention, and not Farenthold's remark—probably because the mainstream media would rather show Holder as combative than deserving of prison clothing.) [57337]

According to an April 5–6 Rasmussen poll, "just 23% of Likely U.S. Voters view Obamacare as a success so far. Twice as many (46%) describe the health care law as a failure. For 29%, it's somewhere in between the two. ... Given the problems with the new law, a plurality (44%) of voters still believes Congress and [Obama] should repeal it and start over again. Nearly as many (39%) think they should go through the law piece by piece to improve it. Just 15% say they should leave the law as it is." [57279, 57280]

Politico reports, "Amid heavy pressure from insurers, lawmaker and advocates, the Obama administration has backed off proposed cuts to Medicare Advantage for the second year in a row. They'll rise by 0.4 percent in 2015 instead of undergoing the originally proposed 1.9 percent cut." (Senate Democrats, who voted for the Affordable Care Act in 2010, are now less than enthusiastic about actually implementing the \$300+ billion in Medicare cuts that were intended to help pay for ObamaCare. The result, of course, is that ObamaCare will lead to even greater deficits than originally believed—despite the fact that Obama and his fellow Democrats claimed it would end up reducing federal spending.) [57283, 57284, 57320, 57393]

Obama signs an executive order banning federal contractors "from retaliating against employees who discuss their compensation." According to USA Today.com, "will also sign a ... memorandum instructing Labor Secretary Tom Perez to establish new regulations requiring federal contractors to submit to the Department of Labor summary data on compensation paid to their employees, including data by sex and race. The Department of Labor will use the data to encourage voluntary compliance with equal pay laws and allowing more targeted enforcement by focusing efforts where there are discrepancies, according to the White House." Obama also repeats the flawed "77 cents on the dollar" argument—and even whines that women's clothing usually costs more to have dry-cleaned than men's clothing. (Women typically pay more than men to get their hair styled as well, but that is not because of "discrimination;" it is because of complexity and time factors. Rush Limbaugh quips, "One way to reduce dry cleaning expenses for women is to stay away from Bill Clinton.") Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson observes, "... Democrats are hoping to replicate their successful 2012 playbook by shifting voters' focus onto ancillary issues, and away from the political fundamentals. This week they're trotting out equal pay for women in an effort to underscore their 'Republican war on women' meme." Meanwhile, the Senate debates the "Paycheck Fairness Act"—which does not actually ensure paycheck fairness, but is drafted in such a way as to ensure GOP opposition, thereby giving Democrats something to argue about during their campaigns. (*The Washington Post* gives Obama two "Pinocchios" for his "77 cents on the dollar" claim.) [57285, 57349, 57363, 57372, 57429, 57557, 57570]

WashingtonTimes.com comments that Obama’s “unilateral move... to try to close the pay gap between the sexes will force federal contractors to tell the government what their employees earn, broken down by race and sex, giving the administration extraordinary new powers to pursue discrimination cases. One legal analyst said the two orders Mr. Obama issued would drive up the costs of federal contracts, leaving taxpayers stuck with higher bills. Businesses feared the orders would lay ground for the government to take legal action against them. ‘Equal treatment is an admirable goal, but smaller companies who already have difficulties competing with larger firms for federal contracts are now going to need to consider a new set of issues: reporting compliance, the ability to award merit pay or the possibility of wage data being used as grounds for discrimination lawsuits,’ said Simon Brody, a spokesman for the National Association of Government Contractors, which represents firms doing business with the federal government.” [57348]

The Heritage Foundation’s James Sherk explains that the Paycheck Fairness Act “allows employees to sue businesses that pay different workers different wages—even if those differences have nothing to do with the employees’ sex [italics added]. These lawsuits can be brought for unlimited damages, giving a windfall to trial lawyers.” Essentially, the law would make it almost impossible to pay one worker more than another because he or she performs better than his or her co-workers, because unrewarded employees would file a lawsuit as soon as they learn their co-worker was given a raise. Everyone with the same job title would end up receiving the same salary, regardless of their worth to the company. That, of course, is a good way to lower the overall performance of a company’s workforce: “Why work harder than anyone else if I won’t get rewarded with a raise as a reward?” It is also a good way to ensure that salary increases are fewer and farther between. Sherk continues, “Companies should be allowed to reward good performance without risking a lawsuit. Punishing companies that do not adopt uniform pay scales would cut the wages of both men and women.” At NYDailyNews.com, S. E. Cupp adds, “[T]he Democrats’ Paycheck Fairness Act... may actually have an adverse effect on quality of work life for every employee, male or female. By tightly regulating how employers can pay their employees, it will become far harder to pay more for better work quality, productivity and experience, something both employers and employees should want. Further, with decreased flexibility, working mothers will have fewer options, not more. Lastly, this bill just makes it easier to file lawsuits over pay discrimination (illegal since 1963), once again benefiting that singularly oppressed class of workers—trial lawyers.” (Arguably, the “Paycheck Fairness Act” could more accurately be called the “Guaranteed Employment for Trial Lawyers Act.”) [57286, 57287, 57321, 57359, 57372]

A law that makes it easier for women to sue an employer may actually work against women because some employers will simply go out of their way to hire men—who are less likely to file lawsuits. As mentioned previously in this *Timeline*, when a business hires an individual it must also consider the potential cost of *firing* that person. If a business finds it necessary to fire a young white male who turns out not to be a good employee, it will likely never see him again. On the other hand, if a business fires a black or Hispanic woman who is overweight and over 50, it may see her in court if she files a discrimination lawsuit. The cost of fighting such lawsuits is enough to encourage some

employers to avoid hiring such individuals in the first place. Similarly, if the Paycheck Fairness Act were to pass and if it leads to many frivolous lawsuits, employers will do their best to avoid such hassles—by hiring as few women and minority workers as possible, and by going out of their way to never do anything that could possibly be construed as unfair. The end result could very likely be employees treated less generously. For example, a business might not give the better employees merit raises because it fears a lawsuit from other employees who claim they also deserve such raises. Another business might deny one worker a requested day off to deal with a family issue, fearing that other employees might file lawsuits demanded “equal treatment.” Legislation that seeks to force the “equal treatment of everyone” can have significant unintended consequences. Prohibiting an employer from paying some employees less also results in no other employees being paid more—even if they deserve it.

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 it has been a violation of federal law to pay a woman less than a man for doing the same work, assuming all other factors are equal. That women, *on average*, earn less than men is largely meaningless because the difference is based mostly on career choices, rather than employer discrimination. That a female kindergarten teacher is paid less than many male electrical engineers is no more “proof” of gender discrimination than the fact that a male worker on a General Motors assembly line is paid less than the corporation’s female CEO, Mary Barra. If the average salary of all workers named Jones is greater than the average salary of all workers named Smith, that does not mean everyone named Smith is a victim of discrimination. The Census Bureau comparisons do not compare wages and salaries of men and women in the same job—or even the same profession. They absurdly compare average wages and salaries of *all professions lumped together*—which tells one almost nothing. Yes, female bus drivers may earn less than male psychiatrists, but that is not the important question. The important question is, “Does a male bus driver in school district X earn more than a female bus driver in school district X who has the same seniority?” [57371]

It is worth noting that men tend to enter more dangerous professions than women. In fact, 92 percent of all workplace deaths in 2012 were to men. It is illogical not to expect that someone in an occupation that entails a greater risk of death would command a higher rate of pay than someone who is a sales clerk at a shopping mall. But no one is demanding that there should be more deaths of working women in order to “make things equal.” The Census Bureau statistics also show that unmarried young women earn, on average, more than unmarried young men—yet Obama is not calling that proof that there is “discrimination” against young men. Economist Thomas Sowell writes, “Women lawyers who are pregnant, or who have young children, may have good reasons to prefer a 9 to 5 job in a government agency to working 60 hours a week in a high-powered law firm. But there is no point comparing male lawyers as a group with female lawyers as a group, if you don’t look any deeper than job titles. Unless, of course, you are not looking for the truth, but for political talking points to excite the gullible. ...Although comparing women and men who are in fact comparable is not easy to do, when you look at women and men who are similar on multiple factors, the sex differential in pay shrinks drastically

and gets close to the vanishing point. In some categories, women earn more than men with the same range of characteristics.” [57371, 57577, 57560]

Even the left-leaning Daily Beast has called out Obama for his intentional misrepresentations of the gender pay statistics, writing two months ago, “...Obama repeated the spurious gender wage gap statistic in his State of the Union address. ‘Today,’ he said, ‘women make up about half our workforce. But they still make 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That is wrong, and in 2014, it’s an embarrassment.’ What is wrong and embarrassing is [Obama] reciting a massively discredited factoid. The 23-cent gender pay gap is simply the difference between the average earnings of all men and women working full-time. [It is also from a decades-old survey.] It does not account for differences in occupations, positions, education, job tenure, or hours worked per week. When all these relevant factors are taken into consideration, the wage gap narrows to about five cents. And no one knows if the five cents is a result of discrimination or some other subtle, hard-to-measure difference between male and female workers. In its fact-checking column on the State of the Union, the Washington Post included [Obama’s] mention of the wage gap in its list of dubious claims. ‘There is clearly a wage gap, but differences in the life choices of men and women... make it difficult to make simple comparisons.’” [57301]

TheWilderness.me comments on the forced resignation of Mozilla CEO Brendan for holding the same gay marriage views in 2008 as did Obama: “This is about Barack Obama and his culture of activism. This is about advancing progressivism ideology and no person, regardless of their contribution to the planet can be left standing if the perception exists that they stand in the way of that agenda. This is why [Obama] has remained silent in the wake of [the] recent rash of progressive mob tactics. Barack Obama is a soldier of silence when a mob he ideologically agrees with speaks for him. This is a [man] whose personal action army stands on street corners with handmade signs, confronts representatives at their offices, attends climate camps, lays down in traffic and throws birthday parties for their leader. When a group of spoiled but well organized anarchists overtook Zucotti Park in Lower Manhattan, Obama simply said they were expressing overall frustrations. That was the end of the discussion and Occupy was encouraged to continue for weeks despite health code violations and assaults on law enforcement. No one spoke out for the dozens of affected businesses or people who were harassed daily just trying to get to and from work. ...Barack Obama opposes Florida gun laws, therefore a comment on the shooting death of one black teenager is warranted and out comes a mob. Pro-life protection laws signed in Texas? Out comes a mob. Presidential proclamation on equal pay for women? Out comes a mob. Debating climate change, immigration, entitlement reforms? Out comes a mob. Barack Obama thinks his job is to lead the mob, not the country. When the mob dishes out justice, as they did with Brendan Eich, there’s nothing more for him to say.” [57386]

“...This isn’t about getting money out of politics or support for anti-gay marriage legislation almost an entire decade ago. This is about intimidating, punishing, and ultimately eliminating conservative donors, no matter who or where they are. This is a

war of attrition being conducted against any target, at no matter the personal to the target, their accomplishments, contributions to society or family. Brendan Eich's head has been placed on a pike at the gates to serve as a warning to anyone with any measure of personal or professional capital at stake to rethink their personal beliefs, and challenge Barack Obama. By purging Eich and satisfying the liberal mob, Mozilla has stated they themselves are no longer a company driven by innovation, technology and source coding. They are a company driven by the ideological segregation of political beliefs; the idea that an individual is not welcome, no matter their education, expertise or accomplishments unless they fall in line with a certain set of ideological attributes. ...Mozilla now believes their sole responsibility is limited to those who are ideologically aligned with them. Just like Barack Obama. Mozilla is no longer a web software corporation. They are a progressive liberal company, specializing in the development and advancement of liberal ideas. This conversion occurred the moment they pushed Brendan Eich out the door and wrote their epitaph of inclusion on their website blog, which as it turns out was so inclusive and open that the posting was closed to comments. None of Brendan Eich's accomplishments or qualifications matter anymore. ...Mozilla as a company, does not exist without Brendan Eich as he was also the co-founder of the company and it's foundation. And this is, meaningless to progressives. ...The very same employees that owe their career to Brendan Eich were demanding he step down. Brendan Eich's contributions to the world and their lives do not matter. His \$1000 contribution to a political campaign 8 years ago does." [57386]

"...The progressive liberal mob is in the process of resegregating society and 'otherizing' anyone that does not agree with them and they are being led by [Obama, who] is not only encouraging it, but who has given them the blueprint for their tactics. The question then becomes who isn't a target? ...This country has always inherited the traits of our leaders and the culture is guided by it. When Lois Lerner can use the taxing authority of the IRS to target private citizens by either leaking their information to opposition groups, or stopping them from participating altogether, free of legal consequences and aided by the hyper-partisan motivations of the chief executive, progressive scalp hunting on a massive scale will be allowed. It will be encouraged, and it will continue." [57386]

HotAir.com comments on the possibility that Jeb Bush will seek the GOP nomination in 2016: "Let me paint you a picture. Bush announces he's running. Soon after, [Senator Marco] Rubio [R-FL] announces that he isn't, having concluded that too many of his potential advisors and fundraisers will gravitate towards Jeb. [Congressman] Paul Ryan [R-WI] likewise decides he'll pass, figuring his best bet at influence is as the next Ways and Means [Committee] chairman. Bush hits the trail, talking up education reform and ticking off a few well-chosen points of disagreement with his brother's foreign policy. Meanwhile, [New Jersey Governor Chris] Christie, his main rival for establishment support, is too damaged by Bridgewater and never gathers much momentum. Neither does [Louisiana Governor Bobby] Jindal, who's overshadowed by bigger-name candidates both to his left (Bush) and his right ([Senator] Rand Paul [R-KY] and [Senator] Ted Cruz [R-TX]) and can't quite find a niche. Bush, now largely unchallenged in the center and center-right, consolidates their support." [57297]

“Over on the right, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz bash each other’s brains in on foreign policy and the NSA until one of them emerges as the conservative choice. That’s when Bush’s backers launch a ferocious campaign attacking Cruz/Paul as fringe material—government shutdowns! a disarmed military!—who’ll never stand a chance against Hillary [Clinton]. It works and Jeb sweeps to the nomination, only to lose badly in the general when voters are forced to decide whether they want to return to ‘the Clinton era’ or ‘the Bush era.’ The only X factor in all this is [Wisconsin Governor] Scott Walker, who’s prominent enough after his big fight with the unions to find the sort of niche that’ll elude Jindal. He could be a compromise candidate between the right, which fears that Cruz and Paul really aren’t electable, and the center, which fears that the Bush brand will be poison in the general election. Bushworld will have to deal with Walker somehow. If he loses his bid for reelection as governor in Wisconsin, that’ll do it, but no one expects him to. How do you destroy him on the launch pad?” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the GOP cannot succeed if it nominates a “Democrat-lite” candidate. The voters will support the Democrat who offers “more free stuff” over the Republican who offers “some, but less free stuff.” Clinton will choose someone as her running mate who will both add “gravitas” to the ticket and make it appear less extreme. *The Weekly Standard’s* Bill Kristol suggests her choice may be General David Petraeus—despite her having voted against a September 2007 Senate resolution condemning the “General Betray Us” ad run by MoveOn.org campaign director Nita Chaudary. Then-Senator Obama snuck out of the Senate chamber to avoid having to vote on the issue. Chaudary’s husband Jesse Lee worked for Nancy Pelosi and then in Obama’s White House as his “Minister of Truth Czar,” the director of “Progressive Media and Online Response,” responsible for “rapid responses” to criticism of the administration.) [20954, 20955, 20957, 20958, 21005, 21006, 21052, 21167, 25084, 25085, 57297, 57935]

At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, Senator Jim Risch (R-ID) addresses Secretary of State John Kerry: “Mr. Secretary, I do not envy the position you’re in here today. This is supposed to be a budget hearing where the American people find out what they are getting for their money, and after the discussion we’ve had here today, I think anybody who would come in here would have the impression after we looked at the issues of Russia, Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, the peace process, and all the difficulties with every one of these, I appreciate your view that there are some things happening which are positive, but I tell you, you can’t help but get the impression our foreign policy is just spinning out of control. And we are losing control in virtually every area we are trying to do something in. Probably, we’ve got some limited time here to talk about all these problems, but probably what I want to talk about briefly are a couple of them. One of the best examples is the one that’s on the front pages today and that is the Russian issue. This administration said they were going to hit the reset button. I can’t help think somebody hit the wrong button because things have not gone well during this administration. The Russians today are misbehaving worse than they have in decades and nothing seems to change that. When you look at what they did in Georgia and still remain occupying part of Georgia when they even agreed not to. What they’ve done in the Ukraine. What they’ve done in Syria and are continuing to do in Syria, plus we all know about the cheating that’s going on [with] the treaties that have been entered into.

I'm very disappointed in what's going on. You can't help but be discouraged about it." [57313, 57356, 57358]

"I'm interested to hear your thoughts about this meeting coming up next week. You know, you talked about what happened in Syria and you had a very similar meeting in Syria where you sat down with [Russian Foreign Minister Sergey] Lavrov and supposedly forged a road forward, and that road forward has been a disaster. You heard the people talk about how many tens of thousands of people have been killed since then. The dismantling of the chemical weapons has slowed down. What makes you think you're going to be able to make better progress on the Ukraine? We've seen this movie over and over and over again with the Russians. They misbehave, then we sit down at the table, we make some kind of agreement and they misbehave even worse after the agreement. Maybe you could give us a little taste of what you're going to tell Lavrov when you meet with him next week." Kerry begins his response by blaming former President George W. Bush: "Let me give you what I consider a taste of reality about our foreign policy and the realities of the world. Georgia happened under George Bush. Georgia happened under George Bush, and he didn't even bring a sanction. ...Obama has brought sanctions. And it's having an impact." (The rest of Kerry's response is long-winded claptrap, such as, "We're living with a far more, almost 19th century, 18th century diplomatic playing field, where interests and, you know, some cases mercantilist interests, in other cases just security interests or territorial interests, other kinds of things are raising their head in ways that they didn't during the Cold War, because they were suppressed," and "This is not the bipolar, straightforward choice of the Cold War. We're living in an incredibly challenging time where some of the things that the East-West order took for granted most of my life, are suddenly finding a world in which American engagement is more critical.") [57313, 57346, 57355, 57356, 57358]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson notes that Kerry was "visibly irritated" by the questioning. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) tells Kerry, "...On the issue of Ukraine, my hero, Teddy Roosevelt, used to say talk softly, but carry a big stick. What you're doing is talking strongly and carrying a very small stick—in fact, a twig." Kerry complains about McCain's "premature judgment about the failure of everything," and says, "I guess it's pretty easy to lob those judgments around, but particularly well before the verdict is in on any of them." Johnson writes, "Kerry lit up with enthusiasm when his successor in the upper chamber, Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA), asked about progress on combating climate change. 'We're moving beyond them at a pace that shows us bringing more coal-fired power plants online, more methane being released, which is 20 times more potent than carbon, which is the consequence of the warming that's already taking place. ...If the other guys are wrong, the people saying 'don't listen to it, what's the worst that can happen?' The worst that can happen is life as you know it on Earth is over.'" On criticism of Obama's "red line," Kerry says, "On Syria, where we hear this notion that somehow there was a red line and then it wasn't enforced, and somehow, you know, it's a sign of weakness. I beg to differ. You know, facts are stubborn things. ...[Obama] made his decision and he was ready to use force, and we actually came up with a better solution, which is get all of the weapons out, all of them out, and that still leaves us with other options, folks." (Of course, that is not what happened. Obama appeared ready to use

force, and Congress and the American people made it clear they wanted no part of military action in Syria. Obama did not “come up with a better solution” by begging Syria to eliminate its chemical weapons he had no other options—and Syria has still not gotten “all of them out,” despite what Kerry may believe.) [57313, 57346, 57355, 57356, 57358]

Kerry also places much of the blame for the failure of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians on Israel for continuing to build housing units (on Israeli land the Palestinians want). “Poof, that was sort of the moment,” says Kerry. “We find ourselves where we are.” An Israeli official, according to *The New York Times*, responds that Kerry “knows that it was the Palestinians who said no to continued direct talks with Israel in November; who said no to his proposed framework for final status talks; who said no to even discussing recognition of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people; who said no to a meeting with Kerry himself; and who said no to an extension of the talks. ... In the understandings reached prior to the talks, Israel did not commit to any limitation on construction. Therefore, the Palestinian claim that building in Jerusalem, Israel’s capital, was a violation of the understandings is contrary to the facts. Both the American negotiating team and the Palestinians know full well that Israel made no such commitment.” (Kerry would be wise to give up his dreams of a Nobel Peace Prize for brokering an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Israel will never accept the indefensible borders demanded by the Palestinians, and the Palestinians will never even accept Israel’s right to exist.) [57313, 57346, 57355, 57356, 57358]

No doubt influenced by the Senate’s unanimous vote, the Obama administration states it has told Iran it will not provide a travel visa to its new ambassador to the United Nations, Hamid Aboutalebi. [57485]

Jim Angle reports at FoxNews.com, “There is yet another ObamaCare surprise waiting for consumers: from now until the next open enrollment at the end of this year, most people will simply not be able to buy any health insurance at all, even outside the exchanges. ‘It’s all closed down. You cannot buy a policy that is a qualified policy for the purpose of the ACA (the Affordable Care Act) until next year on January 1,’ says John DiVito, president of Flexbenefit which has 2,500 brokers. John Goodman of the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas adds, ‘People are not going to be able to buy individual and family policies, and that’s part of ObamaCare. And what makes it so surprising is the whole point of ObamaCare was to encourage people to get insurance, and now the market has been completely closed down for the next seven months.’ That means that with few exceptions, tens of millions of people will be locked out of the health insurance market for the rest of this year.” [57314]

ThePostEmail.com reports that document expert Douglas Vogt has filed “a Motion to Disqualify Supreme Court Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor upon the grounds that their appointment to the Supreme Court was an act Barack Hussein Obama was not authorized to make because he is not a legitimate President.” Vogt also argues that Obama had no legal authority to sign any legislation into law, including the Affordable

Care Act.” (One can assume the Supreme Court will ignore the motion, just as it refused to hear *Kerchner v. Obama.*) [57339]

Cold case posse lead investigator Mike Zullo tells Freedom Friday radio host Carl Gallups that investigations of Obama’s forged birth certificate and forged Selective Service registration form “are still going full force. ...I can assure everyone that this is on track. We have to do our work diligently... this is not going away... there *will* be an announcement in the future... in the very near future.” [57340]

HotAir.com reports on a Rand Corporation study that finds only about 3.9 million Americans have enrolled in ObamaCare, rather than the 7.1 million claimed by the Obama administration. The study also shows that between 2013 and 2014 there are 1.6 million fewer people covered by individual policies, although 5.9 million were added to the Medicaid rolls and about 8.2 million gained insurance via employment. (The explanation for that 8.2 million increase may be that many Americans had previously declined employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) because they did not want to have payroll deductions helping to pay for it, but they chose to take it when forced to choose between that coverage and ObamaCare.) According to the study, an estimated 36 percent of ObamaCare enrollees did not previously have insurance—meaning that 64 percent did. HotAir: “[O]f the five ways that uninsured people could have changed their status this year, the ObamaCare exchanges ranked fourth. ESI and Medicaid both drew more uninsured than the exchanges did; the mandate, quite naturally, is driving most of the uninsured into less expensive options. In fact, per that [Rand] table, there are actually more people who had insurance through work last year and now have no insurance at all (2.1 million) than there are people who had no insurance last year and now have it through the exchanges (1.4 million). Something to watch going forward.” [57352]

On April 9 the *Daily Mail* reports, “More than 200 armed federal agents and snipers were deployed on Tuesday to forcibly remove the cattle of a Nevada rancher—signaling a dangerous escalation in the two-decade long constitutional land dispute over an endangered tortoise. [The desert tortoise is *not* on the endangered species list. It is classified only as a “threatened” species.] Cliven Bundy, the last rancher in Clark County, Nevada, has been battling the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) since 1993 when he refused to pay for the right to graze on the 600,000-acre Gold Butte land he says his family have owned since the 1870s. Claiming that the government has ‘brought everything but tanks and rocket launchers,’ Bundy said his livelihood is being taken away from him by agents carrying, ‘automatic weapons, sniper rifles, top communication, top surveillance.’ ‘The battle’s been going on for 20 years,’ Bundy told the *Washington Free Beacon* from his ranch 75 miles outside of Las Vegas. ‘What’s happened the last two weeks, the United States government, the bureaus are getting this army together and they’re going to get their job done and they’re going to prove two things. They’re going to prove they can do it, and they’re gonna prove that they have unlimited power, and that they control the policing power over this public land. That’s what they’re trying to prove.’ Eight helicopters are routinely circling the land and as of Wednesday, federal officials have seized 234 of Bundy’s 908 cattle. It is estimated that impounding them will

cost upwards of \$3 million. The BLM says Bundy's cattle have been trespassing on U.S. land without required grazing permits for over 25 years. However, Bundy said he doesn't recognize federal authority on land that he says belongs to the state of Nevada." [57412, 57444, 57446, 57450, 57451, 57452, 57453, 57455, 57456, 57457, 57458, 57459, 57460, 57462, 57465, 57466, 57470, 57471, 57473, 57546, 57558, 57737, 57744, 57858, 57880, 58097, 58312]

Rory Reid, the son of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), is reportedly brokering a deal to use Nevada land for a solar panel plant to be built by ENN Energy Group, a Chinese company he represents. (The land used by Bundy is needed for the turtles that will be displaced by the solar plant. Thus, Reid needs the cattle removed.) ENN has contributed \$40,650 to Reid's campaigns. The head of the Bureau of Land Management is Neil Kornze—a former senior advisor to Harry Reid who had few, if any, qualifications for the job. (Kornze was approved for his position on April 8, after which he immediately went after Cliven Bundy.) Until the furor over the Bundy ranch dispute, the BLM web site included a document that read, "Non-Governmental Organizations have expressed concern that the regional mitigation strategy for the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone utilizes Gold Butte as the location for offsite mitigation for impacts from solar development, and that those restoration activities are not durable with the presence of trespass cattle." (In other words, "The cattle must go so that the Chinese can build a solar power plant.") By April 11 government officials and agents had rounded up and confiscated many of Bundy's cattle, tasered and arrested the son of the ranch owner for daring to photograph the scene, knocked down a 57 year old woman, used dogs to attack a pregnant woman, surrounded the house with attack helicopters and as many as 200 agents, and threatened protestors with snipers. Additionally, Clark County Commissioner Tom Collins reportedly called supporters of Bundy "inbred bastards" who had "better have funeral plans. [57412, 57444, 57446, 57450, 57451, 57452, 57453, 57455, 57456, 57457, 57458, 57459, 57460, 57462, 57465, 57466, 57470, 57471, 57473, 57509, 57521, 57546, 57558, 57737, 57744, 57858, 57880, 58097, 58312]

One eyewitness reports that Bundy's "family history of ranching this land pre-dates the BLM. It is also true that the BLM has regulated approximately 52 ranchers out of this area of Nevada in the past several years. Mr. Bundy refused to give them anymore of his money, reasoning that why give them the funds to regulate against him to remove him from the land. The BLM has frequently used the tactics of endangered species to garner public support. It should be known that the desert tortoise reserve near Las Vegas has recently been closed, according to the BLM, due to lack of funding to support the tortoises. Many have been euthanized as they are considered un-adoptable. However, that same agency without funding for the tortoises has spent millions, I would guess, building a militarized compound outside the Bundy ranch, scrambling BLM personnel from neighboring states, and hiring outside contractors to rustle Mr. Bundy's cattle and corral them. They also hauled heavy equipment onto his property and broke up water lines and cisterns that the Bundy's had paid for themselves to water the cattle. These water supplies are also used by the wild animals that enjoy the same range land." [57558]

According to WND.com, the list of investors in Nevada solar and wind projects reads like “a who’s who of Democratic insiders, including major Obama campaign bundlers, billionaire investor Paul Tudor Jones, Al Gore, Ted Turner and Goldman Sachs. First Solar’s CEO is Michael Ahearn, former fundraiser for both Obama and Harry Reid.” Additionally, K Road Power, LLC, a New York City-based energy company, lists as its business development manager “none other than Jonathan Magaziner. Magaziner was formerly an associate at the Clinton Climate Initiative of the William J. Clinton Foundation. He is also the son of Ira Magaziner, former senior policy adviser for President Bill Clinton. The elder Magaziner now works for the Clinton Foundation on health and environment issues.” [57740, 57741]

A 16-year-old high school student in Pennsylvania stabs 21 fellow students and a security guard before being tackled by an assistant principal. (Whether the Obama administration will call for a ban on knives—and excoriate Republicans for not agreeing—remains to be seen.) CNN, unable to link the stabbings with Rush Limbaugh or the Tea Party, soon returns to its coverage of the still-missing Flight MH370.) [57345]

Sarah Palin comments on Attorney General Eric Holder’s proposal to develop guns that function only if they “talk to a bracelet or something that you might wear.” Palin notes that she wears two bracelets: “One honors our military; One honors independent Americans who have a healthy distrust of Washington’s permanent political class and who will fight against elitists hell-bent on fundamentally transforming the USA; And one celebrates the year 1791—that glorious year our Bill of Rights came to be, with the cross and bones symbol representing our Founders’ ‘Death to Tyranny’ commitment, and on each side you’ll see symbols of my faith. ...Eric, you can replace my identifying bracelets with your government marker when you pry them off my cold, dead wrists. And, Eric, ‘You don’t want to go there, buddy.’” [57461]

Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) tells TruthRevolt.org, “The amount of stonewalling this administration does never ceases to amaze me. Since the Justice Department has previously turned over massive amounts of documents regarding support for terrorism to prosecuted terrorists, it is incredible that they will not provide them to Congress. Our Attorney General has also refused to fulfill his statutory duty to supply other subpoenaed documents to Congress which has resulted in his being found in contempt of Congress. But, as I keep noting, no matter how cynical you get here in Washington, DC, it’s never enough to catch up.” [57369]

By seven votes, Senate Democrats fail to win approval of the Paycheck Fairness Act—sham legislation that would not do what it’s title suggests, and was proposed only to use as a weapon against House Republicans. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) remarks, “It’s time for Washington Democrats to stop protecting trial lawyers and start focusing on actually helping the people we were sent here to represent.” [57321, 57357, 57372]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “New IRS emails released by the House Oversight Committee show staff working for Democratic Ranking Member Elijah Cummings [D-MD] communicated with the IRS multiple times between 2012 and 2013 about voter fraud prevention group True the Vote. True the Vote was targeted by the IRS after applying for tax exempt status more than two years ago. Further, information shows the IRS and Cummings’ staff asked for nearly identical information from True the Vote President Catherine Engelbrecht about her organization, indicating coordination and improper sharing of confidential taxpayer information. Chairman of the House Oversight Committee Darrell Issa [R-CA], along with five Subcommittee Chairmen are demanding Cummings provide an explanation for the staff inquiries to the IRS about True the Vote and for his denial that his staff ever contacted the IRS about the group. ...The first contact between the IRS and Cummings’ staffers about True the Vote happened in August 2012. In January 2013, staff asked for more information from the IRS about the group. Former head of tax exempt groups at the IRS Lois Lerner went out of her way to try and get information to Cummings’ office. The information Cummings received was not shared with Majority Members on the Committee. On January 28, three days after staffers requested more information, Lerner wrote an email to her deputy Holly Paz, who has since been put on administrative leave, asking, ‘Did we find anything?’ Paz responded immediately by saying information had not been found yet, to which Lerner replied, ‘Thanks, check tomorrow please.’ On January 31, Paz sent True the Vote’s 990 forms to Cummings’ staff. ...Engelbrecht filed an ethics complaint against Cummings for his targeting and intimidation of her organization.” (Lerner and her staff leaked confidential information about conservative organizations to Cummings. Cummings lied and claimed he had no such contact.) [57325, 57326, 57327, 57330, 57331, 57364, 57383, 57690]

Pavlich also reports, “The House Ways and Means Committee has voted to 23–14 along party lines to refer former head of tax exempt groups at the IRS Lois Lerner to the Justice Department for prosecution. Although the details about exactly what charges will be have not yet been released, lawmakers are arguing Lerner has not been truthful with Congress or the IRS inspector general and leaked confidential tax information. ...Last summer ... Obama called the targeting ‘outrageous’ and promised to hold people responsible and accountable for what happened. If the Justice Department refuses to pursue charges against Lerner, it’s fair to say one reason is because they don’t want information leading back to the administration coming out in court. Tomorrow the House Oversight Committee will vote on whether to hold Lerner in contempt of Congress.” (Some might argue that Lerner faces significant problems, but in her favor is the fact that Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder want the issue to go away—and Holder will not prosecute Lerner or refer the case to a grand jury unless he is faced with monumental pressure. CBS, NBC, and ABC all consider the recommendation to prosecute Lerner not worthy of mentioning on their evening news broadcasts.) [56325, 57326, 57327, 57330, 57331, 57354, 57432]

One of Lerner’s emails reads, “Tea Party matter very dangerous... this could be the vehicle to go to court on the issue of whether Citizen’s United overturning the ban on corporate spending applies to tax exempt rules.” Another Lerner email, dated January 24,

2013, jokes about her perhaps “getting the DC office job!”—meaning a position with Obama’s propaganda group, Organizing for Action. [56325, 57326, 57327, 57330, 57331, 57365, 57389]

It is worth noting how Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) came to be the ranking minority member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. After the GOP won control of the House in the November 2010 mid-term elections, Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY) was in line for that position. In December 2016 TalkingPointsMemo.com reported that Towns “surprised everybody... when he announced that he’d dropped out of the race to be ranking member on the House Oversight Committee next year. The move did not reflect his personal preferences though. On Tuesday, according to two sources close to Towns, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] called Towns and told him, essentially, that she could not support his candidacy. Towns had all but locked down the position last month. But that was over the wishes of congressional leadership and the White House, both of whom want the ranking member to be a bulldog, who can stand toe to toe with incoming chairman, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA).” The House Democratic Steering Committee then recommended Cummings for the position “leapfrogging” Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), “the senior Democrat on the committee.” (In other words, Pelosi wanted an obstructionist in the position, not someone who would “play nice” with Issa. Some believe that Cummings was simply following orders from Pelosi or other when he went after True the Vote.) [57691, 57692]

At Ebony.com, Danielle Kimberly (a supporter of Obama and ObamaCare) writes, “As a proud new beneficiary of the Affordable Health Care Act, I’d like to report that I am doctorless. Ninety-six. Ninety-six is the number of soul crushing rejections that greeted me as I attempted to find one. It’s the number of physicians whose secretaries feigned empathy while rehearsing the “I’m so sorry” line before curtly hanging up. You see, when the rush of the formerly uninsured came knocking, doctors in my New Jersey town began closing their doors and promptly telling insurance companies that they had no room for new patients. My shiny, never used Horizon health card is as effective as a dollar bill during the Great Depression. In fact, an expert tells CNN, ‘I think of (Obamacare) as giving everyone an ATM card in a town where there are no ATM machines.’ According to a study 33% of doctors are NOT accepting Medicaid. Here in Jersey, one has a dismal 40 percent chance of finding a doctor who accepts Medicaid—the lowest in the country. ...However, physicians say they are rejecting Medicaid patients with good reason. One doctor explains, ‘the state reimburses... only about \$23.50 for a basic office visit [of those insured by Medicaid], less than half of what [I get] from Medicare or private insurers.’ The argument of physicians is essentially that they aren’t being paid enough to treat the ill, which finds poor and ‘at risk’ populations in danger—as usual. Ninety-six doctors measured the value of my life by how much the government is willing to pay for my preventive visit.” (Kimberley apparently believes doctors should lose money treating her. It can be assumed, however, that *Ebony* magazine paid her more than \$23.50 for her article.) [57328, 57329, 57377]

Kimberly's *Ebony* article is not unexpected. Rush Limbaugh tells his radio audience, "One of the things that I had said in the past [July 17, 2012]... was [that] it wouldn't be long... before massive criticism of doctors erupted. That criticism would take the form of, 'Why should people treating the sick become rich?' Remember? It was not going to be long—I warned you—before we saw a class warfare assault on doctors. ...I think the memo has gone out from the [Obama] Regime: 'It's time now to bash Medicare.' As I predicted, doctors are the next heavies here. 'Why should they make so much money?' ... Naturally it's those greedy doctors who are the big culprits here. The greedy doctors, I guarantee you, are going to become culprits number one in runaway ObamaCare costs. I knew it was gonna happen, I warned you about it..." [57360, 57361]

At Townhall.com Sarah Jean Seman reports, "An early analysis of Obamacare enrollees suggests they are more likely than the privately insured to use expensive specialty drugs. According to the report by pharmacy benefit manager Express Scripts: 'More than six in every 1,000 prescriptions in the Exchange plans were for a medication to treat HIV. This proportion is nearly four times higher in Exchange plans than in commercial health plans.' ...Obamacare users received 35 percent more pain medication, 27 percent more medication to control seizures, and 14 percent more antidepressants than the privately insured. The proportion of contraceptives actually dropped 31 percent among Obamacare enrollees." [57376, 57388]

Attorney General Eric "my people" Holder, addressing a sympathetic audience at race-hustler Al "Crown Heights riot" Sharpton's National Action Network (whose sole function appears to be the promotion of Sharpton), plays the race card, saying, "I am pleased to note that the last five years have been defined by significant strides and by lasting reforms, even in the face, even in the face, of unprecedented, unwarranted, ugly, and divisive adversity. If you don't believe that, if you look at the way, forget about me, forget about me, if you look at the way the attorney general of the United States was treated yesterday by a House Committee, it had nothing to do with me, forget that, what attorney general has ever had to deal with that kind of treatment?" (Holder—who delivered his remarks standing in front of a "No Justice, No Peace" banner—has apparently never heard of Attorneys General Harry Daugherty (who was forced to resign), John Mitchell (who was sent to jail), John Ashcroft (who was pummeled mercilessly by the media for his anti-abortion views and support of the Patriot Act), Alberto Gonzalez (who was excoriated by the media over "enhanced interrogation techniques" used on captured terrorists), or even his old boss Janet Reno (who was Bill Clinton's third choice for the office and who presided over the Branch Davidian compound massacre in Waco, Texas and the Elian Gonzalez fiasco). Holder is essentially arguing that the contempt charges against him had nothing to do with his refusal to turn over documents related to Operation Fast and Furious, and everything to do with his skin color. (Gonzalez and Reno did not claim that their critics were driven by their feelings against Hispanics or women, but Holder is unable to "take the heat" as well as they did.) At NationalReview.com Andrew C. McCarthy writes, "Imagine complaining about 'divisive' tactics while sitting next to *Al Sharpton!*") To the surprise of no one, Holder later claims—unconvincingly—that his remarks had nothing to do with race. [57333,

57381, 57391, 57396, 57487, 57495, 57496, 57513, 57577, 57631, 57632, 57633, 57634, 57635, 57645]

After attending a memorial service for the victims of the April 2 Fort Hood shooting, Obama heads to two Texas fundraisers, in Houston and Austin. (Conveniently for Obama, the trip to Fort Hood is “official,” which allows him to have the taxpayers pay for much of the trip.) While in Texas, Obama again refuses to meet with family members of the victims of the November 2009 Fort Hood terrorist act—that his administration calls “workplace violence.” HotAir.com writes, “Imagine having taken a bullet to the head from [Nidal Malik] Hasan’s gun and being told that [Obama] doesn’t have time to meet with you but *does* have time for a fundraiser at a rich liberal’s house nearby.” (The mainstream media heavily criticized for refusing to meet a second time with peace activist Cindy Sheehan, whose son was killed in Iraq, yet cares little that Obama refuses to meet even momentarily with the victims of the Fort Hood massacre. MotherJones.com describes the plight of one of Hasan’s victims: “With her injuries, [Keara Bono] Torkelson—who suffers from back spasms, PTSD, and crippling headaches [after being shot in the back]—found it difficult to do her job. Rather than send her to a special unit for wounded soldiers, as it usually does with reservists wounded in combat, the Army pulled her off active duty and sent her home. She says her paycheck subsequently shrank from \$1,400 a month to roughly \$200 and she lost her military health insurance, leaving her no access to medical care.”) [57566, 57567, 57593, 57594, 57628]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Environmental Protection Agency chief Gina McCarthy may be a global warming crusader, but her weekly flights home to Boston are causing her to emit tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The EPA recently released a photo album titled ‘A Day In The Life of the EPA Administrator’ that shows what McCarthy does on a typical day, including the fact that she flies home nearly every weekend to spend time with her family. ‘Although she keeps a small apartment near EPA headquarters, almost every weekend McCarthy travels back to Boston, to her home and her husband,’ according to the EPA. But flying on an airplane twice nearly every weekend means she is significantly adding to her carbon footprint by using transportation that emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which the EPA says causes global warming.” (The EPA does not state how much the taxpayers paid to produce the “photo album.”) [57338]

Also according to DailyCaller.com, “Michelle Obama’s short trip to Ireland cost taxpayers well over \$7.9 million, according to documents released Wednesday. Air Force documents obtained via a Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act lawsuit reveal that Michelle Obama, the first daughters and their entourage cost taxpayers \$7,670,476.80 in flights to, from and around Ireland during their June 17-19 trip in 2013.” [57389]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Even as the IRS faces growing heat over Lois G. Lerner and the tea party targeting scandal, a government watchdog said Wednesday it’s pursuing cases against three other tax agency employees and offices suspected of illegal political activity in support of ...Obama and fellow Democrats. In one case the Office of Special

Counsel, which investigates federal employees who conduct politics on government time, said it was ‘commonplace’ in a Dallas IRS office for employees to have pro-Obama screensavers on their computers, and to have campaign-style buttons and stickers at their office. In another case, a worker at the tax agency’s customer help line urged taxpayers ‘to re-elect ...Obama in 2012 by repeatedly reciting a chant based on the spelling of his last name,’ the Office of Special Counsel said in a statement. OSC said it is seeking ‘significant disciplinary action’ against that employee. Another IRS employee in Kentucky has agreed to serve a 14-day suspension for blasting Republicans in a conversation with a taxpayer. ‘They’re going to take women back 40 years,’ the IRS employee said in a conversation that was recorded. The employee also said that ‘if you vote for a Republican, the rich are going to get richer and the poor are going to get poorer.’” (It is a violation of the Hatch Act for federal employees to engage in political activity while working. Why Obama is not in almost constant violation of the Hatch Act is not clear.) [57353, 57387]

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression names the Department of Justice as the winner of its annual “Jefferson Muzzle” award. The prize was created “as a means to draw national attention to abridgments of free speech and press and, at the same time, foster an appreciation for those tenets of the First Amendment.” In second place is the White House Press Office. According to RT.com, “first place honors this year were awarded to the Justice Dept. due to the Obama administration’s relentless aggressive pursuit of individuals alleged to have leaked government information, while the press office’s routine shunning of journalists from official functions in exchange for regularly relying on a private White House photographer earned that department second place standing.” [57536]

At Shoebat.com, Walid Shoebat and Ben Barrack report, “It has been learned that one week prior to the Benghazi attacks that resulted in the deaths of four Americans, CIA Director David Petraeus met with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan. This finding... further bolsters brand new claims by Seymour M. Hersh, the man who broke the Abu Ghraib prison scandal story in 2004. In early 2012, the Obama administration, along with the administration of Turkey’s [Prime Minister] Recep Tayyip Erdogan, reached an agreement that would have Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia provide funding for an operation run by then CIA Director David Petraeus (the Petraeus Operation), according to Hersh’s report. The purpose of the operation, carried out by the CIA and Great Britain’s MI6, was to move weapons from Libya into Syria, using back channel ‘rat lines.’ U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens, who’d recently met with the House Intelligence Committee just days prior to this death, met with Turkish Consul General Ali Sait Akin within two hours of the attack. ...According to a ‘former intelligence official’ cited heavily by Hersh, the classified annex [to a Senate Select Committee in Intelligence report on Benghazi] revealed that the Special Mission Compound where Ambassador Christopher Stevens was murdered was nothing more than a front for negotiating the weapons transfers from Libya to Syria through Turkey. ...If [House Speaker John] Boehner had classified information about weapons being shipped to Syria from Libya, via Turkey as far back as January of last year, how long before *that* did he know about it? Despite a majority of House Republicans (185—38) who are calling for a Select

Committee to investigate what happened in Benghazi, Boehner continues to refuse to appoint one. It stands to reason that if Boehner knew what was going on in Benghazi *prior* to the attacks, he wouldn't want the truth about Benghazi to come out now." (It is worth noting that Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, has announced his retirement. *The Obama Timeline* suspects that neither Boehner nor Rogers want the truth about Benghazi revealed.) [57366, 57742, 57743]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on Benghazi: "It's late, it's too late. This should have been a year ago, three, four more months ago. Politically speaking, the administration has won. They ran out the clock. If we had a select committee from the beginning, really had coherent hearings unlike what we've had which were disjointed hearings that let all things sort of slip away, we really would have been somewhere. We would have gotten to the bottom of this. But as a political fact, this thing is done. And I think right now the best thing for Republicans to do is to look at the broader foreign policy of this administration, to look at the [Secretary of State John] Kerry hearings from yesterday. It is a disaster from one part of the globe to another. Just about everybody agrees except the most hardened and partisan Democrats and that's where you want to hit the administration. Not only for political partisan reasons, but for the good of the country. This is really hurting the country and unfortunately you only have a certain amount of time, a certain amount of attention, and the clock has run out on Benghazi. I think you have to go after Syria, the Iran negotiations, the Crimea, Ukraine, what's happening in Eastern Europe. I mean this really is a collapse of America's stature in the world." [57367]

On *Hannity*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), noting that Obama's budget proposal zeroes out funding for arming commercial airline pilots, says, "I want all pilots to be armed. ... The goal of my bill is to have 100 percent of American pilots armed because I think it's a very cost effective. It's the most cost effective way of deterring another attack on our planes. ... [Obama has] advocated for getting rid of the program. And when I talk to pilots—I'm at airports all the time—pilots come up to me all the time and say it's too hard to get a permit and to keep up the permit." [57425]

On April 10 the panel members on *Morning Joe* struggle to name Hillary Clinton's main achievement as Secretary of State. (In fact, they cannot.) [57395, 57433]

New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson tells TheTakeaway.org, "The Obama years are a benchmark for a new level of secrecy and control. It's created quite a challenging atmosphere for *The New York Times*, and for some of the best reporters in my newsroom who cover national security issues in Washington. ... Sources who want to come forward with important stories that they feel the public needs to know are just scared to death that they're going to be prosecuted. Reporters fear that they will find themselves subpoenaed in this atmosphere. ... I would say it is the most secretive White House that I have ever been involved in covering, and that includes—I spent 22 years of my career in Washington and covered presidents from President Reagan on up through

now, and I was Washington bureau chief of the Times during George W. Bush's first term." [57641, 57642]

Judge Andrew Napolitano writes at LewRockwell.com, "Last week, National Intelligence Director Gen. James R. Clapper sent a brief letter to Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, in which he admitted that agents of the National Security Agency (NSA) have been reading innocent Americans' emails and text messages and listening to digital recordings of their telephone conversations that have been stored in NSA computers, without warrants obtained pursuant to the Constitution. That the NSA is doing this is not newsworthy—Edward Snowden has told the world of this during the past 10 months. What is newsworthy is that the NSA has admitted this, and those admissions have far-reaching consequences. Since the Snowden revelations first came to light last June, the NSA has steadfastly denied them. Clapper has denied them. The recently retired head of the NSA, Gen. Keith Alexander, has denied them. Even ...Obama has stated repeatedly words to the effect that 'no one is reading your emails or listening to your phone calls.' ...This was all done in secret—so secret that [Obama] would lie about it; so secret that Congress, which supposedly authorized it, was unaware of it; and so secret that the FISA court judges themselves do not have access to their own court records (only the NSA does). It was to further this public façade that Clapper lied to the Senate Intelligence Committee last year when he replied to a question from Wyden about whether the NSA was collecting massive amounts of data on hundreds of millions of Americans by saying, 'No' and then adding, 'Not wittingly.'" [57370]

"...Snowden, in an act of great personal sacrifice and historic moral courage, directly refuted Clapper by telling reporters that the NSA possessed not just metadata but also content—meaning the actual emails, text messages and recordings of telephone calls. He later revealed that the NSA also has the content of the telephone bills, bank statements, utility bills and credit card bills of everyone in America. In his letter to Wyden last week, Clapper not only implicitly acknowledged that Snowden was correct all along, but also that he, Clapper, lied to and materially misled the Senate Intelligence Committee, and that the NSA is in fact reading emails and listening to phone calls without obtaining the second warrant it has been claiming it obtains. One wonders whether Obama was duped by Clapper when he denied all this, or whether he just lied to the American people as he has done in the past. ...Shouldn't we expect that Clapper be prosecuted for lying to a congressional committee about the most massive government plot in U.S. history to violate the Fourth Amendment? Don't hold your breath; [Obama] will protect his man. Yet, Congress could address this independent of a president who declines to prosecute his fellow liars. Congress could impeach Clapper, and [Obama] would be powerless to prevent that. If Congress does that, it would be a great step forward for the rule of law and fidelity to the Constitution. If Congress does nothing, we can safely conclude that it is complicit in these constitutional violations. If Congress will not impeach an officer of the government when it itself is the victim of his crimes because it fears the political consequences, does it still believe in the Constitution?" [57370]

