

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

August 2014

On August 1—after a mere 90 minutes— Hamas (which perhaps confused hours with minutes) violates a 72-hour cease fire with Israel with a suicide bombing, an attack on Israeli forces, and the hostage-taking of an Israeli soldier by dragging him into one of its children-dug terror tunnels. [The Israelis later report that the abducted soldier, Hadar Goldin, was killed in the action.] A naive Secretary of State John Kerry expresses shock that the terrorists would violate the cease fire, and states, “Hamas, which has security control over the Gaza Strip, must immediately and unconditionally release the missing Israeli soldier, and I call on those with influence over Hamas to reinforce this message. The international community must now redouble its efforts to end the tunnel and rocket attacks by Hamas terrorists on Israel and the suffering and loss of civilian life.” The somewhat less naive White House press secretary, John Earnest, calls the Hamas action a “rather barbaric violation” of the cease fire. Israel responds with tank fire and air strikes. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says Hamas fighters will “bear the consequences of their actions.” [62299, 62307, 62308, 62312, 62319, 62325, 62345, 62370, 62373, 62378]

In a letter to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Ron Prosor calls for a condemnation of Hamas and states, “While Israel agreed to this cease-fire to allow humanitarian relief for the people of Gaza, Hamas agreed so that it could plan and carry out an attack and kidnap a soldier. Hamas has sent hundreds of suicide bombers into our cities and towns and kidnapped our children. In the last month, Hamas has also launched 3,073 rockets into Israel. How much more evidence is needed before the United Nations will finally designate Hamas as a terrorist organization and call for its disarmament?” [62308]

Remarkably, at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay not only criticizes Israel for its operation in Gaza, she absurdly complains that it is not fair that it protects its own citizens with its Iron Dome missile defense system: “No such protection has been provided to Gazans against the shelling.” (She stops short of demanding that Israel provide Hamas with ammunition for its weapons.) [62343, 62344]

Michael Scheuer, who headed the CIA’s Osama Bin Laden unit during 1995–1999, appears on *Fox & Friends* and refutes Clinton’s claim that the risk of killing civilians led him to reject a request to go after Osama bin Laden. (Scheuer’s appearance is prompted by the release of an audio recording of Clinton telling an audience on September 10, 2001 that he would have had to “destroy a little town called Kandahar in Afghanistan and kill 300 innocent women and children, and then I would have been no better than him [bin

Laded].” Of course, by supposedly saving 300 innocent lives, Clinton paved the way for the loss of more than 3,000 lives on September 11, the day after his speech.) Scheuer counters that the attack “would have killed no one but Taliban people... and Osama bin Laden and his crew. ... What really disgusted me about it [Clinton’s statement] is, not only is he a liar, ... what papers do you think Sandy Berger stole out of the archives...?” (In 2005 former Clinton National Security Advisor Berger was sentenced to 100 hours of community service and probation and fined \$50,000 for illegally removing highly classified documents from the National Archives and intentionally destroying some of them. What Berger destroyed and why he destroyed it remains a mystery, but it is almost certain that his actions were intended to protect Clinton.) Scheuer calls Clinton “a monumental liar” and a “coward” who failed on several occasions to kill Osama bin Laden when he had the opportunity. (For the record, Kandahar is not a “small town.” It is the second largest city in Afghanistan. Its population is about 500,000. *Timeline* readers are well aware that Obama’s National Security Advisor, Susan Rice, persuaded Clinton to *not* accept Sudan’s offer to turn over bin Laden. Former Clinton staffer Mansoor Ijaz stated that efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden were “overruled every single time by the State Department, by Susan Rice and her cronies, who were Hell-bent on destroying the Sudan.” The anti-Semite Rice, wife of ABC news producer Ian Cameron, also encouraged Clinton to do nothing to stop the Rwanda genocide. [356, 569, 590, 628, 1377, 1680, 2197, 7759, 7760, 10556, 62379, 62380, 62381]

Russia grants NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden an additional three years of asylum. [62600]

Former Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA) tells HuffingtonPost.com, “The [ObamaCare] rollout was so bad, and I was appalled—I don’t understand how [Obama] could have sat there and not been checking on that on a weekly basis. But frankly, he should never have said as much as he did, that if you like your current health care plan, you can keep it. That wasn’t true. And you shouldn’t lie to people. And they just lied to people. ... He should have said, ‘Look, in some cases the health care plans that you’ve got are really inadequate, and in your own interests, we’re going to change them. But that’s not what he said. Any smart political adviser would have said, ‘Don’t lie to people, because you’re gonna [sic] get caught up in it and it’s gonna [sic] have this tsunami that you now have. My political motto, very simple. I have always told the truth, and nothing but the truth—but I don’t volunteer the whole truth in every situation.’” (At Townhall.com Rich Galen writes, “Barney Frank isn’t endorsing Ted Cruz for President any time soon and still supports Obamacare, but that quote will likely show up in political ads this Autumn.”) [62382, 62406]

The Department of Labor reports that only 209,000 jobs were added in July, and the employment rate increased from 6.1 to 6.2 percent. The number of unemployed women increased by 227,000 in July. About 11.4 million Americans have left the workforce since Obama entered the White House. According to CNSNews.com, “In July 2014, there were 92,001,000 Americans, 16 and over, who were classified as ‘not in the labor force,’ meaning they not only did not have a job, but they didn’t actively seek one in the last four

weeks. This number has increased by 11,472,000 since January 2009, when the number of Americans not in the labor force was 80,529,000.” There are about 147.265 million workers in the United States; in 2007 the number was about 147.315 million. There are therefore fewer Americans working than before Obama took office—despite the fact that the population has grown substantially during the same period. Fewer people are working and providing for more who are not working. (It is worth noting that the unemployment rate does not, of course, reflect “forced retirements”—individuals who want to work but lost their jobs and happened to be old enough to collect retirement benefits. They may be retired, but would rather actually keep working. One study suggest that as many as 15 percent of retirements since 2008 have been a result of the bad economy, rather than an actual desire to retire.) [62327, 62328, 62347, 62351, 62352, 62635]

Economist Peter Schiff tells Finance.Yahoo.com, “People are losing their full-time jobs, housing is terrible, the price of food and utilities are rising. The economy is rolling over and the euphoric effects of cheap money are wearing off. ... The economy is not recovering the way the Fed believes it is and all [Federal Reserve Board chairman Janet Yellen] can do is buy more bonds, buy more mortgages, and print more money. This will help in the short run but undermine the economy in the long run.” [62333, 62334]

CNSNews.com reports that Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced this week the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Tax (SWEET Act), which aims to institute a tax of one cent per teaspoon—4.2 grams—of sugar, high fructose corn syrup or caloric sweetener.” (Although the manufacturers of beverages will have to pay the tax, it will obviously be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.) [62426]

At a press conference, Obama says, “We have unequivocally condemned Hamas and the Palestinian factions that were responsible for killing two soldiers, and abducting a third, almost minutes after a ceasefire was announced. That soldier needs to be unconditionally released, as soon as possible. ... I think it’s going to be very hard to put a ceasefire back together again if Israel and the international community aren’t comfortable if Hamas can follow through [sic]. ... No country can tolerate missiles raining down on its cities... no county can or would tolerate tunnels being dug under their land...” Obama says the economy is “booming.” (It is not. A mere 209,000 jobs were created in July, which is not even enough to keep up with population growth. About 44,000 of the 209,000 jobs went to 16–19 year olds; another 159,000 went to workers age 55–69. That leaves a mere 6,000 for everyone else—including more than two million college graduates each year.) Amazingly, Obama also says, “we tortured some folks” when discussing the Senate report that reviewed the CIA’s interrogation and detention policies: “In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, we did some things that were wrong. We did a whole lot of things that were right, but we tortured some folks. We did things that were contrary to our values. That’s what that report reflects... The character of our country has to be measured in part not by what we do when things are easy but what we do when things are hard [sic; difficult].” (To admit that terrorist detainees—which he calls “folks”—were mistreated by the CIA *and to use the word torture when many would disagree with the description*, is giving propaganda ammunition to America’s enemies. Obama either does not care or is

blissfully unaware that he is doing so.) Shamelessly, Obama asks, “I thought that you guys were going to ask me how I was going to spend my birthday.” (Obama’s birthday is August 4. The Republican National Committee plans to send him a copy of the U.S. Constitution as a gift, hoping he might perhaps read it.) [62211, 62212, 62213, 62300, 62301, 62302, 62312, 62339, 62347, 62348, 62363, 62364, 62365]

Obama also says, “If I had the power to raise the federal minimum wage on my own, or enact fair pay and paid leave for every worker on my own, or make college more affordable on my own, I would have done so already. If I could do all that, I would have gotten everything done in like [sic] my first two years.” (In other words, “If I could just be made dictator, I would not have to deal with Congress.”) Obama, of course, does not address the fact that “fair pay” has been federal law since 1964, nor does he mention the cost of “paid leave” for workers, nor does he explain how he could magically “make college more affordable.” (One cannot simply issue an executive order decreeing that college be made “more affordable.” He would have to lower the cost of higher education—a task which would involve measures he would be unwilling to take.) [62425]

At Townhall.com University of Maryland economist Peter Morici later notes, “The jobless rate may be down from its recession peak of 10 percent, but much of this results from adults, discouraged by the lack of decent job openings, have quit altogether. They are neither employed nor looking for work [and are therefore not counted as “unemployed” by the government, even though they are]. ... Many Americans who would like full time jobs are stuck in part-time positions, because businesses can hire desirable part-time workers to supplement a core of permanent, full-time employees, but at lower wages. And Obamacare’s employer health insurance mandates will not apply to workers on the job less than 30 hours a week. ... The economy has created only about 6 million new jobs during the Bush-Obama years, whereas the comparable figure during the Reagan-Clinton period was about 40 million. A recent study by the Center for Immigration Studies indicates that virtually all the new jobs created since 2000 went to immigrants, whereas none were created for native-born Americans. ... Since 2000, GDP growth has averaged 1.7 per year, whereas during the Reagan-Clinton years, it was 3.4 percent.” [62350]

With Senators leaving town for their August recess and the House still trying to put together some type of immigration legislation, Obama says, “I’m going to have to act alone because we don’t have enough resources. In the end, the challenge I have right now is that they are not able to act even on what they say their priorities are.” (It should be noted that Obama had pledged to veto the House bill that had been proposed by Republicans anyway, so it hardly makes any difference whether they pass a bill.) Michael Steel, spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), states, “When it comes to the humanitarian crisis on our southern border, ... Obama has been completely AWOL—in fact, he has made matter worse by flip-flopping on the 2008 law that fueled the crisis. Senate Democrats have left town without acting on his request for a border supplemental.

Right now, House Republicans are the only ones still working to address this crisis.” [62323]

Colorado begins issuing drivers licenses and identification cards to illegal immigrants. [62303]

Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) criticizes Republicans for not passing immigration legislation, saying, “It is almost as if they despise all of our children.” (Gutierrez apparently does not understand that “our” children” are U.S. citizens—not the citizens of Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. The border crossers are not only from those four nations, of course. Illegal immigrants from west Africa, the Middle East, and China are also entering the United States via Mexico.) Congressman Tony Cardenas (D-CA) charges, “Republicans want to indiscriminately return children to their deaths!” [62297, 62329, 62401]

CNN’s Dana Bash, who one day earlier chastised House Republicans for not passing immigration legislation, decides to instead criticize them for trying to do something. She tweets, “There is something surreal about all this gop effort to pass a house border bill that's going no where & never was. Total show vote—” (Bash, born Dana Ruth Schwartz, was married to Jeremy Bash and then CNN’s John King; they separated in 2012. Bash’s father is an ABC News producer.) [62298]

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali refugee and human rights activist now living in the United States and who was raised as a Muslim, tells IsraelHayom.com, “This is not naiveté anymore. This is called wishful thinking. They say that Islam is a religion of peace and compassion, but that is what we want, that is what it should be, it’s not what it is. There’s a difference. We’re just not being realistic. I think that the State of Israel is different. You are living in a hornets’ nest. Israelis cannot pretend for too long, if you have tunnels being dug under you and rockets flying above you. ... Every Friday my father and brother had to go to a mosque [while living in Saudi Arabia], and on their way back they sometimes walked by the ‘chop chop’ square, where people’s hands were cut off, people were flogged, people were stoned, people’s heads were cut off. That is the Islam of Hamas. Back in the 1970s it seemed to me that it was a Saudi thing, but now it has become an international thing. ... You can negotiate with fellow human beings with whom you have some kind of common ground. The assumption as we negotiate is that there is fair play. The problem with negotiating with Hamas is that they have a vision, a certain kind of utopia. And for that utopia to be realized, the State of Israel must be completely destroyed. Shariah law has to be established, ideally, all over the world. [They believe] You can never trust a Jew, you can never trust a Christian. That is the utopia. Women have to behave a certain way, they have to be locked up, it is very totalitarian. You can negotiate until you are as blue in the face as the American flag, but it will never yield anything on the other side.” [62288, 62289]

The Hamas fighters will eagerly sacrifice their lives, says Ali, “because of their philosophy on life and death. They welcome death, death, death. In the Hamas narrative,

which is also the Wahabi narrative and the Salafi narrative, you get to ecstasy and self actualization after you die, not before you die—don't be silly. So now you have millions of people who welcome death, and that is very confusing for Westerners to understand. They do not want to understand. For somebody like John Kerry it is too much to understand. It is illogical for us. Our logic is that we love life. ...It is so clear what is going to happen. All these countries that are now condemning Israel will find themselves in exactly the same position as Israel. Some countries more than others. They will have young [Muslim] populations that are having many more children than they are, who are high on this doctrine of death. They will be faced with completely revamping their ideas and ideals. You can already see in countries like England, where the Islamist population is very big. In France they've given up in a way. Belgium is another country very few people talk about. I was [a member of] parliament in The Hague; there is a neighborhood now called the Shariah triangle. There is a Shariah triangle in Brussels and in many other places." Ali ridicules his calls for a cease fire in Gaza: "If there was an organization like Hamas on the Mexican border or the Canadian border with the U.S., and a foreign power would say to Obama 'you have to sign a cease-fire,' he would not agree. No American would agree. No one in the world would accept that. ...For the Israeli government, like all governments, the first obligation is to protect the citizens from domestic and external threats. The removal of the tunnels built by Hamas is a number one priority for the Israeli government. It doesn't matter what people outside of the Israel say. If I were an Israeli citizen I would expect that." [62288, 62289, 62687]

The U.S. Senate approves \$225 million in spending for new Iron Dome system components to enable Israel to maintain its missile defense system. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, "The Iron Dome missile defense system has played a critical role in defending Israel's population from rocket attacks launched by Hamas from within the Gaza Strip. The Iron Dome system will remain essential to Israel's security until a cease fire is achieved, and it will remain vital afterwards as well, because this defensive system helps blunt the impact of one of Hamas' preferred tools of terror. By passing this bipartisan measure, we send a message to Hamas that its terrorist tactics and its attempts to terrorize Israel's populace will not succeed. And we can help Israel defend its civilian population against indiscriminate attacks as it continues its campaign—Operation Protective Edge—to destroy the often-Iranian-supplied weapons stockpiled within Gaza." (In the House, socialist Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison—whose real name is Hakim Muhammad—votes against the legislation.) [62312, 62437, 62438]

Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, state, "Mr. Kerry rushed to Jerusalem to pressure Israel to accept yet another ceasefire with terrorist Hamas. Less than 90 minutes later two Israeli soldiers were dead and an Israeli soldier kidnapped by the terrorists. He should now rush back to the region with no other agenda than obtaining the immediate release of the kidnapped Israeli soldier. He should insist that Qatar and other supporters of Hamas demand the soldier's immediate release. Israel has the full support of world Jewry to permanently eliminate the threat of Hamas. The Wiesenthal Center further demands that European leaders... arrest all those involved in

the explosion of violent anti-Semitism across the continent by supporters of Hamas.” [62312, 62477]

Algemeiner.com reports, “Gershon Baskin, who has been Israel’s top negotiator on Hamas matters and was a key figure in the talks over kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit, tweets: ‘[The] Al Qassam [brigade] just signed the death sentenced of many Hamas leaders. There will not be another Schalit deal.’” [62312]

At Townhall.com Mona Charen reports, “Last week, *The Washington Post’s* Tehran, Iran, correspondent was arrested. The charges are unspecified, but according to the paper, Jason Rezaian, 38; his Iranian wife, Yeganeh Salehi; and two other U.S. citizens were detained. State Department spokesman Marie Harf issued a protest that didn’t even rise to the level of tepid, saying ‘Our highest priority is the safety and welfare of U.S. citizens abroad.’ Reassured? Rezaian and the others join a list of Americans held captive—many for years and years.” [62305]

The Washington Post obtains a copy of a “global warming” memorandum from Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) that essentially gives Democrat Senators canned “talking points” to use as they discuss “climate change” with their constituents. Murray warns that warmer weather “will put added stress on bridge supports and public transit systems, requiring substantial additional investment.” She claims that “climate change, if left unaddressed, will add tens and potentially hundreds of billions of dollars in fiscal costs over the next decade alone, with much larger costs in later decades. ... Without action, climate change will undoubtedly affect our country’s ability to produce goods and services, costing jobs and weakening growth. These effects are already being felt due to events such as Hurricane Sandy—which was estimated to have caused \$65.7 billion in economic damage—as well as the massive droughts gripping parts of the country.” DailyCalelr.com writes, “Democratic claims that ‘extreme weather’ was becoming more common as carbon dioxide levels increase have been disputed by scientists who say the data tells a different story. ‘It is misleading and just plain incorrect to claim that disasters associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, floods or droughts have increased on climate timescales either in the United States or globally,’ University of Colorado climate scientist Dr. Roger Pielke said in his testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last year. ‘It is further incorrect to associate the increasing costs of disasters with the emission of greenhouse gases.’ ‘Hurricanes have not increased in the U.S. in frequency, intensity or normalized damage since at least 1900,’ Pielke added. ‘The same holds for tropical cyclones globally since at least 1970.’” [62310, 62311, 63736]

Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA), who lost his GOP primary election to challenger Dave Brat, announces his resignation effective August 18. Cantor says, “I want to make sure that the constituents in the 7th District will have a voice in what will be a very consequential lame-duck session.” (Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe can call a special election in November, allowing Cantor’s successor to serve immediately, rather than wait until January. Of course, the more cynical might point out that the sooner Cantor leaves

office, the sooner he can become a lobbyist—after a required one-year waiting period.) [62314, 62321]

The Associated Press reports on a July 24–28 AP-GfK poll—burying Obama’s 40/59 percent approval/disapproval ratings more than half-way down the story. “Asked about world trouble spots: -- 42 percent say the conflict between Israel and Hamas is ‘very’ or ‘extremely’ important to them; 60 percent disapprove of the way Obama has handled it. - - 40 percent consider the situation in Afghanistan highly important; 60 percent disapprove of Obama’s handling of it. -- 38 percent give high importance to the conflict in Ukraine; 57 percent disapprove of what Obama has done about that. -- 38 percent find the situation in Iraq of pressing importance; 57 percent disapprove of Obama’s handling of it.” [52315]

In a July Kaiser Family Foundation survey, 53 percent view the Affordable Care Act unfavorably—an increase of eight points since the July poll. The “no opinion” percentage fell from 16 to 11 percent. [62316]

Meriam Ibrahim, the Sudanese woman who was sentenced to death for daring to be a Christian, arrives safely in the United States with her American husband, Daniel Wani, and their two children. [62326]

Attorney Orly Taitz reports, “Federal Judge Andrew Hanen issued an order to show cause for Barack Obama, for Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of the Secretary of Homeland Security, for Sylvia Burwell, the Secretary of Health and Human Services to Show Cause why he should not rule for the Plaintiff, Dr. Orly Taitz, ESQ, in a case Taitz v Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, Sylvia Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Barack Obama and Border Patrol. An Application for Stay/Injunction filed by Taitz in the Southern District of TX, is seeking a stay (stop) of transportation of illegal aliens, who illegally crossed the border in TX, all over the nation and quarantine of the illegals at Border Patrol of FEMA facilities for at least 2 months necessary until these people are deported or: 1. there is a signed release by a US licensed doctor, stating that they do not carry infectious diseases and 2. a criminal record from the country of origin, stating that the illegals, invading US, do not have a criminal record in the countries of origin and do not belong to drug cartels, gangs and terrorist organizations and 3. there is a signed order by a federal judge stating that these people have legal bases to reside in the US 4. Taitz is seeking an order by the court deeming DACA (deferred action for child arrivals) memorandum by Obama, which defers deportations of illegals, to be unconstitutional and unlawful and null and void.” [62332]

Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio tells TruNews.com his cold case posse’s investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate could lead to a grand jury review of evidence. [62335, 62336]

The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* posts a Clay Bennett cartoon showing Obama wearing a hooded sweatshirt, carrying a can of Arizona Watermelon Fruit Juice Cocktail and a bag of Skittles, and being followed by George Zimmerman—who wears a sweatshirt that reads, “Impeachment.” (The newspaper then deletes the item from the cartoonist’s online file—apparently after more than a few reader complaints about playing the race card in defense of Obama. Of course, in addition to the cartoon suggesting that Republicans who endorse impeachment are racist thugs, it also suggests Obama is a drug user: when mixed with the cold medicine NyQuil, the items carried by Obama/Trayvon Martin are used to make a drug known as “Sizzurp” or “Purple Drank.”) [62358, 62359, 62419, 62420]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Tom Marino (R-PA) asks why the Democrats did not pass immigration legislation when they controlled both the House and the Senate in 2009 and 2010. The remark sets off thin-skinned House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who was Speaker of the House in those years. She shouts at Marino, crosses the aisle, wags her finger at the Congressman, and calls him a “liar” and an “insignificant person.” (Actor James Woods tweets, “Pelosi may actually be mentally ill. Her behavior is becoming unhinged. This is no laughing matter.”) Obama and his fellow Democrats did not pass “comprehensive immigration reform” when they controlled both the House and the Senate because they knew it would be controversial and any blame for the problems it caused would be placed on them. Obama wants the legislation to be bipartisan so the Republicans can share in the blame—and so that conservatives who oppose amnesty will be so angered that they will either start a third party or stop voting altogether. (Obama thinks he can harm the GOP by suckering them into passing amnesty legislation. He is correct.) [62355, 62356, 62362, 62366, 62399, 62400, 62431, 62454, 62505]

House Republicans vote 223–189 to pass a border crisis bill that, according to CBSNews.com, “would allocate \$694 million to the cash-strapped agencies handling the crisis, including \$35 million tacked on at the last minute to reimburse states such as Texas who have sent the National Guard to the border to help deal with the crisis. Without a fresh infusion of funding, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is scheduled to run out of money in mid-August, according to the Department of Homeland Security, and Customs and Border Patrol will run out of money only a month later.” (The Senate will not approve the legislation, and Obama—who calls the bill “extreme and unworkable”—would veto even if it were to reach his desk.) “GOP leaders on Friday also passed a bill that would bar ...Obama from continuing or expanding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which suspends the threat of deportation for certain immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. The second bill was largely seen as a way to bolster conservative support for the funding measure.” [62337, 62338]

Meanwhile, the Senate fails to pass any border crisis legislation. But the Senate plan may be to take up the House measure in September, and during a House-Senate conference insert amnesty language. House Republicans would then be forced to vote against the legislation, giving Democrat candidate candidates the opportunity to call then anti-

minority all the way up to election day. (The House may have been better off passing nothing, as being accused of inaction is perhaps less harmful than being called anti-Hispanic. On the other hand, the Democrats would call them anti-Hispanic and anti-children anyway.)