The House votes 413–2 to reject Obama’s budget proposal. Congressman Paul Ryan’s (R-WI) budget passes by a vote of 219–205. (Obama does not explain why the GOP’s “stinkburger” budget received 217 votes more than his or why only two Democrats supported the administration’s proposal. Townhall.com notes that it may be because the Obama proposal never leads to a balanced budget, raises taxes by \$1.8 trillion, adds \$8.3 trillion to the national debt, and addresses virtually none of the government’s spending problems.) [57373, 57417, 57418, 57730, 57802]

Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) tells CNSNews.com “illegal aliens are not going to come out of Mexico and become Libertarians. It’s not going to happen. Being from Texas, I can assure you [amnesty legislation] won’t help us. It will lose Texas, and once you lose Texas, the Republicans will never win another presidential election.” [57538]

The Obama administration announces the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Obama will nominate Office of Budget and Management Director Sylvia Burwell as Sebelius’ replacement. Burwell will no doubt be confirmed by the Democrat-controlled Senate, but not before she has been made uncomfortable with tough questions at her confirmation hearing. (Republicans will grill her because of the disaster of ObamaCare, and Democrats facing reelection will want to appear as though they are eager to “fix” ObamaCare. On the other hand, if the Republican Senators are too tough on Burwell, the Democrats will use that as an excuse to say they “hate women”—which may be why Obama chose a woman to succeed Sebelius.) Vox.com leftist Ezra Klein (formerly of *The Washington Post*) tweets, “Kathleen Sebelius is resigning because Obamacare has won”—a comment that is immediately ridiculed by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX): “Well, if that’s true, then I hope every Democrat will follow her path and resign as well.” Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume tweets, “This guy is not joking!” (On April 15 HotAir.com posts nine questions it suggests Burwell be asked at her confirmation hearing. In an early March hearing to defend Obama’s proposed budget, Burwell did her best to avoid giving direct answers to questions from Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL).) [57374, 57375, 57379, 57402, 57405, 57406, 57408, 57527, 57663, 57664, 57700, 57804]

In a speech at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, Lisa O. Monaco, Obama’s assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism, says parents can prevent “violent extremism” by watching the children for “warning signs” that they are becoming “radicalized to violence. ...For instance, parents might see sudden personality changes in their children at home—becoming confrontational. ...Teachers might hear a student expressing an interest in traveling to a conflict zone overseas. ...Or friends might notice a new interest in watching or sharing violent material.” (If “becoming confrontational” is a sign that a teenager is becoming radicalized, then almost every teenage in the nation should be reported to the Department of Homeland Security. Pamela Geller comments, “This is not a problem for American teens. Yes, mom, dad, watch out for drugs. Try to guide your children away from the wrong crowd. But unless your child is a devout Muslim, this is another Obama psyop. This is insulting malarkey from an increasingly rogue and bizarre Obama administration.”) [57910, 57911]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee votes along party lines, 21–12, to hold former IRS official Lois Lerner in contempt. In support of the contempt vote, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) points out that Lerner made “17 separate factual assertions” when she appeared before the committee before she then decided to “plead the Fifth” and refuse to answer questions. “That is a lot of talking for someone who wants to remain silent.” (Under the law, one cannot “pick and choose” when to refuse to answer questions. One can either testify or not, but one cannot make statements in defense of oneself and then refuse to answer questions.) Gowdy says, “Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman? Can you imagine a fact pattern where somebody takes the stand and says, ‘I didn’t rob the bank. But I’m not gonna answer why my fingerprints are on the demand note. And I’m not gonna tell you why I’m on the surveillance footage with a gun in my hand. And I’m not gonna tell you why the dye pack blew up in my car. I’m just gonna tell you I didn’t rob the bank!’ That’s not the way our system works.” [57378, 57380, 57384, 57390, 57392, 57427, 57436, 57443]

Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) states, “Today, the Oversight Committee upheld its obligation to pursue the truth about the IRS targeting of Americans because of their political beliefs. Our investigation has found that former IRS Exempt Organizations division Director Lois Lerner played a central role in the targeting scandal and then failed to meet her legal obligations to answer questions after she waived her right not to testify. In demanding answers and holding a powerful government official accountable for her failure to meet her legal obligations, this Committee did its job. If the House takes up and passes the resolution, the matter will be referred to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, which statute requires he take to a grand jury.” Democrats on the committee predictably protest, repeatedly charging Republicans with “McCarthyism.” (In the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy (R-WI) claimed there were communists, spies, and sympathizers in the U.S. government. He was censured by the Senate for his tactics, and the term “McCarthyism” came to be used to criticize anyone believed to be making unsubstantiated claims. Of course, the average person is unaware that many years after his death McCarthy was proven right. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the release of documents known as the “Venona Papers” indicated that the Soviets did indeed have spies in the U.S. government, primarily in the State Department.) The full House has not yet scheduled a vote on the contempt issue. [57378, 57380, 57384, 57390, 57392, 57407]

At the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, Obama delivers an address commemorating the enactment of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. (Obama fails to note that the legislation passed because of Republican legislators. It was opposed by most Southern Democrats. Rush Limbaugh notes, “The Democrats were the KKK. The Democrats were Bull Connor, the dogs, and the fire hoses.” In fact, LBJ once told several governors who were traveling with him on Air Force One that with his civil rights legislation and “Great Society” programs making poor people reliant on government, “I’ll have those niggers voting Democratic for the next 200 years.”) During his remarks, Obama makes the nonsensical statement, “We are here today because we know we cannot be complacent. History travels not only forwards, but backwards and sideways.” (The jury is apparently still out on diagonal.) [57397, 57398, 57399, 57400, 57420]

During a paid speech to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries in Las Vegas, Hillary Clinton is almost hit by a shoe thrown at her by a woman in the audience. (When George W. Bush dodged a shoe thrown at him in December 2008, the media seized on the incident as proof that he was becoming increasingly unpopular. It can be assumed the media will not make the same claim with regard to Clinton.) Some speculate that the event was staged by the Clinton team—a not totally irrational thought, considering the history of the Clintons. [57401, 57424, 57448, 57449, 57491, 57605]

Family Dollar Stores announces it will close about 370 of its 8,100 stores. [57403, 57404]

At GoldSwitzerland.com Egon von Greyerz writes, “The US stock market continues its rise to dizzy heights. The rise has very little to do with economic fundamentals but is more a function of money printing and the weak dollar. The US is now slowly entering its hyperinflationary phase. Food prices are already up 19% in the first three months of 2014. On an annualised basis that is 76% which is a clear sign that hyperinflation is already starting. The dollar is likely to start a severe decline this year on its way to the intrinsic value of ZERO. As it falls the vicious spiral of a falling currency and massive money printing is likely to destroy the US economy in a hyperinflationary depression. This will not only happen in the US but also in Japan, the Eurozone and the UK. But the US will be the first country to experience the destruction of its currency.” (*The Obama Timeline* does not know if von Greyerz is right about the timing of the dollar’s collapse, but believes he is right that it is coming. The absurd expansion of the money supply between 2008 and 2014 must necessarily result in price inflation. The only question is when—and whether any external event might help trigger it. In anticipation, *The Obama Timeline* owns gold and silver.) [57410, 57411]

According to AlArabiya.net, “Palestinians and Israelis have reached a deal to extend peace talks beyond an April 30 deadline, Al Arabiya News Channel reported on Thursday. The deal will see an unspecified number of Palestinian prisoners released from Israel jails and a freeze on settlement construction in the West Bank. In exchange, the Palestinians will suspend their plans to join 15 international bodies and treaties and the United States will release jailed Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, according to sources. The State Department said on Thursday that progress was being made in U.S.-mediated negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians meant to keep peace talks going, saying any speculations about a deal were ‘premature.’” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “Does [Senator] John McCain [R-AZ] owe [Secretary of State] John Kerry an apology? Or does Jonathan Pollard owe McCain a thank-you card? Two days after McCain scolded Kerry over his refusal to ‘recognize reality’ and give up on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, al-Arabiya reports that the US has kickstarted the effort back to life—by trading Pollard to Israel in exchange for a new Palestinian prisoner release and a moratorium on settlement expansion. ...The intelligence community won’t be pleased, if this turns out to be true, but Pollard has probably outlived his usefulness in prison. If the US can get something substantive for his release, then after twenty-seven years, it would be a good

call. This probably just buys Kerry a little face-saving time rather than anything substantive, though. If talks collapse later, the US will have traded its hole card for nothing. And nothing in the current talks suggest that we're moving toward any resolution of the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians, because the Palestinians still want the right to live in Israel while the Israelis want Israel to remain a Jewish state.”) [57434, 57435]

NATO releases satellite photos showing Russian military equipment and as many as 40,000 troops amassed near the Ukraine border. [57441, 57442]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, former CBS investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson says the network called her a “troublemaker” for investigating scandals like Operation Fast and Furious and Benghazi. Of Operation Fast and Furious, Attkisson says, “It just came to be that, I don't think on the viewer's part, but on the [part of the] people that decide what stories go into the broadcast and what there's room for, they felt fairly early on that this story was over when I felt as though we had barely begun to scratch the surface. They didn't ask me what was left to report, they just decided on their own that this story was [over]. ...Benghazi, I was assigned to look into about three weeks after the attacks happened... and pursue that aggressively. And as I felt we were beginning to scratch beneath the surface on that scandal as well, which I think had many legitimate questions yet to be asked and answered, interest was largely lost in that story as well on the part of the people that are responsible for deciding what goes on the news. ...It's more as though there is no time in the broadcast. They really, really liked the story but you start to hear from, you know, other routes that why don't you just leave it alone, and you know, you are kind of a troublemaker because you are still pursuing it. It kind of goes from hot to cold in one day, sometimes. Where they are asking you to pursue something heavily and then it's almost as if a light switch goes off and they look at you all of a sudden as if, why are you bringing us this story?” [57438, 57439, 57498, 57514]

“...I was asked by CBS to look into ObamaCare and it had a similar trajectory whereby we broke some interesting stories that I felt like we were uncovering some good information and making headway, but... I feel like a lot of the media [that] after several weeks of this, [it] kind of fell off the radar on the story to a large degree, on the critical looks that we were taking. ...Just before Christmas came word that the top security official, the computer security person who still works there at HHS had refused to sign off and recommended, in fact, that this web site [Healthcare.gov] not go live because of all the security issues. And that was not considered a big enough story, I suppose, is the way to put it by those who decide what goes on the air. But I thought it was hugely important, because this is an insider, someone who works in the Obama administration who had made this assessment. And if you look at having had something like that occur with a private corporation that proceeded to go online with all of these alleged security risks, I think the government would be very upset by that if the tables were turned. But here was the United States government doing it.” [57438, 57439, 57498, 57514]

On April 11 Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius delivers an address to announce her resignation—and stumbles when she realizes one page of her prepared remarks is missing. (One Twitter user tweets, “Congratulations, Kathleen Sebelius, on your release from JobLock.” Another tweets, “Sebelius returns to her first love: making coats out of Dalmatian puppies.” NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty quips, “Sebelius told Obama of her intentions in early March. Everything this woman does gets delayed.” In fact, on March 31 Sebelius said she would “absolutely” still be at her job in November 2014.) Obama praises Sebelius for her service, and then introduces his nominee to replace her: Office of Management and Budget director Sylvia Matthews Burwell—whose experience in the health care industry is zero and whose “budget prowess” is such that the House voted down her Obama budget by a vote of 413–2. [57413, 57414, 57415, 57416, 57419, 57422, 57426, 57430, 57431, 57440, 57454, 57494, 57515, 57527, 57700, 57713]

Burwell was also in charge of the government’s “partial shutdown” processes during the 2013 budget showdown, and issued the memorandum ordering the closing of the open-air memorials in Washington, D.C. (According to WND.com, the veterans group Special Operations Speaks “is planning an aggressive opposition to the Burwell nomination.” The organization political director, Larry Ward, says, “We’re planning on hosting a human barricade in front of the Senate at the time of her confirmation hearings. ...[Burwell] either has a lot of malcontent, has a lot of evil inside her or she’s just an ‘Obamabot’ [mindless Obama follower]. Either way, we don’t want that person representing the nation’s health care. We need somebody who can stand on their own and make decisions that affect the entire country’s health and well-being, not someone who is going to either have political payback for spite or for whatever reasons that they put these barricades up or just follow orders as the king on high declares.”) [57413, 57414, 57415, 57416, 57419, 57422, 57426, 57430, 57431, 57440, 57454, 57494, 57515, 57527, 57700, 57713]

Interestingly, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for fact-checking all of Obama’s speeches before they are delivered. Preceding Burwell as OMB head were Jacob Lew and Peter Orszag. All three were therefore responsible for ensuring that Obama did not present incorrect information or make false promises—and all three failed, permitting Obama to make false statements such as, “If you like your plan, you can keep your plan,” “If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor,” “Under my plan your insurance premiums will fall \$2,500 per year,” “I will cut the deficit in half before the end of my first term in office,” “There’s no widespread evidence the Affordable Care Act is hurting jobs,” and “Today, the average full-time working woman earns just 77 cents for every dollar a man earns in 2014.” [9300, 9301, 9302, 9303, 9312, 9334, 9378, 10577, 10578, 10596, 22908, 22944, 31783, 31787, 48844, 48853, 48855, 48863, 48870, 48880, 48917, 48933]

At FreeBeacon.com Andrew Stiles reports that Burwell “served in several positions under the Bill Clinton administration, including as a deputy aide to then-budget director Jack Lew. In July 1995, Burwell (then Sylvia Mathews) was one of several key aides questioned by the Senate Whitewater Committee regarding the death of deputy White

House counsel Vince Foster. Foster's death was officially ruled a suicide. The Clinton White House eventually admitted to misleading investigators about how senior officials had seized and disposed of files relating to the first couple's controversial investments in the Whitewater Development Corporation, a failed real estate venture. ... Under questioning, Sylvia Mathews and her colleagues denied impeding a police investigation into Foster's death after his body was found in a northern Virginia park. According to the *New York Times*, Mathews testified 'in laborious detail about what she had found in Mr. Foster's garbage on the night he died.' That experience may come in handy as she prepares to oversee the implementation of Obamacare." (One can assume that her task was to find and destroy anything that might make the Clintons look bad. On July 26, 1995 *The New York Times* reported that Matthews "had also managed to retrieve a special bag of garbage containing classified and sensitive papers that was usually destroyed by the Secret Service. The contents of that bag were never examined by anyone to see if Mr. Foster had left anything in it that might shed light on his state of mind.") [57447, 57713, 57804, 57805]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "The timing couldn't be worse, which is one reason why... the White House never bothered to tell senior Democratic leadership in the Senate about Sebelius' resignation. The last thing Democrats wanted in the summer of 2014 was a high-profile confirmation hearing that will focus on all of the failures of ObamaCare, with the news media forced to follow it. Democrats want to talk about income inequality, Equal Pay Day, Paul Ryan's budget, the weather—anything but ObamaCare, especially this summer. That's when the 2015 premium prices will start coming out, and amplify the unhappiness already being felt in the electorate over ObamaCare. The time to dump Sebelius was in November [2013], when the scope of her incompetence became clear. That would have allowed Obama to look tough, gain him some extra political breathing room for fixes, and most importantly would have moved up confirmation hearings to keep them nearly a year away from the midterms. ... Forcing Sebelius out now not only steps all over their message of 'victory,' but also moves the confirmation hearings and the reamplified debate over ObamaCare within a few months of the midterms—giving Republicans the perfect platform to frame the elections and trump the weak economic agenda of Democrats. Apparently, incompetence in this administration isn't limited to HHS. Or State. Or Justice. Or..." [57437]

On Fox News, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments on Sebelius' resignation and Obama's remarks: "You know, I thought the most revealing statement that [Obama] made was the smug statement about the ... 'final score.' He has viewed Obamacare from day one as just a political battle. This is not a political battle. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs, have been forced into part-time work and lost their health insurance and lost their doctor or are seeing their premiums skyrocket. Every time I travel home to Texas, I see men and women who are scared and [have] lost their health insurance." Sebelius resigned, says Cruz, "because Senate Democrats are scared. They're running scared because every one of them in their races across the country, they're underwater. They're losing because Obamacare has hurt so many millions of people, and I think it was Senate Democrats who demanded Kathleen Sebelius' head, and I think that's exactly what we saw what happen. ... Today, seeing the disaster, seeing the train wreck that is

ObamaCare, in my view, it is the essence of pragmatism to acknowledge this thing isn't working. We need to start over, repeal every word of it. Start over." [57469]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, "A new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finds that solar facilities in California are acting like 'mega traps' that kill and injure birds. As a result, "entire food chains" are being disrupted. USFWS's National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory studied three solar farms in Southern California: Desert Sunlight, Genesis Solar and Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS). Two-hundred and thirty-three different birds from 71 species were found over the course of a two-year study. ...The study found that besides the intense heat [over 800 degrees Fahrenheit], birds may be mistaking large solar panels for bodies of water. The injured birds then attract insects and other predators to the area. They, too, are then vulnerable to injury or death." (The report does not address whether 800 degree air temperatures contribute to "global warming.") [57492]

Michelle Malkin reports, "Zeituni Onyango, ...Obama's illegal alien aunt, died this week of cancer and other complications. I hope she rests in peace. America, however, should be up in arms. Auntie Zeituni is an enduring symbol of all that is wrong with this country's immigration 'policy'—or rather, its complete lack of a coherent, enforceable system of laws and rules that puts the national interest first. ...Zeituni's 14-year illegal overstay is a reminder that our temporary visa program is an abysmal joke. ...She was supposed to go back to Kenya in two years after traveling here with her son, who had been accepted at a college in Boston. But like millions of other 'temporary' visa overstayers, Auntie Zeituni never went home. ...Auntie Zeituni had no job skills, no special talent, no compelling reason to keep her here in America as an asset to our culture or our economy. She didn't value the American Dream. She was a dependency nightmare. She collected \$700 a month in welfare benefits and disability payments totaling \$51,000. Somehow, Auntie Zeituni also drummed up money to apply for asylum and finagled her way into both federal and state public housing in Boston. She contributed nothing to this country. The only 'work' she did was gaming the system, complaining about her lot and blaming everyone else for her problems while they subsidized her 14-year illegal overstay." [57409, 57421]

"Auntie Zeituni's ridiculous asylum application and what happened afterward are reminders that our asylum and deportation systems are appalling jokes. Auntie Zeituni's bogus request was rejected by the immigration court system. A judge ordered her to return to Kenya in 2003. She appealed. She lost. A judge again ordered her to leave in 2004. But Auntie Zeituni [Onyango] never went home. Like an estimated 700,000 other deportation absconders, she evaded the judicial order for nearly a half-dozen years and continued to feed at the government trough. ...She got multiple bites at the immigration court apple, where it ain't over till the alien wins. Despite twice being ordered to go home, the feds allowed her bogus case to be reopened. After breaking visa laws, campaign finance laws (she donated illegally to Obama three times), deportation rules and judicial orders, she was allowed to have yet another hearing. Her manufactured claim of a 'credible fear of persecution' in Kenya made a mockery of every legitimate case for

asylum or refugee status. ...Neither Republican nor Democratic leaders in Washington had the will to kick this trash-talking freeloader (or her drunk-driving, deportation-evading, amnesty-securing deadbeat brother Omar Onyango) out of our home. Auntie Zeituni's story is a disgraceful reminder that the only thing worse than the ingrates thumbing their noses at our immigration laws are the people in power on both sides of the aisle enabling them. Open-borders bipartisanship is suicide." (Obama later skips his aunt's funeral to play golf. According to *The New York Times*, he "sent a condolence note." Some have argued that Obama is not close to his Kenyan family because his father was someone other than Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. Also according to the *Times*, in 2001 Zeituni Onyango "helped take care of his newborn daughter, Sasha, and did household chores for the family in Chicago." Although she arrived in the United States on a valid travel visa, she overstayed that visa and remained in the country illegally. When Obama became aware of her illegal presence is not reported.) [57409, 57421, 57964, 57965]

The Media Research Center reports, "On Friday, all three network morning shows fretted over a woman throwing a shoe at Hillary Clinton during a speaking event in Las Vegas. NBC *Today* co-host Tamron Hall was particularly melodramatic: 'I mean, but how scary is that? ...Had it hit her, that would have been awful. It would have been awful.' Weatherman Al Roker added: 'Jeez, that's frightening.' Hall declared: 'It's hard for me to watch, actually.' ...The shoe was on the other foot in 2008, when an Iraqi journalist threw two shoes at then-President George W. Bush during a Baghdad press conference. At that time, ABC and CBS referred to the shoe-thrower as a 'celebrity' and 'folk hero' who 'thrilled the Arab world.' In 2009, then-MSNBC host David Shuster actually cheered the release of the footwear assailant from prison. Tamron Hall happened to be on the show at the time and observed that people would have been 'more outraged' if someone threw a shoe at ...Obama." [57531, 57584]

The Heritage Foundation posts 15 charts that dramatize the impact of ObamaCare. Among the things they show: "At least 4.7 million health care plans in the individual market have been discontinued due to new ObamaCare rules." (California has seen the most cancellations, followed by Georgia and Florida.) Insurance premiums have skyrocketed for 27-year-olds, and are up as much as 171 percent (Arkansas), 168 percent (Georgia), and 157 percent (Arizona). "In 13 states, 50-year-olds will see premiums rise by 50 percent or more." "In 19 states, premiums for a family of four will increase by more than 10 percent." "More than half of U.S. counties have only one or two insurance carriers selling coverage in the Obamacare exchanges. This lack of competition means less choice for consumers and less market pressure to keep prices down." "A full 10-year cost reveals nearly \$2 trillion in new spending [for ObamaCare] by 2024." (Even if Obama's claims of 7.1 million ObamaCare enrollees is accurate, they will cost the taxpayers \$200 billion per year—or a whopping \$28,169 per enrollee.) "In 2024, after 10 years of full implementation and nearly \$2 trillion in new spending, 31 million people will likely remain uninsured." "Obamacare includes 18 new taxes, fees, and penalties, costing taxpayers an estimated \$771 billion by 2022." "Nearly 70 percent of those projected to pay the Obamacare individual mandate tax earn less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) (\$45,960 for a single individual in 2013), and 10 percent live in poverty." "ObamaCare cuts \$716 billion from Medicare" over 10 years. "By cutting

Medicare payments instead of introducing real reform, the health care law jeopardizes seniors' access to providers. According to the Medicare trustees, Obamacare's scheduled reductions to provider payments will cause Medicare's payments for health services to fall further below providers' costs. This will cause providers to either withdraw from serving Medicare beneficiaries or shift more costs to their patients with private coverage." [57423]

Barack and Michelle Obama's tax return for 2013 shows income of \$481,098 and a \$1,500 donation to Washington, D.C.'s St. John's Church, where they have occasionally attended services. Their total of \$59,251 in charitable contributions—mostly in \$1,000 and \$1,500 amounts—went to various non-religious organizations, including the National Congress of Black Women, the United Negro College Fund, Sidwell Friends School (which their daughters attend), National Ms Society, National AIDS Fund, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Mujeres Latinas En Accion, Habitat for Humanity, and the American Red Cross (\$4,000). [57428, 57474]

Catherine Englebrecht, president of True the Vote, one of the conservative organizations targeted by the IRS, tells WND.com, "It's like the wild, wild west up there in D.C. Anything goes. It's open season on any group that is considered to be ideologically opposed to the politics of the administration. The rules don't matter. The ends justify the means in their minds." Englebrecht says filing contempt charges against former IRS official Lois Lerner is "a step in the right direction, but it's only a step. I think that we've got to look at the actions of [Congressman] Elijah Cummings [D-MD] and the actions of Lois Lerner, actions taken by two people in a much bigger organized effort. I think we've got to keep the push on, no matter how deep and ugly this rabbit hole is. We have got to be steeled enough and firm enough in our resolve to follow it wherever it leads. I think it is going to lead to the highest offices in the land. ...It was so bizarre. When this all started, it was in the throes of the final weeks before the 2012 election when True the Vote was at its peak of operations, helping to train citizens and getting them ready to serve inside of the polls for the elections. Out of nowhere, we got this letter from Elijah Cummings. He asserted that we were engaging in criminal activity and that he was going to open an investigation and he was subpoenaing all of our documents. These letters came to us on the letterhead of the Committee for House Oversight and Government Reform. His was the only signature on it, but the letter itself carried with it what felt to be a pretty weighty backing." [57445, 57525]

"...I do think they are concerned about any organization that is going to try and take a hard look at the legitimacy of elections and legitimacy of process. Eighty-plus percent of Americans favor photo voter identification, but the administration is going state by state and suing states that are trying to implement these very common sense measures to make sure that elections are free and fair for everyone, regardless of political party affiliation. It begs the question why. Why is there such a push against bringing a process that meets with standards of others? We're the only industrialized country in the world that doesn't use photo voter identification as its standard and it makes you wonder why. Englebrecht said the latest discoveries go a long way to explain why congressional Democrats quickly

shifted from outrage over the IRS scandal to outrage that Republicans still want answers. Elijah Cummings, months and months and months ago, went on television and said, ‘Case closed. There’s nothing to see here, people. Keep moving.’ [Obama] came out and said there’s not a smidgen of truth to any of this. It’s a sad day, but it’s where you are that you can’t believe the hype. They will say and do anything to obfuscate, to put out a smokescreen to keep people from recognizing what really is happening.” [57445, 57525]

“...Over the course of the last three years, [my business has] been visited by a whole alphabet soup of agencies, from the FBI to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, OSHA. There’s a Texas branch of the EPA, an environmental group that came out and visited and certainly the IRS. So we’ve had our fair share of agency interest. ...Nothing changed in our business. We’d been in business to that point for 16 years and had never seen any government agency take an interest in us. Then I filed for nonprofit exemption. All of a sudden, over a period of three years, we have now, at last count, 25 either audits or investigations or inquiries from five different government agencies. At some point, you have to ask yourself what is the statistical probability that none of this is connected? I just don’t think you can make the case. Now we are seeing, in fact, that we know at least the executive branch and the legislative branch were colluding to single us out.

...Because of the good nature of Americans, it’s our natural inclination to not even be able to wrap our heads around the thought that citizens might be being targeted. That stands in direct contrast to everything this country represents. I’m here to tell you it is happening. It is happening, and we’ve got to keep pushing for the truth. There are a lot of layers to peel back. Elijah Cummings is only a very small supporting character to a much bigger production.” [57445, 57525]

Washingtonian.com posts a sycophantic article about ABC reporter Claire Shipman (who is married to White House press secretary Jay Carney) in an effort to boost sales of her book *The Confidence Code: The Science and Art of Self-Assurance—What Women Should Know* (co-written with Katty Kay). The opening photograph in the article shows Shipman in her kitchen with her two children. On the wall behind them are two Soviet propaganda posters. (Carney and Shipman met in Russia in the 1990s.) In another photo, with Shipman and Carney posing in front of bookshelves, there are multiple copies of the same books—suggesting either that the image was altered. (In fact, one of Carney’s son’s fingers covers part of a book, and that same finger miraculously appears in front of the same book two shelves to the right.) One of the Carney books is titled *Soviet Architecture*, and on one of the bookshelves is what looks like a small bust of former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. (Whether any reporter will ask Carney about his posters and Gorbachev bust is not known.) Carney’s children attend the incredibly expensive private school, Sidwell Friends, along with Obama’s children. [57463, 57464, 57472, 57475, 57498, 57499, 57862]

At GirlsJustWannaHaveGuns.com, Marilyn Assenheim later writes, “The White House’s latest cause célèbre, equal pay for women, is completely undermined by the gist of [Claire] Shipman’s statements throughout the Washingtonian article. Shipman has worked part time for 5 years and piously lauds her decision. The Daily Caller highlights

Democrat duplicity: ‘...a lot of moms make similar choices...(but t)he decision Shipman made to work part-time serves as a microcosm to help explain the pay gap that Carney and his boss, ...Obama, spent the better part of last week demagoguing. ...Call it hypocrisy or irony but ...During the 2008 Republican National Convention, then-MSNBC’s Norah O’Donnell suggested that maybe—Sarah Palin should be home with her child (instead of running for vice president.) ...Shipman’s homebody role didn’t prevent her from using the puff piece as the springboard to launch her new book, designed to educate women. She shares, among other bombshells that, ‘problems’ arise between men and women because...wait for it...they’re ‘different.’ Astoundingly, men produce ‘testosterone.’ You can pick yourself up off of the floor now.” [57862]

Obama addresses Al “shakedown” Sharpton’s National Action Network convention and complains about state laws requiring photo ID for voting, saying, “The right to vote is threatened today.” Obama whines that not everyone can afford to travel overseas and therefore do not have passports (as if a passport is the only form of photo ID acceptable). He says, “In some places, women could be turned away from polls just because they’re registered under their maiden name but their driver’s license has their married name.” (Those same women may also have trouble cashing checks—which is a good incentive to update one’s drivers license, as one would do if moving to another state.) He adds, “And just to be clear I know where my birth certificate is. But a lot of people don’t. A lot of people don’t. Ha, ha. I think it’s still up on a website somewhere. Ha, ha, ha, ha. You remember that? That was crazy. That was some crazy stuff. Ha, ha, ha. I, I hadn’t thought about that in awhile. Ha, ha, ha. Ha, ha.” (Obama’s statement, “I hadn’t thought about that in a while” is probably not true. The fact that he even brought up his birth certificate likely reflects a calculated strategy: he wants to deliver the first punch and plant seeds of ridicule in the weeks before an expected press conference by the Cold Case Posse, as well as a court decision in attorney Orly Taitz’s lawsuit demanding a Freedom of Information Act release of Obama’s Social Security enrollment form.) [57468, 57477, 57503, 57709, 58851]

Anti-Obama signs appear outside the Masters Golf Tournament. One reads, “If you like your handicap, you can keep your handicap.” Another shows a photograph of Obama putting, with the caption, “sub par.” [57481]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Attorney General Eric Holder’s complaint that he and Obama are persecuted far more than their predecessors because they are black: “When you consider that Attorney General [John] Mitchell went to jail, and his president [Richard M. Nixon] had to resign, and [Bill] Clinton was impeached, this brings Holder up to the level of ‘world class whiner.’” [57483]

On *The Kelly File*, host Megyn Kelly and former Department of Justice attorney J. Christian Adams discuss IRS actions to get back Social Security overpayments to deceased individuals by deducting the money from the tax refunds of their children and grandchildren—even if they had nothing to do with the overpayments and did not even

live with the overpaid recipients. Adams says, “Imagine it. You get a letter from the IRS. And it says, ‘40 years ago, your parents got a disability payment that we happened to overpay. ... So now we’re taking it out of your tax refund.’” BizPacReview.com reports, “Congress quietly passed legislation in 2011 lifting the former 10-year statute of limitations on money owed to the government, allowing Uncle Sam to collect debts going back decades. The measure also allows the government to collect from debtors’ children and grandchildren, according to Fox News.” (On April 14 the Social Security Administration backs down and reverts to the 10-year policy—meaning it will still illegally bully taxpayers, but not as many of them.) [57489, 57589]

On April 12 the *Daily Mail* reports, “The last rancher in southern Nevada has won a battle over the federal government’s round up of his cattle on public land after a week-long standoff with agents. The Bureau of Land Management announced today that it would stop trying to seize the cattle of Cliven Bundy after armed militia gathered in Nevada. After a tense week-long battle the BLM pulled out, saying it feared for the safety of employees and members of the public. Men carrying AK-47s and handguns had been pictured at the camp in southern Nevada that was set up in protest at the bureau’s attempt to confiscate cattle from Bundy, whose family has been working the land for centuries. ...The dispute that triggered the roundup dates to 1993, when the BLM cited concern for the federally protected tortoise. [Ironically, BLM vehicles caved in several tortoise dens during the stand-off. In addition, the Bundy family found “a pit—about fifty feet long, thirty feet wide, and ten feet deep. About a third of it was full of something. We know there were [cattle] body parts sticking out of it.”] The agency later revoked grazing rights for Bundy, who is the last rancher in Clark County. BLM director Neil Kornze said on Saturday however: ‘Based on information about conditions on the ground, and in consultation with law enforcement, we have made a decision to conclude the cattle gather because of our serious concern about the safety of employees and members of the public.’” (Bundy may have won a battle but he is unlikely to win any war with the federal government. The BLM’s retreat was likely meant to do nothing but prompt protesters to leave the area in the belief that the standoff was over. Once armed protesters are gone, the BLM will arrest Bundy and charge him with something.) [57467, 57478, 57479, 57480, 57482, 57484, 57486, 57488, 57490, 57500, 57507, 57509, 57511, 57526, 57545, 57547, 57600, 57653, 57673, 57694, 57699, 57744, 57845, 57880]

The *Daily Mail* continues, “Bundy claims ancestral rights to graze his cattle on lands his Mormon family settled in the 19th century. He stopped paying grazing fees and disregarded several court orders to remove his animals.’ BLM officials say Bundy now owes more than \$1.1 million in unpaid grazing fees. ‘I have no contract with the United States government. I was paying grazing fees for management and that’s what BLM was supposed to be, land managers and they were managing my ranch out of business, so I refused to pay,’ the rancher told ABC News. Supporters for Bundy said about 300 protesters had arrived to help campaign on the rancher’s behalf. The BLM put the number at 100.” (One eyewitness claims, “There were THOUSANDS of people here.”) Bundy claims he has paid appropriate fees to the state of Nevada, which he says is the rightful owner of the land—not the U.S. government. (Whether Russian President Vladimir Putin—who took Crimea while Obama could not take a ranch—is amused is

not known. Whether the hundreds of cattle taken by the government will be safely returned to Bundy is also not known. If calves in the herd are separated from their mothers they will die unless they are nursed—which the BLM is perhaps unlikely to do.) It is worth noting that while the BLM states that Bundy owes more than \$1 million in grazing fees, the government is easily spending more than that amount in its efforts to persecute and prosecute the rancher. The issue is therefore not money, it is the federal government flexing its muscles to say, “No one can defy us and get away with it!” [57467, 57478, 57479, 57480, 57482, 57484, 57486, 57488, 57490, 57500, 57507, 57509, 57511, 57526, 57545, 57547, 57600, 57653, 57673, 57694, 57699, 57744, 57845, 57880]

On Fox News, Judge Andrew Napolitano argues that the court case involving the Bundy cattle grazing should have been heard in state court, not in federal court. “The federal judiciary should not be deciding what land the federal government owns. The government’s option is to take the amount of money he owes them and docket it, that is file the lien on his property. ...The federal government could have done that, instead they wanted this show of force. They swooped in... with assault rifles aimed and ready and stole this guy’s property, they stole his cattle, they didn’t have the right to do that, that’s theft and they should have been arrested by state officials. ...They established something utterly repellant in America, a ‘First Amendment Zone.’ ...The [designated area] was three miles away from where these events were going—this is the federal government emasculating the First Amendment rights of the protesters.” [57547]

FoxNews.com reports, “One of the nation’s leading building trades unions is stepping up pressure on House Democrats who oppose the Keystone XL pipeline, calling on union members in 27 congressional districts to punish their representative in the midterm election. A letter distributed by the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) to the 27 districts calls for union members to make sure their representative ‘feels the power and the fury of LIUNA this November,’ The Hill reported. ‘Your member of Congress is trying to destroy job opportunities for our LIUNA brothers and sisters,’ read the letter signed by Terry O’Sullivan, the general president of LIUNA, and obtained by The Hill on Friday. ‘For every action, there is a reaction, and our reaction to this frontal assault on our way of life needs to be loud and clear. If you do not stand with us, we sure as hell will not stand with you,’ O’Sullivan wrote, citing the jobs Keystone would create.” [57476]

ThePostEmail.com’s Sharon Rondeau reports that WheresObamaBirthCertificate.com’s Mike Volin was contacted by HuffingtonPost.com reporter Amanda Terkel. Rondeau writes, “Volin related that Terkel called him “to find out what we were about,’ referring to his activities to publicize the findings of the Cold Case Posse [which has been investigating Obama’s forged birth certificate and forged Selective Service registration form]. Volin asked Terkel, ‘Do you know what we do? Have you been to my website?’ to which Terkel reportedly responded, ‘Oh, yes, we’re well aware of what you do.’” Volin tells Rondeau, “Another thing that is happening is that the tide is turning. People are tired of Obama being a bully. They’re taking a second look.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes

the leftist HuffingtonPost.com is aware that *something* is coming with regard to the Cold Case Posse investigation, but is trying to find out what that may be—whether to be ready to report the findings or to try to refute them in defense of Obama.) [57497]

On April 13 radical Islamists kill at least 60 people in the Christian village of Kala Balge, Nigeria. (Pamela Geller writes, “This is genocide. This is ethnic cleansing. This is jihad. The world says nothing. Instead, it pursues a vicious Islamic Jew-hating agenda of attacking Israel, the most benevolent and humane country in the Middle East, if not the world. We are descending into a world of savagery sanctioned by the ‘civilized.’ This is the world Barack Obama has made. The world’s policeman is no longer on the beat, and the savages know it.”) [57554, 57555]

White House advisor Dan Pfeiffer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) both make the rounds of the Sunday television talk shows to say the Obama administration will not again delay ObamaCare’s employer mandate. On *Face the Nation*, Pfeiffer says, “We have to continue implementing the law. [Obama] has told us we have to keep our eye on the ball every day to make sure this law is implemented as well as possible.” [57502]

On *Face the Nation*, host Bob Schieffer eagerly pushes the “Republican war on women” theme, asking Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), “Are Republicans against equal pay for women and is that going to be a good political issue in these coming midterm elections?” Blackburn replies, “I find this war on women rhetoric just almost silly. It is Republicans that have led the fight for women's equality. Go back through history and look at who was the first woman to ever vote, elected to office, go to Congress.” On *State of the Union*, host Candy Crowley does Bob Schieffer one better, asking Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY), “Do you think your Republican colleagues are racist?” Israel replies, “Not all of them, no, of course not.” (The Democrat campaign theme for 2014 has clearly been established: “Republicans hate blacks and women”—and the mainstream media will eagerly assist with the portrayal.) [57350, 57540, 57588]

On *This Week*, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power tells George Stephanopoulos, “You both have the devastating, heartbreaking, systematic targeting now of the Muslim population [in the Central African Republic]. You also have retaliatory attacks against Christians. That is just so painful to see these people suffer, to see parents who have had their children literally killed before their very eyes.” CNSNews.com notes, “The United Nations Security Council last week voted unanimously to send 12,000 peacekeepers to the Christian-majority Central African Republic, where Muslims and Christians are slaughtering each other, and where the government and its institutions have broken down.” (Power misstates the situation, suggesting that it is the Muslims who are doing the retaliating. In fact, Christians are the most persecuted people on earth, and it is they who are now on occasion retaliating. The Obama administration suddenly shows interest when Christians kill Muslims in the Central African Republic, yet it has been remarkably silent about the tremendous amount of Muslim attacks on Christians in the rest of Africa, most notably Nigeria.) [57539]

On *Fox News Sunday*, veteran journalist Bob Woodward says of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's investigation of Lois Lerner and the IRS scandal: "Well, there's obviously something here, and the question is, 'Does this committee know how to investigate,' and they're worried about this one person who has invoked her Fifth Amendment rights not to answer questions, and you have Congressmen on the committee going on [television] and saying, 'We have evidence she's involved in criminal activity.' I don't think you should cross that line. The second thing is, uh, there's always one person who's not gonna talk, and, uh, when you conduct an investigation like this... you need to find people who will talk, and there are always people who will do this." Discussion panel member Brit Hume says of Attorney General Eric Holder's whining about mistreatment, "[T]his strikes me as kind of crybaby stuff from Holder. My sense of this is that both Eric Holder and Barack Obama have benefited politically enormously from the fact that they are African-American and the first to hold the jobs that they hold. ... Race has been both a shield and a sword that they have used effectively to defend themselves and to attack others." Columnist George Will adds, "Liberalism has [been] a kind of Tourette's syndrome these days. It's just constantly saying the word[s] racism and racist." [57504, 57523]

Also appearing on *Fox News Sunday* is Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), who defends ObamaCare but when asked why stammers, "Over and over again, people still on the uh... healthcare benefits from uh, the... um... um... of the seniors who are... uh... getting their, uh, pharmaceuticals paid for... I'm struggling for the, for the—donut hole! There we go! ... It's been very good for most Rhode Islanders, and there are good stories for people to tell out there, and we think this is a great opportunity to tell the real human stories, and not just the political attack ad lines that the Republican Party is bring to this conversation." (ObamaCare addresses a minor gap in prescription drug coverage for Medicare recipients who fall into a limited age group. That problem has been referred to as a "donut hole.") [57519]

The Kansas City Star reports, "Three people died Sunday when a gunman opened fire outside the Jewish Community Center and a senior living facility in Johnson County. Police arrested the suspected shooter, a man in his 70s with a beard, outside Valley Park Elementary nearby by 2:45 p.m. He smiled and reportedly made anti-Semitic statements as he was led away. Police said the man, who was not from Kansas, used a shotgun in the slayings at the Jewish Community Center. He also had a handgun when he was arrested. 'We are investigating it as a hate crime,' said Overland Park Police Chief [John Douglass], but investigators are not sure of the motive. ... Two of the victims were a 14-year-old boy and his grandfather who attend the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood..." Although Miller may have been targeting elderly Jews, all three of his victims are Christians. Upon his arrest, 73-year-old Frazier Glenn Miller, also known as Frazier Glenn Cross, shouts "Heil Hitler." Miller, a former "Grand Dragon of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan," has unsuccessfully run for office as both a Democrat and as a Republican. Obama issues a statement: "Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends who lost a loved one and everyone affected by this tragedy. While we do not know all of the details surrounding today's

shooting, the initial reports are heartbreaking. I want to offer my condolences to all the families trying to make sense of this difficult situation and pledge the full support from the federal government as we heal and cope during this trying time.” [57505, 57506, 57517, 57534, 57887, 57896]

On *Media Buzz*, former CBS investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson tells host Howard Kurtz, “Now there have always been tensions, there have always been calls from the White House under any administration I assume, when they don’t like a particular story. But it is particularly aggressive under the Obama administration and I think it’s a campaign that’s very well organized, that’s designed to have sort of a chilling effect and to some degree has been somewhat successful in getting broadcast producers who don’t really want to deal with the headache of it. Why put on these controversial stories that we’re going to have to fight people on, when we can fill the broadcast with other perfectly decent stories that don’t ruffle the same feathers? ...Even, really the last year or so, when I would write an article online—which would be sort of the fallback position when something couldn’t get on television but was still a great story that could be circulated, I’d publish it online—they [CBS executives] would even call about those, or they would call about the headline of the online article.” According to Attkisson, a typical story critical of Obama or his administration “never runs, or it dies the death of a thousand cuts, as some of us say. If it’s something they don’t want, it will be changed and revised and shortened and altered so much that it’s a shadow of its former self if it does air.” [57516, 57518, 57520, 57522, 57535]

The Media Research Center reports, “Over the last seven days, three major revelations have emerged surrounding the IRS’ targeting of Tea Party groups. Despite the new stories, on Sunday April 13, three of the four Sunday interview shows on the broadcast networks—NBC’s *Meet the Press*, CBS’s *Face the Nation* and ABC’s *This Week*—all ignored them, whereas *Fox News Sunday* was the only broadcast network program to mention the IRS at all. ...When questioned on *Fox News Sunday* by Chris Wallace, the Associated Press’ Julie Pace defended the lack of IRS coverage, explaining that ‘We don’t have a lot to work with.’ Fox News contributor Brit Hume shot her down and argued that ‘The same set of facts... would have touched off in previous days [that is, when Bush was president] a media firestorm. What we had was kind of a campfire in most of the media, which was doused before very long, and the story has been basically dormant. Bob Schieffer, host of CBS’ *Face the Nation* had the best opportunity to discuss the IRS when he interviewed Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) but chose to ignore the scandal altogether. The Sunday show blackout of the IRS scandal should come as no surprise given that the networks have refused to cover the latest revelations for much of last week.” [57528, 57529]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “On a trip to Moscow early in her tenure as secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton played the role of international saleswoman, pressing Russian government officials to sign a multibillion-dollar deal to buy dozens of aircraft from Boeing. A month later, Clinton was in China, where she jubilantly announced that the aerospace giant would be writing a generous check to help resuscitate floundering

U.S. efforts to host a pavilion at the upcoming World's Fair. Boeing, she said, 'has just agreed to double its contribution to \$2 million.' Clinton did not point out that, to secure the donation, the State Department had set aside ethics guidelines that first prohibited solicitations of Boeing and then later permitted only a \$1 million gift from the company. Boeing had been included on a list of firms to be avoided because of its frequent reliance on the government for help negotiating overseas business and concern that a donation could be seen as an attempt to curry favor with U.S. officials. ...In 2010, two months after Boeing won its \$3.7 billion Russia deal, the company announced a \$900,000 contribution to the William J. Clinton Foundation... The foundation, which Hillary Clinton now helps lead with her husband and daughter, has become a popular charity for major corporations. The company's ties came into play again this month when its in-house lobbyist, former Bill Clinton aide Tim Keating, co-hosted a fundraiser for Ready for Hillary, the super PAC backing her potential presidential run." [57532, 57533]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey later comments on the *Post* report, "The jet deal took place in November 2009. Notably, this was several months after the 'reset button' fiasco with Sergei Lavrov that all but shrugged off efforts by the previous administration to get tough with Moscow after the invasion of Georgia in the summer of 2008. ...What *isn't* mentioned in this piece was the cancellation of the US missile shield program with Poland and the Czech Republic two months earlier than the Boeing sale. Russia had long opposed the missile-shield program in eastern Europe, pushed by the Bush administration as a response to Iranian development of both its missile and nuclear-weapons programs. At the time, no one could quite figure out what we got in trade for this retreat. Now it appears all we got was a sale of some commercial airliners to Aeroflot. ...What did Boeing cough up for its \$3.7 billion sale? It donated \$2 million to the State Department's World Fair pavilion a few months later, plus another \$900,000 for the Clinton's foundation—and apparently a bundler for Hillary 2016. That seems like a great swap for [reduced] national security, no?" [57532, 57533]

At The Truth is Viral (TTiV) web site, Bob Powell suggests, based on information from investigative journalist Doug Hagmann, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) withdrawal from the Bundy ranch "was a fake. The entire standoff was, according to Hagmann's DHS [Department of Homeland Security] informant, a real world exercise designed to determine what kind of resistance the federal government will face should gun confiscations begin. From this observer's perspective that resistance will be fierce. The feds should probably buy Depends [adult diapers] by the truckload because people are pissed, and from what we saw on alternative media livestream broadcasts during the standoff many of them are ready to rock and roll. Acting on a tip from a view who said that he saw 'many, many, many' men in military uniform and federal agents checking IN to hotels around the Bundy ranch, after the BLM allegedly stood down, when they should have been checking out, ...Powell called area hotels and confirmed that there is not a single room available anywhere near the Bundy ranch." (*The Obama Timeline* can neither confirm nor rebut Powell's claim, but believes the government was certainly surprised by the number of protesters who arrived in support of Bundy.) [57606]

In a *60 Minutes* interview, Obama says of his visit with Pope Francis at the Vatican, “He’s a wonderful man. He projects the kind of humility and kindness that is consistent with my understanding, at least, of Jesus’ teachings.” (Some might argue that the Pope neither wants nor needs Obama’s blessings.) “...I suspect, my sense is, is that he’s a little bit uncomfortable with all the trappings of being Pope. That’s not his style, and that is part of why I think he has been so embraced around the world: because people get a sense that first and foremost, he sees himself as a priest and a disciple of Christ and as someone who is concerned with the least of these [sic]. ...I’m a big believer in the power of conscience, the power of faith, the power of a message of hope. I think over time that’s what moves history.” [57613]

On April 14 Obama says at an Easter Prayer Breakfast, “We celebrate the glory of the Resurrection—all so that we might be forgiven of our sins and granted everlasting life. And more than 2,000 years later, it inspires us still.” (DailyCaller.com points out, “Scholars generally agree that Jesus, who lived to about his thirties, died on the cross between 30-36 AD. For Obama’s statement that the Resurrection occurred ‘more than 2,000 years ago’ to be true, Jesus would have had to have died and been resurrected in 13 AD or earlier.”) [57549]