At Townhall.com, Leah Barkoukis describes some of the amenities at an illegal immigrant “detention center” in Karnes City, Texas: “suites with bunk beds, flat screen TV sets, play tables for kids, stuffed animals, a landline phone, and new clothes... basketball courts, ping-pong tables, a weight room, a soccer field, a future playground, and access to a dentist, health care, education, a library, Internet, a hair salon, and a cafeteria, which will serve ‘residents’ three all-you-can-eat meals per day. ...The newly refurbished facility can house 532 illegal immigrants at an estimated \$74,000 per day.” [62346]

DailyMail.co.uk reports, “The dead bodies of illegal immigrants are turning up in south Texas as Central Americans pour across the U.S.-Mexico border, and a veterinarian who ranches cattle 70 miles from ground zero has the photos to prove it. Dr. Mike ‘Doc’ Vickers of Brooks County, Texas showed some of the grisly images to MailOnline, all of them far too grotesque to publish unedited. One picture shows a corpse propped up against a tree near his ranch in Brooks County, his eyes missing [probably plucked out by falcon] and dried blood cascading down his shirtless body. ...Vickers, 64, told MailOnline on Wednesday that since 2012 his organization, the Texas Border Volunteers, has counted 259 dead bodies in his native Brooks County alone, including those of children. ‘And we’re probably only finding 20 per cent of them. A lot of people die out here.’ ‘We find a hell of a lot of women,’ he said. ‘Three of the last ones who have died on my ranch have been women. We found a dead 12-year-old boy on my neighbor's property.’ ... The federal government doesn’t keep statistics on how many dead immigrants’ bodies are recovered, [a] DHS official told MailOnline.” [62340]

The House and Senate leave Washington, D.C. for a five-week recess. Obama will spend 15 days vacationing in Martha’s Vineyard between August 9 and 24. (According to Congresswoman Marsh Blackburn (R-TN), the House has passed 356 bills that are being ignored by the Senate. She states, “We are calling on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to get off his self-constructed throne, roll up his sleeves and get back to work. Real lives, a real economy, and a true American recovery hang in the balance.”) [62414]

On August 2 the Associated Press reports, “Following the quick collapse of the cease-fire in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the White House not to force a truce with Palestinian militants on Israel. Sources familiar with conversations between Netanyahu and senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, say the Israeli leader advised the Obama administration ‘not to ever second guess me again’ on the matter. The officials also said Netanyahu said he should be ‘trusted’ on the issue and about the unwillingness of Hamas to enter into and follow through on cease-fire talks. ...]T]op Israeli officials questioned the effort to forge the truce, accusing the U.S. and the United Nations of being naive in assuming the radical Hamas movement would adhere

with its terms. The officials also blamed the Gulf state of Qatar for not forcing the militants to comply. ... Despite the collapse of the truce, Obama credited Kerry for his work with the United Nations to forge one. He lamented criticism and ‘nitpicking’ of Kerry’s attempts and said the effort would continue.” [62353, 62354, 62377, 62388, 62410]

Thousands of pro-Hamas demonstrators march in Washington, D.C. Speaking in opposition to Israel and in defense of Hamas terrorists is Cornel West— an extremist, racist, socialist friend of Obama who served on his 2008 campaign’s “black advisory council” and who is a professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. According to TheGatewayPundit.com, “A pro-Israeli counter-protester (U.S. Marine and Iraq War veteran Manny Vega) was standing on 16th and H Streets with Israeli and American flags. Vega was approached by an Arab who began engaging in a very productive conversation with him. However, as more pro-Palestinian protesters marched by them, some engaged in violent acts against him. ...He was punched, pulled, kicked, and even spat on. The mob was screaming ‘Allahu Akbar!’ during the attack. They spat on him, kicked him and punched him in the face. ...Pro-Israel protesters were later evacuated from in front of the White House for their own safety.” [10088, 14059, 62357, 62371, 62376, 62413]

According to The Muslim Issue, “Multiple media outlets report that Hamas’s offensive tunnel network—now known to have been composed of over forty attack tunnels dug underneath Israel’s border with the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip—was set to be activated during the Jewish High Holidays (September 24th) as a mass terror attack. The attack was meant to generate as many as ten thousand casualties, men, women and particularly children and hundreds of captives. Explosives were particularly placed underneath kindergartens to make certain that these ‘institutions’ would be the first struck, even before any thing else. The IDF recently published the below map showing that tunnels were created in pairs, to empty out on both sides of nearby communities. The known cost of the infrastructure—each tunnel costs upward of some \$1 million—clearly shows that Hamas was planning a coordinated mega-attack. It must be understood that use of even one tunnel would inevitably trigger Israeli retaliation against the entire network. Revelations regarding the planned tunnel attack magnitude played a decisive role in the Israeli government’s rejection of a ceasefire proposed late Friday [August 1] by Secretary of State John Kerry.” (The concrete used in the Hamas terror tunnels could have built an enormous football stadium and enough schools with bomb shelters for every child in Gaza.) [62375, 62478]

“Unbelievably, Kerry actually proposed in his latest ‘cease-fire proposal’—none of which have been honored by Hamas so far—that Israel refrains from degrading remaining attack tunnels. This mind-boggling concept would necessarily be rejected by any sane government, of any country. Israeli security sources, citing information acquired in interrogations of captured brigands, described a scenario under which hundreds of heavily armed Hamas fighters would have spilled out into Israel in the dead of night and within 10 minutes been positioned to infiltrate essentially all Israeli communities

surrounding the Gaza Strip. Waiting then in hiding until schools and kindergartens were occupied, the terrorists would then attempt to kill the children first, and then kill and kidnap as many Israelis as possible. The plot was set to take place during Jewish New Year, on September 24. 'It's like the Underground, the Metro or the Subway,' Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said. 'These tunnels are all connected. I would describe it as Lower Gaza.' Israeli Economy Minister Naftali Bennett said, 'A whole city of terror tunnels has been found. Without the ground operation, we would have woken up one day to an Israeli 9/11.' Except, the actual objective was to be five times 9/11. ...Israeli military officials reported that the tunnels are stocked with tranquilizers, handcuffs, syringes, ropes and other materials used for subduing abductees, civilians and soldiers. The tunnels also had fantastic quantities of explosives and additional military materiel meant to be used in the up-coming mega attack. Much of these explosives had already been placed underneath Israeli kindergartens. Some of these tunnels were as deep as 30 meters underground." [62375]

In his Saturday radio/Internet address, Obama says, "I'll never stop trying to work with both parties to get things moving faster for the middle class. And I could use your help. If you see your Member of Congress around home this month, tell him or her what's on your mind. Ask them why they haven't passed bills to raise the minimum wage or help with student loans or enact fair pay for women. And when they return from vacation next month, instead of trying to pass partisan bills on party lines, hopefully we can come together with the sense of common purpose that you expect. And in the meantime, I will never stop doing whatever I can, whenever I can, not only to make sure that our economy succeeds, but that people like you succeed." (Obama has yet to recognize that pay discrimination based on gender has been against the law since 1964. It is not the responsibility of the federal government to "help with student loans." If a student cannot afford to attend college, he has no right to demand that the taxpayers foot the bill. With regard to setting a minimum wage, that is arguably also not an appropriate function of the federal government and the authority to do so can be found nowhere in the U.S. Constitution. Additionally, raising the minimum wage increase unemployment among young, unskilled workers. Lastly, for Obama to claim, "I'll never stop trying to work with both parties" is laughable.) [62425]

In an interview with *The Economist*, Obama says that businesses "always complain about regulation. That's their job. Let's look at the track record. Let's look at the facts. Since I have come into office, there's almost no economic metric by which you couldn't say that the US economy is better and that corporate bottom lines are better. None. So if, in fact, our policies have produced a record stock market, record corporate profits, 52 months of consecutive job growth, 10million new jobs, the deficit being cut by more than half, an energy sector that's booming, a clean-energy sector that's booming, a reduction of carbon pollution greater than the Europeans or any other country, a housing market that has bounced back, and an unemployment rate that is now lower than it was pre-Lehman—I think you'd have to say that we've managed the economy pretty well and business has done okay. There are always going to be areas where business does not want to be regulated because regulations are inconvenient. ...I would take the complaints of the corporate community with a grain of salt. If you look at what our policies have been, they

have generally been friendly towards business, while at the same time recognising there are certain core interests—fiscal interests, environmental interests, interests in maintaining stability of the financial system—where, yes, we’re placing constraints on them. It probably cuts into certain profit centres in their businesses. I understand why they would be frustrated by it, but the flip side of it is that they’d be even more unhappy if the global financial system unravels. Nobody has more of a stake in it than them.” [62407]

“...If you look at what’s happened over the last four or five years, the folks who don’t have a right to complain are the folks at the top. Where we have made less progress than I would like, and is my obsession since I came into office and will continue to be my obsession until I leave office and afterwards, is the broader trend of an increasingly bifurcated economy where those at the top are getting a larger and larger share of GDP, increased productivity, corporate profits, and middle-class and working-class families are stuck. Their wages and incomes are stagnant. They’ve been stagnant for almost two decades now. This is not a phenomenon unique to the United States, but it is global. And this to me is the big challenge: How do we preserve the incredible dynamism of the capitalist system while making sure that the distribution of wealth and incomes and goods and services in that system is broadly based, is widely spread? And the reason I’m concerned about this is not in any way a punitive notion. Oftentimes, you’ll hear some hedge-fund manager say, ‘Oh, he’s just trying to stir class resentment.’ No. Feel free to keep your house in the Hamptons and your corporate jet, etc. I’m not concerned about how you’re living. I am concerned about making sure that we have a system in which the ordinary person who is working hard and is being responsible can get ahead and are seeing modest improvements in their life prospects, if not for themselves, then certainly for the next generation. And I believe that that’s the big challenge, not just for the United States, but that’s the big challenge for everybody.” (Obama’s claims are absurd and almost to the point of delusional and are not worth addressing individually. *Timeline* readers are well aware of the state of the economy and how the Obama administration has made it worse.) [62407, 62469]

FoxNews.com reports, “About 550 Army majors, including some serving in Afghanistan, will soon be told they have to leave the service by next spring as part of a budget-driven downsizing of the service. Gen. John Campbell, the vice chief of the Army, acknowledged Friday that telling troops in a war zone that they’re out of a job is a difficult task. But he said some of the soldiers could join the National Guard or the Army Reserve. The decision to cut Army majors comes on the heels of a move to slash nearly 1,200 captains from the ranks. Army leaders were criticized at the time for giving 48 of them the bad news while they were deployed to Afghanistan.” [62367]

The Democrat National Committee tweets a photo of Obama with the caption, “327,881 people have signed ...Obama’s birthday card, but you’re not one of them.” (Among the tweets in response: “ Maybe after you sign the card, send your wedding rings to [Obama] as in-kind donations.” “Way to be creepy there, DNC.” “All it needs is a note ‘It would be a shame if something happened to your taxes for not signing this card.’” “327,881

people need to get a hobby.” “Shortest time known to man: time between signing card with email and arrival of first donation request.” “I wonder if he had a Star Wars or Power Ranger themed party?” “Are those ‘free-range, sustainable, gluten-free’ cupcakes?”) [62385, 62386, 62413]

Barack “I will not rest until...” Obama plays his 181st round of golf since entering the White House (or his 183rd, depending on who is counting). Among those joining Obama are Marvin Nicholson, Reggie Love (Obama’s former “body man”), and childhood friends from Hawaii’s Punahou School, Mike Ramos, Greg Orme, and Bobby Titcomb. (Titcomb’s arrest record includes soliciting sex from an undercover male officer in Honolulu in April 2011. There has been speculation that Titcomb is gay; the prostitutes he frequents are male; and he is exceptionally “close” to Obama. Some speculate that Titcomb supplies Obama with “fish and poi” (“weed and coke,” aka marijuana and cocaine) during his annual Hawaiian vacation in Hawaii. Others have speculated that Titcomb was expelled from Punahou for selling drugs.) [19439, 19458, 20294, 26385, 26389, 38003, 38014, 39129, 62387, 62448, 62513]

While Obama contemplates an illegal executive order to essentially grant amnesty for as many as five million illegal immigrants, some on the far left call for him to be even bolder. The AFL-CIO call on Obama “to give relief to 11 million new Americans”—which may or may not mean every illegal immigrant the nation, depending on whose count one believes. Marielena Hincapié, the executive director of the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), tells BuzzFeed.com, “I think that will be part of it, [illegal immigrant] parents of U.S. citizens, but I don’t think they can stop there; they can try. There are also parents of DREAMers, and the vehicle for that to happen is deferred action. ...The NILC is thinking much broader. We believe [Obama] has strong legal footing to provide broad and expansive relief like the 9 to 10 million in the Senate bill. As long as the administration can develop a clear set of criteria like family ties or ties to the U.S. workforce, I can see that businesses would want workers to be included even if they don’t have citizen family members.” (Hincapié stops short of suggesting that the White House be moved to Mexico City.) [62756, 62757, 63444]

Lisa Navarrete, and advisor to the racist group La Raza, calls five million “the floor number.” (Former La Raza head Cecilia Munoz is the director of Obama’s White House Domestic Policy Council.) HotAir.com observes that Obama “seems convinced that his base will stay home if he doesn’t do something flashy on immigration, the risk of a backlash notwithstanding. But the higher activists’ expectations get, the more of a bind it puts O in. Conceivably, he could legalize a million illegals and infuriate both the right (which opposes executive amnesty on principle) and the left (which wants the broadest executive amnesty possible). Good luck, champ.” (Even if Obama were to illegally declare amnesty for millions of lawbreakers or state that he will grant them work permits that allow them to remain in the country, doing so would require the hiring of large numbers of federal workers to issue those permits—and Congress is not about to approve spending for those activities. The end result of an “Obamnesty” would mean illegal immigrants being less fearful of deportation—and they already fear it very little—and

long waits for official documents. Even legal immigrants already face incredibly long waits for processing, and adding millions of people to the queue will not make it move any more quickly.) [62756, 62757, 63444, 63456, 63531]

On *Justice With Judge Jeanine*, Judge Jeanine Pirro charges, “The world is going to hell in a hand basket and Barack Obama doesn’t have the leadership, the instincts, or even the interests to get America back on track.” [62390]

On August 3 BizPacReview.com reports that Vice President Joe Biden, who likes to brag that he’s a regular commuter who rides Amtrak trains, “has spent more than \$1 million flying at taxpayer expense between his home in Delaware and his office in Washington, according to excerpts released from a new book. ...In the book, ‘The First Family Detail,’ to be released Aug. 5, Kessler quotes a number of Secret Service agents about what it’s like to work for presidents and their families. One agent said Biden takes the Marine Two helicopter to Andrews Air Force Base every Friday, then boards Air Force Two to his Delaware home, ‘as if taking a taxi,’ according to the book. On Sundays, he makes the trip back to Washington. ...Ironically, ...Obama put Biden in charge of rooting out unnecessary administration spending by heading up the Campaign to Cut Waste in 2011.” [62389]

The *New York Post* updates the estimate of outstanding debt and back taxes owed by Obama’s race-baiting pal Al Sharpton and his National Action Network: \$4.7 million. [62557]

D. W. Ulsterman writes, “Rumors of Barack Obama’s sexuality have run rampant for years. From the mysterious deaths of three gay members of the same Chicago church he attended, to a longtime relationship with an unmarried staff member who [Obama] openly described as his ‘body man,’ there has always swirled a sense of ‘something’ on this subject around Obama. Now this weekend, those rumors will once again intensify as [Obama] spends time alone with a group of men who do little to lessen the speculations... Reggie Love, aka the ‘body man,’ is now 33 years of age and left his position at the Obama White House in November of 2011. Some have suggested his departure was to lessen speculation of the relationship between he [sic; him] and Barack Obama prior to the 2012 Election. Love has never been romantically linked to a woman, and remains unmarried.” [62392]

“Bobby Titcomb is another member of the boys only weekend that must raise some collective eyebrows around D.C. Titcomb has often been described as a longtime friend of [Obama], and a man whose house Barack Obama makes a point to visit personally when vacationing in Hawaii. Mr. Titcomb also happened to be arrested in 2011 for soliciting a MALE prostitute, according to this report from Hillbuzz: ‘In case it’s not clear, the prostitute that Bobby Titcomb was arrested for soliciting was male. The corrupt, vintage media has been hiding that fact by merely saying ‘prostitute,’ but it was a MALE PROSTITUTE.’ Mike Ramos, another friend of Barack Obama’s from his high school days, has been going on vacation with [Obama] since 2004. Of his Hawaii friends,

Greg Orme may be the one Obama was closest to, and certainly an integral part of the infamous pot smoking ‘choom gang’ of [Obama’s] days spent in the country club surroundings of his private Hawaii high school. An interesting side note to Orme is his rather mysterious current goings on. In 2008, an interview with he [sic; him] and Obama’s former basketball coach described the reclusive Orme as living ‘off the grid.’ ...An assortment of unmarried men, one of whom was arrested and convicted for soliciting a male prostitute, makes up [Obama’s] private ‘boys only’ outing as he celebrates his 53rd birthday.” [62392]

According to a July 28–31 NBC/WJS/Marist poll, 43 percent of registered voters want the GOP to control both the House and the Senate, while 41 percent want the Democrats in control of both. [62394]

On ABC’s *This Week*, White House advisor Dan Pfeiffer says Obama “has no choice but to act” and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants because Congress has not done so. (Obama is practically begging to be impeached, believing he can use the action to denounce Republicans as anti-Hispanic, in an effort to gin up the Democrat base for the November 4 elections. He runs the risk, however, of angering a substantial percentage of white *and* black Democrats. Obama’s shameless scheme may backfire. It may result in even more Republican victories—and if they control both the House and the Senate, his final two years in office may be spent doing little but vetoing legislation.) [62395]

On *Face the Nation*, fill-in host Norah O’Donnell express regret over civilian casualties in Gaza—but not for Israeli victims of Hamas—and asks, “Did Israel go too far?” in bombing a school? (Actually, the Israeli rocket struck an area outside the school. No one inside the school was killed, although about 10 people outside the school were killed—including three members of Islamic Jihad.) Former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg defends Israel, and Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett calls Israel’s strike on a school being used by Hamas to launch rockets “totally indefensible.” [62450, 62422]

Also on *Face the Nation*, Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett says, “Israel absolutely has the right to defend itself.” (Author, attorney, and radio talk show host Mark Levin—who refers to Jarrett as Che Guevara—later comments, “Israel doesn’t need permission from you, you jerk, to defend itself, and it doesn’t need you to go on the air and pretend that you give a damn about that country or its people. You got it, Che?”) Jarrett: “We’re Israel’s staunchest ally...” (Levin: “No, you’re not. No, we’re not. Canada is now Israeli’s staunchest ally, thanks to you jerks. Yes, you’re giving aid and comfort to the Hamassholes [‘Hamas assholes’]. Yes, you are, Che—I mean, Valerie. ...That’s the news, that Israel has the right to defend itself, as long as it doesn’t really defend itself.” [63236]

Mark Levin is, of course, aware that Valerie Jarrett is Obama’s closest advisor and his “Rasputin.” In *The Amateur: Barack Obama in the White House*, author Edward Klein quotes a “longtime friend” of Jarrett: “She functions as the eyes, ears, and nose of [Obama and his wife]. She tells them who’s saying what about who, who’s loyal and who’s not. She advises them about who they should see when they visit a city or a foreign

country. She determines who gets invited to the White House and who is left out in the cold.” Klein notes, “In the White House pecking order, Jarrett has more clout than [Obama’s] chief of staff.” She is “a classic limousine liberal who believes that Obama was elected... in order to engineer social change. ...She has also been responsible for much of the incompetence and amateurism that have been the hallmarks of Obama’s time in office. Indeed, Jarrett has been on the wrong side of practically every consequential issue to come across [Obama’s] desk.” Jarrett reportedly encouraged Obama to “go for broke” with health care reform; pushed Obama to visit Copenhagen in a failed attempt to win the 2016 Olympics for Chicago; approved the \$535 million Solyndra loan guarantee (Jarrett had close ties to the George Kaiser Family Foundation, which controlled 35.7 percent of Solyndra); drove chief of staff William Daley to resign with her backstabbing maneuvering; ridiculed U.S. Chamber of Commerce head Tom Donahue; and urged Obama *not* to approve the mission to kill Osama bin Laden.” (There was also the White House dinner party at which Jarrett insulted a uniformed, medal-wearing U.S. military officer by calling him “garçon” and asking for “another glass of wine.” The officer graciously got Jarrett her drink, and chose not to pour it over her head.) [17280, 17281, 63237, 63238, 63239]

Klein asks, “If Jarrett is wrong so often, why does ...Obama trust her above all others and continue to run every decision by her? In part, her influence stems from the fact that Jarrett is [Obama’s] trusted watchdog. She protects the vainglorious and thin-skinned Obama from critics and complainers who might deflate his ego. No one gets past Jarrett and sees [Obama] if they have a grievance, or a chip on their shoulder, or even an incompatible point of view. That goes for such high-profile supporters as Oprah Winfrey and Caroline Kennedy, who have been largely frozen out of the White House because Jarrett believes they would use the opportunity of a meeting with Obama to push their own competing agenda. ...Throughout her career, Jarrett has failed upward. Today she is at the pinnacle of power as Michelle Obama’s closest confidant and Barack Obama’s political soul mate. Though she is the White House official responsible for ‘public engagement,’ she has conspicuously failed to engage. I heard this complaint about Jarrett from practically everyone I interviewed—Republicans and Democrats, African Americans and Jews. They all blamed Jarrett for keeping [Obama] isolated even from those whose good opinion he needed the most. Despite her lack of international experience and background in economics and fiscal policy, she is in many ways the *de facto* president. Against the advice of more seasoned advisers, Jarrett steers [Obama] toward decisions that make our economy less robust and our nation less safe. ‘I was at a dinner where Valerie sat at our table for ten minutes, and I wasn’t particularly impressed,’ a major Obama donor told me. ‘She didn’t say anything interesting. I expected her to be smarter. She ain’t no Karl Rove. Karl Rove would eat her for breakfast.’” [63237, 63238, 63239]

On *State of the Union*, Texas Governor Rick Perry states “we are at record highs” with regard to the number of illegal immigrants caught crossing the border who are from Pakistan, Syria, and Afghanistan. “We say it’s time to secure the border. ...And [Obama] refuses to lead on this, from my perspective.” [62423, 62476]

Leftist panelist Juan Williams defends Obama on *Fox News Sunday*, arguing that the Tea Party is nothing but old white people who oppose Obama because they are racists: “If you look at the core constituency—the people who are in, let’s say, tea party opposition, support of impeachment—there’s no diversity. It’s a white, older group of people. I would say if you just break it down as a matter of political analysis and say, ‘Who is this group?’ it reminds me that the Republican Party has become almost a completely white party. ...The core constituency—the people who want him impeached—they’re almost all white, and they’re all older and guess what? They’re all in the far-right wing of the Republican Party.” [62383, 62384, 62393, 62411]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Steve King (R-IA) reacts to the possibility that Obama may violate the Constitution and grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants: “Well, none of us want to do the thing that’s left for us as an alternative, but if [Obama] has decided that he’s simply not going to enforce any immigration law ...I think Congress has to sit down and have a serious look at the rest of this Constitution. And that includes that I-word that we don’t want to say, and I only say that now on this program because I want to encourage [Obama]. ‘Please don’t put America into a constitutional crisis. Please don’t do that. There’s too much at stake in this country to be deciding that you can take over the Constitution and write it at will.’” Host Chris Wallace asks, “But you’re saying that if he were to do that, then impeachment would be on the table?” King replies, “Where would we draw the line otherwise? If that’s not enough to bring that about, then I don’t know what would be. We’ve never seen anything in this country like [Obama who] says ‘I’m going to make up all immigration law that I choose, and I’m gonna drive this thing regardless of the resistance from Congress.’” [62396, 62421, 62424]

Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, states, “I can understand why people are scared of Ebola. It’s deadly. It’s gruesome death. It’s a terrible, merciless virus. ...We care for our own. We bring people home if they need to come home, and we will stop the outbreak in Africa, but it’s not going to be quick, it’s not going to be easy, and it’s quite possible we’ll see it get worse before it gets better there. ...But the single most important thing we can do to protect Americans is to stop the spread of disease around the world. That may sound counter-intuitive but the fact is, what we do in public health is stop problems at the source. And the source here is in Africa. That’s why we’re surging and putting 50 CDC disease control specialists on the ground [in Africa] to help them find, respond to and stop the spread of the disease.” (According to *Army Times*, Ebola’s “stable nature in aerosol make[s] it attractive as a potential biological weapon.”) [62426, 62443, 62470, 62471, 62590]

TheBlaze.com reports, “A correspondent covering the Gaza conflict for a Finnish media outlet reported seeing a rocket being launched from Gaza City’s main hospital, Shifa, but later lashed out at the pro-Israel media for its ‘disgusting’ use of her report as a ‘propaganda weapon.’ The report filed by Aishi Zidan of Finland’s Helsingin Sanomat noted that the rocket was fired from the backyard of the hospital. Israel has widely derided Hamas for what it calls a human shields policy, hiding its military assets and firing from behind civilian sites including mosques, schools and hospitals. ...Following

the posting of her report on pro-Israel blogs, Zidan took to Facebook this weekend, writing, ‘Don’t use me as your propaganda weapon.’” [62397, 64739]

In Iraq, according to Reuters, ISIS fighters take control over the nation’s “biggest dam, an oilfield and three more towns... after inflicting their first major defeat on Kurdish forces since sweeping across much of northern Iraq in June. Capture of the electricity-generating Mosul Dam, after an offensive of barely 24 hours, could give the Sunni militants the ability to flood major Iraqi cities or withhold water from farms, raising the stakes in their bid to topple Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's Shi'ite-led government.” [62439, 62440]

Running for reelection, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan tells supporters at a rally that Israel will “drown in the blood it sheds. ...Just like Hitler, who sought to establish a race free of all faults, Israel is chasing after the same target. They kill women so that they will not give birth to Palestinians; they kill babies so that they won’t grow up; they kill men so they can’t defend their country.” (Erdogan, a corrupt politician and fierce Jew-hater who is slowly converting Turkey from a more secular society to an Islamist state, is Obama’s closet friend among foreign leaders.) [62432, 62443, 62585]

At NYPost.com Edward Klein writes, “In an echo of 2008—when Ted and Caroline Kennedy backed upstart Barack Obama over Hillary Rodham Clinton—members of the Kennedy clan have been quietly wooing Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren [D-MA] and encouraging her to throw her hat in the ring, sources tell me. The question of whom to back in the 2016 presidential race has split the Kennedys down the middle. Robert Kennedy’s widow, Ethel, and their eldest son, former US Rep. Joe Kennedy II, favor Warren—the darling of the party’s left-wing base who now sits in Ted Kennedy’s old seat—while Bobby Jr. and Max Kennedy remain loyal to Hillary Clinton. Over the past several weeks, the Kennedys have tried to settle their family quarrel by inviting Clinton and Warren to their compound in Hyannis Port, where each woman has been put through a kind of audition for the role of party standard-bearer. Clinton and Warren were feted on separate occasions at a catered buffet lunch under a large tent. In addition, Hillary and Bill Clinton were treated to a sail aboard the Kennedy schooner, the Maya. ...My sources say Obama authorized chief political adviser Valerie Jarrett to hold a series of secret meetings with Warren to encourage her to challenge Clinton. Though Warren has yet to make a commitment about 2016, she and her advisers have been secretly sounding out wealthy Democratic donors about a potential run. What worries Hillary even more is that Bill Clinton’s private polling shows Warren gaining on Hillary in precincts in key states.” [62398]

In Hawaii, challenger David Ige leads Governor Neil Abercrombie by 18 points in a poll leading up to the state’s Democrat primary. In November, Republican James “Duke” Aiona has a good chance of defeating whoever wins the primary. (Abercrombie is a former member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus who worked openly with the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and was linked to the Marxist “New Party,” to which Obama belonged when he first ran for the Illinois State Senate. The anti-Israel Abercrombie attended the University of Hawaii with Obama’s alleged Kenyan father,

Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. At various times Abercrombie has claimed he never saw Obama with Stanley Ann Dunham; at other times he claimed he saw them together at parties and with their child. While in Congress in 2006, Abercrombie voted against suspending aid to Hamas. Abercrombie's wife, Nancie Caraway, is a member of the DSA's Feminist Commission. Abercrombie's inconsistent statements and actions with regard to Obama's birth certificate have been noted previously in this *Timeline*. Abercrombie once told the *Los Angeles Times*, "Maybe I'm the only one in the country that [sic; who] could look you right in the eye right now and tell you, 'I was here when that baby [Obama] was born'"—a statement that may sound significant at first but essentially means nothing more than "I was in Hawaii in August of 1961." Tens of thousands of Hawaiians can make that same statement. Shortly before Dr. Neal Palafox was set to head Hawaii's Department of Health, Abercrombie replaced him with Loretta Fuddy—who then somehow was able to "find" the Obama birth certificate that no one else could find. Fuddy is then mysteriously killed in a plane crash—a crash in which everyone survives but her. Fuddy was a member of the Subud cult, which was founded in Indonesia and had followers and offices in Chicago, Seattle, and Hawaii. Obama's mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, has been linked to the cult, and Subud's founder, Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo, bears an eerily strange resemblance to Obama.) [72, 243, 244, 253, 388, 408, 422, 431, 562, 783, 1280, 1281, 1362, 1987, 7873, 7874, 7875, 13046, 13068, 13624, 13647, 13667, 16603, 16607, 16612, 16613, 16614, 16641, 16649, 16667, 16690, 16691, 16793, 16793, 17016, 17019, 17026, 17030, 17038, 17039, 17044, 17045, 17049, 17053, 17059, 17062, 17071, 17076, 17078, 17088, 17089, 17090, 17091, 17121, 17164, 17167, 17168, 17261, 18059, 18090, 18289, 18290, 18323, 18345, 20083, 20179, 20180, 20181, 20182, 20272, 52380, 52381, 52399, 52400, 52404, 52414, 52415, 52422, 52464, 52465, 52469, 52471, 52478, 52527, 52723, 52760, 52772, 52812, 53394, 53396, 62456, 62630, 62631, 62632, 62693]