Strangely, Obama ends his remarks with a “prayer,” “Lord fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff and nudge me when I’ve said enough.” He adds, “The Almighty is nudging me,” and then sits down. The event’s final prayer is given by an openly-gay Episcopal bishop, Gene Robinson. [57579, 57580, 57581, 57586, 57587]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Neurosurgeon Ben Carson says the White House wanted him to apologize for ‘offending’ ...Obama after he famously delivered a conservative message at the National Prayer Breakfast last year.” In his book, *One Nation: What We Can All Do To Save America’s Future*, Carson writes, ‘He did not appear to be hostile or angry, but within a matter of minutes after the conclusion of the program, I received a call from some of the prayer breakfast organizers saying that the White House was upset and requesting that I call [Obama] and apologize for offending him. I said that I did not think that he was offended and that I didn’t think that such a call was warranted.’ [57614]

The Ulsterman Report writes, “Yes, George Soros had a hand in the Bundy vs FEDS dispute that has thankfully, resulted in federal officials backing off of its demands upon the Bundy family ranch, including halting a round up of Cliven Bundy’s cattle. This was not simply a stand off between over-reaching Big Government entities though, but rather a concerted effort by progressive forces to stamp out the kind of resistance figures like Cliven Bundy represent, be they a rancher, farmer, pro-liberty militia, safe borders advocate, small business owner, or alternative media figure. ...Cliven Bundy’s fight with the Bureau of Land Management over the federal agency’s roundup of his cattle attracted a diverse group of foot soldiers: fellow ranchers, Las Vegans and militia and patriot groups were among them. Their battle cry is the U.S. Constitution and liberty. They fear the federal government overstepping its bounds at every turn. This concern, in their view, applies to those from all walks of life, be it a rural Southern Nevada rancher or a militia

member from northern Montana. Ultimately, the Bundy protest—which was defused Saturday when federal land officials agreed to end the weeklong roundup that culminated in a 20-minute standoff between armed protesters and law enforcement officers—became an outlet for those wanting to voice their opinions about government overreach and any perceived infringement of constitutional rights. Armed militia members wore holstered weapons and mingled with cowboy-hatted ranchers throughout the week. Tents popped up across the landscape and vehicles became temporary bunks as the Bundy ranch, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, turned into a gathering place for traveling pilgrims from across the nation.” [57541, 57542, 57543]

Noting a media report that “The Center for Biological Diversity blasted the BLM’s decision to release cattle,” Ulsterman writes, “So I looked up this ‘nonprofit’ group, that was pushing so hard for federal authorities to shut down the Bundy family ranch, and here is what I found: ‘the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) if the Service does not create a new nationwide wolf recovery plan.’ ... CBD is funded by Earthjustice, which is funded by George Soros. The same CBD who is presently suing to take more Klamath Basin irrigation water by changing the biological opinions.” CBD and other Soros-funded environmental groups have been filing lawsuits to list the Klamath River salmon as an endangered species. “All the familiar names—Soros, Earthjustice, The Larch Company, Tides, Ford Foundation, Weeden—all entities bound by the familiar theme of centralized control of lands, food, water, and other related resources. Control those resources, and you control the people. So when Cliven Bundy and the hundreds who rallied to his cause on that desolate Nevada ranch last week, staring back at the armed FEDS who would have them silenced *by any means necessary*, they were staring back at the machinations of George Soros and his ilk, who have been constructing the foundation for the takeover of the United States for decades now. Cliven Bundy, and Liberty, won last week. It will take continued vigilance to ensure that victory is not simply a minor and temporary battle in what is an ongoing and far more significant war for the soul of America, just as the Bundy family themselves are likely bracing for a revisit by federal authorities who hope to accomplish their Soros-directed mission once the cameras are off, and people’s attention is focused elsewhere.” [57541, 57542, 57543]

At GatesofVienna.net Baron Bodissey writes, “Last weekend a small but well-armed and -armored federal task force under the Bureau of Land Management was forced to back off in the face of a group of unarmed (or lightly-armed) patriots on horseback and on foot in a gully near Bunkerville, Nevada. The courageous citizens who approached the federal barriers were told by bullhorn that they would be shot if they came any further, but they kept coming anyway. This was a huge victory for those American patriots who want to re-establish the rule of law under the United States Constitution. For the past two days I’ve been browsing patriot networks, Second Amendment sites, and YouTube channels, and it’s clear that the libertarian resistance has been electrified by what happened at the Bundy Ranch. Ordinary citizens stood up to the federal government, and the feds backed down. However, as most of us surmised on Saturday, this was merely a tactical retreat on the part of the BLM and the Obama administration. We are now in a ‘pay no attention to that man behind the curtain’ situation, which is untenable from the point of view of the

federal government. In order to work their will upon the American people, the feds must be seen as invincible. But they aren't—they've just proven that they don't have the guts required to gun down patriotic citizens in cold blood. They have no broad-based support among the people—all they have is fiat money and the unlimited firepower that money can buy. The invincibility of the federal behemoth must be re-established, and quickly, so expect a Round Two." (The BLM has not left the area. Observers have witnessed "nighttime activity in the hills surrounding the Bundy property," "three snipers skulking in the bush surrounding the camps that people have set up," and have claimed that "the airspace over the Bundy ranch has been shut down in a 3 mile, 30,000 feet perimeter so that no private helicopters or planes can fly over to take pictures or surveil what the feds are up to.") [57764, 57777]

At PowerLineBlog.com John Hinderaker writes, "First, it must be admitted that legally, Bundy doesn't have a leg to stand on. ... That being the case, why does Bundy deserve our sympathy? To begin with, his family has been ranching on the acres at issue since the late 19th century. They and other settlers were induced to come to Nevada in part by the federal government's promise that they would be able to graze their cattle on adjacent government-owned land. For many years they did so, with no limitations or fees. The Bundy family was ranching in southern Nevada long before the BLM came into existence. Over the last two or three decades, the Bureau has squeezed the ranchers in southern Nevada by limiting the acres on which their cattle can graze, reducing the number of cattle that can be on federal land, and charging grazing fees for the ever-diminishing privilege. The effect of these restrictions has been to drive the ranchers out of business. Formerly, there were dozens of ranches in the area where Bundy operates. Now, his ranch is the only one. When Bundy refused to pay grazing fees beginning in around 1993, he said something to the effect of, they are supposed to be charging me a fee for managing the land and all they are doing is trying to manage me out of business. Why should I pay them for that?" [57858]

"...The new head of the BLM is a former [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid staffer. Presumably he was placed in his current position on Reid's recommendation. Harry Reid is known to be a corrupt politician, one who has gotten wealthy on a public employee's salary, in part, at least, by benefiting from sweetheart real estate deals. Does Harry Reid now control more than 80% of the territory of Nevada? If you need federal authority to conduct business in Nevada—which is overwhelmingly probable—do you need to pay a bribe to Harry Reid or a member of his family to get that permission? Why is it that the BLM is deeply concerned about desert tortoises when it comes to ranchers, but couldn't care less when the solar power developers from China come calling? Environmentalists have asked this question. Does the difference lie in the fact that Cliven Bundy has never contributed to an Obama or Reid campaign, or paid a bribe to Reid or a member of his family? Based on the evidence, I would say: yes, that is probably the difference. When the desert tortoises balance out, Occam's razor tells us that the distinction is political. So let's have some sympathy for Cliven Bundy and his family. They don't have a chance on the law, because under the Endangered Species Act and many other federal statutes, the agencies are always in the right. And their way of life is one that, frankly, is on the outs. They don't develop apps. They don't ask for food stamps. It probably has never occurred

to them to bribe a politician. They don't subsist by virtue of government subsidies or regulations that hamstringing competitors. They aren't illegal immigrants. They have never even gone to law school. So what possible place is there for the Bundys in the Age of Obama?" (It was the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, signed by Jimmy Carter in 1976, that transferred tens of millions of acres of (mostly) western states land to the federal government.) [57858, 57869, 57998]

Forbes.com reports on "How Obama's Justice Department Selectively Blocks Mergers By Republican CEOs," and notes, "If money buys favors from the Obama Administration, a lack of it produces the opposite." [57544]

The Washington Post and the *Guardian* are awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their reporting of the National Security Administration leaks by whistleblower Edward Snowden. According to TheHill.com, the *Post* is recognized for its "authoritative and insightful reports that helped the public understand how the disclosures fit into the larger framework of national security," and the *Guardian* for "helping through aggressive reporting to spark a debate about the relationship between the government and the public over issues of security and privacy." [57590, 57591]

CBS correspondent Major Garrett asks White House press secretary Jay Carney, "Isn't there a sense in the administration and in the European capitals with which you are collaboratively dealing with that what is going on [with the Russia/Ukraine situation] is not working; that whatever signals you're sending, they're either not being heeded or misread; and this entire approach, which is to not escalate, isn't working, and everything the Russians are doing is continuing to escalate the situation, overriding what they may see and some editorial critics have regarded as passivity by the West?" Carney replies, "Well, no, Major, because the premise of the question is based on the notion that all the United States ever has to do when something happens in the world that we don't like is say, stop it, and they'll stop. We are taking concerted action with our allies and partners that is imposing costs on Russia for what Russia has done, making clear that much more significant costs will be imposed on Russia, should they continue down this path." (The problem is not so much what Obama can do now, which is likely very little, but what he should and should not have done over the previous five years.) [57656]

At Breitbart.com Chriss W. Street writes, "Barack Obama may be the Republicans' best friend when it comes to educating 18-33-year olds of the Millennial Generation about the downside of voting for the Democrats' economic policies. According to a report from the Pew Research Center for Social and Demographic Trends, the 73.7 million Millennials are 'unattached to organized politics and religion, linked by social media, burdened by debt, distrustful of people, in no rush to marry—and optimistic about the future.' This growing rejection of the Democrat Party will undoubtedly have consequences in the coming mid-term and presidential elections. ...50% of Millennials now describe themselves as political independents, 'near the highest levels of political disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the quarter-century,' according to the latest Pew Research poll. This comes despite 43% of Millennials and about half of their newborns being

Hispanic, Asian, and black, ethnic groups that have strongly favored Democrats in the past. Millennials seem to be exhibiting political buyers' remorse as the cost of college is rising faster than pay for college graduates, student debt is at record highs, wages are dropping after inflation, and the cost of buying a house is unaffordable to all but a sliver of Millennials." [57548]

Obama wishes Jewish Americans a "Happy Passover" by tweeting a photo of himself and his family enjoying dinner with several guests. (At Townhall.com Leah Barkoukis notes that the "narcissist in chief" has tweeted photos of himself to commemorate the anniversary of the Grand Canyon National Park, the day Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, John F. Kennedy's assassination, Nelson Mandela's death, the birthday of Obama's Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough, the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and the death of Neil Armstrong. [57626, 57627]

A bomb attack by the Muslim extremist group Boko Haram kills 71 and wounds 124 at a bus station in Abuja, Nigeria. USAToday.com notes, "Boko Haram's campaign to make Nigeria an Islamic state with Sharia, or Islamic law, enforced throughout the country poses the greatest threat to its cohesion and security and threatens nearby countries where the fighters have gone to train and fight. ...Boko Haram—the nickname means 'Western education is forbidden'—has been attacking schools, villages, market places and military barracks and checkpoints this year in increasingly frequent and deadly attacks. Its mission is to force an Islamic state on Nigeria whose 170 million people are divided almost equally between Muslims living mainly in the north and Christians in the south." Obama calls on the Nigerian government to conduct an investigation: "We continue to stand with the Nigerian Government and people as they grapple with violent extremism. The Nigerian president has blamed Boko Haram for the incident, the bombing in Abuja, and we have seen that, but to our knowledge, no group has claimed responsibility yet. We continue to work closely with the Nigerian government and its neighbours to address the growing threat of Boko Haram in a comprehensive manner. But again, it's, in our view, preliminary to make that judgment." [57552, 57553, 57607, 57608]

Betsey McCaughey, former lieutenant governor of New York and author of *Beating Obamacare*, tells Fox News' Neil Cavuto, "You're... going to see a million people or more default [On ObamaCare premiums]. In other words, they have paid their first premium, but when they discover what it really means to have a \$3,000 or \$5,000 deductible on their plan, they go to their doctor again and again and have to pay full freight, even though they're paying a premium, they're going to stop paying their premium. Another big problem ahead is the 25 million to 30 million people who currently get on-the-job coverage [who] are going to lose it in the coming months, when their employers realize that they're not going to be able to renew those old plans and they're stuck between the very costly Obamacare plans or sending their workers and their families on to the exchanges. And finally you are going to hear a lot of desperation from cancer patients when they discover these Obamacare exchange... plans won't let them go to any specialty cancer hospitals, even though the data show that, for example, women

with ovarian cancer live longer when they're treated at a high-volume cancer hospital.” [57599]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says of the Bundy ranch dispute in his home state, “It’s not over. We can’t have an American people that violate the law and then just walk away from it. So it’s not over.” The Bundy family responds, “We don’t fear Harry Reid.” Cliven’s son Ammon Bundy says, “If [Reid] doesn’t have enough moral fiber in his bones at all to see what happened, that we the people got together and made something right, then I don’t think there’s any hope for him and he needs to be kicked out of office, even if he is the Senate majority leader. It doesn’t matter.” (Radio talk show host and author Laura Ingraham quips, “Maybe the Bundys should just claim to be illegal alien ranchers... then they wouldn’t be facing any opposition from the federal government. After all, we can’t be pushing those hard-working cattle back into the shadows.”) [57559, 57582, 57612, 57673]

Former Congressman Ron Paul comments on the Bundy cattle grazing issue, writing, “I worry about whether or not this is all over because you have the sort of on-again, off-again situation like that of Waco which, of course, ended in violence. I’m hoping that the federal officials don’t come back determined to use violence to remove this family from this house and this land. This is a typical example of when everyone owns a piece of land and no one does all at the same time. They sort of have an agreement—a lease—where they have been raising cattle on this land for 130 years then all of sudden the rules change. This type of problem wouldn’t happen in Texas because all the land is owned privately. It makes the point that no one really knows who is in charge. It makes the point that state and private ownership would have prevented this type of problem. There’s [sic] two things that come out of this: one, when the American people speak out, their voices can be heard and can effect what government is doing. Two, it empathizes the value of private property and ownership rather than having collective ownership by a government. As much as I’d like to see this as a victory for the people, I’m afraid the government has more guns, more power and more determination to express their authoritarianism. They will be back and that means a confrontation between the people and those in our government undermining our liberties—the confrontation will continue.” (The federal government owns about 84 percent of all land in Nevada; in no other state does it have a high a percentage. The federal government does control a small amount of land in Texas, less than two percent, such as Big Bend National Park.) [57573, 57574, 57575, 57585, 57702]

On *The Kelly File*, documentary filmmaker Dennis Michael discusses his visit to the Bundy ranch area with Megyn Kelly. Michael says, “I’ve never experienced anything like this. I’ve looked at [a Mexican drug] cartel in the face [but] this was different. ... These people [the Bundy family and their supporters] were willing to die on Saturday. I heard it in their voices; I saw it in their eyes.” (That may be why the Bureau of Land Management backed down—it understood that the people they came to persecute and prosecute would not give up without a fight.) [57583]

On April 15, as millions of Americans file their income tax forms, The Heritage Foundation reports on where their 2013 tax dollars were spent: Medicare, Medicaid and other health care consumed 25 percent of federal spending; Social Security took up 24 percent; another 20 percent went to “income security and other benefits” (federal employee pensions, disability, unemployment, welfare, etc.); national defense took 18 percent of the budget; interest on the national debt ate up 6 percent of all spending; transportation, 3 percent; K-12 education, 1 percent; all other spending, 3 percent. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen whines that the agency is not getting enough money to do a proper job, especially with the added burden of ObamaCare functions: “If we keep going at this level, with the increased responsibilities, at some point we risk crippling the agency, and that won’t be good for the government and it won’t be good for taxpayers.” Although the chances of being audited have been reduced, Koskinen warns, “I wouldn’t encourage anybody to depend upon us not auditing them. As I’ve told people, the roulette wheel is spinning.” [57571, 57592]

CNSNews.com reports, “Inflation-adjusted federal tax revenues hit a record \$1,320,793,000,000 in the first half of fiscal 2014 [October 2013 through March 2014], but the federal government still ran a \$413,264,000,000 deficit during that time, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement for March.” [57668]

Among the new ObamaCare taxes is a reduction in the amount that can be deducted for medical expenses. (Previously, taxpayers could deduct that cost of medical expenses that exceeded 7.5 percent of gross income; that number is now 10 percent.) The Medicare tax is increased by 0.9 percent for individuals earning over \$200,000 or married couples earning \$250,000, and a new investment income tax of 3.8 percent tax now applies to individuals, estates, and trusts worth more \$200,000 or \$250,000 for joint filers. [57616]

According to a Gallup poll, 52 percent of taxpayers say their federal income taxes are too high, 42 percent say they are “about right,” and 3 percent say they are too low. (About 47 percent of Americans pay no income taxes at all.) CNSNews.com notes, “Taxpayers earning \$100,000 or more a year pay 71.6% of the nation’s share in individual federal income taxes... In 2011, according to the IRS, there were 145,370,240 individual income tax returns filed. Among those returns, 125,914,418 or 86.6%, belonged to taxpayers earning a salary less than \$100,000. The remaining 19,455,822 returns belonged to those taxpayers earning more than \$100,000, or 13.4% of the total. While those top earners, earning six figures or more, represented only 13.4% of the total number of individual income tax returns reported to the IRS, they contributed nearly three-fourths of the total amount of federal tax revenue from individual filers reported for that year.” (In 1996, the six-figure earners paid 51 percent of all taxes. The tax burden on the wealthier Americans has increased—despite repeated claims to the contrary by those who call for them to pay “their fair share.” They have been paying more than their fair share for years.) [57597, 57598, 57602]

Others argue that the “marginal tax rates” on Americans who are just above or below the poverty line are even higher than those imposed on the wealthy—if one considers the loss

of welfare benefits and credits a “tax.” The Heritage Foundation notes that if a single parent with one child “does not work at all, he receives \$19,300 in government benefits [including the Earned Income Tax Credit]. If he instead earns a salary of \$30,000—which is full-time work at \$15 per hour—he has disposable income of \$28,000. This means that he is working full-time for only \$8,700 per year more than if he did not work at all [\$28,000 minus \$19,300], making his effective take home wage \$4.35 per hour (\$8,700/2,000 hours per year). Is it rational to expect someone to work hard for such a low wage?” [57629, 57630, 57815]

Josh Romney, one of Mitt Romney’s sons, tweets a photograph of his father in line at the Post Office to mail his tax return, with the text, “Hey Senator Reid here’s a shot of MittRomney paying taxes. Does it every year. It’s how you get your paycheck.” (The quip is a reference to Reid’s false claims during the 2012 campaign season, on behalf of Obama, that Mitt Romney had not paid taxes in 10 years.) [57652]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that former Congressman Ron Paul’s nonprofit Campaign for Liberty organization “will fight the Internal Revenue Service’s demand that it reveal its donor list to the agency, despite having already been fined for refusing to do so. ‘There is no legitimate reason for the IRS to know who donates to Campaign for Liberty,’ Megan Stiles, the communications director at Campaign for Liberty, told the *Washington Examiner* in an email on Tuesday. ‘We believe the First Amendment is on our side as evidenced by cases such as NAACP v. Alabama and International Union UAW v. National Right to Work. Many 501(c)(4) organizations protect the privacy of their donors in the very same way as Campaign for Liberty. For some reason the IRS has now chosen to single out Campaign for Liberty for special attention. We plan to fight this all the way.’ Ron Paul suggested that the group will refuse to pay the IRS fine in an fundraising email to supporters about the agency’s request for information. ‘Paying this outrageous extortionist fine—just to exercise our rights as American citizens to petition our government—may even be cheaper in the short run,’ he wrote. ‘But it’ll just embolden an alphabet soup of other federal agencies to come after us.’ Paul’s email said that the rule requiring that 501(c)(4)s list their donors is ‘rarely enforced.’” [57611, 57715]

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the fiscal year 2014 deficit will be \$492 billion—still more than the largest deficit under President George W. Bush. According to The Heritage Foundation, the \$492 billion estimate “is arguably misleading to the extent that the operations of mortgage giants, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac... are improperly accounted for in the budget. Without that distortion, both spending and the deficit in 2014 would be higher by about \$85 billion.” [57572]

April 15 is also the deadline for registering weapons under New York’s “SAFE Act.” (As was the case with Connecticut’s new gun registration law, a substantial number of New York residents will likely refuse to comply with the law. According to the National Rifle Association, “Over the last year, the vast majority of county legislatures across New York have adopted resolutions condemning the SAFE Act, and many sheriffs have gone

on record in opposition to the law, saying they refuse to enforce it. The State Police have failed to disclose how many people have complied with the law's registration requirement to date. The speculation is that their failure to release this information is directly correlated to the embarrassing figures that such a revelation would reveal." [57745, 57746, 57853]

The New York Times reports that the Census Bureau "is changing its annual survey so thoroughly that it will be difficult to measure the effects of ...Obama's health care law in the next report, due this fall, census officials said. ...An internal Census Bureau document said that the new questionnaire included a 'total revision to health insurance questions' and, in a test last year, produced lower estimates of the uninsured. Thus, officials said, it will be difficult to say how much of any change is attributable to the Affordable Care Act and how much to the use of a new survey instrument. 'We are expecting much lower numbers just because of the questions and how they are asked,' said Brett J. O'Hara, chief of the health statistics branch at the Census Bureau." (As an example of how statistics can be misused for political purposes, Obama's frequent claim that 47 million Americans are uninsured counts individuals who were without coverage for even one week, such as when they were in between jobs. ObamaCare was sold on the argument that tens of millions of Americans were uninsured, but the numbers given have always been an exaggeration—especially when illegal immigrants are counted in the estimates.) [57561, 57562, 57563, 57647, 57665, 57676, 57677, 57875]

Hot Air.com observes, "[T]he change the Bureau is making all but guarantees that the number of uninsured next year, post-ObamaCare, will be lower than the number last year, pre-ObamaCare." White House official Jesse Lee tweets, "Republicans freaking out on ACA & Census data—and those they're trying to spin..." Disgustingly, he also tweets, "Republicans clamoring for information on how many people have gotten newly-covered so they'll know how many people they plan to un-insure [sic]." At Mediaite.com, Noah Rothman reminds readers, "In 2009, in the earliest weeks of ...Obama's administration, the White House made the controversial decision to take the unprecedented step of moving the Census Bureau from control of the commerce secretary over to the White House ahead of the decennial 2010 census. Conservatives sounded alarm bells. 'It takes something that is supposedly apolitical like the census, and gives it to a guy who is infamously political,' said Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) of then White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. ...[T]he fears of some that the Census Bureau could be corrupted by the imperatives of the political operatives in the White House was today proven accurate." [57561, 57562, 57563, 57647, 57665, 57676, 57677]

At BloombergView.com Megan McArdle writes, "For several months now, whenever the topic of enrollment in the Affordable Care Act came up, I've been saying that it was too soon to tell its ultimate effects. We don't know how many people have paid for their new insurance policies, or how many of those who bought policies were previously uninsured. For that, I said, we will have to wait for Census Bureau data, which offer the best assessment of the insurance status of the whole population. Other surveys are available, but the samples are smaller, so they're not as good; the census is the gold standard."

Unfortunately, as I invariably noted, these data won't be available until 2015. I stand corrected: These data won't be available at all. Ever. No, I'm not kidding. I wish I was. The New York Times reports that the Barack Obama administration has changed the survey so that we cannot directly compare the numbers on the uninsured over time. ...I'm speechless. Shocked. Stunned. Horrified. Befuddled. Aghast, appalled, thunderstruck, perplexed, baffled, bewildered and dumbfounded. It's not that I am opposed to the changes: Everyone understands that the census reports probably overstate the true number of the uninsured, because the number they report is supposed to be 'people who lacked insurance for the entire previous year,' but people tend to answer with their insurance status right now. But why, dear God, oh, why, would you change it in the one year in the entire history of the republic that it is most important for policy makers, researchers and voters to be able to compare the number of uninsured to those in prior years? The answers would seem to range from 'total incompetence on the part of every level of this administration' to something worse.'" (The Census Bureau has used the same methodology for *decades*—and the White House decided to request a change just in time to make ObamaCare appear more effective than it is.) [57791, 57792]

Delusional NBC News' senior political editor Mark Murray tweets, "Why Obamacare's (un)popularity is probably going to continue: ACA [Affordable Care Act] opponents have sole control over the airwaves..." (Murray has apparently never heard of CBS, ABC, CNN, MSNBC—or even the network that employs him.) [57564, 57565, 57655]

The Tea Party Patriots organization files a lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in which it demands agency documents about its targeting of conservative groups, including its own. According to DailyCaller.com, "The Tea Party Patriots first requested these documents through a Freedom of Information Act request in December. The group said it has not been granted any documents yet. The suit also is filed against the Treasury Department." (Meanwhile, former IRS official Lois Lerner enjoys her taxpayer-funded retirement in her \$2.4 million home in Bethesda, Maryland.) [57576, 57578]

The Republican National Committee (RNC) also files a lawsuit against the IRS for failing to provide documents relating to conservative non-profit groups that it had requested under the Freedom of Information Act. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus states, "We're filing this suit because the Obama administration has a responsibility to be transparent and accountable to the American people. The IRS has a legal obligation to answer our inquiry for these records. On Tax Day especially Americans deserve to know whether they can trust the agency to which they're sending their taxes." [57601, 57649]

Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-TX) introduces legislation calling for the suspension of pay for any federal official found in contempt of Congress. (The legislation would impact Attorney General Eric Holder if it passes the House and the Senate and if it is signed into law by Obama—which certainly will not happen.) [57666, 57704]

At the leftist Slate.com, Jamelle Bouie makes a pathetic attempt to inject race into the Cliven Bundy cattle ranch issue, writing, "I can't help but wonder how conservatives

would react if these were black farmers—or black anyone—defending ‘their’ land against federal officials. Would Fox News applaud black militiamen aiming their guns at white bureaucrats?” [57758]

Time.com reports, “The White House says it supports the offensive against separatists in [Ukraine’s] eastern provinces, which began Tuesday 25 miles north of Slovyansk and could expand to 10 cities throughout the region.” White House press secretary Jay Carney says, “The Ukrainian government has repeatedly sought to negotiate with the armed groups that have seized public buildings and established unauthorized roadblocks in Eastern Ukrainian in an effort to resolve the situation peacefully through dialogue. That said, the Ukrainian government has a responsibility to provide law and order, and these provocations in Eastern Ukraine are creating a situation in which the government has to respond.” (Obama offers words, but no military aid to Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin is no doubt pleased. At PJMedia.com Richard Fernandez writes, “[Obama] once again declares he stands ready to support his allies to the limit of his teleprompter.”) [57671, 57672]

At NationalReview.com Kevin D. Williamson writes, “A great deal of the discussion about the Cliven Bundy standoff in Nevada has focused on the legal questions... Of *course* the law is against Cliven Bundy. How could it be otherwise? The law was against Mohandas Gandhi, too, when he was tried for sedition; Mr. Gandhi himself habitually was among the first to acknowledge that fact, refusing to offer a defense in his sedition case and arguing that the judge had no choice but to resign, in protest of the perfectly legal injustice unfolding in his courtroom, or to sentence him to the harshest sentence possible, there being no extenuating circumstances for Mr. Gandhi’s intentional violation of the law. Henry David Thoreau was happy to spend his time in jail, knowing that the law was against him, whatever side justice was on. ...But not all dissidents are content to submit to what we, in the Age of Obama, still insist on quaintly calling ‘the rule of law.’ And there is a price to pay for that, too: King George not only would have been well within his legal rights to hang every one of this nation’s seditious Founding Fathers, he would have been duty-bound to do so, the keeping of the civil peace being the first responsibility of the civil authority. ...The situation was less dramatic during the government shutdown, but every one of the veterans and cheesed-off citizens who disregarded ...Obama’s political theater and pushed aside his barricades was a law-breaker, too—and bless them for being that. ...Mr. Bundy is tapping into a longstanding tendency in the American West to view the federal government as a creature of the eastern establishment, with political and economic interests that are inimical to those of the West and its people. And it is not as though there is no evidence supporting that suspicion. The federal government controls 87 percent of the land in Nevada, something that would be unheard-of in any state east of Colorado. ...[T]here is a more important question here: Is government our servant, or is it our master? The Left has long ago answered that question to the satisfaction of its partisans, who are happy to be serfs so long as their birth control is subsidized. But the Right always struggles with that question, as it must.” [57654]

“...If the conservatives in official Washington want to do something other than stand by and look impotent, they might consider pressing for legislation that would oblige the federal government to divest itself of 1 percent of its land and other real estate each year for the foreseeable future through an open auction process. ...By some estimates, superfluous federal holdings amount to trillions of dollars in value. Surely not every inch of that 87 percent of Nevada under the absentee-landlordship of the federal government is critical to the national interest. Perhaps Mr. Bundy would like to buy some land where he can graze his cattle. Prudential measures do not solve questions of principle. So where does that leave us with our judgment of the Nevada insurrection? Perhaps with an understanding that while Mr. Bundy’s stand should not be construed as a general template for civic action, it is nonetheless the case that, in measured doses, a little sedition is an excellent thing.” [57654]

In a KSTP-TV poll of registered voters in Minnesota, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are a dismal 36/54 percent. Although Obama will not be on the ballot in November, ObamaCare-supporting Senator Al Franken (D-MN) will be—and Franken won in 2008 by a mere few hundred votes. (Many believe he stole the election with the help of the improper counting of thousands of absentee ballots. On election night, Franken trailed incumbent Republican Senator Norm Coleman by 725 votes. Throughout a recount, lawyers for the Democrats managed to force the counting of additional votes for Franken, while challenging votes for Coleman. With 1,350 absentee ballots “found” in heavily-Democrat counties, Franken took the lead. Franken was aided by having the Secretary of State in his corner—which was the result of several years of work by the party to get those election-controlling positions filled by Democrats, and the knowledge that few judges are willing to rule in favor of tossing out ballots, regardless of how tainted they might be.) [2316, 3656, 3682, 3705, 57595, 57596]

Meanwhile, according to a Citizens United Political Victory Fund, residents of Arizona’s senior Senator, John McCain, are eager to see him retire and not seek reelection in 2016; 64.2 percent of primary voters want “a new person” to represent them. [57603]

In Florida’s 13th Congressional District, Democrat Alex Sink states she will not challenge Congressman David Jolly in November 2014. (Jolly defeated Sink by less than two percentage points in a March special election prompted by the death of veteran Congressman Bill Young. By mid-May, Democrat candidate Ed Jany dropped out of the race but could not be replaced because the May 2 filing deadline had already passed.) [57604, 58703]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi reports that Abongo Malik Obama, Obama’s Kenyan half-brother, “will return Friday to the U.S., not to visit the White House as he has done before, but to begin a partnership with a cult leader in Texas who has been compared to David Koresh and Jim Jones. Malik will be in Abilene, Texas, to attend the Peaceful Solution Character Education Convention hosted by known polygamist Yisrayl Hawkins, head of a group called the House of Yahweh, reports Arabic-speaking Islam researcher Walid Shoebat. Among his various predictions as a self-proclaimed prophet, Hawkins has

proclaimed that a ‘nuclear baby’ born in 2007 will grow up to cause a nuclear holocaust in which one-third of the earth’s population will be annihilated. In 2008, Hawkins was prosecuted in Baird, Texas, after being charged with performing polygamous weddings and forcing children as young as 11 to work at his 44-acre compound, the Associated Press reported at the time. ...Shoebat pointed out in a report that Malik has described Hawkins’ group as a ‘partner organization’ in a posting titled ‘Impacting people everywhere for meaningful change’ on his Barack H. Obama Foundation website.” (Although the IRS has done its best to delay or withhold the granting of tax-exempt status to Tea Party organizations, former IRS official Lois Lerner saw to it that Malik Obama’s foundation quickly received approval—by conveniently backdating his application. Malik Obama’s application was approved for tax-exempt status on June 26, 2011, a Sunday, and was dated retroactive to April 30, 2008.) [356, 360, 628, 831, 1282, 1377, 1679, 1680, 1681, 2197, 2467, 2505, 3528, 5476, 14196, 14766, 15550, 15551, 17282, 22205, 56078, 57615]

NYPPost.com reports that the New York City Police Department (NYPD) “has abandoned its controversial and secretive surveillance program that sent plainclothes police officers into Muslim neighborhoods for the purposes of gathering information on possible terrorist plots, officials said. Marking a dramatic change of course for the department, Police Commissioner Bill Bratton agreed to disband the largely inactive Demographics Unit, which was started in 2003 in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. The unit was intended to root out threats by identifying pockets of Islamic radicalization and locations where potential terrorists might gather.” Communist mayor Bill de Blasio (previously known as Warren Wilhelm, Jr.) states, “Our administration has promised the people of New York a police force that keeps our city safe, but that is also respectful and fair.” (Before the mayoral election, Pamela Geller warned that ending the program would be one of de Blasio’s actions. One of her ads read, “He’ll endanger New Yorkers by stopping counter-terror surveillance programs.” She was right.) [57617, 57618]

The Associated Press reports, “The attorney for the wife of the dead Boston Marathon bombing suspect says a federal grand jury asked her for items that belonged to one of the victims in a triple slaying in a Boston suburb nearly three years ago. Federal prosecutors in Boston revealed in court documents that a friend of bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev told authorities he and Tsarnaev participated in the killings in the city of Waltham. Tsarnaev was killed in a shootout with police after the bombing. The attorney for Tsarnaev’s widow, Katherine Russell [“Karima” Tsarnaev], says a grand jury asked her for items that belonged to Brendan Mess, one of the three people killed in the Waltham triple slaying and a friend of Tsarnaev’s. Attorney Amato DeLuca says Russell doesn’t have anything that belongs to Mess.” (Mess and two other Jews had their throats slit on September 11, 2011. Pamela Geller writes, “Had Obama not scrubbed counter-terror materials of all mention of jihad, perhaps Boston law enforcement would have pursued this triple slaying properly. Instead, the case was cold until after the jihad murderers set off coordinated bombings at the Boston Marathon and evidence tied them to the slaughter. If Boston law enforcement had been educated in jihad and had intel agencies followed up on the warnings on the Muslim terrorist Tsarnaevs, the Boston bombing could have been averted.” Why Russell has not been charged as an accomplice

in the bombings is not known. It is impossible to believe that she was not aware of his bomb-making activities in their small apartment. Geller notes, “She called her husband, the Boston bomber, just days after the bombing, after seeing the brothers identified on television, and warned him that he was being hunted. Bomb-making residue was found in her kitchen sink, bathtub, and on the kitchen table. The first issue of the al Qaeda online magazine Inspire, which included an article titled ‘How to Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom,’ was found on her computer. And she has made it clear to law enforcement that she will not cooperate.”) [56719]

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* whines that the jailed surviving Boston bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, “cannot mingle, speak or pray with other prisoners. His only visitors are his legal team, a mental health consultant and his immediate family, who apparently have seen him only rarely.” Jonathan Zimmerman, a professor of education and history at New York University, argues at Salon.com that Tsarnaev should not get the death penalty, despite having killed three people and injuring more than 250 with his bomb. Zimmerman writes that we “need to guard against our own emotions in sentencing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. ... [I]f we single him out for death, we will have let our present-day politics get the best of us. While passions of a crowd can be hard to resist, nobody can really know who is evil enough to deserve the ultimate penalty. And that’s ultimately why nobody should receive it.” [57620, 57621, 57622]

Obama states, “A year ago, tragedy struck at the 117th Boston Marathon. Four innocent people were killed that week, and hundreds more were wounded. Today, we remember Krystle Campbell, Lingzi Lu, Martin Richard, and Sean Collier. And we send our thoughts and prayers to those still struggling to recover. We also know that the most vivid images from that day were not of smoke and chaos, but of compassion, kindness and strength: A man in a cowboy hat helping a wounded stranger out of harm’s way; runners embracing loved ones, and each other; an EMT carrying a spectator to safety. Today, we recognize the incredible courage and leadership of so many Bostonians in the wake of unspeakable tragedy. And we offer our deepest gratitude to the courageous firefighters, police officers, medical professionals, runners and spectators who, in an instant, displayed the spirit Boston was built on—perseverance, freedom and love. One year later, we also stand in awe of the men and women who continue to inspire us—learning to stand, walk, dance and run again. With each new step our country is moved by the resilience of a community and a city. And when the sun rises over Boylston Street next Monday—Patriot’s Day—hundreds of thousands will come together to show the world the meaning of Boston Strong as a city chooses to run again.” (BizPacReview.com notes that Obama’s statement “failed to mention the words, ‘terror’ or ‘terrorist,’ ‘attack’ or ‘bombing.’ Nor did he mention that Islamic extremists carried out the attack leading to four deaths and 26 injured.”) [57609, 57623]

Vice President Joe Biden tells a Boston audience, “Let me say, uh, to, uh, to those... survivors [who spoke before Biden], my God, you have survived, you have soared. It was worth, it was worth it. I mean this sincerely, just to hear each of you speak. You are truly, truly inspiring.” (Regardless of how well the survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing

survived and coped, it is absurd to suggest that “it was worth it.” What Biden thought he was trying to say is not clear—although perhaps even he did not know.) He also says, “We are America, we own the finish line.” (What Biden means by that is also not clear. It was the finish line where the bombing took place.) “You have inspired, in this great city, and even though I am not a Boston fan, I love you guys, man. What, what an incredible city. It really is. You are an incredible, Incredible city, and I know politicians are not supposed to say that, that you are not a Red Sox fan, and where I come from if you are Red Sox fan you get the hell kicked out of you. There was good reason not to be a Red Sox fan. You know you have become a face of American resolve” [57610, 57623, 57648, 57678, 57698]

While Biden speaks in Boston, Obama meets with “faith leaders” in the Oval Office “to discuss the importance of taking action to pass commonsense immigration reform.” [57670]

Pamela Geller writes, “One year after devout Muslims bombed the Boston Marathon and killed women and children and wounded hundreds, Boston ‘paid solemn tribute’ today to the victims of the Boston bombing. But as is shown by the banning of Ayaan Hirsi Ali at one of the city’s leading universities and the city’s refusal to run AFDI’s [American Freedom Defense Initiative’s] counter-jihad ads, Boston has not yet faced what really happened there one year ago today. ...Even after people are blown to bits on an American city street, we still refuse to discuss the enemy. We are further back now than we were before 9/11.” (Boston area Brandeis University rescinded a commencement address offer to author Ali after pressure from the Council on American Islamic Relations, which feared she would discuss women’s rights and the mistreatment of women under Islam. CAIR has also pressured cities like Boston to not allow pro-Israel bus advertisements from the AFDI that respond to anti-Israel ads that have been allowed.) [57623, 57640]

The radical Islamist group Boko Haram abducts 234 girls from a school in Chibok, Nigeria. (Obama and his ambassador to the U.N., Samantha Power, have no comment.) [57624, 57625, 57909]

TorontoSun.com reports, “Canada is the latest western country to receive an Internet threat from an Islamic militant group fighting in Syria’s civil war. ‘This is a message to Canada and all of America,’ says a young English-speaking man on a recently uploaded YouTube video. ‘We are coming and we will destroy you.’ The man, who in the 75-second clip is surrounded by masked people holding rifles, claims to be a member of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as ISIL. ...Mubin Shaikh, an expert on Islamic militant groups, says that ISIL is known to be so vicious it kills fellow Muslims whom the group claims don’t subscribe to its brand of Islam.” [57750, 57751]

CNN national security analyst Peter Bergen claims that “extremists affiliated with a variety of far-right wing ideologies, including white supremacists, anti-abortion extremists and anti-government militants” because they “have killed more people in the

United States than have extremists motivated by al Qaeda's ideology." (Breitbart.com notes that Today, April 15, just so happens to be the one-year anniversary of Bergen using CNN's airwaves to speculate that right-wing groups might be behind the Boston Marathon bombing. Bergen is apparently using today's hysterical piece of selective, anti-science analysis to balm that embarrassment. By publishing this junk, CNN is merely doing what CNN has been doing all throughout the failed Zucker-era: trolling the bottom of the barrel for attention." CNN president Mort Zucker has been at the helm since January 2013, but the size of its viewing audience remains pathetic.) Pamela Geller writes, "This is what passes for analysis in the enemedia. Islamic jihadists are waging bloody jihad in the Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Nigeria and elsewhere—and Peter Bergen is sounding the alarm about 'right-wing extremists.' He doesn't mention that the Kansas City KKK shooter was inspired and incited by leftist Jew-hater Max Blumenthal [former *Al Akhbar* columnist and the son of Bill Clinton aide Sidney Blumenthal]. Of course that is unworthy of mention for an enemedia tool like Bergen." [57752, 57753, 57754, 57755]

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, tells CNN as many as 100 members of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) recently met in Yemen yet the United States did not attack the group with a drone. Rogers does not confirm whether U.S. intelligence agencies were unaware of the meeting beforehand or simply could not respond quickly enough with a military action. AQAP releases a video of the meeting, in which Nasir al-Wuhayshi, the head of AQAP, says, "We must eliminate the cross. ...The bearer of the cross is America!" In a discussion of the situation with Wolf Blitzer, CNN's Jake Tapper says, "It's certainly not 'al-Qaeda on the run.'" [57646, 57657, 57658, 57669, 57688, 57697]

Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) releases a campaign ad that does its best to claim she stands up to Obama, and emphasizes how her chairmanship of the Senate Energy Committee is important to Louisiana. (Of course, if the Democrats lose control of the Senate in the November election, she will lose her chairmanship even if she wins reelection—which seems unlikely because of her unabashed support for ObamaCare.) [57662]

Democrats are thrilled by a Congressional Budget Office report estimating that ObamaCare will cost \$286 billion less over 10 years than had previously been expected. (It will not *save* \$286 billion; it will merely put the nation *slightly* less in debt than an earlier estimate.) On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, "[E]ven if that CBO number is right, \$286 billion over 10 years—which is trivial, given an economy of \$16 trillion and government spending of \$4.5 trillion; it's not even one percent. And these are reductions in estimates from *gargantuan* estimates... when we were going into more than a trillion dollars a year in debt. We have added \$7 trillion [to the national debt] over five years. This is... almost undoable but Obama has succeeded in doing it." [57660, 57661]

On April 16 Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich reports, "According to new IRS emails obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request from Judicial Watch, former head of tax exempt groups at the IRS Lois Lerner was in contact with the Department of Justice in May 2013 about whether tax exempt groups could be criminally prosecuted for 'lying' about political activity." One Lerner email reads, "[T]here are several groups of folks from the FEC [Federal Election Commission] world that [sic; who] are pushing tax fraud prosecution for c4s [non-profit 501(c)(4) organizations] who report they are not conducting political activity when they are (or these folks think they are). One is my ex-boss Larry Noble (former General Counsel at the FEC), who is now president of Americans for Campaign Reform. This is their latest push to shut these down. One IRS prosecution would make an impact and they wouldn't feel so comfortable doing the stuff. So, don't be fooled about how this is being articulated—it is ALL about 501(c)(4) orgs and political activity." (In other words, Lerner wanted at least one conservative group to be criminally prosecuted in order to "set an example" and scare off other such groups from being formed.) [57638, 57680, 57695, 57696]

Another email from Lerner reads, "I got a call today from Richard Pilger Director Elections Crimes Branch at DOJ ... He wanted to know who at IRS the DOJ folk s [sic] could talk to about Sen. Whitehouse [D-RI] idea at the hearing that DOJ could piece together false statement cases about applicants who 'lied' on their 1024s—saying they weren't planning on doing political activity, and then turning around and making large visible political expenditures. DOJ is feeling like it needs to respond, but want to talk to the right folks at IRS to see whether there are impediments from our side and what, if any damage this might do to IRS programs." The various emails indicate that Lerner was coordinating efforts between the IRS, the Federal Election Commission, the Department of Justice—and individual Senators [Sheldon Whitehouse] and Congressmen [Elijah Cummings]—to target conservative organizations. Additionally, every non-profit organization audited by the IRS in 2013 was conservative; not one liberal group was audited. (Who instructed Pilger to contact Lerner and get involved is not yet known.) [57638, 57680, 57695, 57696, 58003, 58033, 58096]

At WashingtonTimes.com Judson Phillips writes, "The American people must now demand an independent prosecutor be appointed. The Department of Justice cannot be expected to investigate this matter when it may well have been a part of trying to target these Americans and these groups for simply expressing a political opinion. ... This scandal is far worse than Watergate. In the IRS scandal, the full power of government agencies, such as the IRS and the Department of Justice, are being used to violate the civil rights of people simply because they are political opponents of [Obama]. This scandal reaches into the Department of Justice. Rep. Darryl Issa's oversight committee needs to start issuing subpoenas to the Department of Justice. When that committee has hearings, one of the first questions that needs to be asked is, 'What did Eric Holder know and when did he know it?' In the mean time [sic; meantime], Americans must demand an independent prosecutor be appointed to start investigating this case. Eric Holder certainly will not." [57695]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) also calls for an independent special prosecutor, saying, “The DOJ’s credibility to investigate the IRS scandal is gone.” Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) tells WND.com, “With each new revelation about the extent the IRS went, and wanted to go, to target conservative and tea-party groups, the level of corruption keeps getting worse.” [57701]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, comments on the newly-released Lerner emails: “The release of new documents underscores the political nature of IRS Tea Party targeting and the extent to which supposed apolitical officials took direction from elected Democrats. These e-mails are part of an overwhelming body of evidence that political pressure from prominent Democrats led to the targeting of Americans for their political beliefs.” Committee member Jim Jordan (R-OH) states, “Now I see why the IRS is scared [sic; afraid] to give up the rest of Lois Lerner’s emails. Not only do these e-mails further prove the coordination among the IRS, the Federal Election Commission (FEC), the Justice Department and committee Democrats to target conservatives, they also show that had our committee not requested the Inspector General’s investigation when we did, [Attorney General] Eric Holder’s politicized Justice Department would likely have been leveling trumped up criminal charges against Tea Party groups to intimidate them from exercising their Constitutional rights.” [57643]

Terry Jeffrey writes at Townhall.com, “Buried deep on the website of the U.S. Census Bureau is a number every American citizen, and especially those entrusted with public office, should know. It is 86,429,000. That is the number of Americans who in 2012 got up every morning and went to work—in the private sector—and did it week after week after week. ... The Census Bureau also estimates the size of the benefit-receiving population. ... All told, including both the welfare recipients and the non-welfare beneficiaries, there were 151,014,000 who ‘received benefits from one or more [government] programs’ in the fourth quarter of 2011. Subtract the 3,212,000 veterans, who served their country in the most profound way possible, and that leaves 147,802,000 non-veteran benefit takers. The 147,802,000 non-veteran benefit takers outnumbered the 86,429,000 full-time private sector workers 1.7 to 1. How much more can the 86,429,000 endure? As more baby boomers retire, and as Obamacare comes fully online—with its expanded Medicaid rolls and federally subsidized health insurance for anyone earning less than 400 percent of the poverty level—the number of takers will inevitably expand. And the number of full-time private-sector workers might also contract. Eventually, there will be too few carrying too many, and America will break.” [57636, 57679]

According to Georgia insurance commissioner Ralph Hudgens, as of March 31 premiums had been paid on only 107,581 of the 221,604 of the state’s ObamaCare enrollees. Almost all of the enrollees are reportedly eligible for federal subsidies—meaning that the taxpayers will be paying some or all of their premiums. [57886, 57985]

Former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg (who CNN’s gun-fearing Piers Morgan believes should be President of the United States) announces he will be

providing \$50 million to form a new anti-gun group called “Everytown.” Bloomberg states, “We’ve got to make them [legislators who support gun rights] afraid of us.” (The Media Research Center notes NBC’s overwhelming praise for Bloomberg’s spending, “without a hint of irony after lamenting big money politics two weeks before [sic; earlier].) Everytown’s first advertisement shows two children playing hide-and-seek, and the dangerous consequences when one of them finds a gun in a closet. (Bloomberg, who is fiercely critical of the National Rifle Association, seems oblivious to the fact that the organization promotes gun safety and certainly does not recommend leaving loaded guns in a shoebox in a closet where they can easily be accessed by children. The ad’s message is essentially, “All guns are bad. Your children are not safe. Outlaw guns entirely.”) Everytown’s second ad shows a bullet leaving the barrel of a gun and the caption, “Who is faster than a speeding bullet? Nobody.” (The graphic shows the fired bullet with its shell casing still present—indicating that more than a few people at Everytown know next to nothing about guns.) [57639, 57644, 57659, 57683, 57707, 57708, 57765, 57799, 57800, 57922]

In a speech at the New York Economic Club, Federal Reserve Board chairman Janet Yellen says the labor market is still weak and that it will take at least two more years for the economy to recover. (Although that is not a surprising statement, the fact that it comes from Yellen means the Federal Reserve will continue to expand the money supply in an effort to keep the economy from collapsing—and the thought of additional “free money” prompts an uptick in the stock market. That the bubble will continue to be inflated may please some people in the short run, it will destroy quite a few lives in the long run after the bubble bursts.) [57776, 57852]

According to a Gallup poll, “Four percent of Americans are newly insured this year, reporting that they have health insurance now but did not last year. A little more than half of that group, or 2.1% of the U.S. population, got their new insurance through [the ObamaCare] health exchanges. The rest got it using some other mechanism [buying it privately, provided by a new employer, marriage, etc.]. (The Obama administration imposed ObamaCare on the nation, disrupted one-sixth of the private economy, added hundreds of billions of dollars to the national debt, and caused insurance premiums to increase for millions of Americans—so that a mere 2.1 percent of the population could get taxpayer-subsidized insurance. Some may wonder why Obama’s approval rating has not fallen to 2.1 percent.) [57819, 57820]

On Tom Joyner’s radio show, MSNBC race hustler Al Sharpton says, “The story of Jesus on the cross... No matter what they humiliated him with. No matter how they mocked him he took it, because he knew he could rise. And the story of Easter and my message for this Easter session is no matter what unearned suffering you go through, that if you know you can rise above it, don’t become like the diseases that you fight. As I looked at ...Obama at our [National Action Network] convention last Friday where all he took he’s been able to rise politically again. I’m not comparing him to Jesus [even though he just did], but I am saying that to [sic; for] every crucifixion there is a resurrection for those that [sic; who] believe.” [57828]

BizPacReview.com writes, “According to the [Nevada] ranchers’ argument, the federal government ‘owned’ or controlled every territory before it became a state, but once statehood was reached, the land became the property of the new state. ...Many Western states were treated unequally when they joined the Union. ... Article 4, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution requires an act of Congress to create a state. Keeping the majority of land in federal control seems in conflict with the very concept of statehood. The second paragraph of Section 4 appears to authorize this bizarre practice. But on closer inspection, that is far from clear. ...The Nevada Constitution includes an ‘Ordinance’ section that adopts the requirements of the congressional Enabling Act. A second rewrite of the state constitution was approved by voters on Sept. 7, 1864. Nevada became the 36th state on Oct. 31, 1864. Nevada agreed to let the federal government own ‘unappropriated land’ within the state, ‘unless otherwise provided by the Congress of the United States.’ ...Congress could easily right this discriminatory wrong. As the leader of the U.S. Senate, [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid [D-NV] could propose a change reverting the property to Nevada’s control, and Republicans in the House would enthusiastically agree. Nevada voters should tell the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House to end the discrimination against Nevada and release the ‘unappropriated territory’ to the management and ownership of their own state government.” (Rancher Cliven Bundy states he has no problem paying grazing fees to the state of Nevada, but argues that the U.S. government should not own or control the land. His defiance of the Bureau of Land Management is a matter of civil disobedience, to bring attention to unjust laws.) [57650, 57651]

At ThePostEmail.com Ron Ewart, president of the National Association of Rural Landowners (NARLO), writes, “[W]hy would thousands of Americans come to the aid of a grizzled, range-weary rancher [Nevada’s Cliven Bundy] who had come to grief with a federal bureaucracy known as the Bureau of Land Management? ...What brought these people to the Nevada desert to fight a fight that wasn’t theirs, a fight that could have ended in a bloodbath? Or maybe they thought the fight was theirs? What brought these Americans to the desert was match struck for freedom. What brought them to the desert was a man who, right or wrong, stood up against tyranny with a straight back and an iron will. ...How absolutely refreshing, but what is even more refreshing is that in the face of true Americans, the government showed their backsides and ran. ...Yes, there are millions of Americans itching to lock and load. We hear from them almost daily. But why? Because government, and especially the federal government, has pushed, abused, harassed, cajoled, and intimidated too many people for far too long and the hair on the backs of the necks of some Americans itching for a fight is rising. ...And it’s not just the BLM. It is the Department of the Treasury and the EPA and the NSA and the IRS and the FDA and the FCC and the FTC and the FBI and the INS and the USDA and the DOE and Social Security and HHS and the DHS and the Department of Education, all literally drunk on the addiction of federal power. It is the Executive branch and the Legislative branch and the Judicial branch that have lost all allegiance to the... U.S. Constitution. Is it any wonder that Americans came to the Nevada desert to challenge an out-of-control government head-on and call their bluff?” [57653]

At InfoWars.com, Paul Joseph Watson reports, “FBI counterterrorism agents are visiting gun shops in South Carolina to investigate ‘suspicious purchases’ made by people who talk about ‘big government,’ according to a new report. Author Brandon Turbeville says he was approached by an individual who works in a Columbia, South Carolina gun shop to relate the story of how an FBI agent entered the store on Monday, showed his credentials, before proceeding to ask a series of stunning questions. Telling the gun store worker he was tasked with visiting all the firearms outlets in the local area to check on ‘suspicious purchases’ for counterterrorism purposes, the agent then began discussing what in actual fact were ‘completely normal transactions,’ such as, ‘paying with cash, purchasing long guns, and other similarly innocuous behavior.’ The FBI agent then reportedly made a shocking remark that almost seems too chilling to believe. ‘If you see some Middle Eastern guy come in, you don’t have to be so worried about that. What we’re really looking for are people talking about being sovereign such as sovereign citizens or people talking about big government,’ the agent reportedly stated. Before the agent left the store, he handed the employee a flyer which lists paying with cash, buying in bulk, along with other seemingly innocuous behavior as suspicious activity.” [57667]

Those who believed they had heard the last of retiring Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen “no fetus left alive” Sebelius may be outraged to learn that, according to *The New York Times*, “Ms. Sebelius is considering entreaties from Democrats who want her to run against... Senator Pat Roberts, Republican of Kansas. ... One person who spoke directly to Ms. Sebelius said that she was thinking about it, but added that it was too soon to say how seriously she was taking the idea.” (Twitter users quickly come up with campaign slogans for Sebelius: “This campaign best viewed with Internet Explorer 6,” “Get Under The Bus With Sebelius,” “A Glitch You Can Be Proud Of,” “More or less as qualified as Hillary, and she’s been anointed,” “Maybe you’d better MAIL your contribution,” “Accept the Inept,” “If it ain’t broke, nationalize it!” “A waiver for your vote,” “404 More Years!” “404ward!” “I have not yet begun to fail,” and “For a better future vote [page missing].” (Sebelius is unlikely to run—unless she does not mind being humiliated by a spectacular loss.) [57674, 57675, 57683, 57693]

At Breitbart.com Wynton Hall reports, “A New York woman suffering from a neurological disease that has required four brain surgeries has been dropped by all of her doctors and denied medications due to her Obamacare plan. ‘I’ve been vomiting. I lost 22 pounds. The pain is unbearable,’ said Margaret Figueroa, 49, on Wednesday. ‘My medication helps me function during the day.’ Figueroa suffers from a disease known as Arnold Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia. Even though the Obamacare plan she purchased assured her that she was covered, her insurance card was denied when she went to fill her prescriptions. Then she learned that none of her doctors accept her Obamacare plan. Figueroa says she cannot find a doctor who accepts her Obamacare plan; indeed, there are only six doctors in all of Staten Island who take her plan, none of whom she’s been able to get appointments with. Figueroa’s congressman, Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY), intervened to help her obtain some of her vital prescriptions. Grimm says he’s already received calls from at least a dozen Staten Island residents facing the same problem with Obamacare’s ‘narrow networks’—extreme restrictions to doctor and hospital access imposed by Obamacare. ‘Even though the insurance company cashed

your check, it doesn't mean it (the policy) has been implemented,' said Grimm at a Wednesday press conference with Figueroa. 'That's the problem—that the back end of Obamacare hasn't been fully built. You can go on the front end of an application and look at a list of plans, but what they don't tell you is that many of those plans don't have doctors yet.' ...Obamacare's narrow networks have also shut out access to top cancer centers. The Associated Press says just 4 of 19 nationally recognized comprehensive cancer centers offer Obamacare access through all insurance plans in their state Obamacare exchanges, and a McKinsey and Co. study revealed 38% of all Obamacare plans only allow patients to pick from just 30% of the largest 20 hospitals in their areas. Experts say the narrow network horror stories will only grow as more and more Obamacare customers attempt to use their Obamacare insurance only to realize its harsh realities." [57731, 57766]

At Heritage.org Hans von Spakovsky and Peter McGinley write, "Last Friday, in a speech at Al Sharpton's National Action Network conference, ...Obama proudly announced that the Justice Department had taken on more than 100 voting rights cases since 2009. The problem with that claim is that, since 2009, the Justice Department has taken on only 39 voting rights cases—and as former Voting Section lawyer Christian Adams points out, only 13 were related to protecting minority voting rights. And, with respect to some of the cases in which the department has been involved, it lost spectacularly—such as its false claim that South Carolina's voter ID law was discriminatory. Perhaps ...Obama misspoke when he overstated the number of voting rights cases by more than 60—or perhaps he was misinformed by his Attorney General, Eric Holder. In fact, the ever-criticized Bush administration had a much better enforcement record with much higher case numbers than the Obama administration, as was outlined in a report released by the Justice Department's Inspector General in March 2013. ...Obama also made no mention of his administration's unjustified dismissal of the voter intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party—that would, after all, not fit the narrative he is trying to propagate. Regardless, ...Obama's exaggerated claims come as no surprise, especially given the setting of this particular speech. ...In light of ...Obama's claim that voting rights 'justice' is being administered by the Department of Justice, it is worth noting that Melowese Richardson was never charged by the Justice Department—even though she admitted, on camera, to having voted for ...Obama multiple times in 2012, which is a felony under federal law." [57681]

At FreedomOutpost.com Ben Swann writes, "In this ongoing story surrounding cattle rancher Cliven Bundy, there are a series of questions media has ignored. For instance, in the 20 years Bundy hasn't been paying his fees, why hasn't he been taken to court? Why this year, spend nearly \$1,000,000 of taxpayer money to round up 400 cattle that ultimately have to be returned? Why didn't the BLM just place a lien on the cattle rather than attempting to take them by force and then auction them off?" The answer may be "prescriptive rights." "Prescriptive right to property is an easement that gives someone the right to use land owned by someone else for a particular purpose. An example is using a path through Party A's land to get to your land; a prescriptive easement is allowed which gives the user the right to get to his land through A's property. In most states, if a trespass or use of land occurs regularly for at least 5 years without the 'owner'

of the land taking legal action, prescriptive rights come into play. Because Bundy stopped paying his grazing fees to the BLM in 1993, but continued to use the land for over 20 years, it is possible he now has prescriptive rights to the land. That might explain why the BLM has not taken this issue to court and never bothered to file a lien against the cattle.” [57684, 57685]

Journalist and blogger Alan Caruba writes, “You have to be extremely stupid to send a couple of hundred armed government agents to confiscate some bullheaded rancher’s cattle without contemplating how the rest of the nation will interpret your actions. ...I love the notion that Cliven Bundy lives in Bunkerville. It reminded me of Bunker Hill and you know how badly that eventually turned out for the British in 1775. What ensued was a guerrilla war led by George Washington that defeated the most powerful nation of its time. There is no way a militia with small arms can defeat the kind of arms the U.S. government can bring to bear on such a battle, but one has to admire the courage of those people who showed up to confront them. That’s quintessentially American! Bundy should have paid his grazing rights fees. Other ranchers do. What he has done, however, is bring greater awareness [of] the amount of land that the federal government owns in Nevada and elsewhere, particularly west of the Mississippi, and expose a regime that wants to intimidate Americans with force. ...I can understand the need for national forests and reserves, but I have concerns that those reserves are used as an excuse to deny access to massive energy sources that lie beneath their surface. If the U.S. didn’t own most of Nevada, Bundy would not need to pay grazing fees. Most certainly, his ancestors didn’t. The other excuse, that the government is trying to protect an endangered tortoise, is just part of the environmental movement’s efforts to keep energy sources from being available to all of us. Endangered species is pure fiction.” [57756, 57757]

“...I don’t think the BLM response to Bundy was exclusive to the agency. That decision needed to be sent up the line as far as the White House. Indeed, it was likely initiated by the White House. Even more scary is the fact that only Fox News channel had reporters on the scene. No other major television news outlet set journalists to record the event. How much in league with the White House does the media have to be to ignore two hundred armed government agents descending on a ranch in Nevada? ...All tyrannies over-reach at some point and we are seeing that occur in the White House. The nation is fortunate to have the House controlled by Republicans and now needs a Senate as well in order to dispense some much needed justice on behalf of Americans. It’s going to be interesting to see how the White House responds to the May 16 ‘Operation American Spring’ being organized to bring a million or more to Washington, D.C. to participate in an event that will demonstrate the breadth of the unhappiness that has spread since Obama’s first election and is gaining momentum since his second. The White House response will tell us all a lot about its current state of mind. Whatever it has in mind is likely to leak. The best thing about Washington, D.C. is its inability to keep a secret. The worst thing is the Obama administration and the Democratic Party.” [57756, 57757]

According to a Fox News poll, “About six in ten American voters think Barack Obama lies to the country on important matters some or most of the time... Thirty-seven percent

think Obama lies ‘most of the time,’ while another 24 percent say he lies ‘some of the time.’ Twenty percent of voters say ‘only now and then’ and 15 percent ‘never.’ ...The number of voters saying Obama lies ‘most of the time’ includes 13 percent of Democrats. It also includes 12 percent of blacks, 16 percent of liberals, 31 percent of unmarried women and 34 percent of those under age 30—all key Obama constituencies.” [57686, 57687, 57711]

Obama issues a statement criticizing Republicans for “seemingly preferring the status quo of a broken immigration system over meaningful reform.” (The statement is a typical, flawed Obama. He presents a false choice of his position, or his distorted description of the other side’s position—knowing full well that ill-informed Americans will fall for the ploy.) A few hours later Obama telephones House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) to discuss the issue. Cantor later states, “After five years, ...Obama still has not learned how to effectively work with Congress to get things done. You do not attack the very people you hope to engage in a serious dialogue. ...[Obama] called me hours after he issued a partisan statement which attacked me and my fellow House Republicans and which indicated no sincere desire to work together.” DailyCaller.com reports, “Cantor reiterated Wednesday that House Republicans do not support the Senate immigration bill that passed last year and other ‘amnesty efforts.’ ‘It will not be considered in the House,’ Cantor said of the Democratic plan. ‘I also reiterated to [Obama] there are other issues where we can find common ground, build trust and get America working again,’ he said. ‘I hope [Obama] can stop his partisan messaging, and begin to seriously work with Congress to address the issues facing working middle class Americans that are struggling to make ends meet in this economy.’” (Cantor’s protestations may be nothing more than a “look tough” political performance. He and other establishment Republicans in the House may not support the Senate bill, but they are certainly willing to pass something—and that *something* will almost certainly outrage conservatives. After the primary elections are over, the GOP establishment may move to pass immigration reform—after it is too late to challenge them.) [57716, 57720, 57794, 57975]

In Oakdale, Pennsylvania, Obama delivers a speech about job skills training. An unconvincing Obama says, “We’ve spent the past five-and-a-half years fighting back from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes [and] the good news is our economy is growing again, our businesses are creating jobs.” DailyCaller.com later reports that Obama “tried to engage an audience that was cold to him. The 15 community college students who were picked to stand immediately behind [Obama], and in view of the TV cameras, mostly stood stone-faced through his speech. At the end, when [Obama] walked back from the podium to smile and wave at the roughly 60 people in the bleachers 20 feet behind him, he faced a unfriendly wall of faces. The White House video of the bleacher’s front rank shows three men with their hands crossed, one with his hands stuck in his pockets and one who let his arms fall by his sides. ...Some of Obama’s applause lines fell so flat that no one is heard to respond, not even among the main audience, which was padded with his political supporters. ...At the end, the very loud Bruce Springsteen exit song hid the lack of applause. The clapping was so sparse that the White House’s video shows hardly any applause by his supporters and appointees in front of his podium [sic;

lectern]. The video shows how Obama ended his speech quickly, without the emotional buildup that he usually delivers to his younger supporters, and then turned around to face the bleachers that were behind him.” (Obama has traditionally counted on high school and college audiences for strong support and clips of cheering students for the evening news broadcasts. That strategy may have worn out its welcome.) [57710, 57775, 57776, 57803, 57830, 57849, 58101]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, “Last week, just thirty miles away in Murrysville, a student went on a mass stabbing rampage at Franklin Regional High School. Twenty people were severely injured in the incident, making it one of the worst mass stabbing events in U.S. history. But despite being close to the scene of the tragic and horrifying event, Obama failed to mention the incident during his nearly 30 minute long remarks. I have a feeling if there had been a recent tragedy that involved a gun at a school near the location of an Obama speech, we’d be hearing all about it. Apparently, 20 people being stabbed isn’t politically expedient enough for the White House.” [57710, 57775, 57776]

Roy Beck, executive director of NumbersUSA, an anti-amnesty immigration reform group, tells DailyCaller.com, “[Obama] is advocating major new spending for schools and businesses to train Americans for real jobs... but at the same time, he is insisting on passing legislation to immediately and massively increase the number of foreign workers at all skill levels competing for U.S. jobs through lifetime work permits. This push for training appears to be more about giving 2014 voters some sign of interest in jobs [than actually providing any].” Mark Krikorian, the director of the anti-amnesty immigration reform group Center for Immigration Studies, states, “Why would business undertake training for Americans if they’re able to just import people who work cheaper instead? I don’t doubt that [Obama] believes his malarky about how his own immigration policies will create jobs for the poor... but a lot of people who sell snake oil think it works.” [57803]

Despite the new White House ban on “selfies,” Vice President Joe Biden tweets a cellphone photo he took of himself and Obama—each with wide grins. (Whether the smiles are the result of April 15 tax receipts cannot be verified.) [57706, 57706]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Tea party groups are fighting back against Comcast’s attempted merger with Time Warner Cable, making the tea party one of the only political elements questioning the well-funded lobbying campaign to approve the MSNBC parent company’s potential monopoly. ‘We urge you to carefully scrutinize the proposed \$45.2 billion merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. The proposed merger of our nation’s largest and second largest cable providers raises a number of serious public policy questions that must be addressed,’ reads a letter sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee... The merger must be approved by the Senate, where Democratic Minnesota Sen. Al Franken is one of the only members fighting against approval. ... ‘The politicization of the Justice Department by Attorney General Eric Holder and the Obama Administration is well-documented. And Comcast and Time Warner Cable’s enormous lobbying influence and massive political contributions to ...Obama and Democrats are

well-known,' the letter reads. The dominance of a market by a single entity is in most cases contrary to the public's interest because it typically leads to fewer choices, less innovation, and higher costs,' according to the letter. '...The Obama Justice Department previously fast-tracked approval for Comcast's controversial acquisition of NBC Universal (which owns the liberal MSNBC network). What impact will a bigger Comcast have on the diversity of viewpoints in our media?'" [57717]

CNSNews.com reports, "The average price for a kilowatt-hour (KWH) of electricity hit a March record of 13.5 cents, according data released yesterday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That was up about 5.5 percent from 12.8 cents per KWH in March 2013. ...If the prevailing trend holds, the average price of a KWH would hit a new record this summer." (The Obama administration's "war on coal" is no doubt partly responsible for the increase. As coal-burning power plants are forced to close, the electricity they had been producing must be generated by plants that are more expensive to operate.) [57718]

AtNationalJournal.com CBS White House correspondent Major Garrett suggests there may be a method to Obama's madness of making obviously false statements: "Allow me to explain. The questioning of Obama's use of a Census Bureau statistic that the median wages of working women in America are 77 percent of median wages earned by men lasted almost all week. The story revved into mini-overdrive when the White House defensively swatted away criticism that salaries on Obama's watch—for which the American Enterprise Institute used the same median wages metric applied by the Census Bureau—showed that women in the president's employ earned 88 cents for every dollar earned by men. All to the delight of a White House desperate to inject the issue into the political bloodstream and amplify otherwise doomed Senate Democratic efforts to make it easier for women to sue and win damages for workplace pay differences. The controversy that played out on front pages, social media, TV, and radio did just that. This is the White House theory of 'Stray Voltage.' It is the brainchild of former White House Senior Adviser David Plouffe, whose methods loom large long after his departure. The theory goes like this: Controversy sparks attention, attention provokes conversation, and conversation embeds previously unknown or marginalized ideas in the public consciousness. This happens, Plouffe theorizes, even when—and sometimes especially when—the White House appears defensive, besieged, or off-guard. I first discovered and wrote about this in July of 2012. A top White House adviser told me last week's pay gap dust up was a 'perfect' example of stray voltage. This time it was premeditated." [57796, 57797, 57798]

"The decision was made to stick with the same [thoroughly discredited] 77 cents-on-the-dollar pay-gap figure, even though it was imprecise [grossly false] and invited unfavorable comparisons with the White House wage scale. Obama's team expected, invited, and, to a certain degree, relished last week's hubbub. That's stray voltage in action." At Slate.com John Dickerson adds, "Under this approach, [Obama] wants the fact-checkers to call him out (again and again) because that hubbub keeps the issue in the news, which is good for promoting the issue to the public. It is the political equivalent of 'there is no such thing as bad publicity' or the quote attributed to Mae West (and others):

‘I don't care what the newspapers say about me as long as they spell my name right.’ The tactic represents one more step in the embrace of cynicism that has characterized ...Obama’s journey in office. ...Facts, schmacts. As long as people are talking about an issue where my party has an advantage with voters, it’s good. So, the theory goes, if I’m a Republican candidate, I benefit from conversations about budget deficits and spending restraint because voters trust Republicans more on the issue of the budget and spending restraint, and it excites Republican voters who care about those issues. Democrats have several reasons to keep stories about equal-pay equity in the news. It excites their voters, attracts female voters, and crowds out whatever the Republicans wanted to talk about (these days, Obamacare). ...Even if I’ve overstated the issue, more voters will hear that Democrats are fighting to pay women equally than will hear that the problem is overstated. Even if [*The Washington Post*’s] Ruth Marcus labels the effort ‘revolting demagoguery,’ it doesn’t matter. In fact, equal-pay stories that create more controversy cycles about stories rooted in equal pay are just more opportunities for people to hear the words equal pay. See that? Equal pay.” [57796, 57797, 57798]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, retired Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters says, “[T]he problem for the Ukrainian government is they don’t want to fire on their own people. So, the special operators, paratroopers, GRU [Russia’s intelligence agency, Glavnoye Razvedyvatel’noye Upravleniye] agents that Putin sent in have surrounded themselves with local thugs, a ring of local thugs, and then with a ring of people who are, you know, civilians but sympathize with Russia. The demonstration numbers are small, but these Ukrainian soldiers, young soldiers, don’t want to fire on their own people. But, the Russians are perfectly happy to fire on the Ukrainians. The Ukrainians are damned if they do and damned if they don’t. If they do open fire that gives Putin an excuse to go in. If they don’t open fire, Putin has already got what he wants. I mean, he is—we’ve watched him as Obama pleads—‘Please, Mr. Putin, please talk, let’s talk, let’s negotiate.’ Putin has first taken over administrative buildings in three cities. Now he is up to 11 cities in major towns. He has thugs all over the place and we’re pretending that somehow negotiations are going to get Putin out. Well they didn’t get him out in Crimea. I think ...Obama really believes... Obama believes you can negotiate with cancer tumors. He is a fool and a weakling and sanctions could have hurt. *Real* sanctions.” [57728]

On April 17, NBC *Today* program co-hosts do their best to promote a Clinton political dynasty, saying of Chelsea Clinton, “She is a very, very impressive woman.” “She is.” “And she’ll do whatever she wants to do in life.” “There’s gotta be a lot of pressure, though, I would imagine, you know, with that sort of legacy that for, you know, children of political figures.” “She’s lived such a wonderful life and a responsible life, giving to others. I bet that she’s gotten used to the pressure.” “I think she really wants to help and give back. And I think that’s what she wants to do.” “Yeah, and it’s proof in her actions that’s what she’s doing.” [57783]

Heritage.org describes the absurdity of the Export-Import Bank, through which U.S. taxpayer money is loaned to other countries for the purchase of American-made goods: “Yes, that’s right. Let’s say Air China wants to purchase some Boeing jets. To encourage

that purchase, America's Export-Import Bank could loan Air China the money. If Air China were to default on the loan, U.S. taxpayers would be left on the hook. Put simply, taxpayers should not be financing this kind of 'bank'—which is 'little more than a fund for corporate welfare,' as candidate Barack Obama described it in 2008. The Ex-Im Bank, as it is called, is scheduled to expire in September—giving Congress an opportunity to end this program and focus on issues that matter to Americans, like lowering taxes and reducing burdens on businesses here at home." Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) states, "Most of the benefits go to large corporations that are perfectly capable of securing private financing anywhere in the world. That is to say, Congress allows Ex-Im Bank to risk taxpayer money unnecessarily to subsidize well-connected private companies. This kind of public policy privilege, best described as 'crony capitalism,' is a threat to the free market and its moral underpinnings." [57703, 57883, 58116]

The argument that the Ex-Im loan process "creates American jobs" is faulty. As explained in this author's book, *What You Don't Know About Economics Can Hurt You*, "Forgotten is the fact that the tax money used for this purpose must first be taken away from the taxpayers. If \$5 billion is given to the nation of Sri Lanka in order that it might buy widgets from a company in New Jersey, that \$5 billion is not being spent by the American consumer on something else. The New Jersey company surely gains (as does the New Jersey Senator who sponsored the foreign aid bill), but the taxpayers are \$5 billion poorer, and other companies throughout the United States lose the \$5 billion in sales they would have enjoyed had the legislation never been passed and the taxes never been collected in the first place. [More people *are* making widgets, but *fewer* people are making what *would have been bought* with that \$5 billion had it not been taken from the taxpayers.] To make matters worse, the \$5 billion loan to Sri Lanka may very likely never be paid back. In other words, the whole plan is in reality a \$5 billion gift from the taxpayers to the employees of the New Jersey widget factory. *The widgets could have been dumped in the ocean without affecting the equation.* Or the employees could just as easily have been given the \$5 billion directly and told to stay home, eliminating the need to make the widgets in the first place and saving the raw materials and energy consumed in the production process." [57703, 57883]

In Geneva, Switzerland, Secretary of State John Kerry states that Russia has agreed to a preliminary document outlining steps to be taken in Ukraine to possibly de-escalate the situation: "We wanted to find concrete steps, not just words, but concrete steps that could be acted on immediately in order to defuse the situation. All of this, we are convinced, represents a good day's work, but on the other hand, this day's work has produced principles, and it has produced commitments and it has produced words on paper. And we are the first to understand and agree that words on paper will only mean what the actions taken as a result of those words produce." According to ForeignPolicy.com, "The agreement doesn't require Russia to withdraw any of the 80,000 troops it has massed along the Ukrainian border, which have sparked fears of a potential Russian invasion." Kerry "warned that if Moscow doesn't comply with the agreement in the next few days 'we will have no choice but to impose further costs on Russia.'" (There is no reason for Vladimir Putin not to agree to the document because it demands almost nothing from Russia.) [57780]

While Kerry and Obama may believe Russia can be persuaded to leave Crimea and not also take Ukraine, China sees the situation differently. ChinaTopix.com reports, “China intends to invest in massive projects in Crimea less than a month after the former Ukrainian province was annexed by the Russian Federation. Vladimir Chizhov, Russia’s ambassador to the European Union, said Russia is partnering with China in two major Crimean projects: the ‘Power of Siberia’ gas pipeline and a 25 meter deep Crimean deep water port. These projects will continue despite the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine, Chizhov said. Chizhov described the ‘Power of Siberia’ gas pipeline as a mega-project that will pump 60 billion cubic meters of gas annually from the Kovykta and Tchayandinskoe gas fields to Russia’s far east, where a branch line will deliver 38 billion cubic meters a year to China. ...Chizhov said Russia and China... will continue with plans for Chinese firms to build a 25 meter deep port in Crimea as part of a new transport corridor from Asia to Europe called ‘The Economic Belt of the Great Silk Route.’” [58117]

Obama takes another ObamaCare victory lap, claiming the number of ObamaCare enrollees has climbed to eight million: “Eight million people, thirty-five percent of people who enroll through the federal market place are under the age of 35. All told, independent experts now estimate that millions of Americans who were uninsured have gained coverage this year. ...[W]e have been having a political fight about this for five years. We need to move on with something else. That is what the people are interested in. I think Democrats should forcefully defend and be proud of the fact that millions of people like the woman I just described who I saw in Pennsylvania yesterday, we are helping, because of something we did. I do not think we should apologize for it. We should not be defensive about it. I think it is a strong, good, right story to tell.” Obama’s 35 percent figure includes children, who are merely on the policies of their parents and are of course not paying premiums of their own to keep costs down. Only 28 percent of enrollees are ages 18–34, the people Obama needs to help finance the scheme, and how many of those 28 percent are healthy is not known. It has already been reported that ObamaCare enrollees are more likely than others to use expensive specialty drugs. According to a report by pharmacy benefit manager Express Scripts, “More than six in every 1,000 prescriptions in the Exchange plans were for a medication to treat HIV. This proportion is nearly four times higher in Exchange plans than in commercial health plans. ...Obamacare users received 35 percent more pain medication, 27 percent more medication to control seizures, and 14 percent more antidepressants than the privately insured. The proportion of contraceptives actually dropped 31 percent among Obamacare enrollees.”) [57376, 57388, 57712, 57714, 57727, 57729, 57766, 57793, 57801]

Obama does his best to ridicule and insult Republicans, saying, “I recognize that their party is going through the stages of grief—anger and denial and all that stuff—and we’re not at acceptance yet. ...They still can’t bring themselves to admit that the Affordable Care Act is working. This does frustrate me: states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid for no other reason than political spite.” (It is not for “political spite.” The states that have not expanded Medicaid are trying to avoid deficits and tax increase to pay for that welfare expansion.) “You’ve got 5 million people who could be having health

insurance right now at no cost to these states—zero cost to these states—other than ideological reasons.” (Obama is lying. The Medicaid expansion does not have “zero cost.” It adds billions to the federal deficit each year, and after several years some of that burden will be shifted to state budgets.) He continues, “The challenge we have is, is that if you have certain members in the Republican Party whose view is making it [ObamaCare] work better is a concession to me, then it’s hard in that environment” to admit the law is working. (Once again, the thin-skinned Obama portrays opposition to ObamaCare as opposition to *him*—as if no valid objections to the scheme exist. His statement is also a thinly-veiled use of the “race card.” It is as if he is saying, “ObamaCare is so wonderful that the only possible objection anyone can have to it is the color of my skin.”) [57376, 57388, 57712, 57714, 57727, 57729, 57766, 57793, 57801]

Obama says, “We see accusations that the law is hurting millions of people being completely debunked—as some of you in the press have done.” (The law has, in fact, harmed millions of people—who have seen their insurance policies canceled or their premiums increase dramatically. There is no question that *some* people are being helped by ObamaCare, but that does not make it a good or even a constitutional law.) A sycophantic Politico reporter eagerly throws Obama a bone: “Given all that you were just saying about the Affordable Care Act, do you think it’s time for Democrats to start campaigning loudly and positively on the benefits of Obamacare? Will you lead that charge?” [57376, 57388, 57712, 57714, 57727, 57729, 57766, 57793, 57801]

House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) responds to Obama’s press conference statements, “[Obama] says that Republicans have not accepted ObamaCare as settled law. He is right. Republicans cannot and will not accept this law. Not only will ObamaCare still leave millions uninsured while disrupting health care coverage for millions more, it harms jobs, cuts hours, and limits the individual liberty of each and every American.” [57729]

WeeklyStandard.com reports that widows of retired Madison County, Alabama employees lost their health insurance in January because of ObamaCare. According to WHNT, “The widows who were dropped in January had always been covered under the county’s old self-insured health care plan. But officials tell us the program had to be abandoned when they were informed that new regulations in Obamacare would amount to an extra \$25 million dollars per year, money that [county] chairman Dale Strong says the county simply didn’t have.” [57721]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Swedish professor Per Bylund provides some information about his country’s socialized health care system—one which a fair number of American leftists point to as a success. Bylund writes, “Sweden’s problem is access to care. According to the Euro Health Consumer Index 2013, Swedish patients suffer from inordinately long wait times to get an appointment with a doctor, specialist treatment or even emergency care. For example, Sweden’s National Board of Health and Welfare reports that as of 2013, the average wait time (from referral to start of treatment) for ‘intermediary and high risk’ prostate cancer is 220 days. In the case of lung cancer, the

wait between an appointment with a specialist and a treatment decision is 37 days. This waiting is what economists call rationing—the delay or even failure to provide care due to government budgetary decisions. So the number of people seeking care far outweighs the capabilities of providers, translating into insurance in name but not in practice. This is likely to be a result of ObamaCare as well. Free markets allow companies and entrepreneurs to respond to demand by offering people what they want and need at a better price. The Affordable Care Act does the opposite by centralizing health care, minimizing or prohibiting differentiation in pricing and offerings, and mandating consumers to purchase insurance. It effectively overrides the market and the signals it sends about supply and demand. Stories of people in Sweden suffering stroke, heart failure and other serious medical conditions who were denied or unable to receive urgent care are frequently reported in Swedish media. Recent examples include a one-month-old infant with cerebral hemorrhage for whom no ambulance was made available, and an 80-year-old woman with suspected stroke who had to wait four hours for an ambulance.” [57980, 57981]

NBCChicago.com reports, “An Illinois House committee has advanced a plan to devote \$100 million in state funds to help bring ...Obama’s presidential museum and library to Chicago. The committee voted unanimously Thursday following a hearing in Chicago. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel was among several officials who spoke in favor of the funding. He says the money would return dividends ‘well beyond’ \$100 million. Emanuel also says the funding would be a fitting way to welcome Obama back to his hometown.” But, according to WBEZ.org, “Nine representatives were recorded as voting for the bill, even though there were [only] five lawmakers in attendance at the hearing. That is because Rep. Bob Raita (D-Blue Island), who chairs the Executive Committee, employed a procedural move. Raita used the attendance record from a previous hearing that occurred Wednesday as the vote for the presidential library cash. ...No Republicans attended Thursday’s hearing on the presidential library. Rep. Ed Sullivan (R-Mundelein) was marked as voting yes on the measure, even though he did not attend Thursday’s hearing and was working at his non-legislative job. He had attended Wednesday’s hearing on gambling expansion. Sullivan said he was under the impression Thursday’s hearing was only to hear testimony about the presidential library, and no votes would be taken. ‘They’ve broken the trust and I think they’ve done something illegal,’ Sullivan said of the procedural move. ‘The legacy of a potential Obama library shouldn’t start out as a result of an illegal act. ...It galls me. It literally galls me. I guess it shouldn’t gall me. They seem to try and do anything that they want to do in a very sneakily [sic] way.’” (Emanuel may be right that an Obama library would bring substantial tourism business to Chicago—but that does not justify grabbing an additional \$100 million from the city’s already overtaxed residents. Most of those taxpayers, of course, will *not* be the recipients of any revenue a library might attract. If the hotels and restaurants want the library to increase their business, *they* should put up the \$100 million.) The Clinton and Bush libraries were funded entirely through private donations. Clinton’s library cost \$165 million. Obama staffers expect to \$500 million to be spent honoring the community activist. [57837, 57838, 57839, 57850, 57851]

According to a Fox News poll, “Most voters think the White House is trying to cover-up what happened in Benghazi and want Congress to continue to investigate the administration’s handling of the attack on the U.S. consulate there that killed four Americans. ...Sixty percent of voters want lawmakers to keep investigating what happened in Benghazi. That’s down from 65 percent who felt that way in November, and a high of 73 percent in early June 2013. ...For Democrats, 42 percent say the investigation should continue, down from a high of 58 percent who said the same in early June 2013. Among Republicans, 77 percent want Congress to keep looking into the attack, down from a high of 93 percent (June 9-11, 2013). For independents, it is 61 percent today, down from a high of 74 percent (June 22-24, 2013). By a margin of 61-26 percent, voters believe that the White House is ‘trying to cover-up [sic; cover up]’ what happened in Benghazi rather than ‘being open and transparent.’ Those views are mostly unchanged since last year.” [57738]

“Pundit From Another Planet” posts a satirical story claiming “the FBI announced today that it has uncovered a plot by members of al-Qaeda to sit back and enjoy themselves while the United States collapses of its own accord. ‘We vow that we will not cease sitting around and laughing it up until America is reduced to rubble.’ Multiple intelligence agencies confirmed that the militant Islamist organization and its numerous affiliates intend to carry out a massive, coordinated plan to stand aside and watch America’s increasingly rapid decline, with terrorist operatives across the globe reportedly mobilizing to take it easy, relax, and savor the spectacle as it unfolds. ‘We have intercepted electronic communication indicating that al-Qaeda members are actively plotting to stay out of the way while America as we know it gradually crumbles under the weight of its own self-inflicted debt and disrepair,’ FBI Deputy Director Mark F. Giuliano told the assembled press corps. ‘If this plan succeeds, it will leave behind a nation with a completely dysfunctional economy, collapsing infrastructure, and a catastrophic health crisis afflicting millions across the nation. We want to emphasize that this danger is very real. ...And unfortunately, based on information we have from intelligence assets on the ground, this plot is already well under way.’” [57842]

Also according to the Fox News poll, Hillary Clinton’s favorable/unfavorable ratings have fallen to 49/45. Obama’s approval/disapproval numbers are 42/51; the Democrat Party’s favorable/unfavorable are 44/46; and the Republican Party’s are 45/45—far better than they have been in a long time. [57781, 57901]

Dawn.com reports, “Jamia Hafsa, a religious school for women in the Pakistani capital Islamabad connected to the notorious Lal Masjid has renamed its library in honour of slain al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The seminary is run by controversial hardline cleric Maulana Abdul Aziz, the imam of the city’s Lal Masjid (Red Mosque), once infamous as a hideout for hardliners with alleged militant links.” (Despite such anti-American sentiments in Pakistan, the country continues to receive financial aid from the United States. Pamela Geller says Pakistan is “One of the top three recipients of US foreign aid” and calls for “Less aid, more drone strikes.”) [57747, 57748]

Reuters reports that “Online videos show Syrian rebels using what appear to be U.S. anti-tank rockets, weapons experts say, the first significant American-built armaments in the country’s civil war.” (Whether the weapons went to Syria via Benghazi, Libya is not known.) [57749]

CNBC.com reports, “A hotel executive and Democratic fundraiser has pleaded guilty in New York to witness tampering and conspiracy to evade campaign finance laws. Hampshire Hotels chairman Sant Singh Chatwal appeared Thursday in federal court in Brooklyn. The candidates were not identified. Chatwal, whose firm runs hotels around the world, had raised at least \$100,000 for Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign against Barack Obama. ...According to the Justice Department, Chatwal made more than \$180,000 in donations to three candidates via straw donors, who were then reimbursed.” [57722, 57855]

Author Peter Schiff, CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, tells CNBC, “Central banks are creating too much money. There's too much inflation, interest rates are too low. So I want to store my purchasing power in something that central banks can't print. I think we're headed much higher [for gold] because they are not going to stop the presses. They are going to run them into overdrive. ...Inflation is the expansion of the money supply. Quantitative easing is a euphemism for inflation. All the central banks are inflating, that's what they're doing. The gold market doesn't care about the CPI [“official” Consumer Price Index], it cares about real inflation. This is all government propaganda trying to convince us that there's not inflation.” [57723]

At AmericanThinker.com Dr. Jason Kissner, associate professor of criminology at California State University in Fresno, reviews the controversy over the fact that Obama’s current Social Security number (one of several he has used over the years) has come up on personal information databases, such as Merlins Information Systems, as being linked to Harrison J. Bounel—with the same address as Obama’s Chicago mansion. (As reported previously in this *Timeline*, a Chicago real estate database lists Harrison J. Bounel (or Bounel Harrison) as living at 5046 S. Greenwood and using the same Connecticut-issued Social Security number currently used by Obama: 042-68-4425. The database shows the mansion is not owned by Obama, but co-owned by tax attorney Harvey Wineberg and Circuit Court Judge Jane L. Stuart, an Obama campaign contributor. Wineberg raised more than \$100,000 for Obama’s 2008 campaign. In 2010 he was appointed to the President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability; he later resigned. [20627, 20628, 20833, 20865, 20867, 20882, 20883, 20966, 20967, 21121, 21122, 21123, 21124, 21450, 21545, 23704, 23764, 24865, 28220, 28221, 28226, 41730, 41801, 41802, 41921, 41922, 41923, 41924, 42149, 42307, 42621, 42623, 42630, 42698, 44385, 45757, 45758, 46121, 51475, 52597, 52598, 52786, 57724, 57761, 57762, 57763]

The 1910 census records from New Haven, Connecticut show a Harry L. Bounel residing with a family named Robinson. Harry L. Bounel was born in 1860 in Connecticut; Robinson is the maiden name of Michelle LaVaughan Obama; and the Social Security number being used by Obama was issued in Connecticut. Some might not unreasonably

suspect that the Harrison J. Bounel listed with Obama's Social Security number is a descendent of the Bounel in the 1910 census and is a friend of the family of Michelle LaVaughan Robinson Obama. According to "skip tracer" Al Hendershot, who is the individual who discovered the Bounel alias, the records have since been "scrubbed" from the databases. The Social Security Administration has refused to comply with Freedom of Information Act requests for Bounel documents—even though Bounel has apparently been dead for decades and the law permits the release of information of "extremely aged individuals." One possibility is that Bounel's death made his SSN "available" for Obama to steal. Some suspect the name Bounel is related to the revocation of Michelle Obama's law license—the reason for which she has so far successfully kept hidden from the public. According to attorney Dr. Orly Taitz, Obama also once used the Social Security number of Lucille Ballantyne, the late wife of Harry C. Ballantyne—a former Social Security Administration actuary. *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama has had to use stolen Social Security numbers because he never had a valid U.S. birth certificate to prove citizenship and obtain a valid number. [20627, 20628, 20833, 20865, 20867, 20882, 20883, 20966, 20967, 21121, 21122, 21123, 21124, 21450, 21545, 23704, 23764, 24865, 28220, 28221, 28226, 41730, 41801, 41802, 41921, 41922, 41923, 41924, 42149, 42307, 42621, 42623, 42630, 42698, 44385, 45757, 45758, 46121, 51475, 52597, 52598, 52786, 57724, 57761, 57762, 57763]

White House press secretary Jay Carney claims Obama's most "substantive and challenging" interview in 2012 was with Comedy Central channels; Jon Stewart. (The claim is outrageous. Although Stewart asked a few tough questions, more than a few were downright silly. Stewart did ask, "Is part of the investigation helping the communication between these divisions? Not just what happened in Benghazi, but what happened within. Because I would say, even you would admit, it was not the optimal response, at least to the American people, as far as all of us being on the same page." Obama replied, "Here's what I'll say. If four Americans get killed, it's not optimal. We're going to fix it. All of it. And what happens, during the course of a presidency, is that the government is a big operation and any given time something screws up." Obama was not incensed about the murder of four Americans; he merely agreed it is "not optimal" and apparently just the cost of doing business because sometimes "something screws up." If the families and friends of the four murdered men were not outraged, they should have been—even though it was Stewart who first used the words "not optimal." In the days following the Benghazi attack, Obama expressed more outrage toward the anti-Islam video and its producers than the murdering jihadist thugs—who he is afraid to even call jihadists. Investors.com wrote, "[Obama] reveals a disturbing callousness toward our war dead on yet another talk show. When will he tell jihadists to stop clinging to their guns and religion and fearing people not like them?") [38766, 38770, 38801, 38805, 38821, 38916, 38917, 57789]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) calls supporters of Nevada cattle rancher Cliven Bundy "nothing more than domestic terrorists. I repeat: what happened there was domestic terrorism." (The Obama administration refers to the 2009 Fort Hood massacre as "workplace violence" because it is afraid to call it terrorism, but Reid eagerly calls Americans concerned about their liberties domestic terrorists.) Reid also claims Bundy

has not paid his income taxes. Bundy denies that charge. (Reid is either lying, in which case Bundy can sue him for defamation of character, or he illegally gained access to that information from the IRS, in which case Reid should be prosecuted. Neither is likely to happen.) [57726, 57732, 57778, 57787]

At InfoWars.com Kit Daniels writes, “For over 20 years, the Bureau of Land Management engaged in a ‘literal, intentional conspiracy’ against Nevada ranchers to force them out of business, according to a federal judge whose court opinion exposes the BLM’s [Bureau of Land Management’s] true intent against rancher Cliven Bundy.” Daniels cites *United States v. Estate of Hage*, in which U.S. District Court Judge Robert C. Jones ruled “that after late Nevada rancher E. Wayne Hage indicated on his 1993 grazing permit renewal that by signing the permit, he was not surrendering his family’s long-standing water and forage rights on the land, the BLM not only rejected the permit but also conspired for decades to both deny his family’s property rights and to destroy their cattle business.” Jones wrote in his opinion, “[T]he Court has held certain government officials in contempt and referred the matter to the U.S. Attorney’s Office. In summary, government officials... entered into a literal, intentional conspiracy to deprive the Hages not only of their permits but also of their vested water rights. This behavior shocks the conscience of the Court and provides a sufficient basis for a finding of irreparable harm to support the injunction described at the end of this Order.” Daniels: “So in other words, the BLM willfully attempted to destroy the Hage family’s livelihood because Hage dared to assert his existing rights to the land which his family has held since the late 19th century. And unfortunately the BLM is attempting to do the exact same thing to Cliven Bundy.” [57733]

At WesternJournalism.com B. Christopher Agee reports that, in a letter to Obama, Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) states, “Because of this standoff [at the Cliven Bundy ranch in Nevada], I have looked into BLM’s authority to conduct such paramilitary raids against American citizens, and it appears that BLM is acting in a lawless manner in Nevada.” The Bureau of Land Management has no “right to assume preemptory police powers, that role being reserved to the States,” and “many federal laws require the federal government to seek assistance from local law enforcement whenever the use of force may become necessary.” According to 43 U.S.C. Section 1733, Subsection C, “When the Secretary [of the Interior] determines that assistance is necessary in enforcing Federal laws and regulations relating to the public lands or their resources he shall offer a contract to appropriate local officials having law enforcement authority within their respective jurisdictions with the view of achieving maximum feasible reliance upon local law enforcement officials in enforcing such laws and regulations.” Stockman points out that “the relevant local law enforcement officials appear to be the Sheriff of Clark County, Nevada, Douglas C. Gillespie” and not BLM officers. “...Indeed, the exact type of crisis that the federal government has provoked at the Bundy ranch is the very type of incident that Congress knew could be avoided by relying on local law enforcement officials. ...[T]he federal government must not only stand down, but remove all federal personnel from anywhere near the Bundy ranch.” (As sheriff, Gillespie has the legal authority to block BLM officers from acting against

Bundy. Gillespie has announced that he is not seeking reelection.) [57734, 57735, 57808, 57810, 57908]

At Alt-Market.com Brandon Smith writes, “We have all heard the old story of the debate within the ancient Roman government over the idea of forcing the slave population to wear distinct armbands so that they could be more easily identified among the regular population. The concept was rejected on the realization that if the slaves were given a visual confirmation of their considerable numbers and strength, they would be encouraged to revolt against the Roman tyrants. That is to say, as long as the slaves felt isolated, they would remain apathetic and powerless. Of course, that was not always the case. Sometimes, a small group would stand up despite their supposed isolation, and the rest of the world, wide-eyed and astonished, would take notice. The liberty movement has just experienced one of its first great moments of realization and empowerment in Clark County, Nev., and millions of past naysayers have been shell-shocked. ...Over the past weekend, we witnessed the true influence of the liberty movement. As thousands of activists and militia arrived in the area, the BLM finally began to understand what it was facing. The government agency that has been terrorized farming communities throughout the West for years, the agency armed with military-grade weaponry and hundreds of agents, ran away, as freedom fighters descended on the region. Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval and Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, two politicians who were deathly silent during the beginning of the Federal incursion on the Bundy ranch, have now suddenly become vocal in defense of Nevada ranchers against the BLM. It’s amazing how ‘inspired’ politicians can become to do the right thing when they see an army of liberty activists marching against tyranny in their own backyard.” [57759, 57760]

“...Statists are indignant and furious over the surrender of the BLM. The same people who boasted that liberty activists would be slaughtered by Fed agents are now frothing at the mouth because they did not get their massacre. Not only that, but the bureaucracy they worship has shown itself to be impotent in the face of Constitutional champions. All I can say is nothing puts a bigger grin on my face than to see statists cry like babies when their delusions of grandeur are trampled on. This was a major victory for the liberty movement. But let’s be clear; the fight is just beginning. ...What they [the statists] don’t seem to understand, though, is that the liberty movement does not care what the Federal government deems ‘legal’ or ‘illegal.’ Our only interest is what is Constitutional and what is moral. The dispute was never about the ‘legality’ of Bundy’s use of the land, which his family used for grazing without interference for generations—until 1993, when the BLM used the absurd endangered species protection racket to put all of his neighbors out of business and threaten his ranch with invasion. Add to this the recently discovered fact that Senator Harry Reid’s former assistant and friend Neil Kornze is now head of the BLM due to Reid’s influence, and the fact that Harry Reid and his family are reaping financial rewards by driving farmers from all over the region where Cliven Bundy’s ranch sits while arranging land deals with Chinese solar companies, and one has to ask, why should Bundy pay any of his hard earned money to the federal government when they are just going to use it to bulldoze his cattle and make Harry Reid more rich? ...What is amazing to me is that in light of this information hardcore socialists are still willing to defend Reid and the BLM. My question is, if the BLM is so innocent, then

why are they erasing such data from their website at all? What were they trying to hide?” [57759, 57760]