Radio talk show host Michael Savage, who also has a PhD in epidemiology, writes at WND.com: "The madness of Ebola is only matched by the madness of America. ... And yet, the morons who are running America are bringing infected patients to America, allegedly to treat them, but we all know it is an untreatable disease. It can only be managed. The entire story of bringing these Ebola patients from West Africa to America stinks to high Heaven. There is much more involved. ... Why are they bringing patients to Atlanta when they should be treated in Africa? ... So here are some questions. All these experts on television are telling us it's perfectly safe and we need not worry. And the lamest answer comes when you ask them how the medical doctor who they brought to Atlanta contracted Ebola in Africa. Their answer is always the same: 'Oh, an accidental needle prick.' This is nonsense. It is possible they were experimenting on the poor African villagers and the disease got out of control. Now, they are bringing in highly infectious patients into this nation that is Ebola-free. In doing so, they are violating the primary rule of contagion: isolation. They are now using this: 'We must fight our fears or remain compassionate.' This story is unraveling. Now let's follow the money. A recent USA Today article had this headline: 'NIH to launch early Ebola vaccine trial in September.' What does that mean? Well, what it means is this: Until the current outbreak of Ebola, many in the industry said there was not a great need for an Ebola vaccine, because the virus only caused 10-100 infections per year. But that's all changed. ... So

what's going on is that the FDA is making exceptions to its usually stringent rules for drug development in evaluating treatments for Ebola. And as a result, they're speeding forward with a stage I trial with a man-made antibody treatment. We all know that for the full-blown Ebola hemorrhagic virus, there is no drug on the planet that is going to cure it. But as of now, in the monkey model there are drugs that can arrest early stages of infection. Why have they brought an infected doctor and another patient from the area of contagion to Emory University in the U.S. when these individuals could be treated just as well in Africa? Perhaps they are using these two patients as guinea pigs in a trial for a new vaccine from which billions are to be made if successful." [62404]

In an interview with TheDailyBell.com, investor and economist Marc Faber states, "Economically, there is not much that pleases me because I think we are in an economy that is on steroids—in other words, the money printing—and the money printing goes essentially to wealthy people. Of course, they spend and as a result of the asset bubbles, temporarily the economy improves worldwide but it's not sustainable growth. ...So economically, I'm actually more pessimistic today than I have been in a long time. That does not imply that asset markets cannot go higher. That is a possibility and, in fact, I hope the US market goes ballistic and creates a gigantic bubble, which will then embarrass the Federal Reserve because every bubble eventually gets deflated. ...We have a two-tier economy. We have an economy of well-to-do people... but I'm not happy about the fact that the typical household and the working class worldwide is not doing well. And what will eventually happen and has begun to happen... when you have rising wealth inequality, eventually you have politicians that will not assume personal responsibility for the rising wealth inequality that is largely fostered by monetary policies by central banks, notably the Federal Reserve. They will then go to the public, like [New York City's communist mayor] Bill de Blasio, and say, 'Look, if you are not doing well it's the fault of the rich people. The rich people are ripping you off.' The rich people aren't ripping off anyone. They just took advantage of a situation that was given to them by the Federal Reserve. ...And in Europe and everywhere I hear more and more talk about taxing the rich and that is going to happen. It's not going to help. Redistribution of wealth eventually ends up in redistributing poverty." [62442]

"...My inclination is to believe that the central banks eventually will have to make a choice. They have created asset bubbles. At the same time, the economy has hardly recovered. What will happen when the asset bubbles burst again, say the stock market goes down 20 percent, the property market goes down and so forth? What will be in the mind of the Federal Reserve and other central banks? What will be in their minds is more money printing will do less damage than no money printing. And so the asset purchases, the QE I, II, III, IV will go on to what I predicted in 2009: It will go to QE 99. And as a result of that, not only the US dollar but all currencies will lose in value against some assets, irregularly at times. Real estate will go up at times. At times commodities will go up at times. Stocks and bonds will go up at times. Buy my inclination is to think that when this all happens and even before—because the market is a discounting mechanism—is that gold and silver will again appreciate against the US dollar. ...I think that in general, future historians will have a very negative view about the great experiment to boost economic activity with monetary measures via creating asset

inflation. I think this view will be very badly discredited. Now, we have to understand it will take some time for this to happen because you have the neo-Keynesians, these are the people like Martin Wolf at the *Financial Times* and Mr. Paul Krugman at the *New York Times* and Mr. Rosengren at the Boston Fed and Larry Summers, who, if there is a failure in the asset markets or in the economy and so forth, will say the reason the policies didn't work is because we didn't do enough. That may go on for quite some time but I can tell you that I see more and more people, young people, who no longer consider the Austrian economic theory to be heresy. And it isn't heresy. It's essentially common sense, a historical approach to economics. I think that eventually, future economic history books will condemn Mr. Greenspan, Mr. Bernanke and Ms. Yellen very badly." [62442]

"...My opinion is that the more unemployment benefits and disability benefits you give to people, the more people will make a choice between working and actually collecting benefits. And say a family, a husband and wife, two children—if one of the couple loses the job, he or she will become eligible for benefits and she or he can then take care of the children and the household and garden and this and that and get the benefits. So for him to actually go back into the workforce is only an option if the salary he will get is very high. Otherwise, by going back into the labor force he loses all the benefits, has to hire someone to look after the children or the house and so forth, so it may be actually a benefit for him not to work. I think we have today in the world an entire generation who no longer wants to wake up at 7:00 in the morning and go to work at 8:00 or 9:00 in the morning and then come home at 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening and be pushed around by a boss. There's a generation of people who would rather do relatively little. They may opt to live with their parents in the basement or wherever that may be, so they have no responsibility to pay the rent for a house or to buy a house. They may drive around daddy or mommy's car and so forth. So I believe we have a structural change where people actually prefer to not do very much. It's interesting. I just read today a survey of the army. Apparently, 70 percent of the people who apply to join the army in the US are rejected because they're useless. They're useless. You can imagine—the army doesn't have the highest standards, they're not the standards of Goldman Sachs. If 70 percent of the people there are rejected you can imagine how many useless people there are. I'm not singling out the US in this respect; this also happens in other countries." [62442]

On August 4 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tweets a birthday message to Obama: "...Hope today brings you much laughter, great joy & lots of cake... dark chocolate, of course!" (It can be assumed that Obama will have to eat the cake to find out what is in it.) [62506]

Russians mock Obama's birthday by hanging a huge banner across from the U.S. embassy in Moscow that depicts him as the "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" monkeys. In the evening, images of Obama eating a banana and the words "Happy Birthday" are projected on the embassy building. (Americans, of course, need no help from Russia in mocking Obama.) [62536, 62537, 62538]

In a radio interview with Iowa host Steve Deace, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee says "there's no doubt" that Obama "has done plenty of things worthy of

impeachment. From a governmental standpoint you're not going to see it accomplished with this Senate. But I think it's an important argument to make that there are a number of things [Obama] has done in the overuse of the executive power, his complete ignoring of the law, even his own law. [He] passes Obamacare and when the Republicans want to change it, the answer is, 'It's the law of the land'—until it isn't the law of the land, until he wants to give over 40 exemptions to his pals. Well, you can't do that." Huckabee says that as governor "I would love to have been able to just make up the law as it suited me, but I put my hand on the Bible and I swore that I would uphold the Constitution—not my... own opinions." [62548]

At USA Today.com Jonah Goldberg writes, "World War I started one century ago. ...For most Americans, the war is like algebra or frog anatomy—something you have to study briefly in school but then never have to think about again. ...But the truth is that almost no modern event can hold a candle to it. George Kennan observed that when studying the maladies of the 20th century, 'all the lines of inquiry lead back to World War I.' ...Without World War I, you don't get the second—a poignant irony given that the former was sold as the 'war to end all wars.' The terms imposed on Germany... made another war virtually inevitable. ...Without the first war, the Bolsheviks almost surely would never have come to power in Russia. That led to the Soviet Union's mass murder, Eastern Europe's enslavement, the Cold War and, of course, Vladimir Putin's career. The Middle East's travails can be traced in no small part to the Ottoman Empire's dissolution at the end of WWI. Dividing their spoils, the British and French drew most of the contours of the Arab world to their benefit. ...[T]he resulting maps have fed countless conflicts and resentments ever since. ...And then there's America. ...'I believe it is no exaggeration,' wrote sociologist Robert Nisbet, 'to say that the West's first real experience with totalitarianism—political absolutism extended into every possible area of culture and society, education, religion, industry, the arts, local community and family included, with a kind of terror always waiting in the wings—came with the American war state under Woodrow Wilson.' Wilson introduced domestic spying, censorship, violent political intimidation of opponents and economic statism into the American DNA. Pro-Wilson intellectuals celebrated the 'social possibilities of war,' in the words of John Dewey. By that they meant the ability to force Americans to, as Frederick Lewis Allen put it, 'lay by our good-natured individualism and march in step.' The enduring notion that experts could plan the economy from Washington was largely born in Wilson's 'war socialism.'" (Without a Soviet Union and communism to inspire Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. and Stanley Ann Dunham there may have been no Obama, Jr.—or at least no Obama in the White House.) [62528]

Reuters posts an article by Richard Eiker, who claims he has worked at a McDonalds franchise restaurant for 25 years, makes \$11.05 per hour, and demands a "living wage" of \$15.00 per hour. Eiker whines, "My rent is \$730 a month. I have a car payment to make and utilities. My mother just moved into a nursing home, so I no longer have her Social Security payments to help out. You do the math: I'm going to have to move." (Why an adult male—probably in his 40s—is not embarrassed to admit that he has been shamelessly living off his mother's Social Security checks is not clear. Disregarding the content of the article, it is nevertheless well written and—if he wrote it himself—suggests

that Eiker is not an incompetent moron and could probably get a much better job. That he has not done so suggests he had considerable help writing the article, or the entire article is fictional and merely meant as political propaganda.) [62403]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest is asked why Obama didn't act to move on immigration reform when the Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate in 2009 and 2010. Earnest's explanation: "There were a lot of other crises that [Obama] was focused on at that time." (In May 2008 Obama said, "I can guarantee... that we will have in the first year an immigration bill that I strongly support and that I'm promoting. And I want to move that forward as quickly as possible.") At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty writes, "This is a curious answer. Despite the multitude of 'crises' [Obama] may have faced in 2009-2010, it's fair to say that those crises have only multiplied—or become more intractable. Why, then, does he have time now to pursue comprehensive immigration reform, but didn't four years ago? In other words, it's difficult to believe, I think, that [Obama] couldn't have tackled immigration issues when he first took office (when it was politically viable to do so) because of 'a lot of other crises.' Those crises, I'm afraid, still exist today—and aren't going away anytime soon, either." (Obama did not address immigration reform because he first wanted to use his then-massive political capital to pass the Affordable Care Act—which he thought would make him a hero and boost his popularity to a level such that he could tackle amnesty and just about anything else he set his mind to. He was, of course, mistaken.) [62447, 62464]

As Obama readies for a White House summit for African leaders, MSNBC's Joy Reid says, "The White House is, is... clearly, I would assume, hoping that this [strengthening U.S. ties with Africa] will be part of [Obama's] legacy, given, uh, his background." Reporter Chris Jansing, standing in front of the White House, responds, "Yeah, the fact that he's from Kenya, and the fact that when he was elected there were expectations on the African continent, uh, that he would do great things for them, this is a concerted effort by this administration to get American companies to invest..." A few minutes later Jansing says, "Yeah, and, and just obviously to clarify, I misspoke, uh, at the top, before. It is obviously [Obama's] father who is from Kenya..." (Of course, there is more than speculation that Obama was born in Kenya, there is some evidence—including a 1991 literary catalogue by Acton and Dystel that referenced "Barack Obama, the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, [who] was born in Kenya and raised in Indonesia and Hawaii." Additionally, the federal government has refused to release any of Obama's mother's passport information that precedes 1965. Obama's step-grandmother, Sarah Onyango Obama, told reporters that Barack Obama, Jr. was born in Kenya. Sarah Obama further stated that she was present in the Mombasa delivery room when Obama was born and he "passed through my hands." One half-brother and one half-sister of Obama also claim he was born in Kenya. But regardless of the location of his birth, *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama cannot legally serve as president because the historical definition of the term "natural born citizen" is born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents—and Obama had only one U.S. citizen parent.) [248, 289, 299, 324, 367, 2660, 2716, 2987, 4431, 4440, 12263, 62500, 62551, 62624]

At RollingStone.com Reid Cherlin, a former White House press aide, laughably claims that Obama “never had reporters eating out of his hand the way that right-wingers love to allege—even though Obama’s intellectual approach made him seem like someone who could just as easily have been a columnist as a candidate.” (At DailyCaller.com Patrick Howley writes, “Should I quote Jay Leno, who in 2012 joked around Halloween that viewers could ‘Wear a Re-Elect Obama button and go as a journalist?’ No. I’ll just leave this argument to a Democrat, Bill Clinton, and quote something he said on the campaign trail in 2008 as Team Obama painted him as a racist in South Carolina and the press corps turned on their one-time boss like a mistress who realizes she’s not getting that apartment together that her man always talks about. ‘They just want to cream in their jeans over this guy.’ Well put, Bill.”) [62501]

CNSNews.com reports that according to numbers provided by the Department of Homeland Security, “the number of [illegal immigrant] family units apprehended at the U.S. border with Mexico has risen from 9,350 in 2013 to 55,420 in 2014—an increase of 493 percent. [62449, 62450]

An Israeli air strike in Gaza kills Daniel Mansour, the northern commander of Palestinian Islamic Jihad. [62415, 62416]

Israel attempts another cease fire with Hamas in Gaza, starting the morning of August 5. (During its military operation, Israeli Defense Forces located and destroyed 30 or more Hamas tunnels. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey writes, “After the IDF leaves and the war winds down, though, Hamas will face some difficult questions from Gazans. Why did they start this war in the first place? They will end up with nothing from it, not even a cease-fire on Egypt’s original terms, and now they’ve lost the tunnel system that Hamas built using the humanitarian aid that was supposed to benefit Gazans. No one in Gaza will see anything from five years of aid and the use of resources; the whole enclave has been set back at least five years, if not ten or twenty, because of a war that Hamas chose to provoke now rather than wait for the massive attack they had planned to conduct through those tunnels next month on Rosh Hashanah. The leadership of Hamas looks more incompetent than ever, and for a terrorist organization that rules by fear, the exposure of incompetence is usually fatal.”) [62415, 62417, 62460]

In an NBC/WSJ/Marist poll, 56 percent of registered voters support Israel in the current conflict, 6 percent support Hamas, and 38 percent are unsure. [62465, 62466]

CNSNews.com reports, “The total federal debt of the U.S. government has now increased more than \$7 trillion during the slightly more than five and a half years Barack Obama has been [in office]. That is more than the debt increased under all U.S. presidents from George Washington through Bill Clinton combined, and it is more debt than was accumulated in the first 227 years of this nation’s existence—from 1776 through 2003. The total federal debt first passed the \$7-trillion mark on Jan. 15, 2004, after President George W. Bush had been in office almost three years. When ...Obama took office on Jan. 20, 2009, the total federal debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08. As of the close of business on July 30, 2014, it had risen to \$17,618,599,653,160.19—up

\$6,991,722,604,247.11 from Obama's first inauguration day. By the close of business on July 31, 2014, it had risen to \$17,687,136,723,410.59—up \$7,060,259,674,497.51 since Obama's first inauguration day. As of June, there were 115,097,000 households in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The \$17,687,136,723,410.59 in debt the federal government had accumulated as of the end of July equaled \$153,671.57 per household. The \$7,060,259,674,497.51 in new debt that the federal government has taken on [since Obama entered the White House] equals \$61,341.82 per household.” (On July 3, 2008 Obama blasted George W. Bush for adding \$4 trillion to the national debt “by his lonesome, so that we now have over \$9 trillion of debt that we are going to have to pay back—\$30,000 for every man, woman and child. That’s irresponsible. It’s unpatriotic.” By Obama’s own standard, he is even more irresponsible and unpatriotic than Bush.) [62418, 62461, 62462, 62463]

Additionally, “The federal government paid \$2,007,358,200,000 in benefits and entitlements in fiscal year 2013 from government programs, according to data from the Bureau of the Fiscal Service’s Monthly Treasury Statement. The treasury statement summarizes the financial activities of the federal government, including data on government receipts, outlays, and surplus and deficit totals. The September 2013 monthly treasury statement calculates these metrics for the entire fiscal year of 2013, which began on October 1, 2012 and ended on September 30, 2013.” Social Security payments totaled about \$663 billion; Medicare payouts were about \$589 billion. The remainder of the \$2 trillion was for railroad retirement, unemployment compensation, workers’ compensation, Veterans’ compensation and Veterans’ educational assistance, public or subsidized rental housing, Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI), food stamps, otherwise known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), free and reduced lunch programs, Pell Grants, refundable tax credits and Medicaid. (Over the next 75 years, Social Security deficits are expected to total at least \$40 trillion. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have any idea where that money will come from. That means it will come from printing money. But printing money means price inflation and that, in turn, means annual cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients. Suddenly that \$40 trillion can become upwards of \$150 trillion.) [62473, 62689]

KaiserHealthNews.org reports that increasing numbers of doctors are refusing to accept patients with ObamaCare because of low reimbursement rates. Dr. Bob Russo, a radiologist and the president-elect of the Connecticut State Medical Society, “says that the low rates and administrative burdens that come along with the ACA [Affordable Care Act] could make it a financial loser. ‘You get what you pay for,’ Russo says. ‘If you can’t convince [doctors] that they’re not losing money doing their job, then it’s a problem. And they haven’t been able to convince people of that.’” Russo “worries about creating a tiered health care system. He says, think about Medicaid. Before a recent rise in rates, it paid doctors even less than Medicare, so many stopped accepting Medicaid patients. ‘There’s no question that Medicaid, under its old rates, wasn’t working. So, have we just invented a new Medicaid that kind of slid the scale up a little more to make access a little more?’ Russo says.” [62429, 62430]

The *Miami Herald* reports, “Floridians who buy health insurance on the individual market for next year will face an average increase of 13.2 percent in their monthly premiums, according to rate proposals unveiled Monday by the state’s Office of Insurance Regulation. The rate proposals affect all Affordable Care Act-compliant health plans on the individual market, whether they’re sold through the federally-run exchange or not. Small and large group health plans typically offered by employers were not included in the data released by the state.” (For the record, a 13.2 percent increase is inconsistent with Obama’s promise that ObamaCare would result in the average premium falling by \$2,500 per year.) [62458, 62459]

TruthRevolt.org reports, “The account promoted by Hamas and repeated by the United States and the U.N. on Sunday was that an Israeli mortar hit a U.N. school, killing 10 people, including children. However, evidence is emerging that the Israeli strike hit outside of the school and the bodies were moved into the courtyard to make it look like Israel hit the school.” The site posts a video that “describes how bodies were moved. Even a small girl was added to the pile of adult bodies to make it look as if all the deaths came from the school. In the video, two dead men are photographed outside the school, but later images show them inside school grounds, suggesting their bodies had been moved or they weren’t really dead. A little girl then appears apparently lying dead and covered in blood, but pictures indicate she was placed there. Then another man picks her up and runs away from the school with her in his arms. We never see where he takes her or whether she is really dead.” (Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett called Israel’s attack in the school—which was not an attack on a school—“totally indefensible.” White House press secretary Josh Earnest called Israel’s actions “disgraceful.” The likelihood of Jarrett and Earnest retracting their words are close to zero. Pamela Geller writes, “Obama called it ‘indefensible.’ His administration was ‘appalled’ and ‘horrifying.’ What is more appalling, horrifying and indefensible than denouncing Israel on the world stage with the facts? If Obama and his jihad administration doesn’t publicly apologize to Israel, it will be ‘appalling’ ‘horrifying’ and ‘indefensible.’”) [62450, 62422, 62434, 62435, 62436, 62441, 62453]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen admitted that Bowe Bergdahl was a deserter, and said that he did not know why the military was focusing so much energy on trying to save him, according to one of Bergdahl’s platoon mates. ‘The joint chief of staff, Admiral Mullen at the time. He came out to our unit and had Thanksgiving dinner, and he said, ‘Yeah he [Bergdahl] walked off, everybody knows he walked off, I don’t know why they’re trying to’ pretend that he didn’t, Bergdahl’s former infantry roommate Cody Full told The Daily Caller.” [62452]

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) finds “a Hamas manual on ‘Urban Warfare,’ which belonged to the Shuja’iya Brigade of Hamas’ military wing, the Al-Qassam Brigades. The manual explains how the civilian population can be used against IDF forces and reveals that Hamas knows the IDF is committed to minimizing harm to civilians. Throughout Operation Protective Edge, Hamas has continuously used the civilian population of Gaza as human shields. The discovery of a Hamas ‘urban warfare’ manual by IDF forces reveals that Hamas’ callous use of the Gazan population was intentional

and preplanned. This Hamas urban warfare manual exposes two truths: (1) The terror group knows full well that the IDF will do what it can to limit civilian casualties. (2) The terror group exploits these efforts by using civilians as human shields against advancing IDF forces.” [62490, 62491, 64739, 64740]

On August 5 Major General Harold Greene, deputy commander of the Combined Security Transition Command, is killed in Afghanistan when an Afghan soldier opens fire at a U.S. base in Kabul. Fifteen others are injured. The gunman is killed. Obama has no initial comment; a “national security source” tells CNN’s Jake Tapper “the administration does not like to signal that the particular rank of a casualty merits a different response—every loss of life is equally tragic; every sacrifice is equally heartbreaking.” (The media will likely not remember that “rule” if commander-in-chief Obama gets struck by lightning on a golf course.) Pamela Geller writes, “This general is yet another victim of Obama’s reckless and feckless policies. All the Muslims in the Afghan Army are moderates, so American personnel have nothing to be concerned about when they’re around them—and so they put themselves in vulnerable positions that result in these needless deaths. Will this one be enough finally to wake people up and get them to demand that Obama either revise his suicidal Rules of Engagement or get our troops out of Afghanistan? Does anyone at the Pentagon or the White House ever stop to ask what motivated the jihadist to murder his American ally?” (Obama later briefly mentions Greene, calling him a “dedicated soldier,” and saying, “Our prayers are with the Greene Family as they are with all the Gold Star families.” In other words, “He’s just another of millions of dead soldiers.” Obama may as well have said, “He didn’t earn that rank.”) [62475, 62483, 62485, 62488, 62489, 62499, 62507, 62543]

At CommentaryMagazine.com Max Boot writes, “It has gotten pretty much zero press attention, but last week the congressionally mandated National Defense Panel issued what should have been seen as a bombshell review of American military readiness, or lack thereof. The bipartisan credentials of the board members cannot be doubted. The panel was co-chaired by Clinton-era Defense Secretary Bill Perry and retired General John Abizaid. Members included both Bush-era Defense Department appointees such as Eric Edelman and Obama-era successors such as Michele Flournoy. The only thing uniting the members of the panel was deep knowledge of, and interest in, defense policy. Such a group might be expected to endorse the status quo as the lowest-common-denominator option. But that’s not what they did. Instead they issued a blistering denunciation of the impact that budget cuts—amounting to a trillion dollars over 10 years—are having on the armed forces. These cuts, they warned, ‘constitute a serious strategic misstep on the part of the United States. Not only have they caused significant investment shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities, they have prompted our current and potential allies and adversaries to question our commitment and resolve. Unless reversed, these shortfalls will lead to a high risk force in the near future. That in turn will lead to an America that is not only less secure but also far less prosperous.’” [62601]

The panel identified ‘disturbing’ and ‘dangerous’ gaps between the ‘capabilities and capacities’ called for under the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and the actual ‘budget

resources made available to the [Defense] Department.’ Specifically the panel determined that both the Navy and Air Force need to grow and the Army and Marine Corps should not shrink as much as currently envisioned. The Navy, the panel noted, should have between 323 and 346 ships yet it is currently ‘on a budgetary path to 260 ships or less.’ The Air Force, the panel found, ‘now fields the smallest and oldest force of combat aircraft in its history’ and that situation is going to get much worse because it is going to lose half of its current inventory of bombers, fighter aircraft, and surveillance aircraft by 2019. The panel called for an increase in ‘the number of manned and unmanned aircraft capable of conducting both ISR [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] and long range strike in contested airspace.’ The panel also found that currently contemplated reductions in Army end-strength go too far. ‘We believe the Army and the Marine Corps should not be reduced below their pre-9/11 end strengths—490,000 active-duty soldiers in the Army and 182,000 active Marines,’ the panel concluded. Yet on the current trajectory the army is likely to wind up with 420,000 soldiers and the Corps with 175,000 marines. The defense panel rightly warned that ‘sustaining these significant cuts to our defense budgets will not solve our fiscal woes, but will increasingly jeopardize our international defense posture and ultimately damage our security, prospects for economic growth, and other interests.’” (In the late 1970s, Jimmy Carter slashed defense spending, leaving it to Ronald Reagan to restore the nation’s military power. Obama has now followed in Carter’s footsteps, slashing defense spending in order to pay for more people on food stamps. Whether another Reagan will follow Obama remains to be seen—but the odds are against it. Mediocrity is easier to repeat than competence.) [62601]

A France24 journalist reports on a Hama rocket installation in a heavily-populated area near a building in Gaza that is flying a United Nations flag. (Days earlier, the same journalist reported from a U.N. emergency shelter—and a Hamas rocket was fired just steps away from where he stood.) A journalist from India’s NDTV reports that Hamas assembled a rocket launcher just outside his hotel—and video shows it being fired. (Both reports are clear evidence that Hamas uses “human shields” for its terror operations.) According to BusinessInsider.com, “NDTV reported that the video was published after the team had left the Gaza strip, so as to limit any retribution from Hamas towards the journalists.” (In other words, what the media reports from within Gaza during the conflict cannot be trusted because of Hamas censorship.) Pamela Geller asks, “Why isn’t Obama calling this ‘indefensible?’ Why isn’t UN Ambassador Samantha Power calling this ‘horrificing?’ Why isn’t Obama’s State Department calling this ‘appalling?’ Where are Wolf Blitzer and the village idiot Geraldo Rivera?” [62444, 62445, 62446, 62451, 62484, 62492, 62493, 62519, 62535]