“...The BLM may very well be waiting for activists to leave the area before attacking again. And even if that is not the case, tyrannical systems have a way of attempting to make up for signs of weakness by escalating violence during the next siege. That is to say, we should expect the next event involving the BLM or other government agencies to be even more vicious than the Bundy incident. It is simply the natural inclination of totalitarian systems to exaggerate their power when their failings have been exposed. That said, it should be noted that corrupt leadership often crumbles in the face of steadfast resolve and courage. We have a long way to go before this Nation is once again truly free, but the liberty movement has proven its invaluable worth over the course of the past several days. We arrived at a crossroads, and we are now moving forward in the right direction — without fear and without regret. It is in these moments when history is made — when common men and women thwart the odds, defy the darkness and make good on their beliefs by risking everything in the name of freedom.” [57759, 57760]

Investors.com reports, “In a victory for common sense, a federal judge has voided a race-based mandate of the Dodd-Frank Act that would have cost manufacturers and retailers billions in compliance expenses. Marking the first time a court has ruled that a provision of Dodd-Frank violates the Constitution, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit held that the financial ‘reform’ law’s bizarre rule requiring companies to disclose whether their products contain ‘conflict minerals’ from Africa violates the First Amendment. ...[T]he rule had zero to do with financial reform and was sneaked into the law by [Congresswoman] Maxine Waters [D-CA] to protect the Congo. The little-noticed Dodd-Frank provision, tucked away under ‘Misc. Provisions,’ requires manufacturers to prove the metals they use in products aren’t mined by rebels in the Congo and nearby countries. Makers of cellphones, computers and consumer electronics, for example, must trace the origin of minerals back through their supply chains, then report to the SEC or face punishment. It would have cost manufacturers at least \$16 billion a year to comply by tracing the origin of tin and tungsten used in electronics and other items. They would have had to hire independent auditors to certify to the SEC their products use ‘conflict free’ minerals. The rule would have jacked up costs for consumers on everything from cellphones to computers. The National Association of Manufacturers sued the SEC over the costly regulation. Target, Costco, Best Buy, Wal-Mart and other electronics retailers also opposed it. The absurd rule found its way into banking regulations after Waters and other Congressional Black Caucus members serving on the House Financial Services Committee met with the Congolese president.” [57736]

According to the Media Research Center, “CBS News devoted 15 and a half minutes on Wednesday night and Thursday morning to an interview with Barack Obama. Despite April 15th having just passed, correspondent Major Garrett offered no questions on taxes or the IRS scandal. He also avoided any queries on ObamaCare or the Benghazi terrorist attack. Instead, more than four minutes on *This Morning* were given over to a horse race discussion on 2016. ...Garrett did press [Obama] on Russia and Ukraine, quizzing, ‘In

your mind, is there a line, never mind the color, is there a line in eastern Europe or Ukraine, that Vladimir Putin must not cross?’ After Obama paused as he formulated an answer, the journalist prodded, ‘Can you articulate that for the world and for the Russian government?’” Obama avoids the question, responding, “I think the world understands very clearly that Ukraine is a sovereign nation that has deep historical roots with Russia. None of us think that somehow Ukraine can ignore Russia, should be hostile toward Russia.” [57782]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that the leftist Media Matters for America (MMFA) “is apparently resisting an effort by Service Employees International Union Local 500 to unionize its staff. ...MMFA has regularly presented itself as a supporter of organized labor. It has argued that ‘economists point to declining union participation as one cause of the growing economic rift in America’ and claimed it was a fact that ‘unions increase productivity [and] do not reduce business competitiveness.’ It seems to be somewhat less enthusiastic regarding unionization when it is applied to itself, though.” [57787, 57788, 57795]

On April 18 Americans learn that Hillary Clinton’s memoir will be titled, *Hard Choices*. (Clinton and her publisher are apparently unaware that former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance called his memoir, *Hard Choices*. “Hard,” of course, is the opposite of “soft.” *Difficult Choices* would be the grammatically correct title—unless Clinton is seeking a multitude of jokes about her husband’s crotch.) Meanwhile, leftists express outrage over the Drudge Report headline, “Grandma Hillary,” over a story that her daughter Chelsea is pregnant. (Hillary Rodham Clinton will, in fact, soon be a grandmother. She is also old—which leftists seemed to believe was only an issue with Republicans Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole, and John McCain.) On *Good Morning America*, ABC’s Bianna Golodryga gushes that Americans will soon have “their own royal, or, rather, presidential baby.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “The next generation of the Clinton dynasty is on the way! ...One Clinton child who grew up before our eyes in the White House, could there soon be another?” *The Washington Post*’s Dana Milbank: “Hillary Clinton will have this bouncing toddler in her arms to campaign with in 2016.” (The mainstream media virtually ignored the December 2012 announcement that George Bush’s daughter Jenna Bush Hager was pregnant.) [57771, 57772, 57779, 57783, 57785, 57790, 57809, 57813, 57814, 57885]

Meanwhile, PETA—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—releases a YouTube video criticizing Michelle Obama for daring to use real eggs, rather than plastic eggs, for the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. [57773, 57774]

TheLawfareProject.com reports that Obama’s Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, has defended Kuwait Airways (KA) for the airline’s “refusal to transport Israeli nationals on nonstop flights from New York to London.” (Although Kuwaiti law “prohibits Israeli passport holders from entering Kuwait,” Foxx’s “rationale is particularly unfounded because the flight at issue goes from New York to London; the fact that Israeli passport holders cannot enter Kuwait is wholly irrelevant. Moreover, if any entity conducts business in the United States, it must comply with U.S. law.” At

FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield asks, “If Kuwait Airlines were to deny a ticket to a gay man because homosexuality is against the law in Kuwait, would Holder and Foxx and Obama be okay with that? ... What about denying tickets to unaccompanied women? How far will Obama, Foxx and Holder go in defending Islamic bigotry?” (Pamela Geller comments, “As much as they play the race card, the Obama administration traffics in even more vicious racism. This administration is grotesque.”) [58147, 58148, 58149]

The Obama administration *again* extends the “review period” for a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline—“perhaps pushing back a final decision on the disputed project until after the Nov. 4 congressional elections, notes USA Today.com. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) comments, “Here’s the single greatest shovel-ready project in America—one that could create thousands of jobs right away—but [Obama] simply isn’t interested. Apparently radical activists carry more weight than Americans desperate to get back on the job.” Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) states, “Today’s decision by the Administration amounts to nothing short of an indefinite delay of the Keystone Pipeline. ... This decision is irresponsible, unnecessary and unacceptable. By making it clear that they will not move the process forward until there is a resolution in a lawsuit in Nebraska, the administration is sending a signal that the small minority who oppose the pipeline can tie up the process in court forever. There are 42,000 jobs, \$20 billion in economic activity and North America’s energy security at stake.” Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) states, “It’s absolutely ridiculous that this well over five year long process is continuing for an undetermined amount of time.” FoxNews.com reports, “Keystone supporters in Congress [are] furious with the decision. Just days earlier, 11 Democratic senators had written to ... Obama urging him to make a final decision by the end of May, complaining that the process ‘has been exhaustive in its time, breadth and scope.’” The unstated explanation for the extension: Leftist hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer is dangling a \$50 million or more campaign donation as a carrot to persuade Obama and his Democrat comrades to block the pipeline. The Democrats are sacrificing American jobs for campaign cash. Amazingly, Steyer issues a statement that reads in part, “NextGen Climate will continue to stand up for politicians and leaders who have the courage to stand up to special interests, like Big Oil, who are in this fight for their own bottom line.” (“Big Oil” is a “special interest,” but a hedge fund operator buying off politicians apparently is not.) [57768, 57769, 57770, 57811, 57854, 57915]

CNSNews.com reports, “A new Gallup poll finds that 14 percent of Americans would experience ‘significant financial hardship’ within a week, while another 14 percent said they could make it for more than a year. In the middle, 29 percent said they could last one month; 26 percent said up to four months; and 17 percent said up to one year.” [57807]

At AmericanThinker.com Pamela Geller explains “What’s Wrong with the [Political] Right,” focusing on its failure to stand up for conservatives. “[T]he establishment right takes its marching orders from what the destroyers on the left dictate. The right consistently allows the left to destroy our most effective voices—Sarah Palin is a major example. Unequivocal voices like Palin’s are tarred and smeared, while the right instead offers up weak and meandering fools like John McCain—and stands by him even when

he poses with al-Qaida leaders in Syria and insists that they're 'moderates.' We see many come out in a burst of light, political supernovas like Allen West, Palin, and now Ted Cruz. But we also see the right abandon these same people when the left goes after them like the jackals and the vultures they are. Did the GOP establishment have Palin's back? What did the GOP establishment do to defend Palin from the attacks by vultures in the media like the affable Eva Braun, aka Katie Couric, and the contemptible Charlie Gibson? The leaders of the conservative establishment are clearly more comfortable with the weakest and most liberal figures on the right than they are with genuine conservatives. And then they abandon their flavor of the month as soon as the leftist sharks start circling. ...Instead of destroying our philosophical enemies in the war of individualism vs. statism, the establishment right trims its message, then trims it some more, desperately hoping to appease leftists and their media lapdogs. Is it any wonder that we can't win elections? McCain? Romney? We can't win until we find our spine. NRO [National Review Online] best represents the abject failure on the right." [57812]

"...There's a war raging, and the right thinks that if it doesn't engage or doesn't show up, then that war doesn't exist. How irrational. If you don't show up, you forfeit, and the right is forfeiting. Anytime someone takes a bold or brave stance against statism or collectivism, or against jihad and Sharia, they suffer withering attacks from both outside the movement and inside the movement. The leadership on the right does not understand its own philosophy. They do not understand free markets, capitalism and individual rights. If they did, they would be more ferocious, fiercer and more courageous in the fight for freedom and equality of rights before the law against the second-handers, moochers, and looters on the left. The right appears to be waiting for Godot. But he ain't coming. The right is on life support at a time when it should be standing in defense of free speech. This most certainly should be our issue, our moment. There have been these moments in American history when right and wrong, good and evil were very clearly defined. The Republican Party was born at such a moment. We elected Lincoln at such a moment, and we took the country back from the slave party, the Democrats, at such a moment. We need a moral and rational force to push back. We need a true 'New Right.' NRO had an opportunity to start building it. Instead, it has been snuffed out and stifled by cowards, trimmers, and RINOs. We need a fierce offensive under a banner of individual rights and morality. I believe that such an intellectual movement would seize the collective conscience of this country. But when that movement arises, it will be no thanks to NRO." [57812]

The Associated Press reports that Democrat strategists are advising their candidates not to talk about "the economic recovery" because "it's a political loser." Advisors "Stan Greenberg, James Carville and others wrote that in head-to-head polling tests the mere mention of the word 'recovery' is trumped by a Republican assertion that the Obama administration has had six years to get the economy moving and its policies haven't worked. ...In their memo for Democracy Corps and the Women's Voices Women Vote Action Fund, the authors [Greenberg and Carville] propose that to boost turnout among their target groups Democrats should back an economic agenda that 'puts working women first,' and says that incomes are soaring only for CEOs and the top 1 percent of

the country.” (In other words, “Claim the Republicans are anti-woman and only care about the wealthy.”) [57821, 57822]

Democrat candidates may do themselves a favor by not talking about ObamaCare as well. Regardless of how many Americans may have enrolled in the system, a fair number of them are learning that having health *insurance* is not the same as having access to health *care*. The CBS affiliate in San Francisco reports that “Rotacare, a free clinic for the uninsured in Mountain View, is dealing with the problem firsthand. Mirella Nguyen, who works at the clinic, said staffers dutifully helped uninsured clients sign up for Obamacare so they would no longer need the free clinic. But months later, the clinic’s former patients are coming back to the clinic begging for help. ‘They’re coming back to us now and saying I can’t find a doctor,’ said Nguyen. Thinn Ong was thrilled to qualify for a subsidy on the health care exchange. She is paying \$200 a month in premiums. But the single mother of two is asking, what for? ‘Yeah, I sign it [sic]. I got it. But where’s my doctor? Who’s my doctor? I don’t know,’ said a frustrated Ong. Nguyen said the newly insured patients checked the physicians’ lists they were provided and were told they weren’t accepting new patients or they did not participate in the plan. And Nguyen says [that] while the free clinic isn’t technically supposed to be treating former patients they signed up for insurance, they can’t in good faith turn them away. Dr. Kevin Grumbach of UCSF called the phenomenon ‘medical homelessness,’ where patients are caught adrift in a system woefully short of primary care doctors. ‘Insurance coverage is a necessary but not a sufficient condition to assure that people get access to care when they need it,’ Grumbach said.” At PJMedia.com Rick Moran writes, “Ms. Nguyen has discovered the secret of Big Government. Obamacare is a Potemkin Village, all pretty and enticing on the outside, but look behind it and you find nothing except high deductibles, bad coverage, and bewildering requirements.” [57891, 57892]

Breitbart.com’s Mike Flynn reports that the Obama administration is proposing a rule that would “effectively ban” fixed indemnity plans. “Fixed indemnity plans, which pay insured customers a set amount towards medical expenses and are often cost-effective relative to more comprehensive health insurance, are popular forms of coverage, and potentially becoming more popular in the wake of Obamacare. Health insurance industry representatives say that fixed indemnity plans have been attracting more interest as many Americans look for a way to mitigate against the high deductibles applicable to many insurance policies available on the Obamacare exchanges (fixed indemnity plans are not Obamacare-compliant, but they are seen by some consumers as pairing nicely with Obamacare-compliant insurance). But the HHS rule would effectively ban them, overriding regulation that has up until now been the preserve of state governments. The rule would state that these plans can only be sold to consumers where that consumer also purchases Obamacare-compliant insurance.” [57903, 58068, 58069]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey later writes that if HSS succeeds in outlawing the plans, “That’s going to create yet another wave of consumers who will find out the hard way that the Lie of the Year for 2013 [“If you like your plan you can keep your plan”] just keeps on chugging along... The Obama administration wants to keep fixed-benefit plans

available, but not eligible to meet the individual mandate as primary coverage. That would mean that people who have and like these plans now would have to pay premiums for *both*, which is perhaps an implicit admission that deductibles have made health insurance a bad bet for nearly everyone. The kind of consumers most likely to have fixed-benefit plans now, though, are the ones who were least likely to be able to afford the comprehensive insurance now required through ObamaCare. In fact, the insurers tell Vox [Vox.com] that enrollments in such plans have increased *because* of the escalating deductibles in ObamaCare plans, as well as the escalating premium prices. The number of people in these plans are at least in the six figures, if not in the millions, which means yet another major disruption for Americans—probably one that will hit lower-income earners disproportionately.” [57903, 58068, 58069]

“...Under the proposal, consumers who can afford only fixed indemnity insurance may wind up carrying no insurance at all and simply paying the Obamacare penalty. Consumers could face higher risks of medical cost-related bankruptcy, while a lower number of consumers- especially younger consumers, who may be able to afford fixed indemnity but not an Obamacare-compliant policy- reject entering the insurance marketplace full stop, thus risking driving up insurance costs for existing insured consumers. It could also mean that hospitals and other health care providers have a harder time recouping costs for treatment, as more patients go ‘naked,’ lacking even the basic coverage that fixed indemnity plans offer, and cause further inflation in health care costs as providers seek to recoup losses from those who can and will pay.” (A fixed indemnity plan has no deductible, but it has a fixed payout limit. For example, the premium might be less than \$100 per month but it might have a \$1,000 per year limit for outpatient treatment and a \$2,000 per year limit for hospitalization. Such a plan would be good in combination with a low-premium, high-deductible insurance plan, or as a stand-alone plan if the customer does not expect to incur major expenses. The Obama administration is apparently eager to outlaw the latter choice. Obama does not have the authority to do so under the Affordable Care Act—but he will likely not allow that detail to stand in his way.) [57903]

At NationalReview.com Mark Krikorian warns that plans are afoot to include in the next National Defense Authorization Act language to provide U.S. citizenship to illegal immigrants who join the military. “The number of people who would benefit from such an amnesty is miniscule (and there’s already a statutory means of allowing them to enlist), so why,” asks Krikorian, “would [Obama] take time out to summon the head of the [American] Legion [to discuss] a tiny, redundant immigration provision? ...Because it’s a Trojan Horse—if it’s included in the must-pass defense authorization bill when it’s sent to the Senate, [Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-NV] can expand it into a larger amnesty confident in the knowledge that it would have to be passed. I’ve been told by a Republican House member that the Democrat (and, presumably, ‘hellbent’ House leadership) plan is to add the entire DREAM Act to the defense bill once it gets to the Senate.” HotAir.com comments, “First, the concern of a Trojan Horse here is real, so we’ll need to find out if the GOP is smart enough to not allow that door to be cracked open on the NDAA. And second—whether it happens here or in some stand-alone legislation—we’ll find out just how far the House is willing to go down this road in the

name of getting their names on *something* with the word immigration on it. But it's going to start yet another revolt among the conservative base if something like the DREAM Act makes it's way through, and this one may start a fire too big for [House Speaker John] Boehner to put out." (Establishment/"RINO" leaders in the House seem eager to pass immigration legislation, either in the mistaken belief that Hispanic voters will magically convert from Democrats to Republicans, or because big business—which funds many of their campaigns—wants an influx of cheap labor from Mexico. Boehner has stated he is "hell-bent on getting this [an immigration bill] done this year.") [57823, 57824, 57834, 57873]

Obama signs into law a bill prohibiting U.S. entry by Iran's new ambassador to the United Nations—a member of the group that held Americans hostage for 444 days in 1979–1980. The bill, proposed by Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), was passed unanimously by both the Senate and the House. (Unanimous or not, Obama states he will consider the legislation only "advisory" and not the law of the land. Whether he is seeking a confrontation with Congress or is trying to appease "outraged" Iranian leaders is not known, but the latter is more likely, considering Obama's foreign policy history.) [57825, 57831]

LifeNews.com reports, "Pro-life leader James Dobson is the latest to win a victory against the Obama HHS mandate, that forces companies and organizations to pay for birth control and abortion-causing drugs for their employees. Alliance Defending Freedom, the pro-life legal group, helped Dobson and hailed the federal court's order blocking enforcement of the Obama administration's abortion pill mandate against Dr. James Dobson and his 'Family Talk' radio show and ministry in *Dobson v. Sebelius*." Dobson states, "[I]f we hadn't prevailed, fines amounting to \$800,000 per year would have kicked in. We would have closed our doors." (That may be exactly what supporters of the mandate want: the closing of faith-based institutions that dare to defy "progressivism.") Dobson has stated, "I believe in the rule of law, and it has been my practice since I was in college to respect and honor those in authority over us. It is my desire to do so now. However, this assault on the sanctity of human life takes me where I cannot go. I WILL NOT pay the surcharge for abortion services. The amount of the surcharge is irrelevant. To pay one cent for the killing of babies is egregious to me, and I will do all I can to correct a government that lies to me about its intentions and then tries to coerce my acquiescence with extortion. It would be a violation of my most deeply held convictions to disobey what I consider to be the principles in Scripture. The Creator will not hold us guiltless if we turn a deaf ear to the cries of His innocent babies. So come and get me if you must, Mr. [Obama]. I will not bow before your wicked regulation." [57835, 57836, 58077, 58259, 58393]

CNN.com reports that over the last few years "the U.S. State Department has launched social media efforts to engage jihadists and their sympathizers online, contesting their claims with the intention of dissuading potential converts to Islamic extremism." Alberto Fernandez, coordinator of the State Department's Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, states, "We are actually giving al Qaeda the benefit of the doubt

because we are answering their arguments. The way I see it is we are participating in the marketplace of ideas.” According to CNN, “A typical exchange occurred recently when a pro-jihadist Twitter user admiringly posted an image of a desecrated Buddha of Bamiyan, one of the monumental statues in Afghanistan destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. The CSCC account tweeted in response: ‘Destroying ancient culture out of hatred and backwardness are a feature of al Qaeda’s ideology.’” (The ridiculous project costs taxpayers \$50 million per year for a staff of 50 people, who apparently waste time trolling terrorists and terrorist sympathizers on the Internet, trying to persuade them to give up jihad by calling them “backward.” Pamela Geller calls the program’s architects “Delusional blowhards who know nothing are driving the bus—right off the cliff. Oh yes, I am sure al Qaeda is impressed with the State Department’s knowledge and repartee. The State Department better put down that hookah pipe or whatever it is they’re smoking. We are witnessing society in the process of suicide.”) [57843, 57844]

The CBS affiliate in Las Vegas, Nevada reports, “a woman has been arrested on two felony charges for allegedly using a false identity to register to vote and casting ballots in two elections. ...A complaint filed by the attorney general’s office says [Ortencia] Segura registered to vote in Washoe County in August 2008 and provided identification with the name of Marisela Reyna. Authorities confirmed she voted in the 2008 and 2010 elections. Authorities say information from the Justice Department show Segura was arrested in 2012 and deported for filing a false statement on a passport application. They say she also had a false Nevada driver’s license, prompting the investigation. ...Segura was arrested Thursday for entering the country illegally.” (The Obama administration continues to claim that vote fraud is not a problem and continues to fight state photo ID regulations.) [57867, 57868]

On April 19 Obama’s propaganda arm Organizing for Action—which has been blasting Republicans for an alleged “war on women”—sends a Twitter message featuring an image of the late Senator Edward Kennedy. (Whether OFA employees are too young or too ignorant to know that a married and drunken Kennedy’s drove off a bridge at Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts in July 1969, killing 28-year-old campaign worker Mary Jo Kopechne, is not known.) [57816, 57817, 57818]

At Heritage.org, Curtis Dubay points out how the Obama administration’s involvement in the Chrysler Corporation bankruptcy five years ago is still negatively affecting the economy. “Under long-established bankruptcy rules, holders of ‘secured debt’ are rightfully owed 100 percent of what they loaned the company. However, the Administration decided it would not play by those rules. Instead, it decreed, holders of secured debt would receive only 29 cents on the dollar. Meanwhile, it decreed that the United Auto Workers, which had no secured creditor rights, would get 40 cents on the dollar. This arrangement knocked the notion of secured debt on its head. Businesses offer creditors secured debt when they are struggling to maintain their operations. The assurance that they will get paid back first and in whole if the business declares bankruptcy is what makes lenders more [likely] to make such a risky loan.” [57874]

“...For businesses and investors, the process was highly disconcerting. Both need to know that the rule of law will be upheld consistently. It is the only way they can be certain that contracts and agreements mean anything. When they aren't sure the law will recognize their rights, they reduce their activities until certainty returns. When bankruptcy law is undermined, it's particularly troubling. Investing in financially challenged companies is especially risky. Investors need to know how much they stand to lose if the investment does go belly up. By undermining bankruptcy law, the Obama administration made it difficult for investors to gauge whether or not they can absorb such high-risk investments. Five years on, it is clear the uncertainty is not only slowing investments in companies that could go bankrupt. Investors are providing financing to help businesses replace worn-out equipment and conduct other routine functions. But they have not returned to taking on other types of riskier investments needed to restore economic growth to where it should be.” Obama's repeated illegal changes to ObamaCare sends a signal “to businesses and investors that ...Obama won't hesitate to overturn the law again whenever it suits his interests. This has perpetuated the uncertainty originally created by the Chrysler bankruptcy, and there is no sign that it will abate any time soon.” [57874]

On *Cashin' In*, panel member Wayne Rogers—an actor turned investor—says Obama is “held in high esteem because the media doesn't expose him, that's why. This man has lied a documented—documented—252 times to the American public” about ObamaCare and other issues. “But the press does not nail him. He should be impeached! ...These are people [in the mainstream media] who are constipated by their own ideology, that they cannot see that this man is telling a bold-faced lie right to their face. ...Nobody nails this guy. Other than Fox News and a few other places... nobody nails this guy. And when you read, as I said, if you read the [recent] op-ed page of *The New York Times*[by Andrew Rosenthal], you'd think you were living in a different country. These people don't do anything.” [57961]

According to BizPacReview.com, “A number of parents and students in [Topeka,] Kansas don't want first lady Michelle Obama to speak at a combined high school graduation ceremony for five area schools. Hoping for a ceremony that focuses on the graduates, not the speaker, high school senior Taylor Gifford began an online petition asking the School Board to reconsider its plans to have Obama speak, according to media reports. ...Obama reportedly plans to talk about the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* that found segregation unconstitutional. ...Students and parents believe that the graduation ceremony should celebrate the graduates, not the Supreme Court.” [57826, 57827, 57848, 57859, 57878, 57923, 57963]

To accommodate Mrs. Obama, the school district is consolidating five ceremonies into one. That gives her a bigger audience for fawning news reports, but it actually reduces the number of tickets available for the families of students. Parents—who probably don't want to sit though five times as many names being called to the stage—are understandably crying foul. Tina Hernandez, parent of graduate Dauby Knight, says,

“I’m a single mother who has raised him for 18 years by myself. I’ve told him education is the only way out. This is one of the biggest days of their lives. They’ve taken the glory and shine from the children and put it on Mrs. Obama. She doesn’t know our kids.” (Whether the parents will be more annoyed by having to sit through a Michelle Obama speech or having to sit through the calling of the names of graduates of *five* high schools is subject to dispute.) Kansas is not exactly Democrat territory. Obama lost the state to Mitt Romney in 2012 by 60–38 percent. The Board of Education in the 1954 court case was in Topeka, however—and the White House no doubt wants to mark the anniversary by reminding everyone that Obama and his wife are black and his political opponents are all racists. [57826, 57827, 57848, 57859, 57878, 57923, 57963]

BizPacReview.com also reports, “A petition calling for the deportation of Canadian pop star Justin Bieber quickly reached the 100,000-signature threshold that requires a reply from the Obama administration. But the White House still declined to address the issue, saying it wanted ‘to avoid the appearance of improper influence,’ according to its ‘We the People’ website.” Instead of deporting the law-breaking, spoiled teen-ager, the White House responds to the petition by pushing “comprehensive immigration reform”: “We’re glad you care about immigration issues. Because our current system is broken. Too many employers game the system by hiring undocumented workers, and 11 million people are living in the shadows. That status quo isn’t good for our economy or our country. We need common-sense immigration reform to make sure everyone plays by the same set of rules. ...Thanks for your petition. While we weren’t able to address your direct concerns about Mr. Bieber, we hope you believe your We the People experience was a positive one.” (It is likely that most of the 100,000+ petition signers are not amused by the response.) [57829]

Obama delivers a radio/Internet Easter message: “For me, and for countless other Christians, Holy Week and Easter are times for reflection and renewal. We remember the grace of an awesome God, who loves us so deeply that He gave us his only Son, so that we might live through Him. The common thread of humanity that connects us all—not just Christians and Jews, but Muslims and Hindus and Sikhs—is our shared commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.” (Why Obama believes it is necessary to mention other religions on Easter is not clear. When he issues greetings on Jewish and Muslim holidays he does not mention Christianity. Why he believes members of all religions feel they have a “shared commitment to love our neighbors as we love ourselves” is also not clear. That may be a part of Christianity, but Islam instructs Muslims to convert, tax, or kill their non-Muslim neighbors—not treat them as they treat themselves. In fact, the Qur’an states, “O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.”) [57832, 57833, 57870, 57871]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have supplied Syrian rebel groups with a small number of advanced American antitank missiles for the first time in a pilot program that could lead to larger flows of sophisticated weaponry, people

briefed on the effort said. ...This shift is seen as a test of whether the U.S. can find a trustworthy rebel partner able to keep sophisticated weapons out of the hands of extremists, Saudi and Syrian opposition figures said. The U.S. has long feared that if it does supply advanced arms, the weapons will wind up with radical groups—some tied to al Qaeda—which have set up bases in opposition-held territory. The White House would neither confirm nor deny it had provided the TOW armor-piercing antitank systems, the first significant supply of sophisticated U.S. weapons systems to rebels. But U.S. officials did say they are working to bolster the rebels’ ability to fight the regime.” (Pamela Geller comments, “Advanced weapons to these devout Muslims waging jihad—nuts, I tell ya. The only people we should be arming are the religious minorities in Syria. The Kurds have established an independent state. Arm them. Protect them.” Geller asks the key question: “What is Obama’s objective in arming al Qaeda/Muslim Brotherhood opposition in Syria?” If the rebels succeed in overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad, which is unlikely, who or what will replace him? Will a brutal thug simply be followed by more brutal thugs who hate the United States even more?) [57840]

On April 20—probably to the surprise of almost no one—Organizing for Action tweets a Happy Easter message with a photograph of... Obama. [57846, 57847]

Obama and his family make a rare appearance in church, attending an Easter service at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. According to the White House press pool report, “First family arrived at church through tented entrance at 10:05 am, and sat in second pew in mostly, but not completely filled church. POOL estimates about 250 people celebrating Easter here. [Obama], wearing a light khaki suit, is rocking his head back and forth to the fabulous choir and chewing something. Malia is wearing spring yellow dress, and Sasha, her hand to her chin, appears to be in pale gray or pale blue. ...Pastor Dr. Derrick Harkins ...prompted standing applause in welcoming [Obama]. After calling on everyone to stand, turn and welcome their neighbors—but remain in place—Harkins watched with amusement some collective disobedience. The Obamas greeted each other, and [Obama] turned to shake hands behind him with one of a collection of Secret Service agents in the pews. Then 5 minutes of crowd crush took place in which every smart phone, iPad and baby came forth. [Obama] and Mrs. Obama greeted everyone they could. Obama high-fived a baby boy, hugged and kissed women, and Michelle blew kisses from inside their pew. Pastor Harkins got everyone back in their seats with ‘Amen’s’ and... ‘Isn’t our first family gracious?’” [57869]

“...At 11:05 am, an older gentleman stood up from his seat some distance from [Obama] and raised his arm and yelled, ‘God Bless ...Obama!’ The worshippers applauded loudly. [Obama] smiled. Pastor Harkins’ urged everyone to join in prayer and offered thanks to God for providing comfort to those in need, including the sick and struggling. He asked that God give Obama ‘every measure of encouragement’ and ‘wisdom,’ and ‘tend to his spirit’ under the weight of criticism. Loud ‘yes’ responses from worshippers after each sentence. [Whether Obama would have more wisdom if he attended church more than once each year cannot be known for certain.] Harkins also offered prayers for Malia and Sasha and the first lady. ...[A]t 11:35, Pastor Harkins moved into his Easter sermon.

Dressed in a striking red robe with black accents, the pastor talked about supporting people ‘living in the shadows and the margins,’ including ‘LGBT’ people [and illegal immigrants]. ...[Obama] listened attentively from his seat, with his chin propped on his left hand at times, and his fingers entwined together as the sermon shifted toward a rousing finale. He joined in applause at the end.” [57869]

On *Meet the Press*, Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), chairman of the Democrat National Committee, somehow manages to keep a straight face as she insists politics had *nothing* to do with Obama’s latest delay of a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. (Newsmax.com notes, “The State Department concluded in 2011 that Keystone poses ‘no significant impacts’ on the environment, and reiterated that finding earlier this year.” There is no reason other than politics for the delay.) Wasserman Schultz also argues that the November 2014 mid-term elections will “absolutely not” be a referendum on Obama. [57854, 57857, 57865, 57890, 57937, 57938]

Obama’s postponement of a Keystone decision is bone-headed. The pipeline has overwhelming support, even among Democrats, and especially among labor unions. (Terry O’Sullivan, general president of the Laborers International Union of America (LIUNA), calls Obama’s latest delay “gutless” and a “low blow to the working men and women of our country. ...It’s not the oil that’s dirty, it’s the politics. Once again, the administration is making a political calculation instead of doing what is right for the country. This certainly is no example of profiles in courage. It’s clear the administration needs to grow a set of antlers, or perhaps take a lesson from Popeye and eat some spinach.”) Some argue that Obama wants to reject the pipeline but is delaying a decision until after the election in order to help Senate Democrat candidates, but that is nonsensical. The endangered Democrats are in states that voted for Mitt Romney in 2012 and whose voters support the pipeline. Obama’s delay arguably works against those Senators, such as Mary Landrieu (D-LA), whose constituents can ask, “If you couldn’t even persuade Obama to approve the pipeline, what good are you?” The anti-pipeline Democrats are generally in safe seats, and they would win reelection even if Obama had the courage to make a decision—regardless of what that decision may be. The only remaining logical theory is that Obama wants \$100 million or more in Democrat campaign donations from hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer, who opposes the pipeline and who might not cough up the cash if the project is approved. Obama is therefore trading badly-needed jobs for campaign contributions. (Steyer aide Chris Lehane has stated, “If we’re collectively going to put \$100 million into this cycle, how much will go into key races depends on Keystone.”) [57854, 57857, 57865, 57890, 57937, 57938, 57939, 58090, 58131]

Also on *Meet the Press*, *New York Times* columnist David Brooks says, “I mean, basically since Yalta, we’ve had an assumption that borders are basically going to be borders. And once that comes into question, if in Ukraine or in Crimea or anywhere else, then all over the world, you know... all bets are off. ...And let’s face it, Obama, whether deservedly or not, does have a—I’ll say it crudely—but a manhood problem in the Middle East: Is he tough enough to stand up to somebody like [Syrian President Bashar

al-] Assad, somebody like [Russian President Vladimir] Putin? I think a lot of the rap is unfair. But certainly in the Middle East, there's an assumption he's not tough." ("Since Yalta" refers to the conference at Yalta in February 1945 at which the United States, Russia, and Great Britain discussed post-World War II reorganization. Since 1945, of course, more than a few borders around the world have changed. Whether Brooks misunderstands history or is being naive is unclear. The problem is not manhood, or lack thereof, but Obama's naiveté with regard to foreign policy—and even basic human nature. He believes nations should no longer have conflicts simply because it is the 21st century, as if the reasons for those conflicts should miraculously disappear because, in his opinion, he thinks mankind should have outgrown them. He thinks the mere utterance of a few words by him about “red lines” or what is in “Russia’s best interests” are sufficient to resolve difficult issues. Obama has led a life in which he was catered to, provided for, and surrounded by people who, by and large, always agreed with him and praised him. He has never learned how to deal with conflict in any manner other than political bullying. He enjoys the applause one receives from being on the “world stage,” but has not learned that the job involves more than reading lines.) [57864, 57876, 57893]

Newsmax.com reports, “A proposed federal ban on ivory trading could outlaw the resale of many common objects—including pianos—and is unlikely to reduce the illegal ivory trade, according to a report from the Hoover Institution. The Department of the Interior, which is charged with enforcing the Endangered Species Act, recently announced plans to introduce a ‘ban on Commercial Trade of Ivory as Part of Overall Effort to Combat Poaching, Wildlife Trafficking.’ But the ban would have ‘unintended consequences,’ the report points out. The ban would cover the sale of objects that contain any amount of ivory, and the shipment across state lines by the owner of any object that contains ivory. ‘With all guns blazing, the White House report steps up enforcement at all stages of production and distribution, without once mentioning the competing interests of current property owners of ivory: piano keys, chess sets, ivory pegs and bridges for fancy guitars, dice, tea sets, and thousands of other decorative uses are all caught up in the downwind,’ report author Richard A. Epstein observes.” [57857]

At NYTimes.com, Peter Baker writes, “The more hawkish faction[s] in the State and Defense departments has grown increasingly frustrated, privately worrying that Mr. Obama has come across as weak and unintentionally sent the message that he has written off Crimea after Russia’s annexation. They have pressed for faster and more expansive sanctions, only to wait while memos sit in the White House without action. Mr. Obama has not even imposed sanctions on a list of Russian human-rights violators waiting for approval since last winter.” [57930]

WorldTribune.com reports, “The United States is said to have disclosed that Saudi King Abdullah was dying. Diplomatic sources said the [Obama] administration... relayed a photograph that showed Abdullah with a breathing tube, Middle East Newswire reported. The sources said the photograph was taken by White House personnel during Obama’s meeting with the Saudi king outside Riyadh on March 28. ‘The Saudis specifically did not want any photograph that showed Abdullah with the tube,’ a source said. ‘But there was a

White House photographer that took the picture for what he said was history.’ The photograph was said to have been relayed to members of the White House press corps. Within a day, an image of the Saudi king with the breathing tube was sent to the Saudi opposition. ‘The photograph was a message by the White House that Abdullah is going down and so is the rest of the family,’ the source said.” [57861]

At FT.com Edward Luce reviews the worsening relations of the Obama administration with the “BRICS” nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Luce notes, “Next month India is likely to elect as its new leader Narendra Modi, who says he has ‘no interest in visiting America other than to attend the UN in New York.’ As the world’s largest democracy, and America’s most natural ally among the emerging powers, India’s is a troubling weathervane. How on earth did Mr Obama lose the Brics? ...Each of these deteriorating relationships has specific narratives. But there are two larger themes linking them together. First, the world is adjusting to declining US power. ...Second, the US public is tiring of its country’s global responsibilities. Mr Obama’s real pivot is not to Asia but to America. In this he is only taking his cue from domestic sentiment. Yet his pivot to home is not going too well either. As Lawrence Summers, the former US Treasury secretary, recently observed, the US has two parties, one of which, the Democrats, refuses to endorse any kind of trade deal; the other of which, the Republicans, appears to detest all international institutions. Neither of the two parties listens to what Mr Obama wants. If you believe the television ratings, the US public long ago tuned out from what he says. Little surprise, then, that the Brics are getting into the habit of talking among themselves.” [57863]

The economy is so bad that not are people in their 20s moving back in with their parents; so are people in their 50s. According to LATimes.com, “older people are quietly moving in with their parents at twice the rate of their younger counterparts. For seven years through 2012, the number of Californians aged 50 to 64 who live in their parents’ homes swelled 67.6% to about 194,000, according to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development. The jump is almost exclusively the result of financial hardship caused by the recession rather than for other reasons, such as the need to care for aging parents, said Steven P. Wallace, a UCLA professor of public health who crunched the data. ...Long-term unemployment is especially acute for older people. The number of Americans 55 and older who have been out of work for a year or more was 617,000 at the end of December, a fivefold jump from the end of 2007 when the recession hit, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.” [57866, 58080]

In addition to older Americans moving back in with their parents, increasing numbers of them are finding only part-time employment. NBCNews.com reports, “With full-time work hard to find, these workers have built temping into a de facto career, minus vacation, sick days or insurance. The assignments might be temporary—a few months here, a year there—but labor economists warn that companies’ growing hunger for a workforce they can switch on and off could do permanent damage to these workers’ career trajectories and retirement plans. ...Economists say it’s typical for temporary

hiring to rise initially as the economy recovers, before businesses are ready to commit to hiring full-time employees. But Susan Houseman, senior economist at Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, said the current pattern doesn't fit historic norms. 'Right now we're seeing something interesting,' she said. 'We've seen it surpass its previous highs, so it looks like there could be a structural shift going on, too. There's a reason to believe we might see some increase in the use of temporary help in general.'" (Surprisingly, the article does not mention the names Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare, even though the health care legislation is clearly a factor in the increased use of temporary workers—because health insurance does not have to be provided to part-time workers who work fewer than 30 hours per week.) [57957, 57958]

In an interview with CNN, former CBS investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson says, "You know, it's fairly well discussed inside CBS News that there are some managers recently who have been so ideologically entrenched that there is a feeling and discussion that some of them, certainly not all of them, have a difficult time viewing a story that may reflect negatively upon government or the administration as a story of value. ...I don't know what their registered party is, I just know that the tendency on the part of some of these managers who have key influences has been [that] they never mind the stories that seem to, for example, and I did plenty of them, go against the grain of the Republican Party, but they do often seem to feel defensive about, almost, personally defensive about stories that could make the government look bad. Even if it's something as simple as a government waste story that doesn't pinpoint anybody in particular and it takes on both parties. It seems as though some of them were sensitive about any story that might appear as though it criticizes the government. ...Media Matters, as my understanding, is a far left blog group that I think holds itself out to be sort of an independent watchdog group. And yes, they clearly targeted me at some point. They used to work with me on stories and tried to help me produce my stories... And I was certainly friendly with them as anybody, good information can come from any source. But when I persisted with [Operation] Fast and Furious and some of the green energy stories I was doing, I clearly at some point became a target, that they—you know, I don't know if someone paid them to do it or if they took it on their own." (In response to Attkisson's charges, CBS issues a statement claiming it "maintains the highest journalistic standards in what it chooses to put on the air. Those standards are applied without fear or favor." Media Matters states Attkisson is waging a "campaign to paint herself as a victim of liberal media bias with conspiratorial and false attacks on Media Matters.") [57888, 57889, 57897, 57927]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "In internal government documents with potential repercussions for the 2016 presidential election, top officials at the U.S. Agency for International Development repeatedly cited former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for setting into motion a policy to waive restrictions on who could receive U.S. aid in Afghanistan, resulting in millions of dollars in U.S. funds going directly into the coffers of Afghan ministries known to be rife with corruption. References to Mrs. Clinton's role in the policy first appeared in a November 2012 USAID action memo, which outlined how U.S. officials made a 'strategic foreign-assistance decision' two years earlier to provide 'at least 50 percent of U.S. Government assistance directly to the'

Afghan government. The decision was ‘reaffirmed by Secretary of State Clinton’ in July 2010, according to the memo, which highlighted her actions as justification for why USAID should waive an internal policy that otherwise would have required the agency to first assess the risk that such ‘direct assistance’ might be lost to fraud, waste or outright theft.” [57895]

On April 21, at LewRockwell.com, David Hathaway, a former Drug Enforcement Agency agent, predicts what is coming next for Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, his family, and his supporters: “The federal response will definitely come. It will likely be in three areas; two of which don’t involve the Bundys specifically. First, a multi-faceted attack will be made on the Bundys; second, a broad-front regulatory response against other land users will be made for the purpose of retaliation against the whole group and as a deterrent; and third, new provocateur deployments will probably be made across the West into similar situations. The attack on the Bundys will be planned to be large enough so as to not fail since precedents are being considered by the feds. ...The most likely first step for the violent option involves the impaneling of a grand jury that will be brought along slowly with presentations by government ‘experts’ giving sensational overviews of generic un-American activities, terrorist groups, and right wing extremists. All of the activity involving the grand jury will be officially in ‘secret.’ Power-point presentations will be made to the grand jury showing pipe bombs, smoking buildings, and nazi symbolism. It will be blatantly prejudicial to the eventual case presented for indictment but, there is no ‘other side’ in this process to object. There is just a prosecutor, government agents, and the grand jury eating doughnuts in a little room. Period. The massaging of the jury’s mindset is done long before they are shown case-specific information. This process can go on for a week. It is not adversarial. It is a one-sided show. There is no defense. It is designed to paint a picture of a general evil class of people. It’s kind of like the process used to get police cadets ready to shoot people. There is no danger that the grand jurors will ever be identified by the Bundys or feel any guilt from having to face those they bravely accuse. ...The grand jury ALWAYS indicts if asked to do so. Always, always, always. Because if they don’t, they are dismissed and another one is impaneled until the indictment is handed down. The warrants on the indictment will then be issued by the federal magistrate...” [57872]

“Aside from the Bundy family, all other ranchers will likely be punished by the feds via enhanced regulatory interventions in response to the actions on display in Nevada. This is common fare as a mechanism to teach the public to not mimic others who are standing up for themselves. USFS and BLM staff will be told at the headquarters level to crack down on ranchers in general and to give no quarter when dealing with ‘grazing permits’ and ‘grazing fees.’ The continual downward trend for the number of cattle allowed on historical grazing lands, i.e. ‘federal allotments,’ will be announced to ranchers during their recurring annual grazing permit meetings with the feds. The continually reduced allotments will be enforced with vigor to teach the rancher scum a lesson. ...Although I cheer for the Bundys and applaud the courage of their sweet family, my heart would much rather see them running now and hiding out in a freer country like Mexico as opposed to becoming a decimated family of martyrs ravaged by the state.” [57872]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration is poised to change regulations to allow for union ‘ambush elections’ in which workers have less time to decide whether or not to join a union—and in which workers’ phone numbers and home addresses are provided to unions. The administration’s National Labor Relations Board’s (NLRB) proposed rules would allow for union elections—in which workers at a company vote whether or not to unionize—to be held 10 days after a petition is filed. And what, exactly, would be happening to the unions during those 10 days? The new rules require employers to disclose workers’ personal information, including phone numbers, home addresses, and information about when they work their shifts. Insiders close to the situation believe the new rules will almost certainly go into effect with few or no fundamental changes.” [57877]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “Tax-preparing companies are getting paid by an Obamacare exchange to enroll people in Obamacare plans... At least 79 tax service providers, including offices of major companies like Liberty Tax Service and Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, are listed as certified Obamacare enrollment entities in the state of California, according to state exchange records. California’s Obamacare exchange, Covered California, pays enrollment entities for signing people up for Obamacare. ‘Certified Enrollment Entities are paid a flat-fee of \$58 per successful application and \$25 per successful annual renewal,’ according to California Health Benefit Advisers.” [57881]

Ron Fournier writes at NationalJournal.com, “Democrats... privately gripe about Obama’s lack of engagement with Congress, his unwillingness to build meaningful relationships, his allegiance to polls and focus groups, and his cautious nature that, in their minds, holds him back from greatness. ‘He can’t handle Putin. He can’t handle Republicans,’ said a veteran Democratic consultant and part-time adviser to both of Obama’s presidential campaigns. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the Democrat told me, ‘He just is not a natural leader.’” (Community activists are not trained to be leaders. They are trained to be rabble-rousers. Their major skill is encouraging collective anger about something. That is why Obama can campaign, but cannot effectively lead anything other than a protest march.) [57931]

MSNBC’s lispng leftist Melissa Harris-Perry comments on Democrat candidates who seem uncomfortable dealing with voters who are upset that ObamaCare cost them their health insurance plans: “They’re not even owning it. No confidence, no swagger, no ‘Yeah, you can’t keep your crappy plans. Just deal with that!’” [57882, 57934]

According to Politico, “Obama has chosen W. Neil Eggleston, a Clinton administration veteran with experience representing government officials in oversight investigations, as his next White House counsel, the White House said Monday. Eggleston, a partner at Kirkland & Ellis, will succeed Kathryn Ruemmler, who has led the counsel’s office for close to three years. Officials first confirmed her plans to leave last summer and return to private practice in New York, but she stayed longer at [Obama’s] urging.” [58093]

At WhiteHouseDossier.com Keith Koffler comments, “Eggleston is the kind of guy you go to when someone tells you, “time to lawyer up.” He’s a veteran at cleaning up ethics messes for politicians, most notably Bill Clinton, whom he aided during the Whitewater probes and the Monica Lewinsky affair, double entendre intended. But that’s not nearly all. He represented Rahm Emanuel during the scandal surrounding former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, as well as Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) and George W. Bush political director Sara Taylor when scandals touched them, Clinton Cabinet members Federico Pena and Alexis Herman during corruption probes, and various business people involved in ‘complex criminal investigations’ according to the New York Times. Which begs and pleads the question, is Obama looking for more protection for the White House from the various GOP congressional probes, or is he aware of the possibility that something much, much worse could break?” [57979, 57982, 57989]

This is not Obama’s first involvement with the Chicago law firm. In 2006 Sarah P. Herlihy, an associate of Kirkland and Ellis, wrote a paper called, “Amending the Natural Born Citizen Requirement: Globalization as the Impetus and the Obstacle.” In the document, Herlihy argued for eliminating the natural born citizen requirement of the U.S. Constitution—which she called the “stupidest provision” in the document because the rule “discriminates” against naturalized citizens. The “discrimination” she ridiculed was, of course, intentional and not unreasonable. (Although more than one copy of Herlihy’s document has been “scrubbed” from the Internet; a new source has been located.) In 2008 the employees of Kirkland and Ellis contributed more than \$187,000 to the Obama campaign, compared to about \$25,000 for John McCain. Bruce I. Ettleson, a partner in the law firm, was a member of Obama’s campaign finance committee. (For the 2012 campaign the trend was reversed, as the law firm’s employees raised \$134,665 for Mitt Romney and \$43,977 for Obama.) ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau wrote, “Since the essay contains very little factual information, it can only be concluded that its purpose was to float the idea of a foreign-born president to gauge the public’s reaction. The scenario of a ‘foreign power’ commandeering a presidential election was not on most people’s minds in 2006. How, then, did Herlihy ever come up with this idea? If one uses the simple inferential rule of forensic investigations, namely, that hoodlums never fear but what they believe to be the truth, Herlihy’s ‘fears’ in 2006 and her connections to Obama through her law firm would tend to give credence to the inference that Obama’s colleagues in law believed in 2006 that he was a foreigner and thus ineligible to be president, or at least that he’d be seen as such if he ran.” [581, 582, 588, 598, 5858, 10289, 35175]