Despite the 72-hour cease fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, Hamas calls for Arabs in Judea and Samaria to riot during the three days. According to IsraelNationalNews.com, “In a message sent out by Hamas Monday [August 4] to ‘the Palestinians of the Occupied West Bank,’ Hamas called on Arabs to ‘conduct mass riots’ over the next three days as a ‘sign of support’ for Gaza, and of ‘resistance’ to ‘violence’ by Israel.” [62497, 62498]

At AmericanThinker.com Michael Curtis points out that “During July 2014, Hamas fired more than 800 rockets before Israel responded by Operation Protective Edge seeking to eliminate or reduce the aggression. ... Article 51 (2) of the [1949 Geneva] Conventions states that ‘The civilian population as such, as well as individual citizens, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.’ The... rocket attacks against innocent civilians by Hamas have to be considered in this context. Article 58 (a) states. ‘The parties to the conflict shall to maximum extent feasible endeavor to remove the civilian population, individual citizens and civilian objects under their control from the vicinity of military objects.’ 58 (b) says, the parties shall ‘avoid locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas.’ The evidence is overwhelming from a number of videos, from journalist reports, and from public statements, that Hamas has been guilty of using the civilian population for military purposes.” (It should come as no surprise that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency schools in Gaza have been used by Hamas to store weapons and rockets, and even as rocket launch centers. According to Fox News, Hamas members hold “25 out of 27 seats on a union board that represents ten thousand UNRWA workers” in Gaza.) [62494, 62495, 62496]

At The-American-Interest.com Richard Landes reviews “The media’s role in Hamas’ war strategy,” noting that “Hamas’ PR [public relations] strategy can only work if international news media follows the script, whether willingly or under coercion. ... It appears to some... that Hamas deliberately maximizes its own people’s suffering for PR. To others, such a strategy would be so base and unthinkable, that they consider the very suggestion of it ‘racist and reprehensible.’ Hamas’ Khaled Mashaal officially denies that Hamas engages in such a heinous policy, even as other Palestinian Jihadis brag about media-assured benefits derived from their own civilians’ deaths. And now, the IDF [Israeli Defense Force] has possession of a Hamas training manual that advises its combatants to use civilian shields. According to its critics, Hamas’ war strategy works like this: Episodically attack Israel’s civilians in such a way as to provoke a counter-attack. Hide behind Palestinian civilians (preferably in crowded neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals), while encouraging them, even forcing them, to stay, guaranteeing that the return fire wounds or kills civilians and damages civilian structures. Encourage the Western news media to play up the civilian suffering, play down Hamas’ role in it, and accuse Israel. Conjure a firestorm of outrage around the world that eventually pressures Israel into desisting from counteroffensive measures. Survive to reap the propaganda victory and prepare the next round of hostilities. Repeat, with each exchange hurting Israel more, and each round of international news coverage further savaging the Jewish State’s international reputation.” [62579, 62580]

“No matter what the Israeli response,” observes Landes, “the Hamas strategy is win-win. If the Israelis abort a strike to avoid civilian casualties (as they often do), then Hamas is spared the blow; if an Israeli strike causes civilian casualties, Hamas has dead babies to parade before the cameras. And eventually, the bloodletting will get so bad, the pictures so damning, that Israel will stop. Hamas’ endgame goals, at least at this stage of its asymmetrical war, are actually threefold: tie Israel down with constraints on its use of power, delegitimize and demonize it in the eyes of the world, and stir an aggressive

‘Muslim Street’ in the West, where genocidal chants can lead to pogroms against the Jews worldwide. ...The importance of these [Hamas] rockets is not where they’re aimed, but whence they’re fired. They’re a reverse target, designed to create the carnage that will rouse Western indignation. Israel, operating in these terrible conditions expends considerable resources on an elaborate and multi-staged system of warnings encouraging civilians to leave, right down to calling the residents of houses on their cell phones. Hamas in response calls on people to make themselves human shields, and when they demur, Hamas orders and coerces them to stay. When refugees do flee to UN Schools and other shelters, Hamas follows them there, firing at Israel repeatedly from their midst, drawing Israeli fire toward the shelter. Almost every Israeli strike on or near a hospital or school was a direct result of fire emanating from the facility.” [62579, 62580]

“One gets the distinct sense that these [manipulated] journalists don’t think they’re assisting Hamas in maximizing the human casualties. Some seem to think that their aggressive rush to judgment, invariably against Israel, is a form of ‘peace journalism,’ designed to end the carnage as quickly as possible. They take for granted that their job is to nail the Israelis for their disproportionate brutality. Journalists publicly exult in their victory: ‘Gripping Gaza images upend balance of PR power in Middle East.’ And in so doing—whatever their reasons—they not only thoroughly misinform their audiences, but do so precisely as Hamas would want. The single most compelling reason for the near-unanimity of the media’s cooperation with Hamas is not advocacy, which alone could not create such a consensus, but rather intimidation. ...[A]s one journalist, just out of Gaza told an Israeli off-the-record: ‘If we ever dared point our camera at them [Hamas fighters], they would shoot at us and kill us.’ Asked to say that on camera, the journalist ‘refused and almost ran away.’ ...Occasionally, a really telling piece of evidence appears. Two days after the shelling of Shaati and Shifa, that had ‘disgraced the world,’ an Italian journalist tweeted: ‘Out of #Gaza far from #Hamas retaliation: misfired rocket killed children y[ester]day in Shati. Witness [proof]: militants rushed and cleared debris.’ So, just as Israel had claimed, jihadis had killed their own women and children, cleaned the site, and then brought in journalists to blame Israel. It was indeed disgraceful on many counts, none of which concerned Israel. And yet we only know about this, if we do at all, because this one journalist felt himself beyond Hamas’ reach. ...It should be one of the great agenda items of professional journalists to develop a special branch of research and ethical discussion on the problems of covering 21st-century asymmetrical wars in which the weak side systematically intimidates journalists and the strong side has democratic commitments to a free press. We can’t ask journalists to seek out martyrdom in the cause of Truth (even if their code does call for courage), but we ought to be able to hope that they would let us know, subtly if necessary, just how deep the intimidation goes.” [62579, 62580]

At RenewAmerica.com Gina Miller writes, “We have seen that there is truly no outrageous lie Barack Obama (or whatever his name is) won’t tell, and he lied yet again in a White House statement from July 27th in ‘honor’ of the end of Islam’s Ramadan holiday. In part, the statement reads: ‘While Eid marks the completion of Ramadan, it also celebrates the common values that unite us in our humanity and reinforces the obligations that people of all faiths have to each other, especially those impacted by

poverty, conflict, and disease. In the United States, Eid also reminds us of the many achievements and contributions of Muslim Americans to building the very fabric of our nation and strengthening the core of our democracy.’ It’s easy to wonder what the heck he meant by that statement, although *taqiyya* [lying by Muslims in order to further the cause of Islam] and contemptible revisionist history come to mind. The truth is that Islam played no part in either the founding of the United States or in its growth into the great, blessed nation it became by the 20th Century. In fact, a case could be made that Islam has contributed nothing positive, not just to the United States, but to the entire world, throughout the history of its dark, violent existence. ...For Barack Obama to open his lying mouth and falsely claim that Muslims contributed to the ‘very fabric’ of the United States is an affront to all American victims of Muslim violence, every military death, and every battle that was fought to establish this, the greatest, freest nation in the history of the world and the very antithesis for which Islam stands.” [62457]

Peter Kirsanow, one of the eight members of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, encourages Obama to not issue an amnesty executive order for illegal immigrants. Kirsanow states, “It has been widely reported in the press that you are preparing to issue an executive order that purports to grant legal status and work authorization to millions of illegal immigrants. I write to remind you of the disastrous effect of illegal immigration on the employment of all Americans, but particularly black Americans. Any grant of legal status will serve as a magnet to prospective illegal immigrants and further depress employment opportunities and wages for African-Americans. Given that the labor force participation rate is at an historic low, the unemployment rate is 6.2 percent, and there has been a precipitous decline in household wealth, the timing for such a grant of legal status could not be worse. ...Illegal immigration has a disparate impact on African-American men because these men are disproportionately represented in the low-skilled labor force. ...African-Americans who have not pursued education beyond high school are also disproportionately male. These poor educational attainment levels usually relegate both African-American men and illegal immigrant men to the same low-skilled labor market, where they must compete against each other for work. Your proposed executive order will also have a negative effect on young African-Americans at the outset of their working lives. Young, low-skilled workers are facing enormous difficulties in this economy. ...Granting legal status to millions of people who are in the United States illegally will continue to depress the wages and employment opportunities of African-American men and teenagers. It also will depress the wages and employment opportunities of African-Americans going forward.” [62574]

“Since 1986,” continues Kirsanow, “we have seen that granting legal status to illegal immigrants, or even mere rumors that legal status will be granted, increases illegal immigration. Likewise, the evidence indicates that the flood of illegal immigrants across our southern border is mostly attributable to your directive granting temporary legal status to people allegedly brought to the United States as children. This is unsurprising. When you incentivize bad behavior, you get more of it. ...Lastly, the proposed executive order is unfair to people who are attempting to immigrate legally. The legal immigration process is cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive. ...Many of these people are professionals for whom remaining in the country illegally would constitute a black mark

on their record that would harm their future career chances. Most of the illegal immigrants who would benefit from your executive order have no skills, so they lose nothing by coming here illegally. Yet your proposed executive order is unlikely to make the visa process less cumbersome for legal immigrants or alleviate visa backlogs. For all these reasons, I urge you to reconsider your proposed executive order.” [62574]

The Willingboro, New Jersey town council votes to rename its John F. Kennedy (community) Center after Obama. (Roughly two-thirds of the towns’ residents are black, but more than a few of them are unhappy with the name change. They may be fans of Obama, but many were also fans of President Kennedy. One remarks, “I love [Obama], I appreciate him, but why does [his name] need to be reflected on the center?”) [62695, 62808]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to spend up to \$450,000 in taxpayer dollars to teach Native American tribes in the Great Basin region ‘climate adaptation plans’ for their hunting, fishing and gathering activities.” [62516]

Obama addresses the U.S.-Africa Summit, held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C. He says, “I... stand before you as the son of a man from Africa,” and states, “Even as Africa continues to face enormous challenges, even as too many Africans still endure poverty and conflict, hunger and disease, even as we work together to meet those challenges, we cannot lose sight of the new Africa that’s emerging. We all know what makes Africa such an extraordinary opportunity. Some of the fastest-growing economies in the world. A growing middle class. Expanding sectors like manufacturing and retail. One of the fastest-growing telecommunications markets in the world. More governments are reforming, attracting a record level of foreign investment. It is the youngest and fastest-growing continent, with young people that are full of dreams and ambition.” (At the beginning the summit, the geography-challenged Vice President Joe Biden expresses hopes for “the nation of Africa.” In a Twitter message, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)—who may or may not have attended geography classes with Biden—stated she was “honored to discuss the valuable relationship between our two countries.” NewsBusted’s Jodi Miller quips, “...Obama reminded attendees that America is a nation too, with 57 states,” and “A spokesperson says Pelosi never passed geography, so she has no idea what’s in it.”) [62524, 62515, 62529, 62550, 63199]

Although Zimbabwe dictator Robert Mugabe was not invited to the summit, Obama did host more than a few human rights violators. According to the *Daily Mail*, “The red carpet was rolled out for Equatorial Guinea’s Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who shot or jailed virtually all his political opponents, Gambia’s Yahya Jammeh, who “took power in a military coup in 1994. Although the coup itself was bloodless, in the 20 years since he has been accused of countless breaches of human rights. In 2008, he threatened to ‘cut off the head’ of any homosexuals in the country. The following year, it was reported up to 1,000 Gambians had been abducted by the government on charges of witchcraft—they were taken to prisons and forced to drink poison.” Cameroon’s Paul Biya “has the dubious honor of ranking 19th on author David Wallechinsky’s 2006 list of the world’s 20 worst living dictators.” Also attending the summit is Burkina Faso’s

Blaise Compaore, “another African leader who seized power by bloody coup. The Burkina Faso president’s 1987 uprising left his predecessor Thomas Sankara dead... Human rights groups claim Angolan president Jose Eduardo do Santos has murdered many and exploited the country’s resources to his own gain. After Mariah Carey was paid \$1million for performing for him last year, Human Rights Foundation president Thor Halvorssen said: ‘It is the sad spectacle of an international artist purchased by a ruthless police state to entertain and whitewash the father-daughter kleptocracy that has amassed billions in ill-gotten wealth while the majority of Angola lives on less than \$2 a day.’” [62529]

“...When he came to power in 2000, Rwanda’s president Paul Kagame inherited a nation still raw from the brutal genocide of 1994 which claimed up to one million lives. But during his heavy-handed time in power, the country’s ranks for press freedom have plummeted and a suspicious number of public and political opponents have been harassed or have died in increasingly suspicious circumstances. ...Goodluck Jonathan, president of Nigeria [where thousands of Christians have been killed by Muslims and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee from their homes], signed harsh anti-gay laws this year. They criminalise gay relationships, being involved in gay societies and organizations and gay marriages. Violation of this law can result in up to 14 years in prison, with dozens of homosexuals already jailed.” [62529, 62530, 62531]

Another of Obama’s summit guests is Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, who “has pleaded innocent to murder and other charges for an alleged role in organizing violence that left more than 1,000 people dead after Kenya’s 2007 elections.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Obama visited Kenya in 2006 to give support to Raila Odinga, a Muslim socialist candidate for president who had ties to both al-Qaeda and Libya’s Muammar Qaddafi, was educated in communist East Germany, and who hoped to establish Shari’ah law. Odinga is a cousin of Obama; Odinga’s mother is the sister of Obama’s father. (Odinga named his first son Fidel after Fidel Castro.) During his Kenya visit, Obama delivered a speech to university students in Nairobi. In the speech, Obama criticized the existing pro-American Kenyan government, rallied the students against it, and spoke of the need for change. By giving his speech, supporting Odinga, and standing beside Odinga at rallies, Obama violated the stated conditions of his Official Government Visa: “to nurture relations between the (African) Continent and the United States.” The Kenyan government lodged an official protest of Obama’s passport abuse and misconduct, and Obama’s actions were denounced by the U.S. State Department as being in direct opposition to U. S. National Security. After Odinga lost the election, his Muslim followers burned Christian women and children alive in a church where they had sought refuge. More than 1,500 people were ultimately killed in riots, and Odinga was reluctantly given the position of prime minister to placate his radical supporters and stop further bloodshed. [126, 127, 207, 208, 271, 293, 294, 313, 329, 452, 1449, 62529]

In support of Odinga, Obama raised approximately \$950,000. The cash for Odinga came from private meetings in 2006 arranged for Odinga by Mark Lippert, a foreign policy advisor on Obama’s staff. Odinga visited Obama during three separate trips to Washington in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Odinga promises his supporters in Kenya that he

would “re-write the Constitution of Kenya to recognize Shari’ah as the only true law sanctioned by the Holy Quran for Muslim declared religion.” In early 2006, Lippert was sent by Obama to Kenya, at taxpayer expense, on a “fact-finding” mission, and to do advance work for Obama’s later visit. The Obama-supported Odinga made the following pledges to his supporters: re-write the constitution of Kenya to recognize Muslim Shari’ah law for Muslim regions; facilitate the establishment of a Shari’ah court in every Kenyan divisional headquarters; order every primary school to conduct daily Madrassa classes; impose a total ban on open-air Christian gospel crusades; outlaw gospel programs on KBC radio; impose a total ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages; and impose an immediate ban on women’s public dressing styles that are considered immoral and offensive to the Muslim faith. [313, 329]

According to a Fox News poll, 41 percent of Americans think Obama is disinterested and does not even want his Oval Office job anymore. (The results include 37 percent Democrats, 44 percent Republicans, and 47 percent independents.) [62482]

ObamaCare notwithstanding, according to a Gallup poll 13.4 percent of Americans remain without health insurance. [62560, 62561]

Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings falls to 40/54 in an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll. On foreign policy, Obama’s rankings are a dismal 36/60 percent. On its *Nightly News* broadcast, NBC fails to report on its own poll—despite the fact that Obama’s approval rating reached its record low in that survey. On CNN, Politico’s Manu Raju says, “I mean, very ominous sign for Democrats.” Because Obama is “underwater like this, his party [will suffer in the] midterm elections. We’re looking at that probably in the House, and the chance that Republicans take control of the Senate. ...[But] We may see a pretty low-turnout election here, which may mean there may not be that Republican wave that you’d expect them to have. Voters just are not motivated, because they hate Washington.” [62504, 62509, 62512, 62521, 62544]

The Washington Post editorial board writes that Congress’ inaction on immigration reform doesn’t grant Obama “license to tear up the Constitution. As Mr. Obama himself said last fall: ‘If, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing laws in Congress, then I would do so. But we’re also a nation of laws.’ To act on his own, [Obama] said, would violate those laws. Mr. Obama now seems to be jettisoning that stance in the name of rallying his political base. He is considering extending temporary protection from deportation to millions of illegal immigrants, including the parents of U.S.-born children and others who have lived in the United States for years. Conceivably, this would give Democrats a political boost in 2016. Just as conceivably, it would trigger a constitutional showdown with congressional Republicans, who could make a cogent argument that Mr. Obama had overstepped his authority. [Obama] should think twice. Some of the same Democrats and pro-immigrant advocates urging him to protect millions of undocumented immigrants from deportation would be outraged if a Republican president took a similarly selective approach to enforcing the laws—say, those that guarantee voting rights or prohibit employment discrimination. Mr. Obama’s instincts—‘we’re also a nation of laws’—were and remain correct. ...The right response to the

collapse of the U.S. immigration system is for Congress to fix the law. The House had a vehicle to do just that by taking up the legislation passed by the Senate last year. But it does not follow that Congress can be ignored based on its failure to act. The right response to lawmakers who won't solve the immigration mess is to replace them with ones who will." (The *Post* is correct that Obama should not act illegally to address the immigration issue, but it is incorrect in claiming that the Senate proposal solves the problems.) [62517]

In Texas, two illegal immigrants from Mexico shoot and kill an off-duty Border Patrol Agent in front of his family in a robbery attempt. According to Fox News, "One suspect has been arrested no fewer than four times for entering the U.S. illegally, according to federal court records. The other has been deported twice after entering the U.S. illegally, sources said. Gustavo Tijerina, 30, and Ismael Hernandez, 40, were arraigned Tuesday afternoon inside the Willacy County jail library. They were ordered held without bail after being charged with capital murder of a peace officer, attempted murder, and a variety of lesser charges. The pair, who have been living in Texas illegally, confessed after being interviewed multiple times Monday to killing Border Patrol agent Javier Vega Jr. in front of his wife and two kids and his parents Sunday night while they were fishing in Santa Monica, Sheriff Larry Spence told FoxNews.com. ...They finally confessed to the robbery and indicated they knew they had killed someone, but did not know it was an off-duty Border Patrol agent, Spence said in an interview in his office Tuesday morning. 'They do now,' he said." [62554]

JTA.org reports, "A West Bank man said to be the leader of the terrorist cell that kidnapped and killed three Israeli teenagers in June was arrested. A gag order on reporting the arrest, which took place more than three weeks ago, was lifted Tuesday evening, according to Israeli media. Hussam Kawasme of Hebron was apprehended while attempting to flee to Jordan under a false identity with the help of his family, Ynet reported. Kawasme reportedly admitted to serving as the leader of the cell that perpetrated the murders of Gilad Shaar, Naftali Fraenkel and Eyal Yifrach. Kawasme said that funding for the attack, which he used to buy weapons, came from Hamas in Gaza. In his interrogation, Kawasme said he helped bury the bodies on a plot of land he had purchased two months prior to the murders. He then helped the two men who drove the car and shot the teens hide. Security forces are still searching for the two men — Kawasme's brother, Marwan, and Omar Abu Aysha. Marwan Kawasme, who is active in Hamas, was freed in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange and deported to Gaza, The Times of Israel reported. Another suspected cell member, Hussan Dofesh, also was arrested a month ago in Hebron. The bodies of the three teens were discovered following a massive search on June 30 in a shallow grave in a field near Hebron, 18 days after they were kidnapped and murdered." [62486]

Also according to JTA.org, "The London Times refused to run an ad featuring Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel speaking out against what the ad says is Hamas' use of children as human shields. The ad sponsored by The Values Network, which was founded by Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, has run in The New York Times, Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal, among other U.S. newspapers. The rejection was first reported by the

New York Observer. The London Times refused the ad because ‘the opinion being expressed is too strong and too forcefully made and will cause concern amongst a significant number of Times readers,’ according to a statement from a representative of the newspaper, the Observer reported.” Wiesel writes, “What we are suffering through today is not a battle of Jew versus Arab or Israeli versus Palestinian. Rather, it is a battle between those who celebrate life and those who champion death. It is a battle of civilization versus barbarism.” Boteach states, “Elie Wiesel is one of the most respected human beings alive, a Nobel Peace Laureate, and is the living face of the Holocaust. No greater expert on genocide exists in the whole world. His call for the end of child sacrifice by Hamas, who use children as human shields, and a stop to their genocidal charter, which calls for the murder of Jews everywhere, could only offend the sensibilities of the most die-hard anti-Israel haters and anti-Semites.” Pamela Geller writes, “Welcome to my world. ...The ban against Robert Spencer and me is starting to make more sense, isn’t it? The London Times is so afraid of Muslim riots that they refuse to run the truth.” [62533]

In Iraq, between 10,000 and 40,000 people from the Yazidi sect (more properly “Ezidi,” but the media writes Yazidi) face death on Mount Sinjar, where they sought refuge after being driven from their homes by ISIS terrorists. According to WashingtonPost.com, “[D]isplaced families said they have buried young and elderly victims of the harsh conditions in shallow graves, their bodies covered with stones. Iraqi government planes attempted to airdrop bottled water to the mountain on Monday night but reached few of those marooned. ‘There are children dying on the mountain, on the roads,’ said Marzio Babbile, the Iraq representative for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). ‘There is no water, there is no vegetation, they are completely cut off and surrounded by Islamic State. It’s a disaster, a total disaster.’ ...The Islamic State’s takeover of Sinjar, the first major setback for Kurdish forces protecting the country’s north, sent about 200,000 people fleeing, according to the United Nations. Some 147,000 have arrived in the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, flooding refugee camps. Most of those stranded on Mount Sinjar had run out of battery life on their cellphones by Tuesday, but the few that still could communicate gave grim updates. ...The ancient and secretive Yazidi sect, whose members number no more than 600,000 across Iraq, has suffered persecution for centuries.” [62510, 62514, 62515, 62518, 62534, 62555, 62559, 62615, 62641, 63016]

An emotional Vian Dakheel, who is from the Yazidi sect and is also a member of the Iraqi parliament, pleads before her government, “Mr. Speaker, we are being butchered under the banner of ‘There is no God but Allah.’ Until now 500 men and boys have been butchered... As we speak, there is a genocide taking place against the Yazidis. ...Please, Mr. Speaker allow me to finish. My family is being butchered! Just like all Iraqis are being killed. Shias, Sunnis, Christians, Turkmen, and Shabak. And today Yazidis. Please, brothers, let’s put aside all political differences and stand with us as fellow human beings. I am speaking here in the name of humanity. Please save us! Save us! For 48 hours, thirty thousand families are stuck in the Sinjar mountains without water, without food. They are dying. Seventy children died from thirst. Fifty elderly people died from the bad circumstances. Our women are being used as concubines and sold in the markets. Mr. Speaker, we demand the immediate intervention of the Parliament to stop this genocide.

There have been 72 attempts to wipe out the Yazidis, and it is being done again in the 21st century. We are being killed. We are being butchered. A whole religion is being wiped out from the earth. Brothers, I call upon you in the name of humanity, rescue us!" [62603, 62604]

Ed Morrissey comments at HotAir.com: "This... is nothing more than brutal mass murder and ethnic cleansing. ISIS want to purge every potential threat to its authority from the territories they have captured. They already openly brag about mass executions and imposition of their version of shari'a. Penning up to 40,000 men, women, and children on a mountain to watch them die of thirst is a new low even for ISIS. ...We've spent a lot of time intervening in the Gaza war. What has the US done about ISIS, which poses much more of a threat to the US and the West, in a country where our presence might have made a difference? According to former Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Jack Keane, we're 'sitting on our hands' while 'the most significant threat to the Middle East' rampages across Iraq." [62511]

In a letter to Obama, Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) states, "Genocide is taking place today in northern Iraq, where the Christian and Yazidi populations are being exterminated by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. There is no question that systematic and targeted brutality is occurring. Yet, as I said on the House floor last week, the silence from you and your administration is deafening. ...Children and the elderly are dying of thirst, families are being separated and women and young girls are being raped and sold into slavery. We cannot pretend these atrocities aren't taking place. There are now videos on the Internet being promoted by those sympathetic to ISIS proudly displaying their brutal and grotesque slaughter and abuse of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities in Iraq. Your administration is aware of what is going on, yet you are doing nothing. Just what is the point of having an 'Atrocities Prevention Board' if it takes no action to prevent or stop atrocities? ...Much like President Clinton has deeply regretted his failure to stop the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, I believe you will come to regret your inaction for years to come." (DailyCaller.com notes that Obama "created the Atrocities Prevention Board in 2012, saying that 'preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States of America.' Thousands of civilians have already been killed since the Islamic State began its offensive a few months ago." [62564]

In the GOP primary in Kansas, Dr. Milton Wolf, a conservative who is a distant relative of Obama (on his mother's side of the family), is defeated by Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS). In the Michigan primary, libertarian-leaning Congressman Justin Amash (R-MI) easily defeats GOP-establishment challenger Brian Ellis. [62502, 62503, 62508]

Singer Lionel Richie entertains guests at the U.S.-Africa summit. (Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett tweets, "The great Lionel Richie is bringing down the [white] house!" (Among the tweets in response: "At least Nero had the class to fiddle to himself while Rome burned. Jarrett rubs it in your face." "The world is on fire and this is what this administration is doing? Unreal." "So glad you're enjoying your Lionel Richie time on

the taxpayer dime. Personally, I can't afford concerts." "Jarrett is another Marie Antoinette... Let them eat cake... peasants!") [62552, 62553]

On August 6 Newsmax.com reports, "A report by the Senate Intelligence Committee detailing the CIA's rendition, detention, and interrogation program during the George W. Bush administration is being further delayed over a dispute involving how much of the report has been censored..." Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, "said that censorship by the Obama administration, which put the CIA in charge of clearing the report, was so heavy-handed that items which should have been left in were expunged. Among the items removed were successful methods that the CIA used to gather information that did not rely on torture, and the pseudonyms of CIA officers who engaged in the controversial interrogations." Feinstein states, "Until these redactions are addressed to the committee's satisfaction, the report will not be made public. ...The bottom line is that the United States must never again make the mistakes documented in this report. I believe the best way to accomplish that is to make public our thorough documentary history of the CIA's program." [62520]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) quietly changed regulations to allow more undocumented immigrants to keep their taxpayer status through a program that is rife with fraud and abuse, and to delay deactivation of immigrant taxpayer status until 2016. The IRS now prevents peoples' Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from automatically expiring after five years as previously mandated. Now immigrants can keep their ITIN so long as they pay taxes at least once in a five-year period. ...The ITIN program is primarily used by undocumented workers to follow the law and file income taxes in the United States. Reports came out during the IRS scandal linking ITIN fraud to billions in lost taxpayer dollars. The IRS was forced to reform the ITIN program at the start of 2013—but this new regulation undoes that reform." "Rife with fraud and abuse" is an understatement. Congressman Sam Johnson (R-TX) noted in June 2013 that "24,000 tax refunds totaling \$46.4 million were issued to the same address in Atlanta," and stated, "Bottom-line these ITINs are costing taxpayers dearly because they can be used to fraudulently get tax refunds. ...Over 1,000 ITINs were assigned to individuals using the same address in Atlanta." [62522]

John Barge, Georgia's State School Superintendent, tells WSBTV.com, "We don't have enough teachers in our classrooms and now we are expected to hire some type of food police to monitor, whether we are having bake sales or not" because a new federal rule bans high-calorie snacks at fundraisers and bake sales. "That is just asinine." (A rumor that Michelle Obama has stated, "Let them eat kale" cannot be confirmed.) [62709, 62710]

It is worth noting that new Department of Agriculture regulations related to healthy snacks in school vending machines do *not* apply to machines in teachers' lounges. According to ActionForHealthyKids.org, "The nutrition guidelines cover all foods and beverages SOLD on the school campus in student areas. This includes vending machines, school stores, snack shops, coffee carts, and a la carte lines—basically anything sold outside of the school lunch and breakfast programs. Fundraisers that take place

throughout the school day are also part of the rule. Teachers' lounges are exempt from the regulations." [62955]

NBC's Chuck Todd comments on Obama's low poll numbers: "The numbers are daunting. This is a political landscape I don't know that we've seen before. You try to historically mark it, 71 percent [of Americans think the nation is on the] 'wrong track'—usually that's Watergate, that's Vietnam, that's Iraq. But there's no one event here. ...[Former Jimmy Carter strategist] Pat Caddell in, say, in 1978, might write a memo to a sitting president and use the word 'malaise.' I mean, I hate to bring that up, but that's what this is. This is a funk. This feels like it's going to take a long time to get the country out of this—I guess it's a political depression now." [62523, 62545]

Despite the intense anti-Israel reporting of the mainstream media, a CBS poll shows that only six percent of Americans place the blame for the conflict in Gaza solely on Israel. Forty-seven percent blame both Israel and the Palestinians, and 34 percent place most of the blame on Hamas. [62586, 62587]

Former National Football League linebacker Garry Cobb, a (black) Republican running for Congress in New Jersey, tells NewsmaxTV's Steve Malzberg, "You can see that African Americans are not doing well. You talk about [raising the] minimum wage. Minimum wage goes after [works against] young African American kids because it doesn't let them in the workforce. We've already got a huge unemployment rate with the African American kids, so we want to put an end to that. ...[Obama] hasn't really done anything for the African American community [since he entered the White House]. ... We started out poor... As a kid I could remember eating mayonnaise sandwiches, ketchup sandwiches and drinking sugar water, but we were able to go out and do better than our parents and that's what my parents dreamed of." But President Johnson's 'war on poverty' "destroyed African American families throughout the country. ...I was all into the Democratic Party and everything and then I started realizing they helped destroy our communities and we're celebrating electing these people. African American communities throughout the country are doing horribly under Democratic-run cities and that's why I want to put an end to it. I'm talking to the youngsters, trying to give them motivation to stay in school and I've been doing that for the last 20 years so I've given of myself. I did it when there was quote-unquote nothing to gain necessarily for me, but it's just the way I feel and I wasn't looking to get involved in politics, but it's something I need to do ...I want to see kids get a chance to get an education." [62575, 62576]

FoxNews.com reports, "The Obama administration failed to properly account for how it spent nearly \$619 billion, according to a watchdog audit of the main federal website meant to track where taxpayer money is going. The report from the Government Accountability Office picked apart the website USASpending.gov, and the agencies feeding information to it. The database of government spending and contracts was created out of a 2006 transparency law, but the GAO found it continues to have serious problems. The Department of Health and Human Services was the worst offender, during the 2012 period GAO examined. 'Although agencies generally reported information for contracts to USASpending.gov, they did not properly report information on assistance

awards, totaling nearly \$619 billion,' the GAO reported. ...Further, the report found few contracts and grants were properly reported with all the required information. The GAO found just 2-7 percent of the awards had information 'fully consistent' with agencies' own records." [62526]

Also at FoxNews.com, Todd Starnes writes, "A member of the U.S. Army Band said he was forced out of the U.S. Army for having anti-Obama bumper stickers on his personal car, serving Chick-fil-A sandwiches at a party and reading books written by conservative authors like Sean Hannity, a federal lawsuit alleges. Master Sergeant Nathan Sommers, a 25-year veteran of the military and a decorated soloist in the U.S. Army Band Chorus, claims he was forcibly retired from the Army due to his religious and conservative political beliefs. ...John Wells, an attorney representing Sommers, called him a 'true hero' who lost his career while trying to stand up for his religious beliefs.' He alleges that he drew the ire of his superiors because of his belief in traditional marriage. ...Sommers, who was based at Fort Myer in Washington, D.C., is the recipient of an Army commendation medal and was a soloist at the funeral of former First Lady Betty Ford. ...The lawsuit calls for Sommers to be returned to active duty with full pay and benefits." [62527]

Freedom advocate Gary North suggests the flood of teenaged illegal immigrants has a purpose beyond generating future votes for Democrats: full implementation of a national identification card. Phase one of the "REAL ID ACT" began on January 20, 2014. North writes, "Let me ask the obvious question: When did the publicity begin about this 'tidal wave of immigration?' When did the headlines begin? Hint: not in 2013. This is an orchestrated event. Watch for 'relief' from the 'wave of immigration'—formal calls for the acceptance and implementation of the REAL ID law. ...The public now wants action on immigration. The DHS [Department of Homeland Security] is going to provide it. There are at least 10 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. There may be 20 million. There is no way to deport all of them. But they can be forced to use a federal ID card to get a job. The DHS can eventually prosecute employers who do not comply. The Supreme Court will not allow racial profiling. So, this means we must all get cards. This is the law. But the law is being resisted. ...How can the DHS reduce public resistance? I'll tell you how: with stories about a tidal wave of illegal immigration. There is no tidal wave of immigration. It's an uptick in what has become a fading social phenomenon. There is tidal wave of orchestrated stories about teenagers from Central America. As media orchestrations go, this is one of the more effective examples. ...The DHS wants a lot of immigrants to cross. How many? Not enough to build public support to put the Army in charge of the border, but enough to build public support for acceptance of the REAL ID law. It's time to transfer the policing of the southern border to some agency other than the DHS. The DHS wants to police too far north of the border. We need to head this off at the border. ...The 'kids across the border' scenario is rigged. It is rigged from outside the country. It is rigged from inside the country. The kids are the cover. It's not about kids from Central America." [62539]

Vice President Joe Biden says of the border crisis, "These are not somebody else's kids. These are our kids." [62563]

At the close of the U.S.-Africa summit, Obama holds a brief (four question) press conference. Asked about the buildup of Russian troops on the Ukraine border, he says, “[T]he best thing we can do for Ukraine is to try to get back on a political track.” Asked if the United States would give Ukraine military aid, Obama responds, “Well, keep in mind that the Russian army is a lot bigger than the Ukrainian army, so the issue here is not whether the Ukrainian army has some additional weaponry. At least up until this point, they’ve been fighting a group of separatists who have engaged in some terrible violence, but who can’t match the Ukrainian army.” (In other words, “Ukraine is Russia’s for the taking.” Essentially, Obama suggests he will not provide military assistance to Ukraine unless Russia invades—which arguably increase the likelihood of an invasion.) [62547, 62558, 62562, 62597]

NBC’s Chris Jansing asks Obama, “Are sanctions [against Russia] not working?” Obama responds, “Well, we don’t know yet whether sanctions are working; sanctions are working as intended in putting enormous pressure and strain on the Russian economy. ...Uh, but in the meantime, sanctions are working the way they’re supposed to.” (*National Review*’s Jonah Goldberg writes, “This is like explaining that the pepper spray did everything it was supposed to do but the bear is eating your face anyway. It’s also perfectly Obamaesque. *I did exactly what I set out to do. If it’s not working, it’s only because someone else isn’t responding the way they’re supposed to. I gave a speech telling the oceans to stop rising, damn it! I even said ‘let me be clear.’* The point of the sanctions isn’t to prove that sanctions can cause ‘economic pain.’ The point is to deter Vladimir Putin. And on that score, they clearly aren’t working at all. It’s amazing to me how much Obama thinks and talks like a bureaucrat. I’ve checked my box! I did my job! I’ve fulfilled my responsibilities. If the bear is eating your face, it must be the fault of Jones in accounting. Hate that guy.”) [62547, 62558, 62562, 62597]

Although Obama is not eager to help Ukraine, he appears eager to go after American companies that move their headquarters to escape the horrific corporate tax in the United States. He says, “We don’t want to see this [relocation] trend grow. ...[T]hat kind of herd mentality is something we want to avoid, so we need to move quickly.” (By “move quickly” Obama of course does not mean lowering the monumental 35 percent corporate tax rate (not counting state and local taxes) to keep companies in America and encourage foreign companies to relocate in the United States, he means coming up with severe IRS penalties to punish companies that dare to flee.) [62547, 62558, 62562, 62597]

Obama also tells reporters, “It is important to remember that Hamas, uh, acts extraordinarily irresponsibly when it is deliberately siting [placing] rocket launchers in population centers.” (Obama may just as well have said, “John Wayne Gacy acted irresponsibly by inviting young boys into his home.”) Obama also claims Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas is “sincere in his desire for peace.” (That would be the same Mahmoud Abbas who, Pamela Geller notes, “would not condemn attacks from Gaza population centers,” “told Hamas he ‘was tricking the Americans,” “said there is ‘no way’ he would recognize the Jewish state,” and “praises terrorists, names streets after them and awards them honors.”) [62540, 62541, 62589]

ABC's Jonathan Karl asks, "When you were running for president you said, quote, 'The biggest problems we're facing right now have to do with George Bush trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all and that's what I intend to reverse.' So my question to you, has Congress's inability to do anything significant given you a green light to push the limits of executive power, even a duty to do so, or put another way, does it bother you more to be accused of being an imperial [leader], pushing those limits, or to be accused of being a do-nothing [leader] who couldn't get anything done because you faced a dysfunctional Congress?" Obama replies, "Well, I think that I never have a green light. I'm bound by the Constitution. I'm bound by separation of powers. There's some things we can't do. Congress has the power of the purse, for example. I would love to fund a large infrastructure proposal right now that would put millions of people to work and boost our GDP. We know we have roads and bridges and airports and electrical grids that need to be rebuilt, but without the cooperation of Congress, what I can do is speed up permitting process, for example. I can make sure we're working with the private sector to see if we can channel investment into much-need much-needed projects. But ultimately, Congress has to pass a budget and authorize spending. So I don't have a green light." [62605]

Obama continues, "What I am consistently going to do is wherever I have the legal authorities to make progress on behalf of middle-class Americans and folks working to get to the middle class, whether it's by making sure that federal contractors are paying a fair wage to workers, making sure that women had the opportunity to make sure that they are getting paid the same as men for doing the same job, where I have the capacity to expand some of the student loan programs that we have already put in place so repayments are a little more affordable for college graduates, I'm going to seize those opportunities and that's what I think the American people expect me to do. My preference in all these instances is to work with Congress because not only can Congress do more, but it's going to be longer lasting. And when you look at, for example, congressional inaction and, in particular, the inaction on the part of House Republicans, when it comes to immigration reform, here's an area, as I have said before, not only the American people want to see action, not only is there 80 percent overlap between what Republicans say they want and Democrats say they want, we actually passed a bill out of the Senate that was bipartisan. And in those circumstances, what the American people expect is that despite the differences between the parties, there should at least be the capacity to move forward on the things we agree on. And that's not what we're seeing right now." [62605]

"So in the face of that kind of dysfunction, what I can do is, you know, scour our authorities to try to make progress. And we're going to make sure that every time we take one of these steps that we are working within the confines of my executive power, but I promise you the American people don't want me just standing around twiddling my thumbs and waiting for congress to get something done. Even as we take these executive actions, I'm going to continue to reach out to Democrats and Republicans, to the Speaker [of the House], to the leadership on both sides and in both chambers to try to come up with formulas where we can make progress, even if it's incremental. ...What I certainly

recognize with respect to immigration reform and I've said this in the past, is that we have a broken system. It's under resourced, and we have to make choices in terms of how we allocate personnel and resources. So if I'm going to, for example, send more immigration judges down to the border to process some of these unaccompanied children that have arrived at the border, then that's coming from some place else and we're going to have to prioritize. That's well within our authority authorities and discretion. My preference would be an actual comprehensive immigration law, and we already have a bipartisan law that would solve a whole bunch of these problems. Until that happens, I'm going to have to make choices. That's what I was elected to do." (Very few children are crossing the border unaccompanied, of course. Five-year-olds have not traveled almost 2,000 miles from Central America on their own. Most of the younger children are arriving with one or both parents, while some of the older teenagers who may be traveling alone are arguably not children.) [62605, 62691]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer describes Obama as "lethargic and disinterested and detached. ...He said the placing of weapons among the civilians is 'irresponsible.' It's a bloody war crime! ...And there's no passion, there's no interest, there's nothing behind it [Obama's words]. You have to wonder, why did he hold the press conference? I'm not sure that he advanced any issue at all, other than to show adversaries, bad guys in the world, that you don't have to worry about this guy [Obama], he's going on vacation, he's grabbing the golf clubs, and he'll be gone for a month, and we'll see when you come back if Russia has taken over Ukraine he'll deal with it when that happens." *National Journal's* Ron Fournier adds, "Stylistically, this is a guy who is an incredible writer, ...I'm stunned all the time by the passive voice he uses, which is very ineffective and sounds weak. For example, to say Hamas is 'extraordinarily irresponsible'—frat boys are extraordinarily irresponsible. Hamas is a terrorist organization that's killing people. Words matter then you're trying to lead a country... I'm stunned by how poorly he uses them." (That Obama is terribly inarticulate when speaking without a teleprompter is, of course, incredibly inconsistent with his so-called writing skills. Fournier should talk to author Jack Cashill—who might be able to convince him that William Ayers, not Obama, was the ghost-writer of *Dreams Form My Father*.) [62540, 62541, 62589]

Ed Morrissey writes at HotAir.com, "Yes ...one might even say that Obama has been *extraordinarily irresponsible* in his rhetoric on the subject. What he's doing is drawing an equivalence between Hamas and Israel that doesn't exist, which is also what Israel accused Kerry of doing during his attempt to put together a cease fire. Hamas uses civilians as shields to conduct terrorist attacks on Israel, while Israel did its best to avoid civilian casualties while trying to put an end to the rocket fire aimed at their civilians by Hamas. There is a difference—a huge difference—between the two, and that difference not only matters, it's the heart of the conflict. Most of Obama's pressers are an exercise in *extraordinary irresponsibility* anyway, but this takes the cake." (Twitter user Razor writes, "No, Obama, it's 'irresponsible' to leave the cap off the toothpaste. Hamas shooting 1000s of rockets into and vowing to end Israel is evil.") [62540, 62542]

On August 7 Senator John Walsh (D-MT) announces he will quit his race for reelection. (Walsh not only trailed his GOP challenger in the polls, he has been under attack for

plagiarizing a research paper he wrote while attending U.S. Army War College. Democrats will now find a replacement candidate, but Republican Congressman Steve Daines—who was likely going to defeat Walsh—is also likely to defeat his successor in November. Some Democrats want former Governor Brian Schweitzer to run but, having his own political “baggage,” he states, “I respectfully decline to seek the Senate nomination. Many thanks to John Walsh & I’ll support whoever the next nominee turns out to be.” For some reason, Democrats want actor Jeff Bridges to replace Walsh as their candidate—which could happen only if Bridges wants to run for the U.S. Senate and only if he lived in Montana, which he doesn’t. On August 16, Democrats select State Senator Amanda Curtis to run in place of Walsh. The move essentially guarantees a victory for Daines because Curtis, notes HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman, has “mock[ed] gun ownership, religion, family values, concern over the \$17.6 trillion national debt, and self-identifies as an anarchist.” Daines can safely order his “U.S. Senator” business cards.) It is later reported that both Curtis and her husband are members of the far-left Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The IWW’s mission statement says the group is “We are working to organize the people of Montana into the One Big Union to end wage slavery and eventually end the capitalist system.” [62549, 62567, 62568, 62596, 62606, 62701, 62941, 62942, 62943, 63314, 63315, 63398, 63409]

At Barnhardt.biz the always provocative Ann Barnhardt writes, “If you tell your enemy what you will never do, like say, for example, WAGE WAR, then all you have accomplished, aside from making a complete preening ass out of yourself, is tell your enemy precisely what he must do to defeat you. If you declare that you will never wage war (who could possibly say anything so breathtakingly STUPID??), then all your enemy need do to defeat you is wage war against you. If you declare that you will never use nuclear weapons, then all your enemy need do to defeat you is use nuclear weapons against you. If you declare that you will never, ever strike non-military targets, then all your enemy need do is cache his weapons and launch his attacks from hospitals, schools, churches and civilian neighborhoods. Good grief, this isn’t hard. Just as a reminder, as you watch the world descend into war and pestilence, remember, this has all been done intentionally. The Obama regime is the explicit, conscious, declared enemy of western civilization, and really ALL civilization, and EVERYTHING that the still-braindead pundit class is desperately trying to blame on mere incompetence is no such thing. All of this, from the implosion of the economy and the healthcare delivery matrix, to the dissolving of the Mexican border and the attendant invasion of disease-ridden welfare recipients/‘voters,’ mercenaries and terrorists, to the reformation of the islamic caliphate and genocide of Christians (using U.S. weaponry supplied directly and consciously to the Musloid Brotherhood/al Qaeda/ISIS via the Benghazi beachhead and arms supply depot), to the surrender of Europe to Moscow, is all completely, totally, maliciously INTENTIONAL. If you operate or base an argument from any other premise that this one-and-only TRUE premise, then you are a deluded fool who is wasting everyone’s time with your imbecilic mental masturbation. Don’t kid yourselves. The oligarchs are hoping and praying that Ebola breaks out in North America, because crises are the afterburners on their scramjets to hell.” [62765]

At NationalReview.com *Daily Telegraph* columnist Tom Rogan writes, "...America must understand that our physical separation from the world won't shelter us from its problems. We must accept that our deliberate neglect of strategic purpose only invites alternate strategic purpose: the purpose of IS [Islamic State, or ISIS] and its opposite fanatics in Iran. And we must realize that those threats aren't static. Uncontested, these political cancers will spread toward us." [63152, 63153]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Russian strategic nuclear bombers conducted at least 16 incursions into northwestern U.S. air defense identification zones over the past 10 days, an unusually sharp increase in aerial penetrations, according to U.S. defense officials. The numerous flight encounters by Tu-95 Russian Bear H bombers prompted the scrambling of U.S. jet fighters on several occasions, and come amid heightened U.S.-Russia tensions over Ukraine. Also, during one bomber incursion near Alaska, a Russian intelligence-gathering jet was detected along with the bombers. ...Russian strategic nuclear forces appear to be 'trying to test our air defense reactions, or our command and control systems,' said an official familiar with reports of the incursions. 'These are not just training missions,' the official added." [62648, 62649]

At NoisyRoom.net Terresa Monroe Hamilton writes, "[I]t looks like the Progressive lapdog media has been colluding again. Media Trackers, a site that tracks media stories and works for transparency in government, uncovered a group with over 1,000 members that is literally a who's who of the Progressive Left in media. And I would wager, it is only the tip of the iceberg out there—I am sure that the collaboration is widespread and well-organized. The group is called Gamechanger Salon and boasts members that include a CNN commentator, the top two political reporters for The Huffington Post, a Reuters reporter, the editor of The Nation magazine, a producer for Al Jazeera America television, a U.S. News & World Report columnist and approximately two dozen Huffington Post contributors. Conservatives need not apply. The group was founded by Billy Wimsatt, a dedicated Leftist and activist. It is a digital group that corresponds with one another on topics of the day and until now, was secretive. Writers, opinion leaders, activists and political pundits all share strategy, information and ideas through a closed Google group. How cozy. ...Among the membership are political hacks from NARAL, the SEIU, the AFL-CIO and Planned Parenthood. Literally dozens of other groups are among the membership. The Atlantic, Wikipedia and MSNBC have members on board as well. The likes of Sally Kohn, a former Fox News reporter who is now a contributor at CNN and who leans strongly in favor of Obama, worked the group to promote her appearances. She liberally promoted to her Progressive colleagues her work. She is but one of many plying their wares through the group." (The group apparently functions like "JournoList," a group of about 400 media leftists who planned and coordinated their stories so they would all be on the same pro-Obama, anti-GOP "wavelength.") [12476, 12477, 12478, 62625]

Marilyn Tavenner, the Obama-appointed administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), joins former IRS official Lois Lerner on the list of federal employees who failed to maintain records of her emails, as required by law. DailyCaller.com reports, "Though Tavenner's computer did not crash like ex-IRS official

Lois Lerner's computer allegedly did, Tavenner may be unable to cooperate with House Oversight and Government Reform Committee subpoenas." CMS has advised, "It is possible that some emails may not be available..." (The loss of email history by a federal employee must be reported to the National Archives within a time period specified by law. Both Lerner and Tavenner violated that law.) [62565, 62566, 62598, 62616]

The State Department approves a \$545,000 contract for the training of employees on how to testify before Congress. According to WashingtonTimes.com, "The contract with Orlando, Florida-based AMTIS, Inc. includes classes entitled "Communicating with Congress: Briefing and Testifying" and pays for one-on-one sessions to hold a mock hearing with questioners playing the role of lawmakers asking hard questions of the would-be witnesses." (It perhaps does not occur to the Obama administration that telling the truth would cost nothing.) [62602, 62697]

DailyCaller.com reports, "...Obama has said he would not approve the Keystone XL pipeline if it significantly increased U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, a huge nod to environmentalists who oppose the project on global warming grounds. A new report, however, shows that Obama's failure to approve the pipeline may substantially increase America's carbon footprint. The American Action Forum (AAF) reports that if Obama had approved the pipeline back in 2012 he would have prevented the potential release of up to 7.4 million tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere—the equivalent of taking 1.5 million cars off the road. Obama had his first opportunity to approve Keystone back in January 2012, but he rejected the pipeline. This meant that the oil sands extraction in remote regions of Alberta, Canada would have to be transported primarily by rail—which has a larger carbon footprint than carrying oil by pipeline." [62623]

In a visit to Kiev, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen states, "NATO's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine is unwavering. Our partnership is long-standing. It's strong, and in response to Russia's aggression, NATO is working even more closely with Ukraine to reform its armed forces and defence institutions. ... We stand by Ukraine and your struggle to uphold the fundamental principles on which we have built our free societies. ... So I call on Russia to step back from the brink. Step back from the border. Do not use peacekeeping as an excuse for war-making. I urge Russia to follow the genuine path to peace. To stop its support for separatists. To pull back its troops from Ukraine's border. And to engage in a sincere dialogue for a peaceful solution." [62593, 62594]

A delusional White House press secretary John Earnest insists, "There are no military solutions to the very difficult problems that exist in Iraq now. The American people cannot solve this problem for the Iraqi people. The only solution that exists is an Iraqi political solution." (If Earnest does not speak for the Obama administration, he should be fired. If he does speak for the administration, the thousands of Iraqis being persecuted and slaughtered by ISIS are on their own. The simple truth is that good people cannot negotiate with evil people, whether they be members of ISIS, Hamas, or Hezbollah. They must be defeated.) At HotAir.com Noah Rothman writes, "This administration continues to act as though the power of positive thinking will overcome adversity. Or, at the very

least, that the press will determine that the administration is not culpable for thousands of deaths and a near ethno-religious genocide in Iraq if they pretend that they can't do anything about it." At CNN, an incredibly naive Wolf Blitzer says, "The whole country of Iraq [is] seemingly falling apart right now. This is not the way it was supposed to be after ...Obama announced that all forces would be leaving. He was hoping, obviously, that there would be some peaceful transition there..." [62556]

ISIS posts a video in which a spokesman, Abu Mosa, says, "I say to America that the Islamic Caliphate has been established. Don't be cowards and attack us with drones. Instead send your soldiers, the ones we humiliated in Iraq. ...We will humiliate them everywhere, God willing, and we will raise the flag of Allah in the White House." [62599]

In what may be a "too little, too late" scenario, the U.S. military conducts a "humanitarian assistance operation" in northern Iraq, with "a number" of military aircraft dropping "critical meals and water" for tens of thousands of Iraqis threatened by ISIS. "When we have the unique capabilities to help avert a massacre," says Obama, "then I believe the United States of America cannot turn a blind eye." (Whether that is a new post-Benghazi rule is unclear.) Without bothering to define his goals, Obama also states he has authorized targeted airstrikes "if necessary" in Iraq, but says, "I will not allow us to fight another war in Iraq. ...American combat troops will not be returning to fight in Iraq." (Translation: "Just wait a few days, ISIS, and you will be back in business.") Obama also makes the arguably nonsensical statement, "Ending the Iraq war has allowed us to strike decisive blows against our enemies." (As usual, Obama is reacting to events rather than anticipating them. Had he authorized drone attacks against ISIS one year earlier, when the Iraqi government pleaded for them, he would not have to send humanitarian aid to ISIS victims—because there would be none.) [62570, 62571, 62591, 62612, 61614, 62629]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "As of Thursday evening, the first round of humanitarian airdrops had been completed, Pentagon officials said. About 5,300 gallons of drinking water and 8,000 pre-packaged meals had been dropped by three cargo aircraft deploying from multiple airbases along with two escort fighters, according to the Defense Department. ...Islamic State fighters... have trapped more than 40,000 Yazidis, a Kurdish ethnic religious sect, in the Sinjar Mountain area in northern Iraq without access to food or water and threatened to kill them." [62577]