At Townhall.com Hank Adler warns that if Democrats lose control of the Senate in the November 2014 mid-term elections, they will still have several weeks of lame duck status in which they could wreak havoc by approving dozens of far left appeal court judges Obama could nominate. Adler writes, “[T]he period between Tuesday, November 4, 2104 and January 3, 2015, the first day of the 114th Congress could be the scariest month in U.S. politics since the first shot was fired at Fort Sumter. With political careers essentially over unless appointed to the Federal bench or as ambassadors to China by ...Obama, what would cause these Democratic senators not to support virtually any

nominees by [Obama]. Perhaps not Bernardine Dohrn, but perhaps nominees that Ms. Dohrn could fully support.” [57899, 57916]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Washington state plans to approve a new rule this week to limit insurers’ ability to create narrow networks as a means of cutting costs, thanks to backlash over the limited health plans available in the wake of Obamacare regulations. In response to the outcry over narrow networks, Washington Insurance Commissioner Mike Kriedler wants to limit insurers’ ability to narrow their networks, potentially making rising premiums one of the only means of recourse that insurers have left.” [57926]

GodfatherPolitics.com reports, “In a case unrelated to abortion [*Sarah Janie Hicks v. State of Alabama*], the Alabama Supreme Court rendered a decision that could topple the legal spires of unholy abortions here in the United States. The case involved Sarah Janie Hicks, who used illegal drugs while she was pregnant. After her baby was born, the infant tested positive for drugs and Hicks was charged with a crime and ended up pleading guilty to violating Alabama’s chemical endangerment statute. Her conviction was challenged and ended up before the Alabama State Supreme Court on the basis that the term ‘child’ did not include the unborn. In an 8-1 decision, the court upheld the conviction of Hicks.” (The legal dilemma faced by abortion supporters is that if an unborn child is “not a child” but is only “fetal tissue,” someone who beats a pregnant woman and “kills” her “fetal tissue” could arguably not be charged with murder *because he did not kill anyone*. With Hicks having been found guilty of child endangerment, the case will certainly be used by abortion opponents as a legal precedent for defending unborn children.) Note: Hicks received a three year suspended prison sentence and was placed on probation. [57900, 58024, 58354]

At Townhall.com Joanne Moudy later writes, “If, in fact, it is deemed a crime to ingest cocaine during pregnancy because the child might be born an addict, deformed or dead, one might assert it is just as immoral to ingest abortifacient drugs, about which the mother (and abortion provider) have full knowledge will destroy and kill the child. This revelation could have widespread impact on the states wishing to eliminate the abortifacient drug, RU-486 and others. ...It’s too early to tell if the Alabama decision will turn the tide on the horrifying abortion holocaust occurring in America, but it’s definitely a step in the right direction. As Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel said, ‘In an age where some judges do not know the difference between the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, or do not even care, finally the Alabama Supreme Court springs forth with a ray of light.’” [58354]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “When Congress refused to appropriate more funds for ObamaCare enrollment after already committing a deluge of cash to that effort, now-outgoing HHS [Health and Human Services] Secretary Kathleen Sebelius began working the phones to perform an end run around Capitol Hill. Sebelius began calling corporate CEOs to push them into donating millions of dollars to Enroll America, an outside group started by Anne Filipic, a former White House staffer. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigated, and discovered that Filipic wasn’t the only White House

staffer involved in the fundraising campaign... It's worth noting... HHS regulates these markets in significant ways, especially after the passage of ObamaCare. This wasn't just a case of working the phones for a charity. This was the Cabinet official with the most impact on these businesses extolling the efforts of a supposedly independent group launched by a close adviser to [Obama]. It doesn't take much ink to connect those dots, which is why insurers began complaining loudly enough about the pressure for Congress and the media to take notice. It was a shakedown, pure and simple, to wring more money and assistance out of industry players in order to bypass Congress on funding operations within the executive branch. That should prompt Congress to demand more answers, and perhaps to cut off even more funding to HHS until they get them." [57902]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters politics did not play a part in Obama's latest delay in making a Keystone XL pipeline decision: "I know there's a great urge and has always been to make this about politics. But we've see along this process, along the way here, along the route, you know, a series of actions taken in keeping with past practice where the reviews are done out of the State Department." (The review process has been going on for about five years.) [57904]

Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA) tells the *Boston Herald*, "There are parts of ObamaCare, or the Affordable Care Act, that have been postponed because they are unpalatable, so as these provisions come into effect the administration is saying, 'Gee, we really can't handle this right now, so we're gonna [sic] delay it.' These obligations keep piling up. ...It's gonna [sic] hit the fan. ...And individual with a [sic] individual health care plan that exceeds \$10,200 is in a 'Cadillac plan' situation; they're gonna [sic] have to pay—that employer... will have to pay a 40 percent tax on the amount over the... maximum established under the affordable care act. [If, for example, the insurance premium is \$15,000 per year, the tax is 40 percent of the \$4,800 difference between \$10,200 and \$15,000, or \$1,920.] So that's a *huge* tax—it'll be the first time in this country's history that we have actually taxed health care. ...We [Democrats] will lose seats in the House. I am fairly certain of that based on the poll numbers that are coming out from the more experienced pollsters down there, and I think we may lose the Senate." (Lynch voted against the Affordable Care Act when it passed in 2010.) [57905, 57906, 57907, 57912, 57936, 57955, 57956]

DailyCaller.com explains why retiring Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius waited until late April 2014 to resign: "Next week, Sebelius becomes eligible to receive a government pension and continue certain taxpayer-funded health-care benefits when she hits her five-year employment mark with the federal government, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) policy indicates. Under OPM rules, Sebelius, who was sworn into office on April 28, 2009, would be eligible to receive these benefits after completing five years of continuous service in the federal government. ...Sebelius, under the Federal Employee Retirement System, could receive an estimated \$10,000 pension from the government each year. This pension is calculated by averaging her top three years worth of salary, which is \$199,700 a year, according to reports. Under OPM policy, she gets 1 percent of that amount multiplied by the years served. Five percent of a \$200,000 a year

salary would amount to a \$10,000-a-year pension for the rest of her life. ...Sebelius could start receiving benefits 30 days after she stops working. She is also eligible to continue receiving government-subsidized contributions to her health care. Sebelius, according to reports, is enrolled in Medicare and in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. Under the law, Sebelius and her family may be eligible to continue these FEHB benefits. To qualify for this, federal workers must retire from the federal government at the age of 55 or older and have served at least five consecutive years in the federal government.” (This revelation also explains why Obama probably did not fire Sebelius. They likely agreed to a termination date just after the five-year point. Sebelius should have been fired as soon as it was obvious Healthcare.gov was a disaster. Obama is therefore responsible for shamelessly wasting tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars by protecting her until the magic five-year point.) [57924]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “In a move that could result in the prison release of hundreds or thousands of low-level drug offenders, the Justice Department said Monday that it will advise ...Obama to widen his guidelines for granting clemency. The announcement, immediately praised by advocates for reform of the criminal justice system, is part of the administration’s effort to reduce the nation’s prison population and address racial disparities in drug sentencing. ...More than five years into his tenure, Mr. Obama is on pace to grant far fewer pardons and commutations than his recent predecessors, despite the White House’s stated position that drug sentencing is frequently unfair and often handed down under a system compromised by ingrained racial bias. Mr. Obama has granted 52 pardons and nine commutations. President George W. Bush gave 189 pardons and 11 commutations during his eight years in office. President Clinton issued 189 pardons and 61 commutations. But the administration has shown signs that it is prepared to do more, especially for nonviolent drug offenders serving lengthy sentences.” (WND.com reports that Deborah Leff will be heading the Department of Justice’s Office of the Pardon Attorney. Leff served as president of the leftist Joyce Foundation—which contributed to groups such as ACORN—during a time when Obama and domestic terrorist William Ayers were on its board.) [57928, 57969, 57972, 57993]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, “This is not a manhood issue with Obama; this is an issue of a complete absence of strategic thinking. It’s not a question of the heart; it’s a question of the head. This administration, [Obama] did not have a strategic idea in their head. Let me remind you of the first-grade speech that Obama made about foreign policy. He was at the U.N. in 2009 and he actually said no nation can or should dominate another. Without a doubt [that was] the single stupidest remark about foreign policy ever uttered... He continued to say no balance of power can ever endure and he went on to say that no alliance based on the divisions of the Cold War, the obsolete divisions of the Cold War, makes any sense in this century—all of which is just shockingly false and he’s beginning to get a glimmer of that. He did say about Ukraine, this is not a Cold War chessboard. Of course, it’s a Cold War chessboard. And he went on to say at the beginning of the crisis, this isn’t a zero-sum game. Ask Ukraine about it. They lost Crimea. He [Putin] gained it. That’s the definition of zero-sum. And [Obama] has this notion that the agreement they got in Geneva—which he was skeptical about—means anything. It was written so that the Russians could interpret it exactly as they are

today. [Sergey] Lavrov, the [Russian] foreign minister is saying that the illegal elements, meaning the government in Kiev, which it calls illegal, is illegally seizing territory, by which they mean independence square in Kiev, and thus breaking the agreement and thus they have to act and we know what that means, probable intervention by Russia.” [57894, 57921]

On *On the Record*, Carol Bundy and Stetsy Bundy Cox (the wife and daughter of rancher Cliven Bundy) tell Greta Van Susteren they have discovered eight cattle corpses since the BLM left the area, several of which were “mother cows” that were shot and buried in a shallow grave by the federal agents. (Killing the breeding cows is an intentional effort to harm Bundy’s business.) According to the Bundys, BLM agents also destroyed some of their property, pulling out pipes and damaging water facilities for the cattle. [57959]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jimmy Fallon quips, “I want to say congrats to Chelsea Clinton. Last week she announced that she is expecting her first child. That’s great. That’s great for her. If it is a girl, it will get some of Chelsea’s old hands-me-downs. And if it is a boy, it will get some of Hillary’s.” (The jokes refers to the fact that Hillary Clinton always wears pant suits and is never seen in a dress or skirt.) [57925]

On April 22 FreeBeacon.com notes the “creative way” endangered Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) is attacking Republican opponent Thom Tillis: “‘Politicians, these days you’ve gotta watch ’em close—real close,’ says the narrator in Hagan’s ad, before playing a clip of Tillis saying ‘it’s a great idea’ in reference to Obamacare. ‘That’s right. Thom Tillis called Obamacare ‘a great idea,’ the narrator continues. ‘So Thom Tillis thinks he can attack Kay Hagan over something he calls ‘a great idea?’ Watch close, seems Thom Tillis wants it both ways.’ ...Here’s what Tillis said, in the context of broader GOP efforts to repeal Obamacare: ‘The majority of the stuff that is in Obamacare is bad, because it’s not fiscally sustainable. It’s a great idea that can’t be paid for.’ He went on to describe Obamacare as a ‘policy that’s creating as many problems as it fixes in terms of healthcare,’ and ‘creating the most devastating problem of a deficit that we can’t afford.’” Hagan’s ad shamelessly chooses a mere four words from Tillis’ quote, totally misrepresenting his statement. HotAir.com comments, “Essentially, she’s trying to maneuver Tillis around into being the pro-ObamaCare candidate so that she can posture as a quasi-anti one. Democrats promised us that O-Care would turn the world upside down, and so it has.” [57913, 57914, 57954]

The government watchdog group Judicial Watch announces that on March 27 it filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) over its refusal to provide ObamaCare navigator documents requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Katie Pavlich writes at Townhall.com, “According to Health and Human Services 50,000 people have been hired as navigators to help Americans enroll in Obamacare through federal or state exchanges. Since navigators were hired, HHS has failed to provide a concrete record of what processes navigators must go through before being qualified to handle sensitive information of potential Obamacare enrollees. Judicial Watch is suing for information about navigator qualifications, background checks and

records about the navigator program.” Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton states, “The Obamacare navigator program seems as corrupt as any Chicago patronage operation—and is a danger to the privacy of millions of Americans who are participating in Obamacare. The use of Obamacare navigators and the Healthcare.gov web site should come with consumer warnings. The Obama administration’s illegal secrecy about these Obamacare navigators should make Americans very nervous.” Pavlich: “It has also been documented that people formerly part of ACORN, a group that was stripped of its federal funding in 2009 for alleged illegal activity like promoting underage prostitution and tax fraud, have been brought in to run Obamacare navigator programs. Further, government officials on both sides of the political aisle have learned about the potential for fraud and criminal activity in the navigator program.” [57917]

Obama’s “red line”—and statements that “Assad must go”—notwithstanding, Secretary of State John Kerry claims the Syrian regime has launched two chemical weapons attacks. Great Britain, France, and Israel support the claim. [57918, 57919, 57971]

For an unknown reason the White House releases a photograph of Obama and someone dressed in an Easter Bunny costume looking at the Washington Monument. [57920]

Obama begins a week-long “pivot to Asia” trip, visiting Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines. (China is not on the agenda.) *The Economist* writes, “It is [Obama’s] chance to reassert America’s military and economic commitment to three treaty allies, one prospective ‘strategic partner’ (Malaysia) and to the region as a whole, as it struggles with the implications of China’s rapid rise. That reassurance is needed all the more after America’s failure to intervene in Syria and, especially, its failure to contain Russian expansionism in Ukraine. Both episodes feed into a perception of a declining American appetite for keeping the peace, and of a declining ability to do so. Countries such as Japan and the Philippines, facing an assertive Chinese approach to disputed territory, are naturally concerned. If America will do so little for Ukraine, will it risk lives and treasure for uninhabited rocks in the East or South China Sea?” (Obama’s stop in Malaysia will include a trip to the Masjid Negara mosque; he will honor Islam by visiting a mosque built on the site of a Christian church that was appropriated by the Malaysian government. [57929, 57941, 58042]

The *Daily Mail* points out that Obama is beginning his overseas jaunt on “Earth Day,” “with a carbon-emitting extravaganza, spending more than 15 hours on Air Force One and 15 minutes aboard the Marine One helicopter. Not including his motorcades in Oso, Washington, the site of a recent devastating mudslide, his trip will consume an estimated 35,565 gallons of fuel. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the statistics arm of the Department of Energy, burning each gallon emits 21.1 pounds of carbon dioxide, bringing [Obama’s] Earth Day carbon footprint to more than 375.7 tons. The White House did not respond to a question about any measures it might be taking—planting trees, for instance—to offset those emissions.” [57942]

In a 6–2 ruling the Supreme Court upholds a voter-approved Michigan constitutional amendment banning race-based (or gender-based) preferences in public education, hiring, and contracting decisions. (Justice Elena Kagan recused herself from the decision because she dealt with the lawsuit as Obama’s Solicitor General.) In *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy writes, “This case is not about how the debate about racial preferences should be resolved. It is about who may resolve it. There is no authority in the Constitution of the United States or in this Court’s precedents for the Judiciary to set aside Michigan laws that commit this policy determination to the voters.” Justices Sonia “La Raza” Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg are the dissenting votes. Sotomayor states that the ruling “eviscerates an important strand of our equal protection jurisprudence.” (Sotomayor apparently does not understand what “equal protection” means. It certainly does not mean giving preferential treatment to someone because of his or her race.) In his concurring opinion, Justice Antonin Scalia calls it “doubly shameful to equate ‘the majority’ behind [the constitutional amendment] with ‘the majority’ responsible for Jim Crow.” (This is a rebuke of Sotomayor, who claimed that Michigan voters who supported the amendment were motivated by racism—as if that is the only explanation for opposing affirmative action.) Leftists, unable to comprehend that ending discrimination can be achieved only by actually *ending* discrimination, go ballistic over the court ruling. On Twitter, Justice Clarence is predictably labeled an “Uncle Tom” by liberal racists. One calls him “the worst negro in history.” [57932, 57943, 57946, 57952, 57953, 57968, 57970]

Sotomayor essentially argues that no race preference legislation should ever be rescinded. She ignores the fact members of minorities other than blacks and Hispanics, such as Asian-Americans, are harmed by the racial preferences she supports. Qualified Asian-American students with excellent grades and high test scores are, for example, often denied admission to a universities because the institutions are forced to “fill seats” with blacks and Hispanics—even if their grades and test scores are lower. Sotomayor states, “[T]he Michigan amendment at issue in this case changed the rules of the political process to the disadvantage of minority members of our society.” She should be asked why treating people equally is a “disadvantage” to members of minorities. Does she mean that blacks and Hispanics cannot compete effectively when they are treated equally? If that is not her argument and not the case, then they are not at a disadvantage. The words “race matters” are peppered throughout Sotomayor’s opinion, which, to many, might seem like an odd way to argue that one’s race should not matter. (Someone should remind Sotomayor that if race did not matter she would probably not be a Supreme Court Justice.) [57962, 57966, 57984]

NationalReview.com writes, “There’s a reason they call it ‘progressivism’—for years, the main legal question contested in affirmative-action cases, from [court cases] *Bakke* to *Grutter*, was whether the state should be allowed to engage in racial discrimination. In the Michigan affirmative-action case decided today, *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, the question was whether the state should be required to engage in racial discrimination. The progress, then, has followed the Left’s familiar ratchet-effect model, inching its way from ‘not forbidden’ to ‘compulsory.’ ...The Court came to the correct conclusion, but both Justice Anthony Kennedy’s opinion and Justice Sonia

Sotomayor's dissent suggest very strongly that there is trouble afoot on our highest bench. In a perfectly Orwellian dissenting opinion, which she read dramatically from the bench, Justice Sotomayor argued that the decision of the people of Michigan to end racial discrimination is itself an instance of racial discrimination and that the only way to mitigate such racial discrimination is through the mandatory maintenance of racial discrimination. In this opinion she was joined by Justice Ginsburg, with Justice Kagan recusing herself from the case. Justice Sotomayor argued that Michigan's Proposal 2, which mandates race-neutral state policies, is the sort of legislation used to 'oppress minority groups.' By outlawing racial discrimination, she argued, 'a majority of the Michigan electorate changed the basic rules of the political process in that State in a manner that uniquely disadvantaged racial minorities.' Justice Sotomayor is here arguing in effect that if a constitutional referendum doesn't go the NAACP's way, then its effects are invalid. ...Her opinion is legally illiterate and logically indefensible, and the still-young career of this self-described 'wise Latina' on the Supreme Court already offers a case study in the moral and legal corrosion that inevitably results from elevating ethnic-identity politics over the law. Justice Sotomayor has revealed herself as a naked and bare-knuckled political activist with barely even a pretense of attending to the law, and the years she has left to subvert the law will be a generation-long reminder of the violence the Obama administration has done to our constitutional order. ...The Court came to the right decision, but its fractured conclusions and the rigorous political activism of its left wing are alarming." [58014, 58015]

In Kiev, Ukraine, Vice President Joe Biden says, "Ukraine is and must remain one country. No nation has the right to simply grab land from another nation. We will never recognize Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea." (Obama and Biden may never recognize it, but that is unlikely to make much difference.) [57933, 57944]

CNSNews.com reports, "Tens of thousands of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally but don't have serious criminal records could be shielded from deportation under a policy change being weighed by Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson. The change, if adopted following a review ordered by ...Obama, could limit removals of people who have little or no criminal record but have committed repeat immigration violations such as re-entering the country illegally after having been deported, or failing to comply with a deportation order." [57940]

The Associated Press reports, "The Internal Revenue Service has paid more than \$2.8 million in bonuses to employees with recent disciplinary problems, including \$1 million to workers who owed back taxes, a government investigator said Tuesday. More than 2,800 workers got bonuses despite facing a disciplinary action in the previous year, including 1,150 who owed back taxes, said a report by J. Russell George, the Treasury inspector general for tax administration. The bonuses were awarded from October 2010 through December 2012." [57945, 57960, 57967]

At Breitbart.com John Flynn writes, "A new Fox News poll goes a long way to explaining the growing anxiety among Democrats about the upcoming midterm elections.

Not only is support for Obama and his signature Obamacare law underwater, both are more unpopular than they were at this point ahead of the mid-term elections in 2010. Support for the Democrats and Obamacare, in fact, is less than it was on the eve of the 2010 election, when Republicans routed Democrats up and down the ballot. Today, just 42% of voters approve of the job Obama is doing... while 51% disapprove. Among Independents, Obama fares worse, with just 32% approving of his performance and 62% disapproving. In late April, 2010, however, voter approval of Obama was split, 46-46. Obama's approval ratings today almost match those in late October 2010 when 41% of voters approved and 50% disapproved. In this latest poll, Republicans lead the generic Congressional ballot by 3 points, 44-41. This is roughly where the party stood in April 2010, with the GOP leading Democrats 42-38. In fact, the Republican party is more popular today than it was four years ago. Today, voters split on approval of the GOP, 45-45. In April, 2010, however, only 40% of voters approved of the GOP against 50% who disapproved. This represents a 10-point swing towards the Republican party. Among Independents, the Republicans enjoy an 8-point advantage over Democrats." The poll also shows that independent voters, by 54-to-29 percent, prefer the candidate who opposes ObamaCare if that is the only difference between the candidates. [57977, 57983]

FoxNews.com reports, "Texas officials are raising alarm that the Bureau of Land Management, on the heels of its dust-up with Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, might be eyeing a massive land grab in northern Texas. The under-the-radar issue has caught the attention of Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who fired off a letter on Tuesday to BLM Director Neil Kornze saying the agency 'appears to be threatening' the private property rights of 'hard-working Texans.' 'Decisions of this magnitude must not be made inside a bureaucratic black box,' wrote Abbott, also a Republican gubernatorial candidate. At issue are thousands of acres of land on the Texas side of the Red River, along the border between Texas and Oklahoma. Officials recently have raised concern that the BLM might be looking at claiming 90,000 acres of land as part of the public domain." [57947, 57948]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "The Citizens Commission on Benghazi, a self-selected group of former top military officers, CIA insiders and think-tankers, declared Tuesday in Washington that a seven-month review of the deadly 2012 terrorist attack has determined that it could have been prevented—if the U.S. hadn't been helping to arm al-Qaeda militias throughout Libya a year earlier. 'The United States switched sides in the war on terror with what we did in Libya, knowingly facilitating the provision of weapons to known al-Qaeda militias and figures,' Clare Lopez, a member of the commission and a former CIA officer, told MailOnline. She blamed the Obama administration for failing to stop half of a \$1 billion United Arab Emirates arms shipment from reaching al-Qaeda-linked militants. 'Remember, these weapons that came into Benghazi were permitted to enter by our armed forces who were blockading the approaches from air and sea,' Lopez claimed. 'They were permitted to come in. ...[They] knew these weapons were coming in, and that was allowed... The intelligence community was part of that, the Department of State was part of that, and certainly that means that the top leadership of the United States, our national security leadership, and potentially Congress—if they were briefed

on this—also knew about this.’ The weapons were intended for Gaddafi but allowed by the U.S. to flow to his Islamist opposition.” [57949, 57950, 57951]

At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston adds, “The commission also says that Islamists attacked the US facility in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, not intending to kill US Ambassador Christopher Steven, but to kidnap him. The attackers intended to grab him and use him to bargain for the release of ‘Blind Sheikh’ Omar Abdul Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center in New York. There is evidence to back up that claim. In the days prior to the attack in Benghazi, unrest rose up in Cairo, Egypt. While the US embassy in Cairo blamed the uprising on a YouTube movie, the real driver behind it was a coalition of Islamist groups. Those groups were not protesting a movie at all. According to the warning they published in Egyptian media, they had a specific demand: ‘The group, which consists of many members from al-Qaeda ... threatened to burn the U.S. Embassy in Cairo with those in it, and taking hostage those who remain [alive], unless the Blind Sheikh is immediately released.’ ... The Obama administration insists that no US forces could have responded to the assault in Benghazi in time to save the Americans there. The commission says that that is untrue. [Commission member, Admiral James] Lyons also said U.S. claims that it lacked the resources to mount a counterattack in time to save lives is false. ‘I’m going to tell you that’s not true,’ he said. ‘We had a 130-man unit of forces at Sigonella [AFB in Italy]. They were ready to go. The flight time from Sigonella to Benghazi is roughly an hour.’ Perhaps most explosively, the commission alleges that the Obama administration’s attempt to blame the attack on a YouTube movie was coordinated with the Muslim Brotherhood, which was coordinating Islamist action in Egypt and Libya. The commission wants a congressional select committee appointed to investigate the Benghazi attack.” [57949, 57950, 57951, 57994]

The Department of Defense announces it is sending 600 U.S. troops to Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia for bilateral military exercises. Navy Rear Admiral John Kirby states, “Any time you put troops on the ground and doing exercises, in this case for a month at a time, it’s more than symbology [sic; symbolism]. ... The kind of work that we’re going to be doing is real infantry training—and that’s not insignificant. ... Since Russia’s aggression in Ukraine, we have been constantly looking at ways to reassure our allies and partners. These exercises were conceived and added on to the... exercise regimen as a result of what’s going on in Ukraine. ... If there’s a message to Moscow, it is the same exact message: that we take our obligations very, very seriously on the continent of Europe.” According to CNSNews.com, “The troops are from the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, based in Italy.” [57974, 57976]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer says of the Supreme Court decision in *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, “The left is trying to institutionalize affirmative action, to make it impossible for any legislature or any referendum ever to abolish it, ever in the history of the country. Essentially to say that it’s an intrinsic part of the Constitution, racial preferences are here forever—an outrageous proposition that was rejected by the court. And it said, ‘We’re not going to rule that it’s

intrinsically in the Constitution, just as 11 years ago we didn't want to rule that it's not allowed. We leave the decision of affirmative action up to the people,' which is exactly the way you want to do it in a diverse democracy with a troubled history. Let each region, let each state decide on its own, exactly as what was happening with abortion until the Court stepped in and prevented the evolution. What happened today on affirmative action is a towering decision that will allow now a stable settlement, as the country—very complex and diverse—works it out state by state. Exactly as you want to do it in a democracy.” Panelist Stephen Hayes comments on Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s dissent: “This was a decision written by somebody who was writing about emotion. It was ...Obama’s ‘empathy standard’—that’s what he was looking for when he nominated her, that’s what I think he got. But in terms of what she argued, it was intellectual hogwash.” [57962, 57966, 57984]

On April 23 NBCNews.com reports, “Police armed with truncheons, shields and a fire hose clashed with more than 100 left-wing activists who rallied at the U.S. Embassy in Manila on Wednesday to oppose a visit by ...Obama and an expected security pact that would increase the American military presence in the Philippines. Some of the protesters carried paper U.S. flags with the message: ‘Obama not welcome.’ Obama, who landed in Japan on Wednesday, is due to visit South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines over the next five days as part of a wider attempt to ‘rebalance’ and ‘pivot’ toward Asia.” [57973]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports, “First Lady Michelle Obama’s decision to sit out [her husband’s] four-nation Asia tour is spurring widespread consternation in Japan, fueling questions about America’s commitment to the country during a trip that was meant to reassure America’s Asian allies. According to a report in the Christian Science Monitor, the Japanese are particularly unnerved because Michelle just spent a celebratory week touring China, Japan’s ancient enemy whose aggressive tactics helped prompt ...Obama’s Asia trip in the first place. ...What’s she doing instead? Well, [it’s] not completely clear, but of course she’s got a DNC fundraiser scheduled for Thursday.” The *Daily Mail* adds, “A prominent Japanese politician has raised hackles as Barack Obama visits Tokyo [without his wife] by claiming it’s an ‘open secret’ that he and the first lady are headed for divorce, and that [Obama] has been using Secret Service agents to cover for him as he pursues extramarital affairs. Kazuyuki Hamada, who sits in the upper house of Japan’s parliament, earned his PhD a half-mile from the White House at George Washington University, and emerged as a shrill commentator on America’s economy and foreign policy.” [57978, 58031]

On *Live with Kelly and Michael*, Michelle “Let’s Move” Obama—after applauding herself when she was introduced—explains what her family did on Easter Sunday: “We had Easter dinner with family and friends, and we sat around really full because we ate too much. ...It was successful. We were full, yeah.” She also explains why the family rarely attends church: “We really try to use Sunday as family downtime where we can kinda [sic] breathe and catch up, and maybe take a little nap every now and then, if we’re not workin’. ...We could be loungin’ and nappin’ or somethin’ like that.” [58007]

On *The View*, ABC's Barbara Walters sucks up to her guest, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), and practically demands that she run for president to continue carrying Obama's leftist torch. [58099]

Investors.com wonders where Obama's claim of eight million ObamaCare enrollments comes from: "The exchanges run by 15 states and Washington, D.C., have reported final enrollment numbers at least through March, and most have numbers through April 15. The combined total for these exchanges is 2.6 million. For the remaining 36 states, all we have are the numbers HHS released through February. At that point, these states accounted for 2.7 million sign-ups. Add the two together, and you get 5.3 million. That means roughly 2.7 million must have signed up in just these 36 states after March 1 to reach the 8 million mark. And that means enrollment in these states must have doubled in just the last six weeks of a 28-week open enrollment period. To call this an incredible achievement is putting it mildly, particularly since the state-run exchanges saw enrollment climb only 62% in those final six weeks." [57986]

At Politico, Rich Lowry writes, "All you really need to know about Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's dissent in this week's affirmative action case is that Attorney General Eric Holder praised it as 'courageous.' There's a strong presumption that whatever meets Holder's approval will be insipid or politically stilted or both, and Sotomayor's opinion doesn't disappoint on either count. ... She doesn't have an easy task, but tackles it with gusto, even unveiling a new euphemism, 'race sensitive admissions policies.' She hopes it will replace the old euphemism of affirmative action. Whatever the phrase, it is always about trying to hide what these policies are about—favoring and disfavoring college applicants based on their race. If Sotomayor's coinage were applied more broadly, we would re-write the history books to refer to 'race sensitive' water fountains and lunch counters during Jim Crow, and to the 'race sensitive' hoteliers who turned away Jackie Robinson. ... Sotomayor bizarrely maintains that the constitutional provision [in Michigan upheld by the Supreme Court] 'draws a racial distinction' by the mere act of addressing a racially conscious policy. By this logic, so does any law mandating equal treatment of people no matter what their race or ethnicity. For that matter, so does the 14th Amendment. If Sotomayor's reasoning is taken to its conclusion, race neutrality itself is racist and the Constitution itself is constitutionally dubious." [58076]

Governor Rick Perry affirms the statement by his attorney general, Greg Abbott, that Texas will resist the Bureau of Land Management if the federal agency tries to confiscate land in Texas. Perry says, "He is on the right side of this issue, not just for the people of the State of Texas, he's on the right side of this issue from the private property rights standpoint. I don't think Americans want to see another one of these exhibitions from the federal government of them coming in with armed troops over an issue that ought to be taken care of with a little common sense. ... Actually, it's not a dare. It's a promise that we're going to stand up for private property rights in the State of Texas. ... I would suggest Senator [Harry] Reid spend a little more time in Nevada and get out of Washington, D.C., and to visit with those people that he is disparaging." Calling U.S.

citizens terrorists is “not something you would want a leader in this country saying about the citizens of this country. ...I have a problem with the federal government putting citizens in the position of having to feel like they have to use force to deal with their own government. That’s the bigger issue.” [58008]

A CNN panel laughs at a video of State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki’s response to a reporter’s question: “Can you, off the top of your head, identify one tangible achievement from the last QDDR?” QDDR stands for Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review, which assesses State Department accomplishments. (The question is the equivalent of, “What did Hillary Clinton accomplish as Secretary of State?”) Psaki replies, “I am certain that those who were here at the time, who worked hard on that effort, uh, could, could, uh, point out one.” [57987, 57988]

Columnist George Will observes that in Obama’s speeches “he talks like an arrested-development adolescent” who relies on “the four basic teenage tropes, which also are the only arrows in Obama’s overrated rhetorical quiver. ...First came the invocation of a straw man. Celebrating the ACA’s enrollment numbers, Obama, referring to Republicans, charged: ‘They said nobody would sign up.’ Of course, no one said this. ...Adolescents also try to truncate arguments by saying that nothing remains of any arguments against their arguments. Regarding the ACA, Obama said the debate is ‘settled’ and ‘over.’ Progressives also say the debate about catastrophic consequences of man-made climate change is ‘over,’ so everyone should pipe down. ...Declaring an argument over is so much more restful than engaging with evidence. ...A third rhetorical move by argumentative adolescents is to declare that there is nothing to argue about because everything is going along swimmingly. Seven times Obama asserted that the ACA is ‘working.’ That is, however, uninformative because it is ambiguous. The ethanol program is ‘working’ in the sense that it is being implemented as its misguided architects intended. ...Finally, the real discussion-stopper for the righteous—and there is no righteousness like an adolescent’s—is an assertion that has always been an Obama specialty. It is that there cannot be honorable and intelligent disagreement with him. So last week, less than two minutes after saying that the argument about the ACA ‘isn’t about me,’ he said some important opposition to the ACA is about him, citing ‘states that have chosen not to expand Medicaid for no other reason than political spite.’” [57990, 58085]

WND.com reports, “The IRS has just stripped a small, obscure, conservative nonprofit of its tax-exempt status for two alleged rule violations a decade ago, while taking a hands-off approach to a famous leftist website that’s well-financed by billionaire George Soros and other liberals and has engaged in more egregious practices for years, and on a much vaster scale. On Monday, USA Today published an IRS document confirming that in February the IRS revoked the tax-exempt status for the Patrick Henry Center for Individual Liberty, a small, conservative group founded in 1997 and based in Manassas, Va. The group had operated for years as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The center advertises itself as ‘committed to fostering, promoting, and advocating the restoration of Liberty as the primary object of American society.’ To make its case against Patrick

Henry, the IRS had to go as far back as 10 years ago to find a pair of items it considered unacceptable political activity by the nonprofit. ...The liberal behemoth Media Matters is also a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. It claims on its website to be a 'progressive research and information center dedicated to comprehensively monitoring, analyzing, and correcting conservative misinformation in the U.S. media.' Media Matters operates freely as a tax-exempt organization without any apparent interference from the IRS, while its website has literally thousands of highly partisan political articles on public display, virtually all of them advocating extremely liberal positions. The IRS said it revoked Patrick Henry's tax-exempt status because it 'has shown a pattern of deliberate and consistent intervention in political campaigns' and made 'repeated statements supporting or opposing various candidates by expressing its opinion of the respective candidate's character and qualifications.' However, even a cursory review reveals that Media Matters has for years published countless articles that blatantly attempt 'intervention in political campaigns' and support or oppose candidates. ...WND discovered Media Matters apparently in bed with the Obama administration in its efforts to deceive Americans about Obamacare. In November 2013, Media Matters funded the group that reportedly crafted ...Obama's false claim that Americans can maintain their 'choice' of doctors and insurance plans. The little-known Herndon Alliance has been behind the marketing of Obamacare since the inception of the legislation." [57991]

WND.com also reports that Obama is sending a three-person delegation of abortion supporters to the Vatican to represent the United States during canonization ceremonies for Pope John Paul XXIII and Pope John Paul II. [57992]

The terrorist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, and Fatah, the Palestinian political party of the West Bank, come together and announce they will form a unity government. According to FreeBeacon.com, reports, "A top Hamas official said that the newly announced Palestinian unity government 'will not recognize 'Israel' and will not give up the resistance,' throwing into jeopardy the new ruling government's access to U.S. assistance and other measures. ...The move tossed another wrench into the fledgling peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and prompted sharp responses from U.S. officials. Events took another surprising turn this afternoon when top Hamas official Hassan Yousef announced that the terror group would not renounce its commitment to violence and the destruction of Israel, according to Palestinian groups monitoring the situation. ...Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacted to the news with skepticism. 'The Palestinian Authority, which just yesterday spoke about its dissolution, is now talking about reconciling with Hamas,' Netanyahu was quoted as saying. 'They should decide what they want—dissolution to reconciliation? They should let us know when they want peace, because we want a true peace. ...Does he [Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas] want peace with Hamas or peace with Israel? You can have one but not the other. I hope he chooses peace, so far he hasn't done so.'" [58043, 58044, 58072]

State Department spokesman Jennifer Psaki tells reporters, "A great deal of effort has gone into building Palestinian institutions by Palestinians as well as the international

community, and it would certainly not be in the interests of the Palestinian people for all of that to be lost. ...The United States has put millions of dollars into this effort. It would obviously have very serious implications for our relationship, including our assistance going forward.” (In other words, “Secretary of State John Kerry is not going to get a Nobel Peace Prize and Obama will still not have earned his.”) Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) states, “The administration must halt aid to the Palestinian Authority... U.S. law is clear on the prohibition of U.S. assistance to a unity Palestinian government that includes Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, and ...Obama must not allow one cent of American taxpayer money to help fund this terrorist group.” [58043, 58044, 58072]

Meanwhile, Muslims attack Jewish visitors at Jerusalem’s Temple Mount, hurling objects at them and terrifying children. According to IsraelNationalNews.com, “The Temple Movement blamed police for failing to disperse the Muslim attackers. ‘It’s a miracle no one was hurt,’ said a movement statement. Despite its importance as Judaism’s holiest site, Jews are forbidden from praying on the Temple Mount in order not to ‘provoke’ Muslim worshippers at the Al Aqsa Mosque Islamic complex, which is built on top of the ruins of the ancient Jewish Temples. Those Jews who break the rules against praying are often arrested and banned from visiting. But as in this case, even Jewish visitors who are not praying are sometimes subjected to abuse, threats and violence at the hands of Muslim worshippers.” [58045, 58046]

Breitbart.com’s Tony Lee reports, “Conservative Oklahoma Senate candidate T.W. (Tahrohon Wayne) Shannon has opened up a 10-point lead after trailing Rep. James Lankford (R-OK) by 35 points just two months ago in the race to replace retiring Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK). That represents a net swing of 45 points in Shannon’s favor. After former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin endorsed Shannon, he closed that 35-point deficit to single digits in a poll taken four days later. Since then, prominent conservatives like Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Ted Cruz (R-TX), along with the Senate Conservatives Fund and conservative talk radio host Mark Levin, have endorsed him. Palin will headline a rally along with Cruz and Lee for Shannon on April 24 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The poll found that Shannon leads Lankford 42% to 32%, and 63% of Oklahomans view Shannon, arguably the most conservative Speaker in the history of the nation’s reddest state, favorably, as opposed to 6% that view him unfavorably. In February, 30% of Oklahomans viewed Shannon favorably while 4% did not.” (Shannon happens to be black. If he is elected, the GOP will have two black Senators—Shannon and Tim Scott of South Carolina. The Democrats have one: Cory Booker of New Jersey.) [58025, 58037, 58124]

DailyCaller.com reports, “General Electric is telling its investors that Obamacare is to blame for recent losses in the company’s health care division... ‘Hospitals and clinics appear to be delaying purchases and responses to the ACA [Affordable Care Act],’ stated GE senior vice president and CFO Jeffrey S. Bornstein in the company’s first-quarter earnings call. ...The company’s health care unit, which produces medical and

biopharmaceutical technologies and which grew in 2013, showed losses in revenues, segment profits, margins and orders in the first quarter of 2014.” [58011]

According to a new report by the Congressional Research Service, the Obama administration has failed to meet 44 statutory deadlines required by the Affordable Care Act. FreeBeacon.com notes, “The missed deadlines range from several days to years.” (The administration does not follow the law, but it expects it to be followed by insurance companies, employers, and every U.S. citizen who is not an elected federal official.) [58016, 58017, 58018]

The Department of Health and Human Services sends an email to users of Healthcare.gov stating all users must choose a new password to protect against a “Heartbleed” computer virus. The email states, “HealthCare.gov uses many layers of protections to secure your information and we’ve recently enhanced our systems to add additional protections. While there’s no indication that the Heartbleed vulnerability has been used against HealthCare.gov or that any personal information has ever been at risk, we have reset consumers’ passwords out of abundance of caution. This means the next time you visit the website, you’ll need to create a new password. We strongly recommend you create a unique password—not one that you’ve already used on other websites.”

While many liberals continue to claim that vote fraud hardly exists, Watchdog.org reports, “A crosscheck of voter rolls in Virginia and Maryland turned up 44,000 people registered in both states, a vote-integrity group reported Wednesday. And that’s just the beginning. ‘The Virginia Voters Alliance [VVA] is investigating how to identify voters who are registered and vote in Virginia but live in the states that surround us,’ Alliance President Reagan George told the State Board of Elections [SBE]. George acknowledged that the number of voters who actually cast multiple ballots is relatively small. In the case of Maryland and Virginia, he revealed that 164 people voted in both states during the 2012 election. But George said his group will expand their search for duplicate voters in the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Georgia. ...VVA [also] identified 31,000 dead voters via the Social Security Administration’s Death Master File. Subsequent processing by SBE found 40,000 to 60,000 dead voter registrations. ‘Dead voter registrations are prime targets for voter fraud which generate few complaints,’ George noted.” [57997, 58089]

On *Special Report* columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama’s disregard for the law: “It’s not just his negligence in executing his job, he’s being unconstitutional. And if it becomes a habit—which it’s becoming, and that’s the problem—it’s going to establish a principle that a Republican will come into office and he’ll say, ‘I campaigned against capital gains taxes, so I’m going to order the FBI [sic; IRS] not to collect it.’ That’s not how you—if that were to happen, you could be sure that the liberals would be screaming... but that’s the point. This is eroding the rule of law in a systematic way, time after time. ...I do think there’s going to be a day when Democrats will rue the day that they did not, at one point—any point, on immigration, on sentencing, on any of the things

that Obama has done unilaterally—simply stand up and say, ‘It ought not be done this way.’ And it’s a precedent that’s going to haunt us in the future.” [58009]

On April 24 an Afghan security guard shoots and kills three American doctors at a Kabul hospital. According to FoxNews.com, “Two of the dead Americans were a father and son, Minister of Health Soraya Dalil said, adding that the third American was a Cure International doctor who had worked for seven years in Kabul. One of the doctors has been identified as Dr. Jerry Umanos, who practiced pediatric medicine at Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago, officials from the center said. Dalil said an American nurse also was wounded in the attack. ...The alleged attacker was a member of the Afghan Public Protection Force assigned to guard the hospital, according to District Police Chief Hafiz Khan. He said the man’s motive was not yet clear.” (It has become increasingly dangerous for American civilians in Afghanistan as U.S. troop presence on the battlefield is diminished in preparation for their withdrawal. With fewer Americans to kill on the battlefield, the radical Islamists target poorly-protected American civilians. That is partly the result of Obama having publicly announced a withdrawal date.) [57995, 57996, 58041]

CNN’s Jake Tapper reports, “For the sixth year in a row, ...Obama has broken his promise to the Armenian community, made when seeking their votes as a senator and a presidential candidate, to use the word ‘genocide’ to describe the massacre of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians [as well as 750,000 Assyrians and 500,000 Greeks] at the hands of the Ottoman Empire a century ago. He did this in deference to the government of Turkey, which—historical revisionism aside—the Obama administration regards as a more crucial ally. ‘It’s a sad spectacle to see [Obama], who came into office having promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide, reduced to enforcing a foreign government’s gag-rule on what our country can say about a genocide so very thoroughly documented in our own nation’s archives,’ Armenian National Committee of America executive director Aram Hamparian said in a statement. ‘We remain profoundly disappointed that he has, once again, retreated from his own promises and fallen short of the principled stand taken by [his predecessors],’ Hamparian said. ...‘I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915, and my view has not changed,’ Obama said in a statement that avoided use of the ‘g’ word. ...‘The facts are undeniable,’ Obama said [in 2006], though today he denied them.” (Obama, who is not afraid to say there has been “genocide against the Palestinian people by [the] Israelis,” is afraid to say Turkish Muslims were guilty of the mass murder of Christians in 1915. Similarly, in 2008 the vote-seeking Obama said, “I will make ending the genocide in Darfur a priority from day one.” He did not. In 1994, Bill Clinton did nothing to prevent the Rwanda genocide—partly because of the reluctance of advisor Susan Rice, who also thwarted offers of Sudan to turn over Osama bin Laden. Obama has done little but refer to the genocide as the “terrible events of 1915” and call the innocent victims nothing more than casualties of war.) [337, 356, 360, 438, 439, 440, 568, 569, 590, 628, 670, 1377, 1680, 2199, 2201, 2207, 2222, 57999, 58000, 58040]

The Associated Press reports, “Marion County [Oregon] commissioners have given final approval to an order to stop a company from receiving medical waste until procedures are in place to prevent the burning of fetal material to generate power. While taking the action Thursday, commissioners said they were horrified and disgusted to learn that Covanta Marion was burning abortion waste to generate electricity. Commissioners Sam Brentano and Janet Carlson made the decision at an emergency hearing.” (The AP adds, “Both strongly oppose abortion rights”—as if incinerating a fetus is not in and of itself something to which civilized people might object.) [58001, 58002, 58389]

A Quinnipiac poll of registered voters in Colorado shows Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) and Congressman Cory Gardner (R-CO), who is challenging Udall for his Senate seat, in a dead heat—with Udall ahead by a mere one percentage point, 45–44. For those polled, the economy, jobs, and health care as the most important issues. Colorado voters oppose ObamaCare (which Udall voted for) 59–37 percent. Udall leads among women, 52–35 percent, which means he will probably be pounding the “GOP is anti-woman” theme as much as he can. Only 40 percent of those polled believe Udall should be reelected; 46 percent believe he should not. Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings in Colorado are 38/57 percent. That Udall has been a rubber stamp of the Obama agenda will certainly not help him win reelection. [58004, 58005, 58019, 58055]

CNN.com reports, “At least 40 U.S. veterans died waiting for appointments at the Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care system, many of whom were placed on a secret waiting list. The secret list was part of an elaborate scheme designed by Veterans Affairs managers in Phoenix who were trying to hide that 1,400 to 1,600 sick veterans were forced to wait months to see a doctor, according to a recently retired top VA doctor and several high-level sources. ...Internal e-mails obtained by CNN show that top management at the VA hospital in Arizona knew about the practice and even defended it. Dr. Sam Foote just retired after spending 24 years with the VA system in Phoenix. The veteran doctor told CNN in an exclusive interview that the Phoenix VA works off two lists for patient appointments: There’s an ‘official’ list that’s shared with officials in Washington and shows the VA has been providing timely appointments, which Foote calls a sham list. And then there’s the real list that’s hidden from outsiders, where wait times can last more than a year.” Veterans’ names would be kept on a secret list, and as appointments became available some names would be added to the “official” list—as if the veteran had just walked in and requested to be seen by a physician. The scam process made it appear as though veterans did not wait more than 14 days—when in fact they may have waited months to be added to the official list. “Foote estimates right now the number of veterans waiting on the ‘secret list’ to see a primary care physician is somewhere between 1,400 and 1,600. ‘I feel very sorry for the people who work at the Phoenix VA,’ said Foote. ‘They’re all frustrated. They’re all upset. They all wish they could leave ’cause they know what they’re doing is wrong. But they have families, they have mortgages and if they speak out or say anything to anybody about it, they will be fired and they know that.” [58006, 58049]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Climate scientists skeptical of claims that man-made greenhouse gas emissions are warming the planet gathered in Germany this month for a major, now sold-out climate conference, which the [mainstream] media has opted not to cover. In early April, the European Institute for Climate and Energy (EIKE) hosted its seventh Climate Conference in Mannheim, Germany. The two-day conference featured prominent climate scientists including Dr. Richard Lindzen of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, physicist Nir Shaviv of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and physicist Henrik Svensmark of the Danish National Space Institute. The large conference room where the event took place was big enough to hold 100 people, according to EIKE, but 130 climate experts from various fields packed the room full. Despite the large turnout, not a single member of the media was present to report on remarks made by scientists critical of United Nations claims that global warming will doom the planet. EIKE reports that none of the three local German media outlets it invited to the event bothered to show up, and chances are that major U.S. media outlets were too busy covering the release of the United Nations’ major climate report to report on this gathering of skeptics.” [58010]

AFP reports, “Russia ordered new military exercises on the border of Ukraine Thursday and warned of ‘consequences’ after Kiev launched a deadly assault against pro-Kremlin rebels occupying the flashpoint town of Slavyansk, in an escalation of the crisis. But Ukraine’s president vowed to see through the military operation, telling Russia to ‘stop interfering’ in the former Soviet republic, and declaring that Kiev would not yield to ‘the terrorist threat.’ The rocketing tensions sent oil prices up, as ...Obama, who has deployed troops to boost NATO’s defences in eastern European states, accused Russia of renegeing on an agreement to defuse the crisis. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in turn attacked the United States and the European Union of ‘trying to use Ukraine as a pawn in a geopolitical game.’” At least five people are killed in the confrontations—which Russia may use as an excuse to send troops into Ukraine to “preserve the peace.” [58012, 58013]