Meanwhile, Lebanon's *The Daily Star* reports, "Jihadists seized Iraq's largest Christian town and surrounding areas Thursday [August 7], sending tens of thousands of panicked residents fleeing in what is being called a humanitarian disaster, officials and witnesses said. The onslaught saw the Sunni extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) extend its writ over northern Iraq and move within striking distance of autonomous Kurdistan, in one of the most dramatic developments of the two month-old conflict. ISIS militants moved into Qaraqosh and other towns overnight after the withdrawal of Kurdish peshmerga troops, who are stretched thin across several fronts, residents said. 'Qaraqosh, Tal Kayf, Bartella and Karamlesh have been emptied of their original population and are

now under the control of the militants,' Joseph Thomas, the Chaldean Catholic archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulaimaniyah, told AFP. Entirely Christian Qaraqosh... lies between Mosul, the jihadists' main hub in Iraq, and Arbil, the Kurdish region's capital. It usually has a population of around 50,000. Tal Kayf, the home of a significant Christian community as well as members of the Shabak Shiite minority, also emptied overnight. ...Pope Francis urged the international community to protect Iraq's Christians, who have emigrated en masse over the past decade as a result of successive waves of violence. Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako, who heads Iraq's largest Christian denomination, said the overnight offensive had displaced 100,000 Christians. 'This is a humanitarian disaster. The churches are occupied, their crosses were taken down,' he told AFP, adding that 1,500 manuscripts had been burnt." [62583, 62584, 62592]

YNetNews.com reports on talks to end the Israeli-Hamas conflict, claiming "Egyptian officials stated that the Israeli delegation insisted during talks in Cairo on the terms of the demilitarization of Gaza, and expressed reservations about the issues of building an airport and seaport in Gaza. According to the sources, Egypt tried to persuade the delegation to drop the issue of disarming Palestinian groups and accept the rest of the demands. The sources further stated that Israel agreed to release the prisoners, lift the siege and expand the allotted fishing space." (Pamela Geller comments, "If this report is true, and I hope it isn't, then Israel is acting as if it lost the incursion in Gaza—when there is no reason whatsoever for it to think so. But after every defeat of the jihad force, Israel ends up being pushed into making disastrous concessions that allow the jihadis to regroup and fight again. Israel should not make the slightest concession to these savages.") [62581, 62582]

Hamas violates the 72-hour cease fire, firing two rockets in southern Israel—putting an end to peace talks brokered by Egypt. [62569, 62578, 62619, 62620]

On August 8, no doubt much to the annoyance of Obama's attorney general, Eric Holder, a U.S. District Court in North Carolina refuses to block the state's voter ID law, which also reduces the early voting period from 17 to 10 days. (Democrats find such rules discriminatory—even though they apply equally to everyone. It is not as though white and male voters were allowed a 17-day window and blacks and women were limited to 10; everyone is limited to 10. Some areas of the country have no early voting provisions at all. HotAir.com notes that voters in the state of New York can vote from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. on election day, and "That's it. (Aside from absentee and military ballots, which every state has.) Why are there no massive protests against New York's horribly racist voting laws? *Because Democrats already win all the elections here, so why rock the boat?*") [62654, 62700]

Hamas fires about 60 rockets into Israel as the cease fire expires. [62919]

Obama's ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, states, "Russia has proposed this week creating humanitarian corridors to assist the affected populations in Ukraine. But in Ukraine, urgent humanitarian assistance should be delivered by the international humanitarian organizations that have the expertise, experience, and

independence to provide it. It should not be delivered by Russia. And given that Ukraine has allowed international humanitarian groups to deliver aid within its territory, there is no logical reason why Russia should seek to deliver it. Therefore, any further unilateral intervention by Russia into Ukrainian territory—including one under the guise of providing humanitarian aid—would be completely unacceptable and deeply alarming. And it would be viewed as an invasion of Ukraine.” (Obama, via Power, is drawing a “red line”—that Russia then crosses on August 22.) [63522, 63523, 63605]

Algemeiner.com reports, “A Catholic Archbishop ministering to Gaza’s minute Christian minority says Hamas terrorists forced him to allow them to use his church to fire rockets at Israel during the four week-long Operation Protective Edge. ‘Islam is the rule of this place and whatever Hamas says we must obey or face consequences,’ Archbishop Alexios told The Christian Broadcasting Network. Alexios showed the reporter where Hamas terrorists used the roof of the center to fire rockets at Israel.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Deeply, deeply evil. The obvious objective is to force the Jews to fire on the church, thereby destroying the church and dividing the victims of jihad, Christians and Jews.”) [62573, 62627]

Meanwhile, Canon Andrew White of Baghdad’s St. George’s Anglican Church tells AnglicanNews.org that a child he baptized several years ago was cut in half by ISIS terrorists, in the town of Qaraqosh. White says, “I’m almost in tears because I’ve just had somebody in my room whose little child was cut in half. I baptized his child in my church in Baghdad. This little boy, they named him after me—he was called Andrew.” (Obama has no comment.) [62742, 62743, 62770, 62772]

At NYTimes.com Peter Baker writes, “In sending warplanes back into the skies over Iraq, ...Obama on Thursday night found himself exactly where he did not want to be. Hoping to end the war in Iraq, Mr. Obama became the fourth [U.S. leader] in a row to order military action in that graveyard of American ambition. ...Mr. Obama made a point of reassuring a war-weary public that [he] had no intention of fighting another full-scale war there. Yet his presence in the State Dining Room testified to the bleak reality that the tide of events in that ancient land has defied his predictions and aspirations before. ...Aides said [Obama’s] hand was not forced until ISIS won a series of swift and stunning victories last weekend and Wednesday night against the Kurds in the north, who have been a loyal and reliable American ally, especially compared to the Baghdad government of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki. ISIS threats to wipe out Yazidis and other religious minorities trapped on Mount Sinjar, they said, added to the urgency. ‘You don’t have to have a ton of insight to know he feels reluctant,’ said Douglas Ollivant, a former Iraq adviser in the White House under Mr. Obama and President George W. Bush. ‘He wants the Iraq problem not to exist. And that’s exactly what the American people sent him to the White House to do.’ But ‘all these factors may kind of drag him kicking and screaming into some kind of decision.’ ...To some, this is a crisis Mr. Obama brought on himself by not trying harder to leave a residual force behind at the end of 2011 and neglecting to recognize the growing threat as the civil war in Syria next door increasingly spilled over into Iraq. Some argued that a virtual state under ISIS

control posed more than the humanitarian threat Mr. Obama seemed to be focused on.” [62610, 62611]

“‘This is about America’s national security,’ said Ryan Crocker, who was ambassador to Iraq under Mr. Bush and to Afghanistan under Mr. Obama. ‘We don’t understand real evil, organized evil, very well. This is evil incarnate. People like Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi,’ the ISIS leader, ‘have been in a fight for a decade. They are messianic in their vision, and they are not going to stop.’ But if not, then the question arises: How far is Mr. Obama willing to go? ...Just a week ago, at a news conference, he made the point that the United States cannot intervene everywhere there is a crisis. ‘Nobody has the sense about why in some cases and not in others,’ said James B. Steinberg, a former deputy secretary of state under Mr. Obama and now dean of the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. ‘His last news conference just leaves you scratching your head. Yeah, we can’t do everything. But what matters to us?’” (Crocker’s statement, “We don’t understand real evil... very well” may come as a shock to most Americans, who might believe that the leaders they elect and the military officers they pay are *supposed to* understand the evils of the nation’s enemies. If the Obama administration does not understand evil, it may not be able to stop it from expanding from the Middle East to the United States.) [62610, 62611, 62633]

At Townhall.com Jonah Goldberg notes a 2007 statement by Obama: “Nobody is proposing we leave [Iraq] precipitously. There are still going to be U.S. forces in the region that could intercede, with an international force, on an emergency basis. There’s no doubt there are risks of increased bloodshed in Iraq without a continuing U.S. presence there. It is my assessment that those risks are even greater if we continue to occupy Iraq and serve as a magnet for not only terrorist activity but also irresponsible behavior by Iraqi factions.” Goldberg observes, “It’s now pretty clear he was wrong on all counts. When Obama pulled American troops out of Iraq, they were not serving as a magnet for terrorists; they were acting as a deterrent not only to terrorists but to ‘irresponsible’ Iraqi factions. ... You have to give Obama points for consistency. He remains as blasé about mass slaughter today as he was in 2007. Back then he presented our options as a choice between doing nothing and ‘deploying unilaterally’ to put American troops in harm’s way. He plays the same rhetorical games today, insisting that critics who want to provide military aid to, say, the Kurds or the Ukrainians are really proposing war. And since no one wants war, we should accept our new role as bystander to slaughter. It’s quite a legacy you’re working on there, Mr. [Obama].” (During his 2012 reelection campaign, Obama stated, “I said I’d end the war in Iraq and I ended it” and “We’re leaving behind a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq.”) [62595, 62618]

HotAir.com adds, “Bluntly, Obama changed because the politics changed. In 2007, if you were running to be the Democratic nominee, the answer to any question involving further intervention in Iraq was *no*. ... Now that he’s a lame-duck... and most liberals are willing to defend anything he does, up to and including risking a constitutional crisis by unilaterally rewriting federal immigration law, he’s more worried about his legacy than about an election. If he stands by while ISIS slaughters thousands of people (sorry, thousands more people than they’ve already slaughtered), that’ll be his legacy—the man

who won the Nobel Peace Prize, finally got us out of Iraq, and then did jack while jihadi Nazis took over the country. The politics changed, so he did too.” [62607]

On CNN’s *New Day*, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich observes, “Nobody wants to tell the truth. The truth is this [ISIS] is a radical Islamist group. They say openly if you don’t convert, we’ll kill you. It turns out they actually mean it. There’s no complexity... [Obama] couldn’t even honestly describe ISIS last night because it goes against his ideology. [ISIS] has a very clear religious background, just as Hamas does, just as Boko Haram does. There’s a war against Christians across the region, and the fact is that we’ve got to be prepared to be honest about this. Nobody in the [U.S] State Department, nobody in the White House, not just Obama, but for three or four administrations, we’ve not had the courage to confront how bad this is, and it’s getting worse.” (Islam is as much a cult as it is a religion. At GatesofVienna.net Bob Smith provides some of the justifications for that claim: “1. A Muslim who quits Islam has to worry about being killed by another Muslim... 2. Muslims are encouraged to commit violence in the name of Islam... 3. Islam does not allow criticism or change... 4. Muslim theology teaches hatred of non-Muslims... 5. Islam matches the ‘Characteristics Associated with Cultic Groups’ according to the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA).”) [62737, 62738, 62899]

Politico reports, “American aircraft continued attacking targets in Iraq on Friday, the Pentagon said, killing terrorists who were launching attacks from mortars and underway in a convoy. A drone attacked the mortar at around 10 a.m. Eastern time, according to an announcement. At around 11:20, four Navy F/A-18 Hornets attacked the convoy, destroying seven vehicles and a mortar position. The Hornets made two passes, released eight bombs and ‘neutralized’ the fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, according to the Pentagon.” (One day earlier, White House press secretary John Earnest insisted, “There are no military solutions to the very difficult problems that exist in Iraq now.” On June 11 Obama said, “The world is less violent than it has ever been.”) [62556]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, “U.S. fighter jets have begun pounding artillery held by the al Qaeda-inspired militants in northern Iraq with laser guided bombs, a senior Defense Department official said Friday. ‘At approximately 6:45 a.m. EDT, the U.S. military conducted a targeted airstrike against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists,’ Rear Adm. John Kirby, a top Pentagon spokesman said in a statement. ‘Two F/A-18 aircraft dropped 500-pound laser-guided bombs on a mobile artillery piece near Erbil,’ Rear Adm. Kirby said. ‘ISIL was using this artillery to shell Kurdish forces defending Erbil [sometimes spelled Irbil] where U.S. personnel are located.’ A small clutch of U.S. advisers have been based in the city during recent weeks, assessing the capability of Kurdish forces to defend the region. No other details were immediately provided.” (Many of the “U.S. personnel” in Erbil are CIA operatives. At LewRockwell.com, Pepe Escobar writes, “This is an electoral year. Obama is absolutely terrified of another Benghazi—which Republicans have been trying non-stop to blame on his administration’s incompetence. The last thing Obama needs is the Caliph’s goons killing ‘diplomats’ in Erbil. That would certainly raise a tsunami of questions all over

again about the shady CIA weapon-smuggling racket—as in arming Syrian ‘rebels’ with weapons from Libya—at the time Benghazi took place. As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, of course, also knew about it all. But then, and especially now, no one should know that the CIA was weaponizing the bulk of the future Caliph’s forces.”) [62613, 62816]

Referring to Obama’s statement, “If a JayVee [junior varsity] team puts on Lakers uniforms that doesn’t make them Kobe Bryant, CNN’s Jim Acosta asks White House press secretary Josh Earnest, “Is it safe to say that ISIS... they’re no longer the JVs?” Earnest replies, “Well, I think what is, uh, appropriate to say, is that there is no question that the, uh, Laker [sic; Lakers] uniforms that were worn, uh, to use that analogy a little, to draw out that analogy a little bit, that were worn by the, uh, al-Qaeda leadership in Afghanistan, has been decimated and defeated in Afghanistan [sic]. There’s no question about that... [Nor was that Acosta’s question.] ...What is also true is that there are other organizations that subscribe to the violent extremist ideology that’s espoused and promulgated by al-Qaeda. Many of those groups, uh, in nations across the globe, uh, are not particularly sophisticated, uh, are focused on local sectarian conflicts that don’t pose a significant or immediate threat to U.S. interests or the U.S. homeland. [That wasn’t Acosta’s question either.] ...There are, of course, a couple of other organizations, uh, that do pose a more substantial threat to the United States and our interests...” [62636, 62650]

Earnest ultimately admits, “We do remain concerned about the military proficiency that has been demonstrated by ISIL [ISIS], and it’s why you’ve seen [Obama] take steps... that would, uh, protect, uh, American citizens who might be harmed by, uh, ISIL.” Earnest then states that ISIS is ultimately Iraq’s problem, and “there will be American support that’s provide, uh, but there will not be American troops returning to Iraq in a combat role. [Obama’s] determined to ensure that the United States will not be dragged back into a prolonged military conflict there.” (Earnest’s response is a typical press secretary performance: He dodges the question, changes the subject, is unsure exactly what to say, speaks slowly and with a substantial number of “uhs” and “ums” included—and then finally hits his stride with canned talking points, during which he picks up his pace and sounds relieved that he got through the episode.) [62636, 62650]

It is worth noting that Obama and his administration typically use the acronym ISIL, rather than ISIS. In January, Christopher Woolf wrote at PRI.org, “The difference has to do with the historic name of the region. The group’s members are primarily Arabic speakers. They call their group ad-Dawla al-Islāmiyya fi al-‘Irāq wa-sh-Shām—the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham. So that’s the letter ‘S’ in ISIS. Sham is the historic Arab name for what you might call Greater Syria. In English and French, the old name for that region is the Levant, which is where the letter ‘L’ comes from in ISIL. The term Levant first appeared in medieval French. It literally means ‘the rising,’ referring to the land where the sun rises. If you’re in France, in the western Mediterranean, that would make sense as a way to describe the eastern Mediterranean. ...Scholars today largely agree on the bounds of the Levant, extending from the Antakya region of Turkey, through Syria, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, and round to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Some include Cyprus, as well. This coincides exactly with the classical Arab region of Sham. The origin of the

term Sham is commonly misunderstood. Many in the Middle East believe it comes from 'shams,' the Arabic word for sun. That would fit nicely with the origin of the word Levant, as the land of the rising sun. But the true meaning is more interesting. It literally means 'the left hand.' If you stand in Mecca, facing east, then the land to your left is the 'Bilad as-Sham.' The land to your right is the 'Bilad al-Yamin,' from which the nation of Yemen gets its name. The use of Sham by the ISIS may indicate the scale of its ambitions, in terms of the boundaries of the Islamic state it is trying to set up. So it makes sense that the ISIS, or ISIL, is fighting simultaneously in Iraq and Syria." [62671, 62672, 63734]

At PatriotAction.net Laurie Sterling writes, "The question that begs to be answered is this. When Obama said, 'Islamic State of the Levant,' was he implying that Israel is an Islamic state, since Israel is considered part of the Levant? When one examines Obama's actions since he first took office, it is clear that he has consistently favored Islam over other groups and religions. Volumes could be written about Obama's loyalties to Islam Suffice it to say that, beginning with his speech in Cairo in 2009, to his appointing of Muslim Brotherhood members to the Department of Homeland Security, to his cold-shoulder treatment of Israel, it is hardly a stretch to imagine his intention of dissing Israel once again by using the term....To the countless Christians and other ethnic minority groups being slaughtered in Iraq, it matters little what name the terrorists are called. They and everyone else in the world should call it one name and one name only: pure, unadulterated evil. Anti-Semitism is rising throughout the globe while millions chose to stand with Hamas against Israel under the red herring of the 'Free Gaza' movement. Obama has turned his back on Israel time and time again and has throne [sic; thrown] a token bone to the victims in Iraq not because he cares but only to gain political points. Obama turns a blind eye to the evil perpetrated by what he deems to be the Islamic State of the Levant while quietly giving a wink to ISIS/ISIL and Hamas. The world is on fire and Obama is on vacation. Is it a stretch to think that Obama would imply an 'Islamic State of Israel?' Sadly, the conclusion must be no." [62671, 62672, 63734]

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, states, "It takes an army to defeat an army, and I believe that we either confront ISIL [ISIS] now or we will be forced to deal with an even stronger enemy in the future. ...Inaction is no longer an option." [62626, 62665]

At NewRepublic.com John B. Judis writes, "Last night, ...Obama announced that he was authorizing American airstrikes [sic; airstrikes] in Iraq. He described his intervention as a 'humanitarian effort to help save thousands of Iraqi civilians who are trapped on a mountain' and as an effort 'to protect our American personnel.' One word that he didn't mention is 'oil,' but it lies near the center of American motives for intervention. The United States is conducting airdrops to aid the Yazidis who have fled the advance of Islamic State militants, but it is conducting airstrikes around Erbil, which is to the east. There are American consular personnel in Erbil, but they could be evacuated if necessary. What Obama left unsaid was that Erbil, a city of 1.5 million, is the capital of the Kurdish regional government and the administrative center of its oil industry, which accounts for about a quarter of Iraq's oil. ...If the Islamic State were to take over Erbil, they would

endanger Iraq's oil production and, by extension, global access to oil. Prices would surge at a time when Europe, which buys oil from Iraq, has still not escaped the global recession. ... In portraying American intervention in Iraq as a purely humanitarian effort, Obama is following the script he read from in Libya, when he justified American intervention as an effort to prevent a massacre in Benghazi. ... The United States should worry about the global oil supply. It is important for global economic and political stability. And having a significant chunk of it fall into the hands of a group like the Islamic State should certainly be a concern. But if Obama is worried about the world's oil supply, then he should say so forthrightly and not leave himself in a position where he will be unable to justify or explain further intervention after the airdrops to the Yazidis are completed." [62639, 62640, 62771]

BBC.com reports on the need to be skeptical when evaluating civilian casualty statistics in Gaza: "[I]f the Israeli attacks have been 'indiscriminate,' as the UN Human Rights Council says, it is hard to work out why they have killed so many more civilian men than women. ... An analysis by the New York Times looked at the names of 1,431 casualties and found that 'the population most likely to be militants, men ages 20 to 29, is also the most overrepresented in the death toll. They are 9% of Gaza's 1.7 million residents, but 34% of those killed whose ages were provided. At the same time, women and children under 15, the least likely to be legitimate targets, were the most underrepresented, making up 71% of the population and 33% of the known-age casualties.' The list of names and ages of the dead published by al-Jazeera also found men aged between 20 and 29 to be significantly overrepresented." (In other words, many dead Hamas combatants are probably being counted as civilians.) [62608, 62609, 62741]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld says, "I'm a big fan of humanitarian aid, and by humanitarian aid, I mean bombs." [62617]

At Townhall.com S. E. Cupp writes that Obama "is in many ways the sad tale of a promising and, at one time, confident rising star who instead withered into an equivocating and uncertain Hamlet-like figure. He is haunted by a ghost named President Bush. ... Bush may as well still be in the White House, because Obama can't make a move without first thinking of him. ... [I]n June, upon announcing his decision to send 300 military advisers into Iraq, the over-compensation was palpable: 'Recent days have reminded us of the deep scars left by America's war in Iraq.' And: 'Here at home, Iraq sparked vigorous debates and intense emotions in the past, and we've seen some of those debates resurface. But what's clear from the last decade is the need for the United States to ask hard questions before we take action abroad, particularly military action.' And: 'I think we always have to guard against mission creep so let me repeat what I have said in the past. American combat troops are not going to be fighting in Iraq again.' So, after waiting two years to make the case for Syria and five months to acknowledge ISIS in Iraq, Obama's strategy for convincing the American people, Congress, and our allies around the world to back him on limited intervention in these conflicts wasn't to explain their urgency, our self-interests, or our responsibility, but to declare our last intervention's disasters. That's like getting your friends to take a blimp ride by reminding them of the Hindenburg. It's no wonder no one was sold on Syria and folks are still very

much confused and concerned by our presence again in Iraq.” Obama’s foreign policy is “not a product that he believes in. And not because of any ideological impulse or conviction. He doesn’t know what he believes. ‘Not being Bush’ has been his only guide. And so he hums that mantra until it becomes totally untenable. And then he’s surprised when, at the 11th hour, no one’s with him. It’s a shame. Maybe Obama once had some clear-eyed ideas about how the world should work. But we’ll never know, because the only vision he’s offered is by way of another man’s. And merely doing the opposite of someone else is no way to lead a nation, let alone the world.” [62621]

Retired four-star Army General Barry McCaffrey tells NBC’s Chuck Todd, “These [Obama actions in Iraq] are political gestures using military power. When we dropped three aircraft loads of water and food to 50,000 people in the mountains, now we’re striking ISIS artillery units, it looks to me as if a lot of this is internal U.S. politics to show we’re doing something. I mean, if you’re going to use military power, you have to write down your objective and then use decisive force to meet your objective. So I’m a little dismayed at what we’re up to here. ... I think we have muddled thinking on what we’re trying to achieve in Iraq, and so these pinprick strikes—I mean if you’re going to protect refugees, 50,000 people without water and food, you don’t do two FA-18 strikes on an artillery unit somewhere in the vicinity.” (Pamela Geller observes, “This is all just cosmetic. Obama lost Iraq. Now he is just trying to save face.”) [62622, 62628]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes up 185.66 points—almost certainly because investors believe the limited airstrikes in northern Iraq are meant to protect the Kurdish oil fields (even if protecting the Yazidis was the “official” basis for the strikes).