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki tweets, “The world stands #UnitedforUkraine. Let’s hope that the #Kremlin & @mfa_russia will live by the promise of hashtag.” (Her tweet is immediately and mercilessly ridiculed. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tweets, “Note to the State Department: ‘The promise of a hashtag’ isn’t going to make Putin pull out of Ukraine.” Others tweet, “Putin has a bigger hashtag” “The power of the #hashtag is legendary. ‘Speak softly & carry a big #hashtag’” “He Still Has His Phone and His Pen” “when will the adults take over again? cringeworthy” “And people wonder why the Russians pay no heed to this administration” and “It’s nice to know our state dept uses the same social media tactics as high school age girls.”) [58052, 58060]

Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy quickly loses substantial support from the public and various politicians after he makes several arguably racist remarks to the news media. (On April 19 Bundy told a *New York Times* reporter, “I want to tell you one more thing I know about the Negro. ...[I]n front of that government [-subsidized] house the door was usually open and the older people and the kids—and there is always at least a half a dozen people sitting on the porch—they didn’t have nothing to do. They didn’t have nothing for their kids to do. They didn’t have nothing for their young girls to do. And

because they were basically on government subsidy, so now what do they do? They abort their young children, they put their young men in jail, because they never learned how to pick cotton. And I've often wondered, are they better off as slaves, picking cotton and having a family life and doing things, or are they better off under government subsidy? They didn't get no more freedom. They got less freedom." (A case can be made, of course, that living on welfare in a government ghetto, where the public schools are atrocious, and where there are few opportunities to escape that life and succeed is not exactly the American dream, it is certainly also not the equivalent of 19th-century slavery. Further, of course, it is reportedly a fact that Bundy has not paid federal grazing fees since 1993. He is certainly not a model citizen. But that does not justify sending 200 armed BLM agents to his ranch over a dispute that should be peaceably dealt with in civil courts. Bundy's racist statements aside, it remains valid to ask, "Why does the federal government own more than 80 percent of Nevada land?") HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "Bundy doesn't have a legal case. And it looks like sympathy just ran out for him, too." (*The Obama Timeline* assumes it will not be long before Armed Bureau of Land Management agents return to the Bundy ranch—in even greater numbers than their previous visit.) [58020, 58022, 58030, 58947]

Bundy's son Ammon blames the new controversy on selective editing by the media: "They took what they wanted. They knew when they were there his comments were not racist. He wasn't able to completely articulate. That's just my dad. He is a very principled person. ...I was there standing right beside my father when he made those comments. He was reaching out to the black community. ...He desires the black community to have freedom. ...Growing up around him, and being beside him, I never once heard him say anything negative about any race. I wish I could say that about everyone else I've been around. The black community, the white community, they joke back and forth. My father's never lowered himself." Cliven Bundy later tries to explain his earlier comments: "I said I'm wondering if they're [blacks are] better off under government subsidy, and their young women are having the abortions and their young men are in jail, and their older women and their children are standing, sitting out on the cement porch without nothing to do, you know, I'm wondering: Are they happier now under this government subsidy system than they were when they were slaves, and they was able to have their family structure together, and the chickens and garden, and the people had something to do? And so, in my mind I'm wondering, are they better off being slaves, in that sense, or better off being slaves to the United States government, in the sense of the subsidies. I'm wondering. That's what. And the statement was right. I am wondering." (Whether Bundy's clarification made the situation better or worse is debatable.) [58030]

The mainstream media failed to report everything Cliven Bundy stated, including (grammar left uncorrected), "I was in the Watts riot. I seen the beginning fire, and I seen that last fire. What I seen is civil disturbance. People are not happy. People are thinkin' they don't have their freedoms. They don't have these things . And they didn't have 'em. We progressed quite a bit since the night they, until now. And we sure don't want to go back. We sure don't want the colored people to go back to that point. We sure don't want these Mexican people to go back to that point. And we could make a difference right now, by taking care of some of these bureaucracies, and do it in a peaceful way." Of

ghetto life for blacks, Bundy says, “That’s all government. That’s not freedom. Now let me talk about the Spanish people. You know, I understand that they come over here against our Constitution and cross our border. But they’re here, and they’re people. And I’ve worked side beside a lot of ’em. Don’t tell me they don’t work. And don’t tell me they don’t pay taxes. And don’t tell me they don’t have better family structures than most of us white people. When you see those Mexican families, they’re together, they picnic together, they’re spending their time together, and I’ll tell you, in my way of thinking they’re awful nice people. And we need to have those people join us and be with us, not, not come into our [political] party.” (Another famous Nevadan, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, once called Obama a “light-skinned” African-American “with no Negro dialect, unless he wanted to have one.” Whether Obama artificially turning a phony dialect off and on to win votes is less racist than Bundy arguing that blacks have been treated horribly disservice by the federal government is a subject the mainstream media is unlikely to encourage.) [58036, 58077]

Former presidential candidate and U.N. ambassador Alan Keyes—who happens to be black and the person Obama defeated to become U.S. Senator from Illinois in 2004—says Bundy “wasn’t talking so much about black folks, but about the harm and damage that the leftist socialism has done to blacks. ...I find it appalling that we basically have a history of the leftist liberalism that wants to extinguish black people by abortion [and] destroying the family structure. All of these things, if you just look at the effects, you would say this was planned by some racist madman to destroy the black community. I think it’s time somebody started to recognize the racism that exists in its effects—the hard leftist ideology using the black community for their sacrificial lamb, for their sick ideology. It’s time we called them what they are. Now it’s racist to point it out.” [58048]

Joining Keyes in defending Bundy is a U.S. Marine friend of his, who happens to be black, and who writes, “The media distorts information to the point of social division. This is a photo of myself and the resilient, often charismatic, and maybe not so tactful Cliven Bundy. He’s a cowboy and a helluva family man, not an orator. One thing he definitely isn’t—a racist. I found his comments to not only be NOT racist, but his own view of his experiences. Who the heck are we to determine another man’s perspective on the world around him?! Just because Picasso’s view of the world was abstract, does it negate the fact that his art was genuine? Furthermore, if you take the time to do your own research, you’ll find that his statements about some black Americans actually hold weight. He posed a hypothetical question. He said, ‘I wonder IF’ ...Hell, I’m black and I often wonder about the same about the decline of the black family. Bottom line is that we are all slaves in this waning republic, no matter our skin color. Mr. Bundy could have used any racial demographic as an example: Native Americans on reservations, whites in trailer parks, etc. He noticed the crippling effects of receiving government ‘assistance’ and the long term result of accepting handouts. It’s not progress at all. I challenge Sean Hannity, Rand Paul, and others to read my comment and reconsider their position in this matter. Individual liberties are at stake here, yours and mine. THAT is the issue. Don’t let the liberal media and ignoramuses like Glenn Beck and that weasel Harry Reid make you lose sight of the real issue here: The federal government is a burgeoning behemoth and a

bully on a once constitutional playground. I sincerely hope you real patriots out there who can see through the smoke. Semper Fidelis” [58075, 58088]

While Americans argue about whether Cliven Bundy is a racist, members of a pro-Hamas group called “Students for Justice in Palestine” slide “eviction notices” under the doors of Jewish students in a dormitory at New York University. The notices state, “We regret to inform you that your suite is scheduled for demolition in three days. If you do not vacate the premise [sic; premises] by midnight April 25, 2014 we reserve the right to destroy all remaining belongings. We cannot be held responsible for property or persons remaining inside the premises. Charges for demolition will be applied to your student accounts.” (The notices are meant to intimidate Jewish students, of course, and bring attention to the group’s opposition to the building of homes and apartments for Jews on Israeli land wanted by the Palestinians.) The Obama administration has no comment, and there is no indication that Obama plans to schedule a White House “beer summit” for Jewish and Muslim students of NYU. Pamela Geller writes, “Muslim thugs, like Hitler’s nazi youth, are targeting and tormenting Jewish students in greater number across US college campuses. Under the guise of BDS [“Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions,” a boycott Israel campaign], or ‘Israel Apartheid’ or other vicious blood libels, these savages are out for Jewish blood. Every Jewish parent in America who has been ignoring this growing trend or who thinks this doesn’t affect them is gravely mistaken. And they will learn the hard way—through their children. Leftwing Jews will have much to answer for. We have seen this happen before. We know what comes next.” (It can be assumed that the mainstream media will spend a substantial amount of time calling Bundy a racist and doing its best to indict the Republican Party for his words, while virtually ignoring the Jewish eviction notice story.) [58038, 58039, 58054]

According to FreeBeacon.com, “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designated over 50 million acres of public land available for solar development in Nevada, including nearly all of Bunkerville, the home of the Bundy Ranch. A map of ‘Proposed Solar Energy Zones’ prepared by the federal agency in 2010 revealed that the government deemed over 70 percent of Nevada open to applications to lease public lands for solar projects. According to the document, 9.6 million acres were available for applications through the ‘Solar Development Program,’ and an additional 40.8 million acres were available, though no action had been taken. The accessible land totals 50.4 million acres, or 71.7 percent of Nevada, which spans 70.3 million acres. ...BLM spokesman Craig Leff said there is ‘no connection’ between the impoundment of Bundy’s cattle and solar energy development in Nevada.” [58028]

Obama visits Japan’s National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, where he is greeted by a robot that demonstrates its skills by kicking a soccer ball and hopping on one foot. Obama later says, “I have to say the robots were a little scary. They were too life-like.” (Compared to a typical Obama-supporting “Obot” in the United States, the electromechanical version might, in fact, have more personality and intelligence.) [58021]

At a joint press conference with the Japanese prime minister, Obama says, “Our shared Democratic values mean that we have to work together in multilateral settings to deal with regional hotspots around the globe, but also to try to make sure that we are creating a strong set of rules that govern the international order.” [58071]

Secretary of State John Kerry says, “Every day since we left Geneva, every day, even up to today, when Russia sent armored battalions right up to the Luhansk Oblast border, the world has witnessed a tale of two countries, two countries [Russia and Ukraine] with vastly different understandings of what it means to uphold an international agreement. ...So following today’s threatening movement of Russian troops right up to Ukraine’s border, let me be clear: If Russia continues in this direction, it will not just be a grave mistake, it will be an expensive mistake. Already, the international response to the choices made by Russia’s leaders is taking its toll on Russia’s economy. ...The window to change course is closing. President [Vladimir] Putin and Russia face a choice. If Russia chooses the path of de-escalation, the international community, all of us, will welcome it. If Russia does not, the world will make sure that the costs for Russia will only grow. And as ...Obama reiterated earlier today, we are ready to act.” (“Ready to act” means implementing a few additional relatively meaningless sanctions against Russia.) [58071]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Obama administration on Wednesday criticized Iran’s election to the U.N.’s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)—but neither the U.S. nor any other delegation objected when given the opportunity to do so, thus allowing Iran to get the seat ‘by acclamation.’ ...U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power took to Twitter to express her views: ‘Yet again Iran unopposed & was ‘elected’ to Commission on Status of Women. Given record on women’s & human rights, this is an outrage.’ But Richard Grenell, who served as spokesman for four U.S. ambassadors to the U.N. during the George W. Bush administration and is a close observer of the world body, was unimpressed with her reaction. ‘Ambassador Power can tweet her outrage after the fact all she wants,’ he said. ‘She should have been in the room for the vote and demanded a secret ballot rather than allow an automatic acclamation by her silence.’” (Although it is understandable, the U.N. action is not at all surprising. It has a history of allowing on commissions and committees the nations that are committing the atrocities allegedly being placed under scrutiny.) [58023]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A high-dollar Obama donor who was caught on video brutally beating his girlfriend got off with 25 hours of community service last week after he pled guilty to domestic battery charges. CCTV footage caught Gurbaksh Chahal, the CEO of San Francisco tech startup RadiumOne, kicking his girlfriend 117 times, including blows to the head, and trying to smother her with a pillow during a vicious 30-minute assault. He faced 45 felony charges until the footage was deemed inadmissible. As a result, Chahal has managed to avoid jail time... According to police reports, Chahal also threatened to kill his girlfriend several times. ...Chahal’s political contributions indicate more liberal sensibilities. He has donated more than \$100,000 since 2011, all of which went the Democratic Party and Democratic candidates. Those contributions include

\$81,600 to the Democratic National Committee and \$5,000 to ...Obama's reelection campaign. ...Chahal has visited the White House twice, on Nov. 30, 2011 to see [Obama], and on Dec. 14, 2012, to see [Obama and his wife], according to White House visitor logs. Chahal also greeted Obama at a dinner in San Francisco in 2012." (According to the Daily Mail, "[As] the court case proceeded, a judge ruled the video inadmissible [because] the San Francisco Police Department had obtained it without a warrant. Chahal's girlfriend also withdrew her testimony and refused to cooperate.") Chahal is reportedly fired by RadiumOne's board of directors on April 27. [58026, 58027, 58065, 58100]

Michelle Obama's handlers cave in and agree to have her speak only at a May 16 "senior recognition day" event in Topeka, Kansas, rather than at a combined five-school graduation ceremony. According to the Associated Press, "the five schools will hold separate graduation exercises instead. The compromise... pleased Topeka students and parents who were concerned about being limited to six tickets for family members and the first lady's remarks taking away from the occasion. ...[N]ow that Mrs. Obama will no longer speak at a graduation, seating won't need to be limited due to concerns over her security during graduation events." [58029, 58059]

Attorney General Eric Holder cancels an appearance at the graduation ceremony of Oklahoma City Police Department cadets. According to WashingtonTimes.com, "Mr. Holder was expected to deliver remarks at the afternoon graduation ceremony, according to his official itinerary sent out by the Justice Department Thursday morning. A Justice Department spokesman denied that the trip was canceled because of the possibility of a hostile reception. ...Holder's scheduled visit to Oklahoma City drew the criticism of several conservative lawmakers who planned the protest in anticipation of his arrival, including Republican state Rep. Paul Wesselhoft, who has said he believes that Mr. Holder should be impeached. 'Our protest has turned into a victory celebration because we frankly didn't want him here—and we succeeded,' Mr. Wesselhoft said in an interview. 'This man has used his position to advance his own political agenda and that's not right. He swore to uphold the U.S. Constitution and defend it for all of us — not some of us.' Carla Russell, one of the about 100 activists who came out for the rally, held a sign that read: 'Holder is a Terrorist.' 'He's not coming because he's a chicken,' Mrs. Russell told the Red Dirt Report, a local news website. 'And he doesn't want to be recorded with people protesting against him with signs like mine.'" [58032, 58061, 58064]

Addressing the Middletown (Ohio) Rotary Club, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) whines about resistance to "comprehensive immigration reform" from some House members: "Here's the attitude. Ohhhh. Don't make me do this. Ohhhh. This is too hard. We get elected to make choices. We get elected to solve problems and it's remarkable to me how many of my colleagues just don't want to... They'll take the path of least resistance. I've had every brick and bat and arrow shot at me over this issue just because I wanted to deal with it. I didn't say it was going to be easy." (Yes, members of Congress get elected to make choices. They also get elected to represent their constituents—the

majority of whom do not want amnesty for illegal immigrants. The way to “solve problems” is to enforce existing law.) [58034, 58063, 58137]

At a White House “take our daughters and sons to work” event, 10-year-old Charlotte Bell approaches Michelle Obama and says, “My dad’s been out of a job for three years and I wanted to give you his résumé.” At the gathering, Obama tells the parents and children, “So I’m gonna give you [sic] my favorite healthy thing to eat, which actually is my favorite thing to eat—pizza. Yes, but usually when I have pizza—alright don’t get mad at me—I do veggie pizzas. It’s really good, and they make great pizza here at the White House. So that’s a way that I get the favorite food that I love but also do it in a healthy way so I can eat it whenever I want to, right? ...But if I’m really being bad, right? And if I want my favorite junk food—some kids asked me this just the other day—one of my favorite, favorite junk foods is French fries. I love French fries.” (When pizza became a “healthy food” is not clear. It may perhaps have been the result of an Executive Order.) [58056, 58062, 58070]

After almost seven months of unmitigated failure, the Oregon state ObamaCare exchange will be shutting down. WashingtonPost.com reports, “In public, the board overseeing Cover Oregon is scheduled to vote Friday whether to join the federal insurance marketplace that sells health plans in most of the country under the Affordable Care Act. Behind the scenes, the officials say, federal and Oregon officials already have agreed that closing down the state marketplace is the best path to rescue what has been the country’s only one to fail so spectacularly that no resident has been able to sign up for coverage online since it opened early last fall.” (The non-working Oregon exchange cost the taxpayers about \$300 million.) [58057, 58058, 58067]

Attorney Dr. Orly Taitz writes a letter to Obama’s new White House Counsel, W. Neil Eggleston . She states, “...This letter is to put you on notice in regards to the legal actions against Mr. Obama and evidence against Mr. Obama which might have been the reason for early resignations of three of your predecessors. Please see an attached file that shows that on April 15 2010 Mr. Obama posted his tax returns on line on White house.gov. He made a mistake and did not ‘flatten’ the PDF file, so the full, unredacted CT Social Security number 042-68-4425, that he is using, became widely available to the public. When the number was checked, it failed both E-verify and SSNVS. This number was later traced to one, Harry Bounel, born in 1890, presumed to be deceased. Similarly, attached 170 page file provides a sworn affidavit of the former Chief Investigator of the Special Investigations unit of the US Coast Guard, Stephan Jeffrey Coffman, who attested to the fact that Obama’s selective service certificate is a fabricated document, which contains a fabricated 1980 cancellation US stamp. Attached file also provides multiple affidavits and official records showing that Obama’s alleged birth certificate is a crude forgery and the only official who allegedly confirmed this forgery, Director of Health of Hawaii Loretta Deliana Fuddy, recently died, the only fatality of the forced water landing of a small Cessna plane. Her death and the airplane crash that killed her are still being investigated by the NTSB. As such, you [are] put on notice that Mr. Obama is using a stolen Social Security number, fabricated IDs, last name not legally his and

fraudulently asserting his US citizens and legitimacy for the US Presidency. Your work as a White House counsel for Mr. Obama, while knowing all of [these] facts, might be seen as an ethical violation as well as criminal complicity to major fraud, forgery and treason. I believe that knowing all of the facts and evidence provided in the attached file should lead you to refuse to take the position of the White House Counsel for citizen of Indonesia Barry Soetoro aka Barry Soebarkah, aka Barack Obama. Should you have any questions in relation to this file, you are welcome to contact me..." [58093]

LATimes.com reports, "Video has surfaced that appears to show antitank guided missiles in the hands of a rebel faction operating in southern Syria, the latest indication that sophisticated U.S. weaponry is making its way to antigovernment fighters in Syria. The video, posted April 13 on YouTube, seems to depict a fighter from a group called the Omari Brigades firing a BGM-71 TOW missile at what appears to be a bunkered Syrian army tank. Although other videos circulating on the Internet have shown rebel groups in northern Syria firing TOW missiles, this marks the first time the U.S.-made weapon has appeared publicly in the arsenal of insurgents in southern Syria, a key front close to the Jordanian border." (Pamela Geller writes, "There is no reason why this shouldn't be true. We know that Obama has given advanced weapons to the Syrian jihadists. Let's consider for a moment the consequences of giving advanced 21st-century weaponry to seventh-century savages who are hellbent on destroying 21st-century civilization. Ponder that, if you will. How many tens of thousands of jihad attacks must we suffer to face reality? How many millions of non-Muslims and secular Muslims have to die in order for us to face the truth? Advanced weapons and antitank missiles to these devout Muslims waging jihad—nuts, I tell ya. The only people we should be arming are the religious minorities in Syria. The Kurds have established an independent state. Arm them. Protect them.") [58078, 58079]

Michelle Obama makes an appearance on the NBC situation comedy *Parks and Recreation*. According to TheHill.com, Mrs. Obama "provided an inspirational pep talk for Amy Poehler's character Leslie Knope, a civil servant who [was] weighing a job offer with the National Parks Service. 'We need passionate people like you on our national parks,' the first lady told Poehler's character, prompting vigorous nodding. 'Are you nodding because you agree with me?' the first lady asked. 'Yes, I do agree with you,' came the star-struck response. 'I agree with you on all things throughout history until the end of times forever.'" [58086, 58087]

On April 25 the Associated Press reports, "Ecuador has ordered all 20 Defense Department employees in the U.S. Embassy's military group to leave the country by month's end... The group was ordered to halt operations in Ecuador in a letter dated April 7, said embassy spokesman Jeffrey Weinshenker. The AP was first alerted to the expulsions by a senior Ecuadorean official who refused to be identified by name due to the information's sensitive nature. President Rafael Correa had publicly complained in January that Washington had too many military officers in Ecuador, claiming there were 50, and said they had been 'infiltrated in all sectors.' At the time, he said he planned to order some to leave. ...U.S. relations with Ecuador have been strained in recent years,

even before Correa provided asylum in 2012 to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, whose organization published troves of leaked U.S. military documents and diplomatic cables highly embarrassing to Washington. ...In November, Correa's government said it was asking the U.S. Agency for International Development to end operations in the country, accusing it of backing the opposition.” [58035]

Perhaps to the surprise of few, the revision of the term “marriage” to include homosexual couple is leading to attempts to push the societal envelope further. According to WashingtonTimes.com, three lesbians living together in Massachusetts consider themselves a married “throuple” and want to “demolish the stigma against polygamy.” [58129, 58423, 58424]

At LewRockwell.com William Norman Grigg comments on Cliven Bundy’s “racist remarks,” “As any reasonably well-informed attorney knows, if a police officer follows a driver long enough he will witness a violation that supposedly justifies a traffic stop. Once this happens, the officer will ‘build the stop’ by seeking a pretext to search the vehicle for evidence of violations that can lead to an arrest of the driver, or seizure of the vehicle and its contents. Cliven Bundy, among others, can testify that Regime-oriented journalism operates in a very similar fashion: Have a reporter from the New York Times shadow a 67-year-old Mormon rancher from southeastern Nevada long enough, and eventually the subject will say something that offends current sensibilities about race. To be specific, Bundy used retrograde racial terminology in musing aloud about the damage done to the black family by the Welfare State—which he suggested might be as evil, in some ways, as the odious institution of chattel slavery. Mr. Bundy is unusually media-savvy for a rancher, but he doesn’t speak in sound-bites. He wasn’t lamenting the fact that black Americans are no longer required to pick cotton for other people who supposedly ‘own’ them, but that the modern welfare state has cultivated dependency, undermined the family, and helped to bring about both... a stratospherically high incarceration rate for black men and a shockingly high abortion rate for black unborn children (a development he wouldn’t lament if he genuinely hated black people). That perspective could have been tidily packaged for media consumption in the following phrase: ‘The welfare state has done to black Americans what slavery could not have done, the harshest Jim Crow laws and racism could not have done, namely break up the black family.’ Those sentences were not uttered by a white rancher from Nevada, but by a black academic from Virginia—Dr. Walter Williams, to be specific.” [58047]

At a press conference in South Korea, Obama is asked “hard-hitting questions such as whether he slept well (asked by Julie Pace of the Associated Press), and whether he liked the ice cream served at the state dinner in Japan. Another biting question is whether Obama would save Vladimir Putin if he were drowning. Obama responds, “I absolutely would save, uh, Mr. Putin if, if he were drowning. Uh, I’d like to think that if anybody’s out there drowning I’m gonna save them. Uh, I used to be a pretty good swimmer; I grew up in Hawaii [he smiles and sticks his finger in his right ear], uh, [I’m] a little out of practice.” [58080, 58051, 58083, 58084, 58091, 58098]

Exactly what Obama hopes to accomplish on his Asian trip is not clear. He will not be able to negotiate agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, which many labor unions and Democrat legislators oppose—even though he tells reporters, “I continue to believe we can get this done.” *The Washington Post’s* Dana Milbank writes, “[T]he photo-op nature of the trip risks contributing to a perception that Obama’s Asian policy, and his foreign policy in general, is similarly itinerant. He’s seeing the sights, getting some good pics and moving along—more tourist than architect of world affairs.” Obama’s ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, says, “[T]his is a positive trip with a positive agenda that underscores that the United States’ commitment to this region is growing, and is a cornerstone of our global engagement and is going to be there for the long term.” [58057, 58066, 58073]

According to *WashingtonTimes.com*, “Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has been unable to get Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on the phone amid escalating tension near the country’s shared border with Ukraine. Mr. Shoigu announced Thursday that Russia planned to engage in a new series of military exercises near the Ukraine border. The military move, he said, is in response to ongoing NATO training exercises in Poland and the death of at least two pro-Russia insurgents in eastern Ukraine. Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, told reporters Friday that Mr. Hagel has been trying to communicate with Russian officials but has yet to hear back from Mr. Shoigu or anyone else. Pentagon officials have reached out to Russia on Mr. Hagel’s behalf within the past 24 hours, according to Col. Warren. ‘We have made it clear to the Russians that Secretary Hagel is available for a phone call at any time,’ he said. ‘We have reached out to them and made it very to them that he is willing to speak to his counterpart there at any time.’” [58074]

At *Conservative-Daily.com* Joe Otto writes, “Barack Obama is a criminal. There... I said it. Time and time again, [he] has violated our laws, infringed on our Constitutional rights, and pushed the limits of his Executive Power. ... [I]t is clear that not only has Barrack Obama broken the law, but he is also attempting to cover it up! Obama knows his days are numbered! He knows that with all the congressional hearings looking into his crimes, it is only a matter of time before Congress gets up the courage to impeach him! You can tell that the writing is on the wall just by looking at who Obama has appointed as his new White House Chief Counsel. Obama has given the nod to W. Neil Eggleston. Now at first glance, this doesn’t mean anything... which explains why most media outlets haven’t caught up with this story yet. W. Neil Eggleston makes his living defending politicians against criminal charges and going up against congressional investigations. That’s right, ... Obama hired a criminal defense attorney as his Chief Counsel. Which begs the question: Exactly what is Barack Hussein Obama so worried about? Which investigation or accusation does he believe is powerful enough to bring down his Presidency? It has to be something serious for [Obama] to hire the top political criminal defense attorney as the White House Chief Counsel... Essentially, W. Neil Eggleston is the guy that liberals call when scandals threaten to topple a regime. He is the guy that the Left calls on to cover its tracks and make sure that the crimes committed are never revealed to the American people. The fact that Barack Obama chose a lawyer with extensive experience representing government officials in congressional and criminal investigations as his

chief counsel should be enough to show that Congress is close to getting to the bottom of something HUGE!" [58093, 58094]

On April 26 Hillary Clinton appears as a guest of Senator John McCain (R-AZ) at the Sedona Forum, an annual event of the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University. In a pre-event statement, McCain gushes, "From her years of service as first lady, in the U.S. Senate and the State Department, one would be hard-pressed to find a leader with Secretary Clinton's informed perspective on the many challenges facing America across the globe." [58092, 58105]

FoxNews.com reports, "Illinois Democrats are backing off a plan to give \$100 million of state money toward landing ...Obama's presidential library and museum—following accusations of voting 'shenanigans' and nasty Chicago-style politics, not to mention the state's dire financial situation. A Democrat-led House committee approved the money last week at an out-of-town hearing in Chicago with no Republicans in attendance. ...The deal has even taken a drubbing in the local editorial pages. 'A state that is nearly broke has no business spending \$100 million on a potential Barack Obama presidential library,' says an editorial in the HeraldReview.com. 'Throw in some parliamentary procedure shenanigans and the Obama presidential library is quickly becoming the typical Illinois government story—spend money that isn't there and do it in a sneaky way.' ...The state has roughly \$7 billion in past due vendor bills and a \$100 billion shortfall in its employee pension programs. And the situation is so serious that [Democrat Governor Pat] Quinn wants to make permanent a roughly 3-year-old tax increase, which was set to expire next year, to avoid having to make drastic budget cuts. ...Susan Sher, [Michelle Obama's] former chief of staff who is now leading the University of Chicago's efforts to land the library, said it could have a 'transformative effect' on South Side neighborhoods that are struggling economically by creating jobs, programs for youth and cultural partnerships." (Sher's argument is preposterous. Building a library at the University of Chicago will not provide jobs for uneducated residents of the nearby ghettos. It will merely grease the palms of contractors who have the right "connections" with city and state legislators.) [58095]

On April 27, during a news conference in Kuala Lumpur with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, Obama comments on the audio recording of racist remarks purportedly made by Donald Sterling (born Donald Tokowitz), owner of the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team. Obama says, "When ignorant folks want to advertise their ignorance you don't really have to do anything, you just let them talk." He adds, "Obviously the NBA is a league that is beloved by fans across the country. It's got an awful lot of African American players steeped in African-American culture." (Whether the league has "an awful lot" of black players or only one is, of course, irrelevant. Sterling's remarks warrant condemnation regardless of the number of black players. CNN's Paul Begala, a former Bill Clinton advisor, tweets: "Friendly tip to @seanhannity, @SenRandPaul, @SenTedCruz: don't endorse or defend Donald Sterling. DO NOT do it." Begala is likely unaware that Sterling has donated only to Democrat candidates, and is not likely to be defended by any prominent Republicans. Sterling has also contributed to the NAACP.

While the media is up in arms about Sterling, few—including Obama—made a fuss in 2010 when entertainer Jay-Z, also known as Shawn Carter and then a part-owner of the Brooklyn Nets basketball team, hosted a lavish party for reporters and music industry executives and ordered bouncers to refuse entry to white people.) [58102, 58113, 58115, 58125, 58126, 58127, 58136, 58141, 58163, 58230, 58380, 58467]

Razak says, “Today, Mr. [Obama], you see not rubber trees, as Lyndon B. Johnson did [when he visited Malaysia], but soaring skyscrapers. They are a testament to the transformation that is taking place here in Malaysia. We are a modern, progressive Muslim majority nation, a multiethnic, multi-religious society.” On the issue of human rights, Obama says, “I think the prime minister is the first to acknowledge that, uh, Malaysia’s still got some work to do, uh, just like the United States, by the way, has some work to do, uh, on these issues. Uh, Human Rights Watch probably has a list of things they think we should be doing as a government. Um, and, you know, I am gonna [sic] be constantly committed to making sure that these issues get raised in a constructive way, um, and, you know, Prime Minister Najib came in as, uh, a reformer, uh, and one who’s committed to it, and, you know, I’m gonna [sic] continue to encourage him as a friend and a partner, uh, to make sure, uh, that we’re... making progress on that front.” [58121, 58122, 58135]

The adolescent Obama poses for a “selfie” with the prime minister, which Razak then tweets. [58118, 58119, 58120]

Obama visits the Masjid Negara mosque in Kuala Lumpur—a mosque that was built on the site of what was once a church. According to CNSNews.com, “...Obama was asked by the institution’s imam to end oppression against Muslims worldwide, Malaysia’s national press agency Bernama reported. ‘Pray for me,’ Obama replied, according to Grand Imam Ismail Muhammad, who took him on a 25-minute tour of the mosque... ‘Obama also said that every day when he wakes up he always does his best to put an end to oppression and conflicts affecting communities,’ Bernama quoted Ismail as saying.” (Obama also frequently said, “InsyAllah,” Malay for “Insha’Allah,” meaning “if Allah wills.”) Abdullah Muhammad Zin, religious advisor to the Malaysian prime minister, states, “There can be no better way for Obama to honor Islam than by visiting Masjid Negara.” [58138, 58152, 58153]

During his trip to Malaysia, Obama addresses a group of students and criticizes their country’s palm oil industry. He says, “[W]hat you’ve seen is huge portions of tropical forests... just being shredded because of primarily the palm oil industry... there are large business interests behind that industry. You have to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. You have to say, this is important... You can educate your parents, friends, coworkers... [and] you can potentially change policy.” (DailyCaller.com later reports that Obama’s comments “ignited a small political fire... The little-noticed remarks earned him plaudits from his vital environmental constituency, but they also ticked off a large and politically influential constituency in the fast-growing country. ...The country’s government-backed palm-oil producers have pushed back with op-eds and a new video

offering stories of Malaysian small-holders who cultivate their palm forests to provide natural oil for use as fuel, in food processing and in cosmetics. ‘...Obama’s comments are inaccurate, misleading and offensive. We think he owes us an apology,’ says the video, which is highlighted on a website run by the nation’s palm-oil industry.’) [58730]

At FreedomOutpost.com Dean Garrison writes, “British Intelligence adviser Michael Shrimpton was recently a guest on Mark Gillar’s Tea Party Power Hour, and just added to the birther buzz when he revealed that [Stanley] Ann Dunham is not Barack Obama’s biological mother. ...I can sum up the entire premise of the argument in a couple of sentences. Shrimpton says that the CIA is in possession of a photograph that proves that Dunham could not be Obama’s birth mother. Why? Because the photo was taken of her at the beach just one month before Barack Obama’s birth and she was not pregnant at the time. The audio below touches upon other issues as well, like the Barack Obama book biography that mentioned his Kenyan birth. ...This is not the first accusation of Stanley Ann Dunham being a fake. In June of 2013 John Gaultier posted a photo that could prove that her social security number is fraudulent. Basically, the application was submitted in 1959 on a [revised] form that [did not exist until] 1965. Keep this in mind... The internet is full of photoshopped graphics that are truth one day and fraud the next. The world is full of people who create stories in their heads and share them far and wide. We have lots of those types in Washington D.C., but a lot of these conspiracy theories end up being the same. People will gladly create a lie to gain their 15 minutes of fame. I have learned (the hard way) that you cannot put too much faith into any of these accounts or graphics. Sometimes we want them to be true, whether we acknowledge it or not, and we sell out to even more lies. In order to keep an open mind, it must be accessible by both sides of any story. ...In the end, it is very possible that it won’t matter what they have found because it likely won’t lead anywhere. They could find that Barack Obama was a KGB plant, armed with absolute proof, and most of America either would not care or not believe it. Face it. We are a brainwashed nation. We will believe what we are told to believe by the establishment media.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Stanley Ann Dunham is Obama’s mother, but finds it highly unlikely that Obama’s father is the drunken Kenyan socialist. Obama is clearly hiding his past, and we may never know the whole truth.) [58103]

On the *New Nation of Islam* radio program, Congressman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) says, “I’ve been in Washington. I saw three presidents now. I never saw George Bush treated like this. I never saw Bill Clinton treated like this with such disrespect. That [Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McConnell [R-KY] would have the audacity to tell [Obama] ...that ‘I don’t care what you come up with we’re going to be against it.’ Now if that’s not a racist statement I don’t know what is.” (Townhall.com’s Guy Benson notes that Thompson has said he despises Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas because “he’s married to a white woman.” “And that super racist Mitch McConnell quote? An online search for it turns up zero results—except for references to Bennie Thompson’s tirade. Did this Congressman just invent it on the spot? ...And perhaps Thompson was napping when Republicans *impeached Clinton*. The ‘unprecedented opposition’ canard rests on a specious, lazy argument that happens to suit the interests of race-baiters like Bennie Thompson.” [58225, 58226, 58243, 58250, 58285, 58313]

On *State of the Union*, White House Deputy National Security Advisor Tony Blinken defends Obama against criticism of his failed foreign policy: “Look at what’s happened in Asia, with [Obama] leading the effort to rebalance our relationships in Asia—all the different lines of effort we’ve been working on over the past five years: strengthening our alliances with our core partners, building the institutions in Asia, developing trade and commerce so that we open up markets to Americans, re-situating our defense posture. Every single line of effort, we are stronger now than we were five years ago.” Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) says, “Right now, worldwide, our enemies don’t fear us, our friends don’t trust us, and when we show weakness it emboldens people around the world who are our enemies whether they’re in Iran, Syria, Russia or North Korea.” Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) says, “I think ...Obama’s been very strong. I think there’s no disagreement in Congress with the steps he’s staking, plus he’s gotten international unity, which is critically important.” [58104]

Blinken also appears on *Face the Nation*, where he says the Obama administration is ready to impose additional sanctions on Russia: “We will be looking to designate people who are in [Vladimir Putin’s] inner circle, who have a significant impact on the Russian economy. We’ll be looking to designate companies that they and other inner-circle people control. We’ll be looking at taking steps as well with regard to high-technology exports to their defense industry. All of this together is going to have an impact.” [58106, 58107]

On *Meet the Press*, the panel gushes over a video clip of Obama saying, “I regret not having spent more time with my mother. Because she died early. She got cancer and right around when she was my age actually—she was just a year older than I am now—she died. It happened very fast, in about six months.” Host David Gregory says, “What a tender moment, and a great life lesson in that, right?” Neera Tanden, president of the far left Center for American Progress, says, “And I have to say, as a mom, I can’t think of a better message myself... I know [Obama’s] mother did die at an early age. And he actually talked a lot about her when he was talking about health care, because she didn’t have some of the health care protection.” (Tanden is repeating Obama’s claim, which has been thoroughly debunked, that she had to fight insurance companies to pay for her hospital and doctor bills. In September 2007 Obama said, “I remember in the last month of [my mother’s] life, she wasn’t thinking about how to get well, she wasn’t thinking about coming to terms with her own mortality, she was thinking about whether or not insurance was going to cover the medical bills and whether our family would be bankrupt as a consequence.” In January 2008 Obama said, “She was in her hospital room looking at insurance forms because the insurance company said that maybe she had a pre-existing condition and maybe they wouldn’t have to reimburse her for her medical bills.” In fact, a review of Stanley Ann Dunham’s records shows that the hospital sent her medical bills directly to her health insurer and they were paid without argument. The “fight” was over Dunham’s attempt to get her employer’s disability insurance to cover routine living expenses—and remaining bills after her health insurer had paid what was required under her policy. Obama’s story was a lie. His mother’s medical bills were not being denied, but her request for disability benefits was denied.) [22344, 22345, 22473, 22483, 22601, 58179]

On *This Week*, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson says, “Immigration laws or any other law needs to comport with American values. One of those American values is respect for human dignity. I also believe one of those American values is respect for the sanctity of the family unit. ...None of what I can do, however, is a substitute for action by Congress. We have an immigration system in this country that is not working. Comprehensive immigration reform would fix it. This is something we need to do. I’m confident that it will happen.” (If a foreigner enters the United States illegally, leaving his family behind, it is that individual who has disrupted his family—not “American values” or laws. Additionally, the existing immigration system is “not working” only because current laws are not being enforced by the government. Passing new laws that will also not be enforced is a waste of time and money.) Johnson insists, “We are enforcing the law every day.” He is lying. [58139]

At TheDailyBeast.com Josh Rogin reports, “The secretary of state said that if Israel doesn’t make peace soon, it could become ‘an apartheid state,’ like the old South Africa. Jewish leaders are fuming over the comparison. If there’s no two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict soon, Israel risks becoming ‘an apartheid state,’ Secretary of State John Kerry told a room of influential world leaders in a closed-door meeting Friday. Senior American officials have rarely, if ever, used the term ‘apartheid’ in reference to Israel, and ...Obama has previously rejected the idea that the word should apply to the Jewish state. Kerry’s use of the loaded term is already rankling Jewish leaders in America—and it could attract unwanted attention in Israel, as well. It wasn’t the only controversial comment on the Middle East that Kerry made during his remarks to the Trilateral Commission, a recording of which was obtained by The Daily Beast. Kerry also repeated his warning that a failure of Middle East peace talks could lead to a resumption of Palestinian violence against Israeli citizens. He suggested that a change in either the Israeli or Palestinian leadership could make achieving a peace deal more feasible. He lashed out against Israeli settlement-building. And Kerry said that both Israeli and Palestinian leaders share the blame for the current impasse in the talks. Kerry also said that at some point, he might unveil his own peace deal and tell both sides to ‘take it or leave it.’” (They would probably leave it.) [58108, 58109, 58132, 58168]

Abe Foxman, president of the Anti-Defamation League, states, “It is startling and deeply disappointing that a diplomat so knowledgeable and experienced about democratic Israel chose to use such an inaccurate and incendiary term.” [58168]

Members of Israel’s Knesset quickly excoriate Kerry for his remarks. Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon tells the *Times of Israel* that the term apartheid could be applied to Hamas and the Palestinian Authority: “Today there is not a single Jew in Gaza, not a single Jewish soldier, and we still can see very well that hatred for Israel rules there. ...I think that the secretary of state saw for himself that it’s impossible to change reality; and the reality is that [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud] Abbas chose to go the way of terror and Hamas. Therefore, any effort to put blame on Israel is wrong and unfair.” [58142]

Pamela Geller comments, “Using the vicious dehumanizing rhetoric of the Nazis and Jew-haters once relegated to the ugliest hate fringe of society, the US Secretary of State disgorged this blood libel: a unitary state [Israel] will be an ‘apartheid state.’ On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day coupled with the new terror unity government of annihilationist Hamas and Fatah, this ghoulish dares to use that libel when referring to the only democracy in the Middle East. The country where Muslims are freer than anywhere in the Middle East is the one this dilettante browbeating bomb-thrower refers to. The fact is that the Obama administration sanctions real apartheid—the Islamic apartheid of sharia states. The fact is that the Obama administration sanctions the gender apartheid, creed apartheid, Islamic Jew-hatred, subjugation, oppression and slaughter of the sharia.” [58151]

While Secretary of State John Kerry criticizes Israel for not eagerly negotiating with enemies who have repeatedly claimed they would wipe the Jewish state off the face of the earth, TimeofIsrael.com reports that the terrorist group Hamas not only continues to refuse to recognize Israel, it is threatening to seek legal recourse against *The Washington Post* for suggesting that it may be softening its stance. Hamas spokesman Taher Nunu states, “What I was quoted as telling the American paper is wrong, and I unequivocally deny it. The issue of Hamas recognizing Israel is a complete nonstarter... aimed primarily at weakening the movement’s positions on Israel.” [58154, 58155]

At a National Rifle Association “Stand and Fight” rally in Indianapolis, Sarah Palin says, “When [Obama], our congressmen, our anti-gun mayors are protected by bodyguards, wearing guns, and our banks, our jewelry stores are protected by guns, but our children, they’re protected by a thin, tin sign that reads, ‘Gun Free Zone,’ yeah, like that’ll stop the bad guys. That is stupid on steroids! ... If you control oil, you control an economy. If you control money, you control commerce. But if you control arms, you control the people.” [58123]

On April 28, in Kuala Lumpur, National Security Advisor Susan Rice meets with leaders of three Malaysian opposition parties—one of which advocates the imposition of strict Islamic Shari’ah law. [58177]

At a joint press conference in the Philippines with President Benigno Aquino, Obama announces additional sanctions against Russia that will target an “expanded list of individuals and companies.” The “goal is not to go after [Russian President Vladimir] Putin personally,” says Obama, “the goal is to change his calculus and encourage him to walk the walk and not just talk the talk when it comes to diplomatically resolving the crisis in Ukraine.” WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The White House said the new limited sanctions are hitting seven Russian government officials, including two members of Mr. Putin’s inner circle, including a freeze on any U.S. assets and a ban on travel to the U.S. The actions are being taken because Russia ‘has done nothing’ since it agreed in Geneva on April 17 to reduce tensions in Ukraine by refraining from provocative and violent actions.” (Obama’s sanctions are largely meaningless and will not stop Putin from taking Ukraine if he wants it, but there is little Obama can do if the European Union is unwilling to impose meaningful sanctions.) [58110, 58130, 58134]

At the press conference, Obama responds to a question from Fox reporter Ed Henry about the lack of foreign policy successes and asking him to define the “Obama doctrine.” Obama says, “Well, Ed, I doubt that I’m going to have time to lay out my entire foreign policy doctrine. And there are actually some complimentary pieces as well about my foreign policy, but I’m not sure you [Fox News] ran them. ...Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we’ve just gone through a decade of war at enormous costs to our troops and our budget? And what is it exactly that these critics think would have been accomplished? ...Frankly, most of the foreign policy commentators that have questioned our policies would go headlong into a bunch of military adventures that the American people had no interest in participating in and would not advance our core security interests.” (The defensive Obama is here using one of his infamous false choice/straw man arguments: “People either agree with me or they want an irrational war.” It does not occur to him that some can simply consider his foreign policy inept.) ABC’s Jonathan Karl tweets, “Obama declines to define an Obama Doctrine but his comments boil down to this: slowly & steadily advance US interests, avoid unnecessary war.” [58111, 58112, 58169, 58218, 52819]

Congressman Louis Gohmert (R-TX) appears on Fox & Friends and discusses the Veterans Administration’s “secret waiting list” in Arizona that has led to 40 veterans dying before they could get appointments with physicians. Gohmert says, “It needs more than just a simple investigation: there are potential criminal charges here. We’ll have hearings, but hearings won’t be enough, because we cannot fire those people, we don’t have the executive branch role. Of course, I guess we could usurp it the way [Obama’s] usurped our role. But, they have to be the ones that fire and hold criminally responsible those who may have been involved in criminal negligence. ...This is what some of us had feared for the rest of the nation. This is where socialized medicine goes; this is where ObamaCare is going. People going on lists, the panel lists procedures you get, or don’t get, at what ages.” [58178]

DailyCaller.com reports that the Department of Justice “will begin collecting racial data about stops, searches, and arrests as part of an effort to reduce racial bias in the criminal justice system.” According to Attorney General Eric Holder, “a recent study found half of African-American men had been arrested at least once by the age of 23. Further, he said, in 2012 black men were 6 times and Latino men 2.5 times more likely to end up in prison than white men. ‘This overrepresentation of young men of color in our criminal justice system is a problem we must confront—not only as an issue of individual responsibility but also as one of fundamental fairness, and as an issue of effective law enforcement,’ Holder said in a video message. ‘Racial disparities contribute to tension in our nation generally and within communities of color specifically, and tend to breed resentment towards law enforcement that is counterproductive to the goal of reducing crime.’ ... ‘Of course, to be successful in reducing both the experience and the perception of bias, we must have verifiable data about the problem,’ Holder said. ‘As a key part of this initiative, we will work with grant recipients and local law enforcement to collect data about stops and searches, arrests, and case outcomes in order to help assess the impact of possible bias.’” (Members of some groups being arrested more often than others can, of

course, mean that some police officers are unfairly targeting minorities. It may also mean that members of some groups simply engage in more criminal activity. Young white men are arrested in far greater numbers than elderly grandmothers, but that does not prove that the police are “picking on “ young white men” and ignoring rampant crime sprees by gangs of elderly women.) [58128]

TheBlaze.com reports, “A U.S. businesswoman and paid CIA and FBI informant in Libya who said she was a good friend of Ambassador Christopher Stevens told TheBlaze the Obama administration knew that weapons and aid were ending up in the hands of Al Qaeda-affiliated militants in the country before the deadly Benghazi attacks. The informant, going by the pseudonym ‘Annie’ to protect her identity, said she met with Stevens on numerous occasions during her time in Libya and gathered information for the CIA and FBI on rebel leaders and terrorist organizations operating inside the country. Annie told TheBlaze TV’s *For the Record* that there was ‘a disconnect between senior elected officials [and] Obama’ as to the reality on the ground in Libya. The rebels were nothing more than terrorists backed by members of the Muslim Brotherhood; the fact that the administration was ‘very aggressive in promoting support for the rebels’ was perplexing, she said. In an example of that ‘disconnect,’ the State Department received multiple warnings not to hire the British security firm tasked with protecting the U.S. ambassador in Libya... Emails and documents obtained by conservative government watchdog Judicial Watch show that such warnings about security firm Blue Mountain Group were ignored... The Blue Mountain Group was the company providing security the night of the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attacks on the American diplomatic outpost and CIA annex in which Stevens, two former Navy SEALs-turned-CIA contractors, and a State Department information management officer lost their lives.” [58140]

CNSNews.com reports, “In 20 percent of American families in 2013, according to new data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), not one member of the family worked. ...In 2013, there were 80,445,000 families in the United States and in 16,127,000—or 20 percent—no one had a job.” [58143]

Queens, New York, renames 204th Street, calling it “Salman Hamdani Way.” (Hamdani is a Muslim first responder who lost his life on September 11, 2001. Whether the more than 400 non-Muslim first responders will be similarly honored is not reported. The renaming was promoted by the Council on American Islamic Relations.) [58150, 58195]

DetroitNews.com reports, “Toyota Motor Corp. said it will move its North American headquarters from California to Texas—and shift about 250 jobs to its Washtenaw County technical center near Ann Arbor. The Japanese automaker said it will move its headquarters from Torrance, Calif., over the next three years to a single, state-of-the-art campus in Plano, Texas. Toyota’s North American finance arm also plans to move its headquarters to this new shared campus. Altogether, these moves will affect about 4,000 employees. ...The move will begin with small groups this summer. Toyota said the majority of employees will not move until construction of Toyota’s new headquarters in Plano is completed in late 2016 or early 2017.” (California’s state income tax rates vary

from 8 to 13.3 percent, while Texas has no state income tax. Every Toyota employee who moves to Texas will therefore essentially be receiving a salary increase of between 8 and 13.3 percent—and be able to buy a house for a lot less than in California.) [58156]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Environmental Protection Agency administrator Gina McCarthy has issued a warning to Republicans who continue to question the integrity of the agency’s scientific data: we’re coming for you. ‘McCarthy told an audience at the National Academy of Sciences on Monday morning the agency will go after a ‘small but vocal group of critics’ who are arguing the EPA is using ‘secret science’ to push costly clean air regulations.” Senator David Vitter (R-LA) and Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX) “have led the charge on pressing the EPA to make publicly available the scientific data behind its clean air regulations. McCarthy promised she would make such data publicly available during her confirmation process last year. Now her refusal to cough up the data has angered Republicans.” Vitter states, “EPA’s leadership is willfully ignoring the big picture and defending EPA’s practices of using science that is, in fact, secret due to the refusal of the agency to share the underlying data with Congress and the American public. We’re not asking, and we’ve never asked, for personal health information, and it is inexcusable for EPA to justify billions of dollars of economically significant regulations on science that is kept hidden from independent reanalysis and congressional oversight.” McCarthy’s excuse for not providing the data she promised to release is that it contains “confidential personal health data.” A regulation against factory soot may have been based partly on a study of patients with lung disease, but the EPA can certainly release studies without including the personal data of those patients. McCarthy is using the personal data argument to avoid releasing any information. “That soot rule is supposed to yield \$4 billion to \$9 billion in benefits per year, while costing from \$50 million to \$350 million, but the data backing that claim up is not publicly available. ...House Republicans have backed a bill that would block the EPA from crafting regulations based on ‘secret’ data.” (Obama’s EPA is essentially saying, “You will just have to trust us when we claim a regulation that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to implement will result in billions of dollars in benefits.”) [58164]