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer notes, “The Kurds are allies of the U.S. They have a civil society, they’re pro-American, and they fight really hard. But they’re essentially using javelins and harpoons here, and we have not given them anything. And the reason... [White House press secretary] Josh Earnest... said, ‘Everything has to go through the Iraqi government.’ The Iraqi government—that’s Maliki, that Shiite chieftain—has cut off all aid to the Kurdish area [of Iraq] since December of last year. Nothing. We have sent weapons to Baghdad; none of [them have] reached Kurdistan. Why in God’s name we don’t resupply or supply our allies who can hold back ISIS is beyond me.” [62642]

On August 9, before leaving for his Martha’s Vineyard vacation, Obama comments on the situation in Iraq. (He delivers his remarks outside the White House, with the Marine One helicopter directly behind him. His golf clubs are not visible.) In his brief comments Obama gives no timetable for military actions in Iraq and he does not define his goals—if he even has any beyond shifting the slaughter of innocent Yazidis off the front pages of a few newspapers for a few days. (If his goal is protecting the Kurds’ oil fields, he does not say so—no doubt to avoid “No blood for oil!” protest signs outside the White House.) He calls on the Iraqis to do more to defend themselves: “What we’ve seen over the last several months indicates the weaknesses in the Iraqi government, but what we’ve also seen is a wake-up call for a lot of Iraqis.” (Obama neglects to note that it is also a wake-up call for his own administration, which was warned about ISIS more than a year ago

and chose to do nothing in the hopes that it would perhaps just go away.) [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama emphasizes that no U.S. combat troops will be deployed: “I’ve been very clear that we’re not gonna [sic] have U.S. combat troops in Iraq again. And we are going to maintain that because we should have learned a lesson from our long and immensely costly incursion in Iraq.” Yet he calls the Iraq situation a long term project: “I don’t think we’re going to solve this problem in weeks. I think this is going to take some time.” (He does not indicate *how* the problem will be solved, only that it will be magically solved without any U.S. combat troops.) He falsely claims that all U.S. troops were pulled out because the Iraqis demanded it, and claims the rise of ISIS was unanticipated: ISIS advances have “been more rapid than the intelligence estimates and I think the expectations of policymakers in and outside Iraq.” (In other words, “Don’t blame me, blame the U.S. intelligence agencies.”) He fails to take *any* responsibility for the ISIS problem, saying it was wrong to blame a lack of U.S. troops: “That entire analysis is bogus and is wrong. But it gets frequently peddled around here by folks who often times are trying to defend previous policies that they themselves made.” Obama states, “We feel confident we can prevent ISIL [ISIS] from going up the mountain and slaughtering people who are there.” (The problem, of course, is greater than simply the thousands of Iraqis stranded on a mountain. The problem is that tens of thousands of Iraqis are threatened by ISIS—as well as the stability of the entire region and even the United States. When Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, was released from U.S. custody at the Camp Bucca prisoner facility in 2009, he told the commanding officer, “I’ll see you in New York.” But even if ISIS is ultimately a threat to the United States, Obama will wash his hands of all the problems as soon as the people trapped on the mountain in Sinjar are rescued. Iraqis who are being persecuted and slaughtered by ISIS everywhere else in Iraq apparently have to fend for themselves.) [60279, 60280, 60281, 60301, 60335, 60336, 60352, 62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Remarkably, Obama says “I find interesting the degree to which this issue keeps coming up, *as if this was my decision* [emphasis added]. Under the previous administration, we had turned over the country to a sovereign, democratically elected Iraqi government. In order for us to maintain troops in Iraq, we needed the invitation of the Iraqi government and we needed assurances that our personnel would be immune from prosecution. ...Let’s just be clear. The reason we did not have a follow-on force in Iraq was because a majority of Iraqis did not want U.S. troops there.” [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685, 62764, 62826, 62833]

Obama’s statement is as shameless as it is astounding. He spent much of his 2012 reelection campaign bragging that *he* ended the war in Iraq, but he *now* claims he had nothing to do with the troop withdrawal because George W. Bush had failed to negotiate a status of forces agreement and because Iraq did not want it to be continued. *Obama’s claim is absurd.* Although Iraq made some demands for inclusion in a renewal agreement, they could easily have been overcome or negotiated by Obama. The Iraqi government was simply trying to negotiate the best deal it could get from Obama—no doubt believing his negotiating skills were weaker than Bush’s. (On March 24, former

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told *On the Record's* Greta Van Susteren, “A trained ape can get a status of forces agreement. It does not take a genius.”) Obama cannot claim that he ended the war *and* also mockingly say, “*as if this was my decision.*” It was either his decision to withdraw all U.S. troops or it was not. If it was, it was a mistake. If it was not, then he did not end the war. There is no middle ground which would allow him to claim credit for the good and avoid blame for the bad. [56739, 56748, 56952, 62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama did not bother to renew the agreement; he simply used the Iraqi demands as an excuse not to leave *any* U.S. troops behind in Iraq. But he cannot have it both ways. Obama cannot take credit for ending the war *and at the same time* claim that his hands were tied and he could not have done anything to change the course of events. Obama either could have done something or he could not. If Obama could *not* have done anything, then he most certainly did not “end the war.” *It ended merely because the previous status of forces agreement of the Bush administration lapsed.* If Obama could have done something, then he deserves some of the blame for the rise of ISIS and the current crisis in Iraq—which could have been avoided had U.S. troops been left behind to stop ISIS before it had a chance to grow into a massive terrorist army. In blaming the Iraqis for not agreeing to a renewed status of forces agreement, Obama is essentially saying that *they* ended the war in Iraq, not him. If Obama wanted to leave U.S. troops in Iraq but the Iraqi government would not let him do so, then the Iraqis “ended the war.” If Obama did not want to extend the status of forces agreement, then George W. Bush arguably “ended the war” by having the agreement expire at the end of 2011. In either case, Obama was simply an *observer*. [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama provides himself with yet another excuse: “The only difference would be [that] we’d have a bunch of troops on the ground that would be vulnerable. However many troops we had, we would have to now be reinforcing, I’d have to be protecting them, and we’d have a much bigger job. And probably we would end up having to go up again in terms of the number of ground troops to make sure that those forces were not vulnerable.” In other words, if Obama had left *any* U.S. troops behind in Iraq, they would not have been enough to deal with ISIS and he would now have to reinforce them anyway. But had he left any troops behind, the number would have been determined by *him*. Obama is essentially arguing that *he* would have erred by leaving too few troops behind to deal with ISIS. His argument is therefore, “I would have erred by leaving too few troops behind had I left any, so I may as well have left none.” Obama’s logic is astoundingly pathetic. The number of U.S. troops the Iraqi government wanted left behind—and the number recommended by U.S. generals—would have been enough to stop ISIS had action been taken at the earliest stages, *when it was requested by the Iraqi government.* The U.S. troops on the ground would have been able to identify the main ISIS targets, and missile strikes would have decimated them—*before* ISIS grew to army size. [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama’s choice of words is worth noting: “*we’d* have a bunch of troops,” “*we* would have to now be reinforcing,” “*I’d* have to be protecting them,” “*we’d* have a much bigger job,” and “*we* would end up having to go up again.” His use of “I’d” in only one part of

the statement is a clear indication that he *personally* resents having to “protect” U.S. troops in Iraq. He wanted then and wants now to have nothing to do with Iraq, and he is personally offended that he is being forced into a position where he has to even think about the situation. (“*How dare anyone force the challenges of leadership on me!*”) [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama then says, “If you [“you,” not “we”—meaning, “How dare *you* delay my vacation!”] want this thing to work, then whether it’s different ethnicities, different religions, different regions, they’ve got to accommodate each other. Otherwise you start tipping back into the old patterns of violence, and it doesn’t matter how many U.S. troops are there if that happens. You end up having a mess.” (The statement is incredibly naive and assumes there is no evil in the world—just “differences” that can be “accommodated.” But jihadists in ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah, and al-Qaeda will not “accommodate” anyone. They demand that *they* be accommodated, and a violent death is rapidly dispensed to those who will not comply. [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Obama’s “*Can’t we all just get along?*” would be naive coming from an average person who is busy earning a living and not following world events. *But it is coming from the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Armed Forces.* That outlook may cause little harm if it is that of the neighborhood bartender or philosophical taxi driver (or MSNBC pundit). But when that outlook is coming from the so-called leader of the free world, that free world may be in grave danger. [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685]

Soon after his Iraq remarks, Obama plays golf at the Farm Neck Golf Club with NBA player Ray Allen, Ahmed Rashad (the boyfriend of Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett), and Cyrus Walker (one of Jarrett’s cousins). (At PJMedia.com, Jazz Shaw writes that PGA stands not for Professional Golfers’ Association but “Presidential Golf Adventures.”) [62643, 62660, 62668, 62834, 62850]

At the Iowa State Fair, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) remarks, “I think [Obama] should actually stand up and do his job as commander in chief, should spend less time on the golf course and more time doing the job to which he was elected. I am glad [Obama] is finally demonstrating some leadership, taking the threat from ISIS seriously, but unfortunately, he’s following the pattern that has characterized his foreign policy from the beginning of this tenure which he has laid out no clearly defined objective that we’re trying to accomplish that is key to defending U.S. national security. What is missing right now is the commander in chief laying out a strategic vision, ‘Here is what we’re trying to accomplish so everyone will know when it’s accomplished and here’s why it furthers U.S. national security interests.’ That only comes from [Obama], and unfortunately right now ...Obama’s not providing that leadership.” [62644]

The “2014 Gay Games” event in Cleveland features a video appearance by Obama. He states, “Since 1982 the Gay Games have given lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender athletes and supporters around the world a chance to come together to compete, celebrate, and inspire others. ...We’ve... seen America change in that time, even since 2006, when the games were last held in the United States in my hometown of Chicago. We’ve come a

long way in our commitment to the equal rights of LGBT people here and around the world. ...I'm proud of my administration's record and of the citizens who've helped push for justice." [62712]

In North Miami Beach, Rabbi Joseph Raksin is shot and killed by two teenagers as he walked to his synagogue—which only days earlier was defaced with swastikas and the word “ Hamas.” At Raksin’s funeral service, a swastika is scratched into the paint of one mourner’s car. (Obama has no comment.) [62645, 62890, 62891]

An ISIS supporter tweets a photo of his cellphone with the White House in the background. On the cellphone is an image of the black flag of jihad. The message: “AMessagefromISISToUS we are here America near our target:) soooooooooooooon.” According to TheGatewayPundit.com, the photo was posted again, with the messages, “We are everywhere” and “We are in your state We are in your cities We are in your streets You are our goals anywhere.” [62680, 62681, 62715]

In *The Australian*, Brendan Nicholson writes, “Australia needs to prepare for an increasingly savage, 100-year war against radical Islam that will be fought on home soil as well as foreign lands, the former head of the army, Peter Leahy, has warned. Professor Leahy, a leading defence and strategic analyst, told *The Weekend Australian* the country was ill-prepared for the high cost of fighting a war that would be paid in ‘blood and treasure’ and would require pre-emptive as well as reactive action. ‘Australia is involved in the early stages of a war which is likely to last for the rest of the century,’ he said. ‘We must be ready to protect ourselves and, where necessary, act pre-emptively to neutralise the evident threat. Get ready for a long war.’ ...Professor Leahy—a former lieutenant general who ran the army for six years, from 2002-2008—said the threat of radical Islam would require action on several fronts, including a strengthening of controls against biological, chemical and nuclear attacks. ...The Western withdrawal from Afghanistan did not constitute the end of the so-called war on terror, ‘nor, as was claimed by prime minister Julia Gillard, in January 2013, a transition from the 9/11 decade,’ he said. Michael Krause, a former senior Australian Army officer responsible for planning the coalition campaign in Afghanistan, said he agreed ‘absolutely’ with Professor Leahy. ‘I have seen these people,’ the retired major general said. ‘I know how they think. I know how they fight. There is no compromise possible.’ ...Professor Leahy said politicians needed to ‘develop an honest and frank dialogue’ with the Australian public. ‘They should advance a narrative that explains that radical Islamism and the terrorism it breeds at home and abroad will remain a significant threat for the long term, it will require considerable effort, the expenditure of blood and treasure and it will, of necessity, restrict our rights and liberties,’ he said.” [62682, 62683]

Meanwhile, a 7-year-old boy who was raised in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia holds up a decapitated head in a video posted in the Internet. The boy’s father, jihadist Khaled Sharrouf, tweeted the photo with the words, “That’s my boy.” (Sharrouf, a convicted terrorist, and his son are reportedly in Syria.) Secretary of State John Kerry says, “That child should be in school, that child should be out learning about a future, that child should be playing with other kids, not holding a severed head and out in the field of

combat.” (What Kerry does not realize is that many of the other children the boy may be spending time with are also the offspring of terrorists. He is not the only one who has seen severed heads.) [62713, 62714, 62740, 62800, 62803, 63101]

At Algemeiner.com Deborah Danan reports, “A video of summer camps run by UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, is making the rounds on pro-Israel social media networks again with footage that shows Palestinian children as young as 6 calling for ‘Jihad against the Jews.’ ‘The resistance in Gaza is not enough,’ says one camper in UNRWA’s school in Balata. ‘We need to unite and fight together.’ The Lawfare Project, who promoted the video, makes the claim that US and Europe-sponsored UNRWA is abusing children with brainwashing methods that include games aimed at teaching the values of war and the Arab ‘right of return’ to Israeli cities. It portrays children writing names on kites of the Israeli cities that they will one day recapture as theirs. ...The songs that are sung include inciteful lyrics which range from tamer verses like ‘I will not forget my promise to take back my land’ and ‘collect stones, throw them at Israelis’ to the more radical such as ‘we are the revolutionaries and we are filled with rage,’ ‘when we die as martyrs we go to heaven’ and ‘with God’s help we will wage war.’ ...Another child who appears to be about 7-years-old is asked who the Jews are. ‘They are a gang of infidels and Christians,’ she says. ‘I will defeat them.’ An older teenager is filmed as saying, ‘Attacking stage by stage is not the answer. We need to attack all at once.’ He continues by saying ‘There will never be peace between us and Israel.’” (Like the rest of the United Nations, a substantial portion of UNRWA’s funding comes from U.S. taxpayers—most of whom have no idea they are funding jihadist propaganda. Meanwhile, Obama naively believes people of “different ethnicities, different religions, different regions” simply have to “accommodate each other” and all will be peaceful. Obama does not explain how one can “accommodate” those who wish to wipe you off the face of the earth.) [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62684]

At NYPost.com Paul Sperry writes, “The assassination of an American general by a Taliban terrorist posing as an Afghan soldier exposes the lunacy of the administration’s Afghanistan strategy. Under pressure from ...Obama, the military rushed to recruit local Afghans to stand up a national army and police ahead of his hasty year-end troop withdrawal. To process some 7,000 new recruits each month, corners were cut on background checks, allowing insurgents and terrorists to fill the ranks of the now-350,000-member security force. ...US military intelligence now fear as much as 25% of Afghan security forces are Taliban or al Qaeda operatives and sympathizers, which means we may be arming and training an army of some 87,500 enemy infiltrators with easy access to US personnel and intelligence. ...Thirteen years after toppling them, we’re training the Taliban to retake Afghanistan.” [62736]

DailyCaller.com writes, “Political conservatives are the greatest threat to the nation, ...Obama suggested in a kid-glove interview with the New York Times. ‘[Obama] mused, the biggest threat to America—the only force that can really weaken us—is us,’ said the interviewer, Thomas Friedman. ‘Our politics are dysfunctional... societies don’t work if political factions take maximalist positions,’ said Obama, who repeatedly claims

to be a moderate stymied by the GOP's supposed obstructionism and radicalism. 'And the more diverse the country is, the less it can afford to take maximalist positions,' Obama added. ... 'Increasingly politicians are rewarded for taking the most extreme maximalist positions... and sooner or later, that catches up with you,' Obama warned." (From Obama's perspective, of course, "maximalist positions" are those taken by conservatives and Tea Party members who support increased individual liberties, rather than socialist positions taken by far left Democrats.) [62760]

The Hoover Institution's Richard A. Epstein writes Friedman "tried to do a beleaguered ...Obama a favor by publishing a summary of an extended interview between the two men, which was grandly entitled 'Obama on the World.' Friedman tried to present [Obama] in a positive light, by calling his weak responses 'feisty.' Yet there is no denying that Obama's rudderless foreign policy has been a disaster. The international order has rapidly deteriorated since Obama entered the Oval Office. The current situation is so perilous that so long as [sic; as long as] Obama remains [in office], the phrase 'presidential leadership' will continue to be an oxymoron. [Obama] suffers from two fundamental flaws. The first is that he is unwilling to make decisions. He much prefers to play the role of a disinterested observer who comments on a set of adverse events that he regards himself as powerless to shape, of which Assad's carnage in Syria is the prime example. The second is that he fundamentally misunderstands the use of force in international affairs. He handicaps himself fatally by imposing unwise limitations on the use of American force, such as his repeated declarations that he will not send ground troops back into Iraq. To put these points into perspective, it is important to address two issues that Friedman never raises with [Obama]: military strength and American influence." [62769]

"Regarding the first, Friedman fails to discuss ...Obama's conscious decision to reduce the budgets for, and hence the size of, American military operations throughout the world. In [Obama's] view, cutting down on the size of the military reduces the American temptation to intervene in disputes around the globe, and thus prevents misadventures such as our interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan that have sapped American strength with little or nothing to show for it. The second issue Friedman never addressed is the deterioration in world peace that has happened [since Obama took office]. No one can claim that Iraq was at peace when George W. Bush left office, but the violence had been curbed. Since Obama has taken over, relative tranquility yielded to factional squabbling, followed by vicious aggression that caught [Obama] woefully off guard. Iraq is not alone. The number of hotspots in the world—including Gaza, Syria, Libya, Nigeria, Ukraine and the China Sea—is increasing. [Obama] wrings his hands over how difficult it has become to find credible allies in the world to address these problems without ever asking why no one trusts him. So he resolves to hold back on the use of American force overseas. Armed with that certainty, every tin pot dictator and terrorist group thinks it has an open field in which to run." [62769]

"...When Friedman asked [Obama] about how his hapless policies created the current tinderboxes, Obama said he 'is only going to involve America more deeply in places like the Middle East to the extent that the different communities there agree to an inclusive

politics of no victor/no vanquished.’ This noble sentiment gets the causation backwards. So long as we remain on the sidelines, we can be quite sure that the various factions in Iraq will continue to take what Obama termed ‘maximalist positions,’ without the spirit of compromise. ...The United States cannot hunker down on the sidelines until those groups reach an agreement. ...A record as dismal as Obama’s does not happen by accident. It stems from some fundamental conceptual error, which in this instance is one that is shared by the hard-line libertarian wing of the Republican Party, led by Rand Paul, which is deeply suspicious of the use of force in international affairs. The root of the difficulty is this: a strong libertarian believes that the primary wrong is the use or threat of force. It’s clearly wrong for a powerful nation such as the United States to commit aggression against its weaker neighbors. But the intellectual slogginess for libertarians gets a lot tougher when the question is how to respond to both the use and threats of force by others. In these cases, the principle of self-defense reveals how difficult it is to decide when to respond and with how much force even in simple disputes between ordinary individuals. The issues only get tougher in the international arena as the stakes get higher and the overall uncertainty increases. ...In many cases, the only effective way to deal with aggression is with a strong and decisive response. Our overly intellectual [leader] has failed to deliver one. He sees himself as a deep thinker who sees issues that lesser minds just miss. He would do a lot better in international affairs if he would stop his philosophical musings and start being the... leader of the free world.” [62769]

Obama’s indecisiveness is repeated at WhiteHouse.gov, which posts some answers to questions about Iraq, such as “Are we at war with ISIL?” the White House response: “No. There is no U.S. military solution to the larger situation in Iraq. The United States’ chief goals are to protect our personnel and facilities, and to prevent a potential act of genocide. That is the scope of these operations. As [Obama] said, we will support Iraqis as they take the fight to these terrorists, but no American combat troops will be returning to fight in Iraq.” (Of course, there are U.S. troops in Iraq, and the Americans flying missions against ISIL/ISIS certainly consider themselves to be in combat—and they receive combat pay.) [62771, 62823]

Egypt’s highest court bans the Muslim Brotherhood, which it says has undermined “national unity, social peace, the democratic system and threatened Egypt’s national security.” The court also orders that the radical group’s assets be liquidated. The Associated Press notes, “The decision against the Freedom and Justice Party comes ahead of parliamentary elections expected this year and prevents the group from trying to rejoin politics a year after leading member, President Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military.” (In June 2009, during his Middle East “apology tour,” Obama insisted that members of the Muslim Brotherhood be allowed to attend his speech at the University of Cairo—despite the objections of then-President and U.S. ally Hosni Mubarak. In his speech, Obama said, “...I consider it part of my responsibility... to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear,” “[T]hroughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality,” “Islam has a proud tradition of tolerance,” and “Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism—it is an important part of promoting peace.”)

[2978, 3041, 3050, 3062, 3063, 3072, 3077, 3095, 3105, 3138, 3146, 3147, 3169, 3201, 3206, 3244, 3264, 3376, 62646, 62647]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Islamic militants reportedly expanded their drive near Iraqi Kurdistan Saturday despite two U.S. airstrikes aimed at mortar positions and a seven-vehicle convoy to stop the advance on Kurdish capital of Irbil [or Erbil]. The Wall Street Journal reported that the militants appear to have their sights on connecting towns seized along the Kurdish-control territory. The most recent town to be seized was identified as Sheikhan. News of the advance comes hours after U.S. warplanes launched two more rounds of airstrikes against Islamic militants in northern Iraq, taking out two mortar positions and a seven-vehicle convoy. ...Obama authorized the use of force to protect U.S. personnel and Iraqi religious minorities facing a possible ‘genocide.’ The chief spokesman for the Pentagon, Rear Adm. John Kirby, said the U.S. launched the latest airstrikes to help defend the city of Irbil, where U.S. personnel are ‘assisting the government of Iraq.’ The airstrikes were considered successful. Senior military officials said the planes in this round of strikes, like those in the first, were launched from the USS George HW Bush in the Persian Gulf. A drone took off from an undisclosed land base and used hellfire missiles to strike its targets.” [62634]

Fox News also reports, “U.S. military forces conducted four more airstrikes on Islamic militants in Iraq Saturday, taking out armored carriers firing ‘indiscriminately’ on civilians, US military officials said. U.S. Central Command said the strikes on the Islamic State (IS), the militant group formerly known as ISIS, were spread out, with three before noon Eastern Time on Saturday and one at about 3 p.m. ‘At approximately 11:20 a.m. EDT, a mix of U.S. fighters and remotely piloted aircraft struck one of two ISIL armored personnel carriers firing on Yazidi civilians near Sinjar, destroying the APC,’ a statement released late Saturday by US Central Command said. The statement said that all indications suggested that all strikes were successful in destroying the armored vehicles, and that all aircraft left the area safely. This is the third round of airstrikes against Islamic State forces by the U.S. military since they were authorized by ...Obama to protect U.S. personnel and Iraqi religious minorities facing a possible ‘genocide.’” (Taking out a few armored personnel carriers will do little to stop ISIS, which has thousands of fighters—perhaps more than 10,000.) [62638]

NBCNews.com reports, “The U.S. has removed some staff from its embassy in Baghdad and its consulate in Erbil, the capital of Iraq’s Kurdish region threatened by militants, the State Department said Sunday. A travel warning posted Friday cautioning U.S. citizens from travelling to Iraq due to the ‘high risk for kidnapping and terrorist violence’ was updated to say that ‘a limited number’ of U.S. Consulate and U.S. Embassy staff members were relocated to Amman, the capital of Jordan, and Basrah, a southern Iraqi city.” (Pamela Geller reminds readers that on June 15 *The New York Times* reported, “The American Embassy in Baghdad plans to evacuate a substantial number of its personnel this week in the face of a militant advance that rapidly swept from the north toward the capital, the State Department announced on Sunday. ...Many staff members who are leaving will be flown to Amman, Jordan, where they will continue their work at the embassy there. Others will be shifted from Baghdad to consulates here in Erbil, in the

northern Kurdish region, and in Basra, in the south, which are not now under threat by the militants.” Geller writes, “They were supposed to be safe in Erbil. Now they’re being shifted out of Erbil. Obama keeps cutting and running from the problem he created.”) [62674, 62675, 62676, 62686]

Journalists discuss the Watergate break-in and cover-up on the 40th anniversary of President Richard M. Nixon’s resignation. DailyCaller.com reports, “While many panelists on NBC’s [sic; ABC’s] ‘This Week’ explained the moment as a time when America learned to be skeptical of its leaders, the former CBS reporter [Sharyl Attkisson] took a different tack. ‘I think that we’ve gone backwards since that time when we really felt empowered as journalists, ...and all I can think is: What would happen today during a Nixon-type scandal?’ ‘Nixon would basically refuse to turn over tapes to Congress,’ she continued. ‘His aides would refuse to testify to Congress, or would take the Fifth, or would lie to Congress with a fair amount of impunity. Woodward and Bernstein would be controversialized on social media by special and political interests who use Facebook accounts.’ ‘And then at the end,’ Attkisson declared. ‘Nixon would go on a popular late-night comedy show, during which time he would humorously refer to his attackers who were political witch-hunters who believe in Area 51-type conspiracies.’” (Attkisson is, of course, describing how Obama and his administration survives scandals.) [62661]

On August 10 Obama again plays golf, escorted by a huge motorcade, SWAT team, and two snipers. [62730]

Members of the U.S. intelligence community are less than thrilled by Obama’s August 9 remark that the rise of ISIS was unanticipated and its actions were “more rapid than the intelligence estimates and I think the expectations of policymakers in and outside Iraq.” One unnamed official tells *The Wall Street Journal*, “This wasn’t a U.S. intelligence failure. It was an Iraqi military failure. The job of the intelligence community is to warn. We did that. If there was a surprise, it was in just how quickly Iraqi forces initially disintegrated when the shooting started.” [62731, 62732]

In an interview with *Corriere della Serra*, the Chaldean Catholic archbishop of Mosul, Iraq, Amel Shimoun Nona, who is now a refugee in Erbil, warns, “Our sufferings today are the prelude of those you, Europeans and Western Christians, will also suffer in the near future. I lost my diocese. The physical setting of my apostolate has been occupied by Islamic radicals who want us converted or dead. But my community is still alive. Please, try to understand us. Your liberal and democratic principles are worth nothing here. You must consider again our reality in the Middle East, because you are welcoming in your countries an ever growing number of Muslims. Also you are in danger. You must take strong and courageous decisions, even at the cost of contradicting your principles. You think all men are equal, but that is not true: Islam does not say that all men are equal. Your values are not their values. If you do not understand this soon enough, you will become the victims of the enemy you have welcomed in your home. Please, try to understand us. Your liberal and democratic principles are worth nothing here [in Iraq]. You must consider again our reality in the Middle East, because you are welcoming in your countries an ever growing number of Muslims. Also you are in danger. You must

take strong and courageous decisions, even at the cost of contradicting your principles. You think all men are equal, but that is not true: Islam does not say that all men are equal. Your values are not their values. If you do not understand this soon enough, you will become the victims of the enemy you have welcomed in your home.” [63013, 63014, 63015]

On *Meet the Press*, NBC’s Chuck Todd notes that Obama was never eager to renew the status of forces agreement with Iraq and used that as an excuse to withdraw all U.S. forces, and says, “I’ve been trying to figure out [Obama’s] doctrine now for six years. He doesn’t have one... He pushes and pulls between the idea of democracy first and stability first... Now he’s trying for stability first, and I think in this case he’s struggling.” Andrea Mitchell adds, “And to say that [Obama] didn’t have intelligence—this is not a hard target, this is [Kurdish capital] Erbil. We have people there. The fact is, there was intelligence, and to say that they were shocked by the [Kurdish] Peshmerga [fighters], on Saturday night, being routed is a farce!” [62692]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) states that Obama is “trying to avoid a bad news story on his watch” with his minimal, pinprick airstrikes in northern Iraq. ...I think of an American city in flames because of the terrorists’ ability to operate in Syria and Iraq. There’s no political reconciliation in Baghdad going to protect the American homeland. This commander-in-chief has no strategy, he has no vision.” Graham urges Obama to “be honest with the threat we face. They are coming.” Graham warns, “If [Obama] does not go on the offensive against ISIS, ISIL, whatever you want to call these guys, they are coming here. This is not just about Baghdad. This is not just about Syria. It is about our homeland. And if we get attacked because he has no strategy to protect us, then he will have committed a blunder for the ages.” (Regardless of how large and dangerous the ISIS army may become, Obama will kick and scream before he allows a major military action to address the risk—because it would destroy his exaggerated “I ended the war in Iraq” legacy. Obama’s problem is that as ISIS grows, it attracts even more followers from other terrorist groups who want to be part of the “winning strategy.” Every town ISIS captures lures more jihadists into its fold—including some who have western passports that allow them to travel throughout Europe or the United States. Decades ago, author and philosopher Ayn Rand wrote, “We can ignore reality, but we cannot ignore the consequences of ignoring reality.” Obama is trying to ignore reality—or hoping that he can avoid the consequences of doing so until his successor is sworn in.) [62662, 62663, 62665, 62708]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, *National Journal*’s Ron Fournier notes that Obama “underestimated ISIL—he called them JV, he underestimated what was going to happen after Libya... he underestimated Putin, he underestimated several other areas... He’s been the underestimator-in-chief. We can’t afford for [Obama] to underestimate this [ISIL/ISIS] threat... I wish I was more confident that [he] really understood the threat to our homeland...” [62759]

On *State of the Union*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says, “If you read what they’re [ISIS is] saying, we are the enemy. They want to destroy us. They are getting stronger all

the time. They have attracted 10,000 young men from around the world who are now fighting on their side. This ISIS is metastasizing throughout the region. And their goal, as they have stated openly time after time, is the destruction of the United States of America. And it's not [just] John McCain that's saying it. It's the director of national intelligence, director of the FBI, the secretary of homeland security, and lately the attorney general. ...I would be rushing equipment to Erbil. I would be launching airstrikes not only in Iraq, but in Syria against ISIS. They have erased the boundaries between Iraq and Syria. I would be providing as much training and equipment as I can to—as I said, to the Kurds, and I would do a lot of things that we can not have to wait for [Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-] Maliki to leave there. And I would be giving assistance to the Syrian—the Free Syrian Army, which is on the ropes right now because we failed to help them. And this all goes back to a number of steps [Obama] took, including a failure to leave a residual force in Iraq.” (McCain continues to believe—wrongly—that the Free Syrian Army is full of “moderates” and can be trusted. It has also been infiltrated with radical jihadists, who would have no problem turning on the United States if it succeeds in ousting President Bashar al-Assad.) [62708]