The Washington Post writes, “Vladimir Putin’s assault on Ukraine has been relentless and increasingly reckless: Forces working with Russian personnel in eastern Ukraine are torturing and murdering opponents and holding international observers hostage. In contrast, ...Obama’s response has been slow and excruciatingly measured. New U.S. sanctions announced Monday fall well short of the steps that senior officials threatened when the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine began three weeks ago. No wonder that, even as he announced them, Mr. Obama expressed skepticism that they would work. ‘We don’t expect there to be an immediate change in Russia’s policy,’ a top aide told reporters. This official acknowledged that the United States could take steps that would impose ‘severe damage on the Russian economy’ but was holding them back. The obvious question is: Why would the United States not aim to bring about an immediate change in Russian behavior that includes sponsorship of murder, torture and hostage-taking?” At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey responds, “Why, indeed? These are extremely serious and disturbing tactics used by Moscow, which should prompt a massive economic response from the West. Instead, Obama and his European allies dither, giving Putin no

reason to stop using those tactics. When asked why the US insists on taking a micro-incremental approach, one ‘senior official’ suggested that they didn’t want to impact economic growth in an election year. [That is, tough sanctions on Russia could end up harming the U.S. economy.] Well, *that’s* one for the reprint of *Profiles in Courage*. ...Maybe Obama will have more flexibility after the election, eh?” [58170, 58171]

According to the Associated Press, Senate Democrats are likely to bring a minimum wage bill to the floor on April 30. Although the proposal to hike the wage to \$10.10 ny 2016 “should win backing from nearly all of the 53 Democrats and two Democratic-leaning independents, few if any Republicans are expected to join them, leaving them shy of the needed 60 votes.” At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, “You know, for all of the feigned grief Democrats like to give Republicans for holding ‘show’ votes on repealing ObamaCare and whatever else, they certainly do plenty of that themselves. Even in the unlikely event that the bill makes it through the Senate, it’s probably dead on arrival in the House—but that doesn’t matter, because the sole purpose of this legislation is to hammer their opposition on the entirely misrepresented crisis of ‘income inequality’ as a disease in and of itself rather than a *symptom* of a larger disease. ...Even beyond the many economically damaging reasons why a minimum-wage hike is not a good idea, the idea of a nationally-determined minimum wage hike is even more ludicrous. How is it an advisable plan to have the same minimum wage in both New York City and small town, Mississippi, where the costs of living are so dramatically different? This is exactly the kind of issue that is tailor-made for federalism (and even municipal determination—looking at you, Seattle), not only because each state can determine what their minimum wage should look like, but so that they can decide if they want to have one at all.” [58175, 58176]

On the floor of the Senate, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, “I was convinced that as Secretary of State John Kerry would place what he considered to be the wishes of the international community above the national security interests of the United States. I fear with these most-recent ill-chosen remarks, Secretary Kerry has proven those concerns well founded. Secretary Kerry has thus proven himself unsuitable for his position and that before any further harm is done to our alliance with Israel, he should offer ...Obama his resignation and [Obama] should accept it. ...The term ‘apartheid’ means ‘apart’—different, isolated—the state of the victims of apartheid with which the Jews are all too familiar. The notion that Israel would go down that path, and so face the same condemnation that met South Africa, is unconscionable. The fact that Secretary Kerry sees nothing wrong with making such a statement on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day demonstrates a shocking lack of sensitivity to the incendiary and damaging nature of his rhetoric.” (Applying the apartheid label to Israel—the only democracy in the Middle East—is absurd. Muslims have far more rights in Israel than Jews do in most Muslim nations, and even serve as elected members of the Knesset.) Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) tweets, “...any linkage between Israel and apartheid is nonsensical and ridiculous.” [58133, 58144, 58160]

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) demands that John Kerry apologize to Israel for his apartheid remark. Cantor says, “Reports that Secretary Kerry has suggested Israel is becoming an apartheid state are extremely disappointing. The use of the word apartheid has routinely been dismissed as both offensive and inaccurate, and Secretary Kerry’s use of it makes peace even harder to achieve. ...Obama has rejected the use of the term apartheid in the past, correctly saying it is historically inaccurate and emotionally loaded. I hope that ...Obama will again reiterate these views, and call on Secretary Kerry to apologize to the Israeli government and people.” [58145, 58146]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says that Kerry’s remark is “beyond nonsense, it’s pernicious and extremely harmful. What the Secretary of State of the United States has succeeded in doing, in what he thought was a private comment, is to echo and therefore to legitimize the *worst* of the libelous calumnies against the Jewish state. If there is one minority in the Middle East that enjoys the rule of law, and protection, and democracy it is Arabs in Israel. One out of every five Israelis is a Palestinian; overwhelming they’re Muslim. There are Arabs in the government, in the Supreme Court, in all walks of life, in the universities. There’s actually affirmative action if you are a Palestinian in the universities. And to compare that in anyway with the systematic discrimination against black Africans in South Africa is truly appalling and hurtful. I think Cruz is right, this is beyond something requiring an apology. I think this is a resigning type statement. This is an injury to an ally that will echo, because it will be repeated, and people will say, ‘I’m not saying this, it’s the Secretary of State of the United States.’ It is untrue, it’s pernicious, and it’s truly something that demands at the very least an immediate apology.” [58133]

Secretary of State John Kerry goes on the offensive over the response to his anti-Israel apartheid remark, saying, “I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone, particularly for partisan, political purposes, so I want to be crystal clear about what I believe and what I don’t believe. First, Israel is a vibrant democracy and I do not believe, nor have I ever stated, publicly or privately, that Israel is an apartheid state or that it intends to become one. Anyone who knows anything about me knows that without a shred of doubt. Second, I have been around long enough to also know the power of words to create a misimpression, even when unintentional, and if I could rewind the tape, I would have chosen a different word to describe my firm belief that the only way in the long term to have a Jewish state and two nations and two peoples living side by side in peace and security is through a two state solution.” (Kerry’s remarks were recorded, yet he still denies having said them—and has the unmitigated gall to reprimand those who justifiably criticized him. His claim that criticism directed against him is partisan is ridiculous; he is being excoriated from all sides.) [58157, 58167, 58220]

On April 29 FoxNews.com reports, “The lawyer for former Internal Revenue Service official Lois Lerner sent a letter to House Republican leaders on Monday, asking for an opportunity to address the House ahead of a vote to hold his client in contempt of Congress. ... ‘Holding Ms. Lerner in contempt would not only be unfair and, indeed, un-American, it would be flatly inconsistent with the Fifth Amendment as interpreted by the

Supreme Court,’ Lerner’s lawyer, William W. Taylor III, wrote in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH). ... ‘No court will hold that she waived her privilege,’ Taylor said. ‘Supreme Court precedent is clear that a witness compelled to appear before a congressional committee does not waive her Fifth Amendment privilege by asserting her innocence.’” (Lerner’s problem is that she appeared before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and made a statement not only professing her innocence but presenting a number of facts and arguments in her defense. When asked questions she refused to answer, claiming her Fifth Amendment rights. Lerner arguably waived her Fifth Amendment rights by giving a lengthy statement. In a murder trial, for example, the defendant cannot take the witness stand, claim he is innocent, present his version of the events, and then refuse to answer questions from the prosecutors. *The Obama Timeline* believes the House of Representatives will vote to hold Lerner in contempt and call for prosecution by the Department of Justice—which will then drag its feet in order to protect Lerner, and the people she is trying to protect. In the long run she might never be forced to testify, but she will spend a lot of money paying attorneys to keep her from doing so.) [58158, 58159, 58161]

Obama’s approval rating reaches a record low 41 percent in a Washington Post/ABC poll. Among independents, Obama’s approval rating is a dismal 39 percent. On health care, foreign policy, and the economy, his ratings are 37, 34, and 42 percent, respectively. By 53–39 percent, registered voters would rather have the GOP in control of Congress as a counterbalance to Obama’s power abuses than a Democrat Congress supporting him—a result that should frighten Democrats. (The poll would be even worse for Obama if the D/R/I weighting had not been 32/21/38. That is, 32 percent of registered voters surveyed were Democrats, 21 percent Republicans, and 38 percent were independents.) [58162, 58174, 58265]

Some might argue that a 41 percent approval rating is about as low as Obama can go, considering the make-up of the U.S. population. According to the Census Bureau, whites make up about 77.9 percent of the population (2012); blacks 13.1 percent; Hispanic or Latino 16.9 percent, with various other groups representing the rest. Obama has overwhelming support among blacks and large support among Hispanics, and together they make up about 30 percent of the population. Absent an incredibly offensive action by Obama (like being caught in bed with a live man or a dead woman), he can largely count on most of that 30 percent as his political base. Another portion of the population consists of die-hard Democrats, leftists, statist, socialists, college professors, and government employees who would be unlikely to readily turn on Obama, and that group probably brings Obama up to a 40–41 percent level. The answer to the question, “How low can he go?” has possibly been answered by the Washington Post/ABC poll. [58184]

According to a study by the Competitive Enterprise Institute, when the cost of federal regulations are “[c]ombined with \$3.454 trillion in federal spending, Washington’s share of the economy now reaches 31 percent. Costs for Americans to comply with federal regulations reached \$1.863 trillion in 2013. That is more than the GDPs of Canada or Australia. ... Regulatory costs amount to an average of \$14,974 per household—23

percent of the average household income of \$65,596 and 29 percent of the expenditure budget of \$51,442. This exceeds every item in the household budget except housing—more than health care, food, transportation, entertainment, apparel, services, and savings. Some 63 departments, agencies and commissions have regulations in the pipeline.” [58165, 58166]

In an interview with *The Fine Print*, consumer advocate and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader says, “Oh, most definitely” to the question of whether Obama should be impeached for violating the U.S. Constitution. “The reason why Congress doesn’t want to do it is because it’s abdicated its own responsibility under the Constitution.” [58172, 58173]

According to a Harvard University Institute of Politics (IOP) poll, “Less [sic; fewer] than one-in-four (23%) young Americans under the age of 30 say that they will ‘definitely be voting’ in the fall, a sharp decrease of 11 percentage points since November 2013 IOP polling (34%) and eight percentage points lower than seen during a similar time period prior to the 2010 midterm elections (31%: Feb. 2010). In addition, traditional Republican constituencies seem to be showing more enthusiasm than Democratic ones for participating in the upcoming midterm elections and are statistically more likely to say they will ‘definitely be voting.’ For example, 44 percent of those who voted for Mitt Romney in 2012 say they will ‘definitely be voting,’ a statistically significant difference compared to the 35 percent of 2012 Barack Obama voters who say the same. Additionally, self-identified conservatives (32%) are 10 points more likely to vote than liberals (22%); men (28%) are 9 points more likely to vote than women (19%); and young Whites (27%) are more likely to vote than African Americans (19%) and Hispanics (19%).” Townhall.com’s Daniel Doherty observes, “[I]f millennials stay home in November, this could spell electoral doom for many incumbent Democrats, many of whom traditionally court young voters to help them win re-election.” [58183]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Fixing the ObamaCare website and improving it so it’s ready to handle a second round of enrollments will cost the federal government \$121 million, according to Accenture, the contractor hired to repair the glitchy website after the original contractor, CGI Federal, was fired. That cost is roughly \$30 million more than initially projected, underscoring the price of trying to keep ...Obama’s signature domestic law on track. The price is also about \$30 million more than the reported value of CGI’s initial Obamacare contract, signed in 2011.” [58186]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A White House task force’s report made some startling errors about campus sexual assault rates, and proposed recommendations that endanger students’ constitutional rights, according to civil libertarians. The report, which was authored by the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, leads with the bizarre and wholly false claim that 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted while at college. The statistic, originally reported in a Centers for Disease Control report several years ago, is at odds with most other data relating to violent crimes, and has been repeatedly dunked by criminologists. ...The scale of the problem is just the report’s first

error. It also outlines several ways to address sexual assault that would threaten the civil liberties of students accused of sexual assault. The report specifically instructs universities to abridge students' due process by denying them the right to confront their accusers. 'The parties should not be allowed to personally cross-examine each other,' said the report. The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution, however, explicitly grants this right in normal criminal proceedings. ...One of its more dangerous proposals would empower universities to choose a single administrator to investigate the case, adjudicate it and choose a suitable punishment. There would no trial and no recognition of due process rights at all. ...The report is the first formal product of the task force, which was convened by ...Obama in January." [58210]

TalkingPointsMemo.com reports, "A federal judge in Milwaukee has struck down Wisconsin's voter Identification law, saying it unfairly burdens poor and minority voters. [Clinton-appointed] U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman [a hardcore Democrat who unsuccessfully ran for Congress three times] issued his long-awaited decision Tuesday. It invalidates Wisconsin's law. Wisconsin's law would have required voters to show a state-issued photo ID at the polls. Supporters said it would cut down on voter fraud and boost public confidence in the integrity of the election process. But Adelman sided with opponents, who said it disproportionately excluded poor and minority voters because they're less likely to have photo IDs or the documents needed to get them." [58187, 58188, 58198, 58270]

Adelman ignores the fact that in 2008 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6–3, in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*, that laws requiring voters to furnish photo ID to vote are *not* unconstitutional. Justice John Paul Stevens wrote, "The relevant burdens here are those imposed on eligible voters who lack photo identification cards that comply with SEA 483.[2] Because Indiana's cards are free, the inconvenience of going to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, gathering required documents, and posing for a photograph does not qualify as a substantial burden on most voters' right to vote, or represent a significant increase over the usual burdens of voting. The severity of the somewhat heavier burden that may be placed on a limited number of persons—e.g., elderly persons born out-of-state, who may have difficulty obtaining a birth certificate—is mitigated by the fact that eligible voters without photo identification may cast provisional ballots that will be counted if they execute the required affidavit at the circuit court clerk's office. Even assuming that the burden may not be justified as to a few voters, that conclusion is by no means sufficient to establish petitioners' right to the relief they seek." Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "It is for state legislatures to weigh the costs and benefits of possible changes to their election codes, and their judgment must prevail unless it imposes a severe and unjustified overall burden upon the right to vote, or is intended to disadvantage a particular class." Despite the Supreme Court ruling that photo ID laws are not unconstitutional, Obama's Department of Justice continues to try to thwart them. If the Wisconsin case is appealed, Adelman's ruling will likely be reversed. Democrats are forcing such appeals if for no other reason than to cause their opponents to have to spend money on litigation. [58187, 58188, 58198, 58270]

TPNN.com reports, “The Missouri House of Representatives will hold committee hearings on Wednesday to consider the impeachment of Democrat Governor Jay Nixon. Nixon is accused of dictatorial, unconstitutional actions, similar to those [of] ...Obama, picking and choosing which laws he will enforce, depending on whether he likes them or not, or basing them on the current winds of political correctness, rather than what the Missouri Constitution states.” [58222]

ThePostEmail.com’s Sharon Rondeau reports that Carl Gallups, of WEBY’s *Freedom Friday*, has issued another “tease” on the progress of Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s cold case posse investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate and Selective Service registration form. According to Gallups, there is “an astounding pile of evidence” that is “beyond description” and “beyond universe-shattering.” Gallups claims, “The evidence that they’re going to present is going to be so overwhelming that I believe something legal will *have* to happen...it will *have* to happen...” but “It’s not going to happen until it’s ready. There are legal loopholes to jump through, legal logistics to take care of.” According to Gallups, the lead investigator for the posse, Mike Zullo, says, “It will happen sooner rather than later.” (More than a few skeptics of the investigation hope “sooner” means before the next presidential election. Repeated reports that “something big is coming” from the investigation are taking it very close to “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” territory.) [58190, 58191]

BBC.com reports, “Gunmen have stormed Libya’s parliament, forcing MPs [members of parliament] to abandon a vote on a new prime minister, officials say. Correspondents say lawmakers left the building after hearing gunshots. The attempted vote followed the resignation of Abdullah al-Thinni, who stepped down as prime minister earlier this month after he and his family were targeted by militiamen. Libya has been plagued by instability since armed groups toppled Muammar Gaddafi’s regime in 2011. ...It is unclear who was behind the disturbance.” (Perhaps to the BBC it is not clear, but it is more than likely that radical Islamists were “behind the disturbance.” Interestingly, the BBC claims that only “armed groups” forced Gaddafi out of power. Perhaps because the regime change has been a disaster, the leftist BBC chose not to emphasize that the “toppling” was done with the eager assistance of the Obama administration.) [58193]

Outgoing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is giving Congress and the American people “the finger,” with DailyCaller.com reporting that she is “refusing to testify before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies... Sebelius had originally been set to testify before the subcommittee about the department’s 2015 \$70 billion budget request on April 2. ...Now, after announcing her resignation on April 11, she is refusing to testify... even though she is still the sitting secretary—remaining at the post until her successor, OMB Director Sylvia Mathews Burwell is confirmed.” [58208]

In *The New York Times*, Maureen Dowd encourages Obama to “stop whining.” “Don’t whine off the record with columnists and definitely don’t do it at a press conference with another world leader. It is disorienting to everybody, here at home and around the world. I empathize with you about being thin-skinned. When you hate being criticized, it’s hard

to take a giant steaming plate of ‘you stink’ every day, coming from all sides. But you convey the sense that any difference on substance is *lèse-majesté*. You simply proclaim what you believe as though you know it to be absolutely true, hoping we recognize the truth of it, and, if we don’t, then we’ve disappointed you again. Even some of the chatterers who used to be in your corner now make derogatory remarks about your manhood. And that, I know, really gets under your skin because you think they just don’t get your style of coolly keeping your cards to yourself while you play the long game. ... An American [leader] should never say, as you did Monday in Manila when you got frustrated in a press conference with the Philippine president: ‘You hit singles; you hit doubles. Every once in a while, we may be able to hit a home run.’ Especially now that we have this scary World War III vibe with the Russians, we expect the [leader], especially one who ran as Babe Ruth, to hit home runs.” [58240]

“...In the immortal words of Earl Weaver, the Hall of Famer who managed the Baltimore Orioles: ‘The key to winning baseball games is pitching, fundamentals, and three-run homers.’ A singles hitter doesn’t scare anybody. It doesn’t feel like leadership. It doesn’t feel like you’re in command of your world. How can we accept these reduced expectations and truculent passivity from the man who offered himself up as the moral beacon of the world, even before he was elected? ...The Times’s Mark Landler, who traveled with [Obama] on his Asia trip, reported that Obama will try to regain the offensive, including a graduation address at West Point putting his foreign policy in context. Mr. [Obama], don’t you know that we’re speeched out? It’s not what we need right now. ...Once you liked to have the stage to yourself, Mr. [Obama], to have the aura of the lone man in the arena, not sharing the spotlight with others. But now when captured alone in a picture, you seem disconnected and adrift. What happened to crushing it and swinging for the fences? Where have you gone, Babe Ruth?” [58240]

At FoxNews.com Catherine Herridge reports, “Newly released emails on the Benghazi terror attack suggest a senior White House aide played a central role in preparing former U.N. ambassador Susan Rice for her controversial Sunday show appearances—where she wrongly blamed protests over an Internet video. More than 100 pages of documents were released to the conservative watchdog group Judicial Watch as part of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Among them was a Sept. 14, 2012, email from Ben Rhodes, an assistant to [Obama] and deputy national security adviser for strategic communications. The Rhodes email, with the subject line: ‘RE: PREP Call with Susan: Saturday at 4:00 pm ET,’ was sent to a dozen members of the administration’s inner circle, including key members of the White House communications team such as Press Secretary Jay Carney. In the email, Rhodes specifically draws attention to the anti-Islam Internet video, without distinguishing whether the Benghazi attack was different from protests elsewhere. The email lists the following two goals, among others: ‘To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy.’ ‘To reinforce [Obama’s] and Administration’s strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.’ ...Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said the documents read like a PR strategy, not an effort to provide the best available intelligence to the American people. ‘The goal of the White House was to do one thing primarily, which was to make [Obama] look good. Blame it on the video and not [Obama’s] policies,’ he said.” [58180, 58181, 58182,

58185, 58189, 58199, 58212, 58221, 58249, 58262, 58272, 58282, 58283, 58338, 58437, 58528]

Rhodes' email indicates the White House was trying to avoid linking the Benghazi attack to "a broader failure of policy." Rhodes, a former Obama speech writer, should be asked what policy failure he meant, and why he was worried there would even be a connection. Of course, Rhodes is only the messenger, taking orders from someone else—whose identity has so far been kept secret. Note that Obama, White House press secretary Jay Carney, and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton *all* used the video excuse on September 14, hours before Rhodes' email was sent—and two days before Susan Rice repeated the false story on five Sunday television talk shows. In fact, Clinton used the video excuse when meeting with the relatives of the four slain Americans as they received their bodies at Andrews Air Force Base on September 14. Mona Charen later notes at Townhall.com, "...Clinton stayed on message. She greeted the man [Charles Woods] whose son [Tyrone Woods] had bravely attempted to fight off far more numerous and better-armed terrorists on the roof of the CIA annex and who gave his life. Did she praise the courage and self-sacrifice of the decorated Navy SEAL? Did she express regret that he had been left nearly alone to fight off the Islamist terrorists? No. Not even the flag-draped coffins spread before Clinton could shake her iron determination to stick with the script. She told Woods they would catch the guy who made the Internet film and make sure he was punished. Most politicians are capable of stretching the truth on occasion. But this question, this setting and this egregious... lie suggest that Clinton's conscience—if she ever had one—is growing flaccid from disuse." [58180, 58181, 58182, 58185, 58189, 58199, 58212, 58221, 58249, 58262, 58272, 58282, 58283, 58338, 58347, 58528]

Judicial Watch's Tom Fitton also states, "[T]hese documents undermine the Obama administration's narrative that it thought the Benghazi attack had something to do with protests or an Internet video. Given the explosive material in these documents, it is no surprise that we had to go to federal court to pry them loose from the Obama State Department." According to Newsmax.com, "Among the top administration personnel who received the Rhodes memo were White House Press Secretary Jay Carney; Deputy Press Secretary Joshua Earnest; then-White House Communications Director Dan Pfeiffer; then-White House Deputy Communications Director Jennifer Palmieri; then-National Security Council Director of Communications Erin Pelton; Special Assistant to the Press Secretary Howli Ledbetter; and then-White House Senior Adviser and political strategist David Plouffe. The Rhodes communications strategy email also instructs recipients to portray Obama as 'steady and statesmanlike' throughout the crisis." (Ledbetter is Michelle Obama's correspondence director; she opens her mail and decides what warrants attention. That Ledbetter received the Rhodes email suggests the White House also wanted Michelle Obama "in the loop" with regard to the "video demonstration" cover story.) [58180, 58181, 58182, 58185, 58189, 58281, 58249, 58262, 58272, 58282, 58283, 58338, 58347, 58528]

It is worth noting that Obama assistant Ben Rhodes is the brother of David Rhodes, the president of CBS News. The president of ABC News is Ben Sherwood, whose sister,

Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, is a Special Assistant to Obama. Additionally, CNN deputy bureau chief Virginia Moseley, is married to Tom Niles, a former Hillary Clinton deputy. White House press secretary Jay Carney is married to ABC reporter Claire Shipman. White House lawyer Michael Gottlieb is married to NPR's White House correspondent Ari Shapiro. *Washington Post* reporter Sari Horwitz is married to William B. Schultz, the general counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services. Shailagh Murray, a former *Washington Post* reporter who now serves as Vice President Joe Biden's communications director is married to Wall Street Journal political reporter Neil King. [44654, 44692, 44766, 44767, 44774, 44778, 45689, 58266]

FreeBeacon.com adds, "Also contained in the 41 pages of documents obtained by Judicial Watch is a Sep. 12, 2012 email from Payton Knopf, the former deputy spokesman at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. In this communication, Knopf informs Rice that senior officials had already dubbed the Benghazi attack as 'complex' and planned in advance. Despite this information, Rice still insisted that attacks were 'spontaneous.' The newly released cache of emails also appear to confirm that the CIA altered its original talking points on the attacks in the following days. Then-CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell is identified as the person who heavily edited the critical fact sheet." [58180, 58181, 58182] 58185, 58189]

It is worth asking why Judicial Watch was even able to obtain additional emails, when the White House insisted in May 2013 that it had already released *all* of them. (Jay Carney's unbelievable explanation: "This document was not about Benghazi." The Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act request specifically asked for documents related to Benghazi and talking points given to Susan Rice—and a lawsuit was needed to pry it loose from the Obama administration.) [58199, 58200, 58201, 58204, 59205]

Pamela Geller comments, "As we long suspected, the subversive in the White House deliberately blamed free speech for the Islamic terrorist attack on our people and our consulate in Libya. He provided cover for the murderous Muslim group. He aided and abetted the jihadists who slaughtered our people. The Obama State department outsourced their security to an al-qaeda linked group. *Do you think, for a minute, that if the American people knew what really happened in Benghazi that they would have re-elected this enemy?* There is no way Obama can play the dumb clown on this again. Are we supposed to believe that he is not in touch with close advisers concerning the terrible terror attack on 9/11/12? And if we are to believe that, then the question is... Is he mentally unbalanced, unsound? If he is not concerned with that, what then? This cannot stand. Can you imagine, if this were a Republican president, what the left would do? And that should be the clarion call for every pro-American, pro-freedom member of Congress. What would the left do?—and that is the course we should follow. It is our country, our freedom—our very soul—that is at stake. Take no prisoners." [58194]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer calls the email from White House advisor Ben Rhodes "the smoking document" that proves the Obama administration sought to cover up the truth about the attack in Benghazi in September 11, 2012. "With what [White House press secretary] Jay Carney has been saying, and that is

their story, has always been, ‘This stuff all came from the CIA, from intelligence, so it was completely clean.’ Now we know from [Michael] Morell, who testified under oath, he at the time was the Deputy Director of the CIA, that he never brought up the video. So, it didn’t come from him, that leaves only the White House and the State Department. We now have the smoking document, which is the White House saying, ‘We’re pushing the video because we don’t want to blame it on the failure of our policies.’ Which is what anybody who’s looked at this assumed all the way through. They’re before an election, Obama is saying ‘Al Qaeda is dead, GM is alive, Al Qaeda is dead.’ He’s running, essentially, the foreign policy issue on which the whole campaign is based, is one that says he killed bin Laden, Al Qaeda is on the run. So, this undermines the whole narrative, therefore, they have to invent the video. ... The mainstream media are going to say, ‘Oh, it’s so complicated’ and they’re not going to look into this, and without it [media interest], it’s going to be quite a struggle [to further expose the truth]. I think the Republicans have something here that really ought to be looked at, I just don’t know if there’s going to be any interest in the mainstream media. They should, because this exposes a cover-up of a cover-up. The fact that it was redacted when the documents were asked for, and only revealed by a court order is telling you this is a classic cover up of a cover-up. And that is a serious offense.” [58192, 58209]

On April 30, at the daily White House press briefing, press secretary Jay “these aren’t the droids you’re looking for” Carney is hammered by ABC’s Jonathan Karl about the administration’s phony claim that the Benghazi attack was the result of outrage over a YouTube video. Carney again unconvincingly claims that then-ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice’s Sunday talk show talking points were based on “the best available evidence” at the time. Carney also uses the laughable excuse that the media was widely reporting about the YouTube video—ignoring the fact that the media was merely reporting on what the administration *claimed* was the cause of the attack. Carney makes the ridiculous claim that the Rhodes email was not specifically about Benghazi, but about Middle East protests in general—even though the name Benghazi was a heading in the email. Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes that the questioning “represents something of a vindication for Karl, whose previous accurate reporting on Benghazi has been assailed by the administration as false. ... [T]he bottom line is that Karl and former CBS News reporter Sharyl Attkisson were correct all along: The White House did, indeed, play a role in shaping Susan Rice’s deeply misleading Benghazi talking points, and they lied about it. Carney himself once claimed that the only change the White House or State Department made to her talking points was a single cosmetic revision. For the umpteenth time, that has been exposed as a lie. True to form, Carney treated Karl with sneering contempt throughout the exchange, at one point intimating that the journalist was too jet-lagged to ask coherent questions.” [58196, 58204, 58234, 58241, 58251]

Senate Republicans block job-killing legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. (Needing 60 votes to advance the bill, the Democrats manage only 54—including one Republican, Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee.) According to the Congressional Budget Office, an increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour would cause the loss of between 500,000 and one million jobs, and cost businesses an additional \$15 per year in wages—much of which would, of course, be passed on to the

consumer in the form of higher prices. Prior to the vote, the National Federation for Independent Business warned, “Yet again, lawmakers are targeting the nation’s economic engine—small business owners—with an anti-employer agenda. With increases to health care costs, higher taxes, more costly regulations, and now a dramatic minimum wage increase, small business owners simply can’t afford another excessive government mandate.” (Almost everyone who is paid only the minimum wage is 24 years old or younger. Only 0.8 percent are age 29 or older, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. CNSNews.com notes, “A supermajority of 67.5 percent who earned the minimum wage or less in 2013, according to BLS, worked in what the government calls the ‘Leisure and Hospitality’ industry. This includes restaurants, bars, hotels, theatres, amusement parks and other facilities catering to people pursuing recreational activities. Workers who get tips on the job can be paid less than the legal minimum wage if their combined wages and tips exceed the minimum wage.”) [58197, 58211, 58235, 58258]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, “New numbers show the GDP took a nose dive in the past quarter going from 2.5 percent to just 0.1 percent, prompting analysis that America could be headed for a double dip recession. ...High taxes, Obamacare and economic uncertainty are coming home to roost.” WSJ.com reports, “The U.S. economy slowed in the first quarter to one of the weakest paces of the five-year recovery as the frigid winter appeared to have curtailed business investment and weakness overseas hurt exports. Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of goods and services produced across the economy, advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.1% in the first quarter, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Economists surveyed by The Wall Street Journal had forecast growth at a 1.1% pace for the quarter.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes first quarter “growth” was actually negative, but the government manipulated the official inflation rate in order to eke out a positive, albeit minuscule, GDP figure. Obama does not want his Oval Office record marred by a recession, so he made sure the GDP number was positive.) Meanwhile, health spending is up at an annual rate of 9.9 percent in the first quarter of 2014—the largest quarterly increase in 34 years, and on top of a 5.6 percent increase in the fourth quarter of 2013. (The White House blames the weather, stating that the GDP is “subject to a number of notable influences, including historically severe winter weather, which temporarily lowered growth.” At Townhall.com Christine Rousselle observes, “Curiously, the severe winter weather did not have a similar economic effect on our neighbor to the north, Canada. Canada’s GDP grew by 2.5 percent, exactly what was forecast. Several Canadian cities experienced their coldest and snowiest winters in decades.”) [58202, 58206, 58207, 58215, 58217, 58223, 58224, 58229]

Despite the weak economy, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at a record high 16,580—largely because investors believe the Federal Reserve will keep artificially expanding the money supply with its “Qualitative Easing” scheme. (The “bubble” may continue for a while longer, but when the Federal Reserve ends its policy the bottom will drop out of the stock market.) [58232]

According to the Media Research Center, “Tuesday’s *World News* ignored ABC’s own poll showing ...Obama’s lowest approval rating... ABC gave a scant 18 seconds to the

numbers on *Good Morning America* earlier in the day.” Additionally, “Newly-surfaced e-mails link the White House directly to false talking points that were disseminated days after the Benghazi attacks in September of 2012, but the broadcast networks ignored the story on Tuesday evening.” On the issue of Secretary of State John Kerry’s apartheid remark, NBC and ABC ignored the story. CBS mentioned briefly (30 seconds) on *This Morning*. [58213, 58214]

Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are a dismal 44/50 percent in an April 23–27 NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. (The poll surveyed 11 percent more Democrats than Republicans.) [58216, 58227]

In a discussion of Los Angeles Clipper owner Donald Sterling, Rush Limbaugh mentions a statement by Kevin Johnson, a former NBA player and the mayor of Sacramento, California. Johnson said, “This is a very stark reminder that we still have a lot of work to do. Yes, we have an African-American [in the White House]. Yes, justice happened in a swift manner and forceful [sic; forcefully], yes, that occurred today. But these events remind all of us that hatred and bigotry are far from over. I hope that every bigot in this country sees what happened to Mr. Sterling and recognizes that if he can fall, so can you.” [58228]

Despicable as Sterling may be, Kevin Johnson is not one to be delivering moral lectures. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, in 2009 Obama fired Gerald Walpin, the Inspector General (IG) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). A week earlier, Walpin had questioned the Teaching Fellow Program of the AmeriCorps program and contested a settlement made with Sacramento mayor Kevin Johnson for misuse of AmeriCorps funds used by the Hood Corps, an inner city project. Johnson, a former NBA player with the Phoenix Suns, major campaign supporter, and Obama pal, agreed to pay back \$423,000 in misused grant money received from AmeriCorps—but was generously given 10 years to return the money and was not indicted, convicted, or jailed. Walpin said he acted “with the highest integrity” in investigating AmeriCorps, and reported evidence and conclusions “in an honest and full way.” Some claimed that Michelle Obama was making a number of decisions about CNCS. It was then announced that her chief of staff, Jackie Norris, would become a senior advisor at CNCS. [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

Obama had asked for Walpin’s resignation. (White House counsel Norman L. Eisen called Walpin on his cell phone and gave him an hour to resign or be fired.) When Walpin refused, Obama fired him. Obama should have complied with a law requiring that he give Congress 30 days notice before firing an inspector general. (Ironically, Obama was a co-sponsor of that legislation when he was a Senator.) Obama was also required to describe the reasons for the termination—he could simply say, “It was time for a change” or “I no longer have the fullest confidence in him.” According to *The Washington Examiner*, one unnamed source said, “Bottom line, getting rid of a tough, Republican-appointed IG who has been aggressively going after waste and fraud gives Obama a chance to replace that IG with a more compliant team player.” Little media fuss was

made about Obama's firing of Walpin. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) wrote Obama, saying, "We cannot afford to have inspector general independence threatened. In light of the massive increases in federal spending of late, it is more critical than ever that we have an inspector general community that is vigorous, independent and active in rooting out waste, fraud and abuse. I urge you to review the Inspector General Reform Act you co-sponsored and to follow the letter of the law should you have cause to remove any inspector general." The Obama administration admitted that the firing of Walpin was related to the investigation of Kevin Johnson, but refused to back down from its position—probably because Obama knew the media would give him a pass on the issue." [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

Grassley (R-IA) later demanded an investigation into Obama's firing of Walpin, who dared to perform his job and identify corruption in the AmeriCorps program and, even worse, went after Obama's pal Kevin Johnson—who misused more than \$800,000 in federal funds. Grassley demanded the release of "any and all records, e-mail, memoranda, documents, communications or other information, whether in draft or final form," related to Walpin, contacts with [Obama], and "contacts with officials in the Office of the First Lady." (Grassley is probably still waiting for all the records.) Even staunch Obama supporter Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) stated that sufficient justification for the firing was not provided. It was then reported that the day before Walpin was fired, the head of AmeriCorps, Alan Solomont, met with Jackie Norris, a top aide to Michelle Obama. Solomont initially denied meeting with Norris, but White House visitor logs confirmed that they met three times. Confronted with that evidence, Solomont said he and Norris met but did not discuss Walpin. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was reported to be reviewing the circumstances of Obama's firing of Walpin. Of particular interest to the FBI was the intentional destruction of e-mails relating to Johnson's activities. Obama accused Walpin of being "unduly disruptive." (In firing Walpin without giving advance notification to Congress, Obama violated the Inspector General Reform Act of 2009.) Grassley and Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA) accused the White House of doing favors for Johnson. [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

Walpin not only uncovered evidence of Johnson's abuse of \$800,000 in AmeriCorps funds, he also provided information about three school girls who alleged that Johnson had engaged in "inappropriate sexual behavior." According to MaggiesNotebook.com, acting U.S. Attorney General Lawrence Brown "made a civil deal with Kevin Johnson to repay some of the funds." Johnson was allowed an incredibly generous 10 years to repay \$423,836.50—only a portion of the stolen taxpayer funds—and was not indicted. Johnson not only avoided jail, his only punishment was to take an online course called "Cost Principles." Because Walpin dared to expose Johnson, Brown went after him with trumped up ethics charges. Brown expected Obama to reward him with the permanent U.S. Attorney General position. (Instead, Brown was made a judge in Sacramento Superior Court.) Walpin was cleared of the spurious charges, demanded his job back, and

filed a lawsuit. Kenneth Bach, the acting IG of AmeriCorps, shredded documents pertaining to Walpin’s firing after receiving an urgent e-mail that read, “WH documents were sent in error. Can you please destroy them? And can you confirm you receive[d] this e-mail?” [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

Johnson was then engaged to Michelle Rhee, the chancellor of the incredibly ineffective Washington, D.C. schools; Rhee is also a close friend of Michelle Obama, and was a board member of California’s St. Hope Charter Academy. Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, an employee of St. Hope, had informed Rhee of the sexual behavior allegations against Johnson. Rhee chose not to contact California authorities, even though she was required to do under state law. Rhee even made a personal visit to Walpin to persuade him to lay off Johnson. (Misuse of federal funds and inappropriate sexual behavior with children apparently was not enough to convince Rhee that Johnson might not be good marriage material. They were married in 2011.) [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

In June 2011 author and columnist Michelle Malkin wrote that Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, “who was banned from receiving federal aid three years ago over fraud charges is once again raking in government funds from the very same program he abused. It pays to be a FOTO—Friend of the Obamas. The Obama administration’s Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently bestowed Johnson’s city with an AmeriCorps grant worth more than \$650,000. The money will flow into Sacramento’s ‘Get Fit Now! Initiative,’ which will hire 124 AmeriCorps members ‘to teach fitness and nutrition education to children and offer adult fitness classes for their parents. They will also set up school-based gardens where children will learn how to grow fresh vegetables.’” Johnson, who should have been jailed for misuse of more than \$800,000 of taxpayer funds, instead managed to retain his job as mayor of Sacramento and continue to collect federal funds—which he could further misuse. Being a FOTO—and former NBA player—has perhaps also helped Johnson avoid charges relating to “allegations of inappropriate contact between Johnson and three female St. HOPE [Academy] students,” as noted in a November 2009 report by Grassley and Issa. Malkin wrote, “Erik Jones, a teacher at St. Hope, reported to the police that one of his students told him Johnson ‘started massaging her shoulders and then reached over and touched her breasts.’ Jones quit his job in protest over the seeming cover-up of Johnson’s harassment and wrote in his resignation letter that ‘St. Hope sought to intimidate the student through an illegal interrogation and even had the audacity to ask me to change my story.’” Conveniently for Johnson, his fiancée Michelle Rhee was a St. Hope board member—and a close friend of Michelle Obama—and was therefore able to provide “damage control” for him. [3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3254, 3261, 3262, 3268, 3269, 3293, 3326, 3350, 3351, 3356, 3399, 3407, 3417, 3509, 3578, 6143, 6390, 7138, 7145, 9321, 9322, 9323, 9324, 9325, 9326, 9327, 21877, 58228]

FoxNews.com reports, “A Michigan branch of the powerful Service Employees International Union [SEIU] saw its membership and revenues plummet after the reversal of a measure that forced caregivers tending to friends or relatives to be members with their dues paid by those they cared for. More than 44,000 home-based healthcare workers parted ways with SEIU Healthcare Michigan after learning they did not have to join the union or pay dues, according to reports the union filed with the U.S. Department of Labor. Thousands of the employees were allegedly forced into the union under a plan the SEIU successfully lobbied for that classified even unpaid family members caring for their elderly parents as ‘home health care workers.’ Dues were then automatically collected from the care recipients’ Medicare or Medicaid checks. ... ‘Family members were told they were public employees,’ Patrick Wright, director of the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation, a Michigan-based policy group, told FoxNews.com. ‘They are not public employees and this was not proper.’ ‘It was an underhanded scheme to get these people in [the union],’ he added. The measure, which counted the home healthcare recipient as an employer and the caregiver as an employee, was adopted during the administration of Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, but abolished by Republicans including current Gov. Rick Snyder, who was elected in 2012. His election coincided with the state’s vote to end forced unionization by approving a right-to-work ballot measure. Snyder subsequently signed a bill that ended the SEIU’s due collection scheme. Wright’s organization estimates that the SEIU reaped nearly \$35 million from Michigan’s elderly and disabled from 2006 to last year. Of some 59,000 residents classified as home-based caregivers, about 80 percent stopped paying when they learned they did not have to.” [58231, 58242]

According to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, “Data provided to the committee by every insurance provider in the health care law’s Federally Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) shows that, as of April 15, 2014, only 67 percent of individuals and families that had selected a health plan in the federally facilitated marketplace had paid their first month’s premium and therefore completed the enrollment process. Nationwide, only 25 percent of paid enrollees are ages 18 to 34.” Committee chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) states, “In a sad reversal away from its vows of transparency, the Obama administration, from inside the Oval Office on down, has gone to extraordinary lengths to keep basic details of the health law from the public. Tired of receiving incomplete pictures of enrollment in the health care law, we went right to the source and found that the administration’s recent declarations of success may be unfounded. We need a complete picture of how this law is working. We will continue to strive for transparency and hold the administration accountable for this law’s shortcomings and broken promises.” [58238, 58239, 58248]

The Obama administration responds to the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s report: “These claims are based on only about half of the approximately 300 issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplace and they do not match up with public comments from insurance companies themselves, most of which indicate that 80 to 90 percent of enrollees have paid their premium. Additionally, given the significant surge in enrollments at the end of March, it stands to reason that not all enrollees would have paid by the date of this so-called report since many people’s bills were not even due yet.” (Of

course, the administration could resolve the numbers dispute simply by releasing its own statistics. But when press secretary Jay Carney has been asked to do so, he tells reporters to ask the insurance companies. The administration then disputes the figures released by those same insurance companies. If the White House wants reporters to avoid relying on a “so-called report,” it should release its own detailed figures. Otherwise, its response is tantamount to a child ridiculing guesses of the number of jelly beans in a jar when no one has yet counted them.) [58245]

At PJMedia.com J. Christian Adams reports, “A lawyer for the Federal Election Commission has resigned after being found to have engaged in prohibited political activity to help ...Obama’s reelection on government time. The Federal Election Commission is the agency charged with regulating campaign finance for the presidential campaigns and serving as a purportedly neutral federal agency. ...The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from engaging in political activity on government time or using government resources to aid the election of candidates. The most serious penalty possible for violation of the Hatch Act is loss of federal employment. Criminal charges are not available for violations of the Hatch Act. ...*PJ Media* has identified the former FEC attorney as April Sands.” According to WashingtonTimes.com, Sands, who was paid \$133,264 per year and once worked with the now infamous Lois Lerner, “solicited campaign donations for Mr. Obama and other political campaigns, and even took part in a web broadcast from an FEC facility where the employee criticized the GOP and Republican 2012 presidential candidate Mitt Romney.” [58253, 58254, 58255]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports, “...Obama’s two recent golf excursions to Palm Springs, California and Key Largo, Florida cost taxpayers well north of \$3 million, according to documents obtained by Judicial Watch. And these trips were taken *after* his just-completed New Year’s vacation to Hawaii, which was largely devoted to golf. ...The figures... actually vastly understate the total cost to taxpayers. First of all, they don’t include the price tag for the cargo plane that accompanies [Obama] everywhere. Nor do they include various logistical costs—such as payments for hotel rooms for staff and Secret Service. Of course, Obama threw in ‘official’ events at each stop so he could claim the flights were justified.” [58300]

A train carrying crude oil derails in Lynchburg, Virginia, prompting the evacuation of about 300 people. BusinessWeek.com reports, “Early videos and pictures posted by onlookers show plumes of black smoke billowing up from the crash. No injuries have been reported yet, although witnesses described a floor-shaking explosion that sent a fireball almost 200 feet into the air. Early news reports indicate that oil has spilled into the nearby James River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Cities downstream are switching to alternate sources of water. The derailment is the latest in a series of oil train explosions in the U.S. and Canada over the past several months. As the U.S. oil boom has cranked up, trains have become the preferred mode of transport for much of the oil industry. In the third quarter of 2013, trains carried 93,312 carloads of crude oil, or about 66 million barrels—about 900 percent more than in all of 2008. Much of that crude is coming out of the remote Bakken region of North Dakota.” (The oil spills will lead some to argue for the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, because pipelines are far safer—

and less expensive—than transport by rail or truck. Others will argue that oil should simply be left in the ground and never transported anywhere. Still others will possibly claim the derailments are part of a “conspiracy” to help prompt approval of the pipeline.) [58268, 58269]

MaggiesNotebook.com reports, “I’m wading my way through the new documents on Benghazi released by Judicial Watch and found a shocking tweet by CNN freelancer Jomana Karadsheh. The tweet was forwarded to Ambassador Susan Rice on September 11, 2012 at 6:17 p.m. U.S. time, which would be 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. in Benghazi on September 12, 2012. ...The significance: Rice directly received a heads-up, whether she believed it or not, that Ansar al-Sharia was attacking our compound before the attack was over, yet went on the Sunday news shows and blamed street rabble-rousers, upset about a little-seen anti-Islam video with no mention of Jomana Karadsheh’s information.” The Karadsheh message read, “Got off phone to someone near the scene #Benghazi – clashes ongoing between Ansar al-Sharia & security forces at #US consulate. #Libya.” That message was then forwarded to Rice, who therefore knew the evening of the Benghazi attack that it was being conducted by Islamist terrorists—yet several days later she appeared on five Sunday talk shows to push the phony “spontaneous anti-video demonstration” story. [58279, 58280, 58281, 58282]

On *Special Report*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “Eighteen months after the [Benghazi] attack, not one person has been captured [who was] responsible for killing [four] Americans. Eighteen months after the attack we finally get an email that shows the White House created a narrative completely different than the intelligence. There was no intelligence about a video. There was no CIA report blaming the video [for] causing a protest. We now have the smoking gun. So I would tell the American people, eighteen months later we’re finally getting to the truth, and thank God for an independent judiciary, because this is a damning email and if it were not for a court you would never know about this. To the American people—61 percent [of whom] believe they’re being misled—this is proof positive that right after the attack, three days after the attack, they [the White House] did not give a damn about the intelligence; they wanted to create a political narrative to protect [Obama], and I think most Americans find that offensive, and I’m not gonna [sic; going to] stop until somebody’s held accountable for allowing [the Benghazi facility] to be a death trap, somebody be [sic; is] fired for not coming to the aid of these people for nine-and-a-half hours, and somebody ought to be fired for lying to the American people. And I don’t believe Ben Rhodes did this by himself; somebody in the White House, higher up than him in my view, concocted this story ’cause they were worried about the reelection, not telling the truth. And when Susan Rice said, “I have no regrets, I gave the American people the best evidence available,” that’s a bald-faced lie.” [58233]

The *CBS Evening News* fails to report on the release of Obama assistant Ben Rhodes’ email that supports the claim that the “anti-video demonstration” Benghazi story was concocted by the White House to protect Obama’s reelection chances. NBC and ABC both reported the email story. (As previously noted, Ben Rhodes’ brother David Rhodes is the president of CBS News.) The next day, former CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson tells

WMAL that several times she “argued that we needed to disclose the relationship [between Ben and David Rhodes] just because that’s what we should do, not because there’s any guilt or any, you know, guilt by association or that we had done anything wrong, but disclosure is your friend, it protects you, and as journalists if we disclose that off the top in a story then people won’t look back later and say that we hid it. So, I did argue the case and was told by a manager it was not necessary because it wasn’t relevant—which I disagreed with.” Attkisson tells Glenn Beck, “CBS wasn’t willing to file a [Freedom of Information Act] lawsuit when I was there to try to get some of these documents. ...Of course I knew about the relationship between Ben Rhodes, the assistant to [Obama], and the president of CBS News. And there had been a little bit of reporting ...involving Rhodes and some of the talking point matters, so I wasn’t terribly surprised. But I was glad to see written documentation that sheds a little more light on all of this.” [58244, 58249, 58266]