At Breitbart.com Mary Chastain reports, “Not every Yazidi resident in northern Iraq escaped before the Islamic State, formerly known as ISIS, captured towns in the region. The terrorist group told the people to convert to Islam or die, killed 500 of them, buried some alive, and took hundreds of girls as slaves. ‘We have striking evidence obtained from Yazidis fleeing Sinjar and some who escaped death, and also crime scene images that show indisputably that the gangs of the Islamic State have executed at least 500 Yazidis after seizing Sinjar,’ said human rights minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. ‘Some of the victims, including women and children were buried alive in scattered mass graves in and around Sinjar.’ ‘In some of the images we have obtained there are lines of dead Yazidis who have been shot in the head while the Islamic State fighters cheer and wave their weapons over the corpses,’ he said. ‘This is a vicious atrocity.’” [62667, 62673, 62678, 62679]

Pamela Geller writes, “So here is the six-million-dollar question: is this genocide going to be ignored so as not to offend Muslims or worse, to prevent those who might call attention to it from being labeled an islamophobe?” [62677]

Israel and Hamas purportedly agree to another 72-hour cease fire, effective midnight August 10, as Egypt attempts to broker peace talks. Minutes before the start of the cease fire, Hamas fires rockets into Israel. [62664, 62666]

FoxNews.com reports, “Hillary Clinton, the front-runner among potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidates, is sharply distancing herself from ...Obama’s foreign policy, particularly in Syria, as Americans appear to continue losing confidence in his handling of key international affairs. Clinton, who as secretary of state was Obama’s top diplomat, suggested during an in-depth interview with The Atlantic magazine that [Obama’s] foreign-policy mantra of ‘don’t do stupid stuff’ lacked sufficient depth. ‘Great nations need organizing principles,’ she said in the roughly 8,000-word interview released Sunday. ‘And ‘don’t do stupid stuff’ is not an organizing principle.’ ...[S]he said

the ‘failure’ to help build up a credible fighting force from among those who started the protests against Assad ‘left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled.’ ...Clinton suggested that international criticism of Israel for its deadly attacks on Hamas in Gaza, particularly one on an apparent United Nations school, is unfair, saying the civilian casualties happen in ‘the fog of war,’ compared to the administration, which called the UN shelter attack ‘disgraceful.’” (Clinton’s own list of “stupid stuff” includes believing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was a “moderate,” as well as believing that the Syrian rebels also seem to be “moderates” worthy of support—rather than radical Islamists who would turn on the United States as soon as they got the chance.) [62669, 62698, 62706, 62796]

HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman notes that Clinton is not the only Democrat to “dump on Obama’s foreign policy.” James Steinberg, formerly Obama’s Deputy Secretary of State, “said Obama’s decision to provide just limited support to the Kurds, and to direct all other aid through the Iraqi government which has intentionally dragged its feet, ‘just leaves you scratching your head.’” Robert Ford, Obama’s former ambassador to Syria, states there is “nothing we can point to that’s been very successful” in Syria. Rothman writes, “JFK had ‘support any friend, oppose any foe,’ Reagan had ‘peace through strength,’ Obama has ‘don’t do stupid s**t.’ ...There will be no parachute out of this crisis for Obama, and his Democratic allies know it. As the ship sinks, Obama’s erstwhile allies are saving themselves. It’s an ugly sight, but also a predictable one.” [62706]

At Politico.com, Maggie Haberman writes that in her *Atlantic* interview, “Hillary Clinton has taken her furthest, most public step away yet from ...Obama, rejecting the core of his self-described foreign policy doctrine and describing his decision against backing Syrian rebels early on as a ‘failure.’ She also stood unequivocally with Israel in its current battle with Hamas in a lengthy, detailed interview on foreign policy... Political watchers will be tempted to characterize Clinton’s comments as calibrating away from [the] unpopular [Obama] as she looks toward a second presidential campaign. But Clinton has always been more of a hawk than Obama, and she has reached a point where she seems comfortable explaining their differences. Still, while her comments may not have been a specific effort to escape the creeping shadow of global chaos stretching over the White House, they will be viewed that way. ‘I guess she is ready to begin to rip the Clinton franchise away from the Obama franchise,’ said Steve Clemons, an Atlantic foreign policy blogger. ‘This is a staggeringly important interview and, in many ways, is going to reawaken the substantial resistance to her as a reckless interventionist by some quarters. ...Her comments on Syria are very provocative.’ One Democratic operative who asked not to be identified said the clear takeaway from the interview was simply that Clinton advisers are ‘good poll readers,’ a reference to Obama’s sinking public approval ratings. A Clinton adviser replied, ‘That’s ridiculous,’ stressing [that] she has no polling operation.” (The adviser’s claim is irrelevant. Clinton does not need her own polling firm to see that Obama’s approval ratings, especially on foreign policy, are dismal.) [62670]

Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie is easily defeated (67–32 percent) by challenger David Ige in the state’s Democrat primary. (Abercrombie was apparently not helped by a

radio ad in which Obama says, “Neil does what’s best for Hawaii.”) [62651, 62652, 62653, 62656, 62657, 62658, 62728]

Residents of Ferguson, Missouri riot and loot stores in response to the August 9 police shooting of a young black man, Michael Brown. BizPacReview.com reports, “Police say the teenager struggled for control of an officer’s gun before the shooting, according to the New York Times. But protesters said the teen was killed without reason. And to prove it, apparently, decided to tear up businesses in Ferguson that had things they wanted, like a liquor store and a Walmart, the Post-Dispatch reported.” (Initial reports suggest that the police may have acted improperly, but later reports suggest Brown—allegedly six feet, four inches tall and 290 pounds—was being arrested for engaging in a strong-arm robbery of a convenience store just prior to his apprehension, and he attempted to take officer Darren Wilson’s gun from him.) [62696, 62835, 62880, 62883, 62901, 62912, 62915, 62923, 62924]

On August 11 retired Lieutenant General Tom McInerney appears on *Fox & Friends*, criticizes Obama’s limited air strikes against ISIS in Iraq, and calls for a broader strategy: “What kind of strategy? Five targets? No, I am not happy. That’s not a strategy. Those are less than pinpricks. We need to be hitting at least 200 targets a day. And it must be a very offensive air campaign, and it’s an easy air campaign for U.S. forces. ...If we don’t stop it [ISIS] now and protect the Kurds, we have a huge problem, not only in the Middle East, but globally.” On *America’s Newsroom*, retired General Jack Keane says, “To take [ISIS’ initiative] away from them, [Obama] has to order the military to conduct offensive airstrikes, where we could simultaneously attack ISIS in multiple locations. That would stop them. To defeat them ...and to push them back from current locations and to push them into Syria, we would need to support ground forces” like the Kurds, or the “remnants of the Iraqi army that still has the will to fight,” or “Sunni tribes that are turning against ISIS.” [62721]

At PersonalLiberty.com Sam Rolley writes, “...Obama’s strategy of using airstrikes against the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists attempting to take control of Iraq isn’t likely to weaken the overall capabilities of the sophisticated terror group, a top Pentagon official said Monday. U.S. airstrikes on ISIS positions have been ongoing since last Friday. Army Lt. Gen. William Mayville told reporters assembled for a Monday afternoon Pentagon briefing that the strikes had only temporarily disrupted ISIS advances toward the Kurdish city of Erbil. Mayville warned, however, that ISIS remains dedicated to its mission of gaining ground throughout Iraq and ‘will sustain its attacks against Iraqi and Kurdish security forces and their positions, as well as target Yazidis, Christians and other minorities’ despite the airstrikes. According to the Pentagon official, the U.S. currently has no plans to expand operations beyond ending the siege of Mt. Sinjar and protecting U.S. interests in Erbil.” [62733]

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki resists efforts to oust him, after President Fuad Masum nominates a replacement, Haider al-Abadi. CNN.com reports, “The new Prime Minister-designate, Abadi, is the deputy speaker of the Iraqi Parliament and a former aide to al-Maliki. Masum nominated the prominent Shiite politician for the prime minister's

job on Monday despite al-Maliki's pronouncement earlier in the day that he intends to stay in office for a third term. Abadi will have 30 days to form a new government before he can formally take office. ... Whether al-Maliki would use force to retain power remains unknown. He spoke out against the nomination Monday, describing the appointment as 'null and void.' ... On Sunday [August 10], Iraqi forces and tanks surged into some Baghdad neighborhoods as a wave of troops swarmed Baghdad's green zone, the secure area where many government buildings and the U.S. Embassy are located, two Iraqi police officials said." Obama offers his support for al-Abadi, saying, "The United States stands ready to support a government that addresses the needs and grievances of all Iraqi people... We are also ready to work with other countries in the region to deal with the humanitarian crisis and counterterrorism challenge in Iraq [and] mobilizing that support will be easier once this new government is in place. ... [With the nomination of Abadi,] Iraq took a promising step forward in this critical effort. This is an important step in forming a new government that can unite Iraq's different communities. ... The only lasting solution is for Iraqis to come together and form an inclusive government. This new leadership has a difficult task to regain the confidence of its citizens by governing inclusively and taking steps to demonstrate its resolve." [62699, 62702, 62703, 62729, 62746, 62747, 62754]

At TheDailyBeast.com Josh Rogin reports that Obama "got angry at lawmakers" who criticized him in a recent foreign policy meeting: "According to one of the lawmakers, Sen. Bob Corker [R-TN] asked [Obama] a long question that included sharp criticisms of ... Obama's handling of a number of foreign policy issues—including Syria, ISIS, Russia, and Ukraine. Obama answered Corker at length. Then, [Obama] defended his administration's actions on Syria, saying that the notion that many have put forth regarding arming the rebels earlier would have led to better outcomes in Syria was 'horseshit.' White House officials confirmed the charged exchange between Obama and Corker but declined to confirm that Obama used the expletive. The interaction between Obama and Corker was a tense moment in the otherwise uneventful meeting." (The thin-skinned Obama not only does not accept criticism well, he is even less accepting of it when it is deserved.) [62755]

While Obama calls criticism of his Syrian actions "horseshit" and pretends as though he could have done nothing to stop ISIS when he had the opportunity, Syria itself sees increased violence from ISIS terrorists. In east Syria, ISIS is committing unspeakable acts of violence, including public crucifixions. [62773, 62774]

At Barnhardt.biz Ann Barnhardt writes, "Imbecile pundits who still can't get their heads around objective reality are sowing confusion with regards to the overthrow of the government in Iraq. Let's state the obvious so that clear, logical, reasoned thinking may follow: 1. The Obama regime is delighted to see Iraq destabilize because its objective is the reformation of the Islamic Caliphate. Baghdad is now primed to be conquered by ISIS, who are Musloid Brotherhood/Al Qaeda and have been supported and armed by the Obama regime, which is up to its neck in musloid agents. 2. Additionally, the Obama regime is heavily allied with Turkey, which has as one of its top goals the reconquering of all Kurd territory, and a likely genocide against the Kurds. [Prime Minister Recep

Tayyip] Erdogan of Turkey has aspirations to reform the Caliphate as Ottoman-centric, with himself as the Caliph. He will happily let the ISIS brutes do all of the dirty work in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere and will use them to squeeze the Kurds from the South, and then when ISIS is no longer useful, or excessively dangerous to him, he will slaughter them and declare himself the Caliph of the musloids, enthroned at Istanbul. I'm sure Obama will be invited to the coronation at the Hagia Sophia." [62766]

"3. Obama the man is a meaningless puppet and always has been. I don't know what it is going to take for people to comprehend that the drug-addled, sodomite imbecile is of zero importance to the decision making and strategy being implemented out of the White House, Pentagon and Foggy Bottom. Sitting around acting all shocked that he is playing golf on the Vineyard with Valerie Jarrett's cousin and Ahmad Rashad while World War 3 [sic; III] is fomenting is simply idiotic, especially after we are SIX YEARS into this. The only real relevance Obama the man now has is, as I have bluntly put it, as an 'Expendable Faggot' whose false flag assassination by his handlers would ignite the mother of all Reichstag Fires, and which I fear more and more with each passing day. 4. The Constitutional Republic known as the United States of America is no longer extant, and hasn't been for years. It was overthrown in a cold coup by enemies of the now-dead constitutional republic, and of western civilization in general. The people now running the government headquartered in Washington are malignant psychopaths who view the idea that was 'America' and people who associate themselves with that system as 'Americans' to be THE ENEMY. Everything they have done, are doing, and will do has as its aim the destruction of that system and the subjugation and eventual extermination of the people who associate themselves with it. They are, in fact, exactly the same as ISIS and the musloid political system: convert, pay the submission tax as long as we deem you economically harvestable, die. But by all means, please keep telling yourselves that 'if we just pick up a few more congressional seats' and 'get a guy Like Ted Cruz (whose wife is a Goldman Sachs executive) in,' everything will be fine. You bet. Any why don't you take up thumb-sucking and hair twirling too, while you're at it, because that will actually be a better use of your time than soaking in a tepid, sulfuric pool of your own cowardice and self-delusion." [62766]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The number of Obamacare enrollments for top health insurer Aetna is plummeting, according to a report from Investor's Business Daily. Aetna's enrollment reached 720,000 by May 20, after the final end to the extended open enrollment period. But by the end of June Aetna had less [sic; fewer] than 600,000 paying customers, IBD reports, and the company expects paying customers to fall to 'just over 500,000' by the end of 2015. That would be a drop of just under 30 percent from the May sign-up numbers—the last time the Obama administration released its official Obamacare enrollment tally." [62726]

In *The Guardian*, Jessica Valenti goes beyond Sandra Fluke's demand for free contraceptives and calls for free tampons. She writes, "Sanitary products are vital for the health, well-being and full participation of women and girls across the globe. ... In the United States, access to tampons and pads for low-income women is a real problem, too: food stamps don't cover feminine hygiene products, so some women resort to selling

their food stamps in order to pay for ‘luxuries’ like tampons.” (Food is also “vital for... health,” so it is unclear why Valenti did not extend her demand further. Whether Obama will add free tampons to ObamaCare regulations is not known.) [63006]

At WesternJournalism.com B. Christopher Agee writes about Kodiak Arms president W. P. Gentry, whose company has “spent time and money researching the potential benefits of installing software into firearms allowing them to recognize authorized users before becoming operable.” The company’s “Intelligun” has a grip that “would be able to identify fingerprints and, within one second, recognize whether the holder was authorized to use the firearm or not. When Attorney General Eric Holder met with multiple gun manufacturers in April 2013, Gentry said he was invited to discuss his innovation. ‘This interested Eric Holder,’ he recalled. ‘He wondered how we might be able to control who was or wasn’t authorized.’ Immediately, Gentry realized the host was proposing something antithetical to the motivation behind his research. ‘I stopped him right there,’ he said. ‘I looked right across the table at Eric Holder—yeah, the attorney general of the United States—and told him, ‘If you try to mandate my smart-gun technology, I’ll burn it down.’” Gentry explained that it was clear he and Holder had opposing views regarding how to make guns safer. ‘The Intelligun is designed to save lives,’ he said, ‘not restrict freedom.’” [62717, 62718, 62719]

Conservative investigative journalist James O’Keefe, of Project Veritas, releases video of himself crossing the border from Mexico into Texas while dressed like Osama bin Laden. The *Daily Mail* writes, “The official White House website includes a claim that ‘today border security is stronger than it has ever been.’ But O’Keefe told MailOnline that his stunt proves the federal government’s policy is lax and needs a dramatic overhaul. ‘...Obama is trying to deny the obvious,’ he said. ‘We proved that border security is national security. The fence is not complete. The border is not secure. In fact, the video shows the border fence is a joke.’ ‘The primary responsibility of the commander-in-chief is to protect the homeland,’ said O’Keefe. ‘With a single trip to the border, we proved that ...Obama and Congress have failed miserably and are misleading America’ A U.S. Customs and Border Patrol official told MailOnline that his agency’s forces are stretched to the breaking point. ‘We can’t be everywhere at once,’ the official said Monday. ‘This is typical of what you’ll find in Texas.’” [62711, 62720, 62739, 62744, 62750, 62758]

WeaselZippers.com uncovers a 2008 interview in which Obama essentially pledges not to take vacations if elected president. Obama said, “We have to understand, uh, that if you seek that office you have to be prepared to give your life to it, that your, the, uh, uh, uh, essentially the bargain that any president I think strikes with the American people is, um, you, you give me this office and in turn my, fears, doubts, insecurities, foibles, need for sleep, uh, family life, vacations, leisure is gone. I, I’m giving myself to you, and the American people should have no patience for whatever’s going through your head because you’ve got a job to do. And, and so, uh, eh, uh, how I think about it is, um, that you don’t make that decision unless you are prepared ta, to make that sacrifice, uh, that trade-off, uh, that bargain.” [62722, 62723, 62724, 62725, 62727, 62751]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The State Department ‘did nothing’ to help the case of an American citizen who died in Liberia amid Ebola hysteria, unable either to get the treatment he needed or to leave the country, according to an aid worker on the ground. The aid worker said they made repeated entreaties asking U.S. embassies to try to clear the way for 24-year-old Nathaniel Dennis to be transported from Liberia to Ghana for treatment, but officials were of no help, leaving the man stranded in Liberia, where he died, according to Rep. Duncan Hunter, a California Republican who has been in contact with the aid worker. Dennis had repeatedly tested negative for Ebola, but Ghana had refused to allow him to be transported out of fear he might spread the infection within its borders. The incident is raising questions about the extent of Ebola fear and what treatment is available to Americans caught in the middle—even those, like Dennis, who don’t have it. . . . The State Department, however, says it was deeply involved in the case, and tried to get Dennis cleared to enter Ghana. ‘The U.S. embassy in Ghana contacted a hospital in Ghana and urged it to admit Mr. Dennis for emergency medical treatment. The embassy was also in contact with Ghanaian authorities during Mr. Dennis’ illness,’ said Pooja Jhunjhunwala, a State Department spokeswoman.” [62752]

Attorney General Eric Holder issues a statement: “The shooting incident in Ferguson, Missouri this weekend deserves a fulsome [sic] review. In addition to the local investigation already underway, FBI agents from the St. Louis field office, working together with attorneys from the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and US Attorney’s Office, have opened a concurrent, federal inquiry. The federal investigation will supplement, rather than supplant, the inquiry by local authorities. At every step, we will work with the local investigators, who should be prepared to complete a thorough, fair investigation in their own right. I will continue to receive regular updates on this matter in the coming days. Aggressively pursuing investigations such as this is critical for preserving trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.” (“Fulsome” means “offensively excessive or insincere.” Holder likely meant “full,” “complete,” or “thorough”—although many may, in fact, ultimately find his review offensive and excessive, because it will focus on police abuse of citizens and pay little attention to the abuse of store owners by looters and rioters. Obama has also misused the word “fulsome.” In 2009 William Safire noted that Obama also often says “enormity” (“extreme wickedness”) when he means “enormousness” (“bigness” or “huge in scale”). BizPacReview.com calls the Holder/Obama misuse of “fulsome” “a problem with people who aren’t nearly as smart as they think they are, which is as good a working definition of ‘liberal’ as you can ask for (particularly in the Obama White House.)”) [62917, 62918, 62919]

It is worth noting a passage from J. Christian Adams’ book, *Injustice: Exposing the Racial Agenda of the Obama Justice Department*: “For much of his life, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. carried around something peculiar. While most people keep cash, family photos, and credit cards in their wallets, Holder revealed to a reporter in 1996 that he keeps with him an old clipping of a quote from Harlem preacher Reverend Samuel D. Proctor. Holder put the clipping in his wallet in 1971, when he was studying history at Columbia University, and kept it in wallet after wallet over the ensuing decades. What were Proctor’s words that Holder found so compelling? ‘Blackness is

another issue entirely apart from class in America. No matter how affluent, educated and mobile [a black person] becomes, his race defines him more particularly than anything else. Black people have a common cause that requires attending to, and this cause does not allow for the rigid class separation that is the luxury of American whites. There is a sense in which every black man is as far from liberation as the weakest one if his weakness is attributable to racial injustice.’ When asked to explain the passage, Holder replied, ‘It really says that... I am not the tall U.S. attorney, I am not the thin United States attorney. I am the black United States attorney. And he [Proctor] was saying that no matter how successful you are, there’s a common cause that bonds the black United States attorney with the black criminal or the black doctor with the black homeless person.’ Has anyone ever asked Holder what exactly is the ‘common cause’ that binds the black attorney general and the black criminal? More important, what should the black attorney general do about this common cause? Should the black criminal feel empathy for the black attorney general, or more likely, do the favors only flow in one direction? Holder’s explanation of Proctor’s quote offers some key insights into our attorney general’s worldview. First, being ‘more particular’ than anything else, skin color limits and defines Americans—in other words, race comes first for Holder.” [63003]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer is asked if Obama has a strategy to stop ISIS. He responds, “Apparently Obama has none. ‘Don’t do stupid stuff’ is apparently what he believes in. It is stupid to do this half-heartedly. Masoud Barzani, who’s the head of intelligence and security in Kurdistan, commenting on the U.S.A., he thanked the U.S. for its efforts but he said it’s too little and too late—as usual, with Obama. He said if we had done this [air strikes against ISIS] earlier—it wasn’t a mystery, ISIL [ISIS], it took Fallujah, it took Anbar, then it took Mosul, it marches south into Baghdad and we ignore all that—and he [Barzani] said, had we done this a few months earlier we wouldn’t have the threat of genocide, they wouldn’t be in Kurdistan. But if we’re gonna [sic] do it [strike ISIS] now we have to do it seriously, through the Pentagon, and openly supply the Kurds.” [62688]

NBC’s Jim Miklaszewski reports that the “CIA is now providing weapons directly to Kurdish forces fighting ISIS in Northern Iraq...” (The CIA apparently pays attention to columnist Charles Krauthammer, even if Obama does not.) [62704, 62705, 62734]

It is worth remembering what Vice President Joe Biden told CNN’s Larry King in 2010: “I am very optimistic about—about Iraq. I mean, this could be one of the great achievements of this administration. You’re going to see 90,000 American troops come marching home by the end of the summer. You’re going to see a stable government in Iraq that is actually moving toward a representative government. I spent—I’ve been there 17 times now. I go about every two months, three months. I know every one of the major players in all of the segments of that society. It’s impressed me. I’ve been impressed how they have been deciding to use the political process rather than guns to settle their differences.” [62707]

Obama takes time out from golf to attend a Democrat Senatorial Campaign Committee fundraiser at a private home in Tisbury, Massachusetts. According to PJMedia.com’s

Bridget Johnson, Obama tells the deep-pocketed attendees, “[In] the same way that through persistence and a steady hand we’ve been able to guide ourselves out of the economic crisis that we were in five years ago, I have no doubt that we’re going to be able to guide the world, as a country, through some of the rockier times that we’re going through internationally. But all of that requires some seriousness in Washington.” (In other words, “I’m so talented I can guide the entire world to peace and prosperity... but if I fail it’s because the Republicans blocked me.”) [62761]

Obama also tells the wealthy donors, “What’s preventing us from getting things done right now is you’ve got a faction within the Republican Party that thinks solely in terms of their own ideological purposes and solely in terms of how do they hang on to power. And that’s a problem. And that’s why I need a Democratic Senate. Not to mention the fact that we’re going to have Supreme Court appointments.” (Obama, of course, would not know he will have the opportunity to nominate any new justices to the Supreme Court, unless one or more told him of retirement plans—or he somehow knows their death dates in advance. HotAir.com remarks, “Only two possibilities, my friends. One: He’s talking out of his ass here, trying to scare the shinola out of well-heeled liberals in order to make them reach for their wallets before the midterms. (See also ‘impeachment.’) Two: *The fix is in.* ...Right now, the filibuster still exists for Supreme Court nominees, albeit not for lower-court nominations; in theory, if [81-year-old Justice Ruth Bader] Ginsburg quit tomorrow, the GOP would need only 41 votes to block her successor—unless [Senate Majority Leader Harry] Reid [D-NV] suddenly changes the rules once again, that is. Even if, against all odds, Democrats retained control of the Senate, no one thinks they’ll be anywhere near 60 seats next year. And no one seriously believes that Mitch McConnell [R-KY], as [possible] majority leader, would block an Obama nominee from an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. Which is to say, the only reason having an absolute Democratic majority might matter to O is if Reid’s already planning to get rid of the filibuster for SCOTUS appointments too and let Dems confirm the nominee with 51 votes.”) [62789, 62790]

On the *Tonight* show, comedian Jimmy Fallon quips, “After spending yesterday at the beach, Obama said, “This has been fun, but I should really get back... to the golf course.” [62716]

On August 12, at Townhall.com, Katie Pavlich posts a June 29, 2011 video of then-White House counterterrorism advisor (and now CIA Director) John Brennan stating, “Our strategy is also shaped by deeper understanding of al Qaeda’s goals, strategy, and tactics over the past decade. I’m not talking about al Qaeda’s grandiose vision of global domination through a violent Islamic caliphate. That vision is absurd, and we are not going to organize our counter-terrorism policies against a feckless delusion that is never going to happen. We are not going to elevate these thugs and their murderous aspirations into something larger than they are.” Pavlich quips, “Sounds a lot like the administration treated these guys like a junior varsity team...” and writes, “Brennen argued the administration’s goal was to have ‘a deeper understanding of al Qaeda’s goals,’ yet ignored the greatest goal of all: an Islamic caliphate. We’re seeing the caliphate happen now. In fact, ISIS just started issuing caliphate/Islamic State passports. ...As another

reminder, this is the same administration that argued al Qaeda was ‘on the run’ in 2012 while it was actually spreading. These are dangerous times and the administration has done very little to show Americans they take the threats and goals of al Qaeda/ISIS/ISIL/Islamic State terrorists seriously.” [62690]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, addressing Marines in San Diego, California, says, “The world is exploding all over. And so is the United States going to continue to have the resources, the capabilities, the leadership, the bandwidth to continue with the rebalance toward the Asia Pacific? And the answer is yes.” (Hagel does not explain why his statement does not contradict one made by Obama on June 11: “The world is less violent than it has ever been.”) [62556, 62819, 62820]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Obama administration has lifted longtime restrictions on Libyans attending flight schools in the United States and training here in nuclear science, according to a final amendment of the ban recently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Less than two years after the deadly terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya that killed four Americans, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is poised to sign off on an amendment reversing the ban, which was enacted following a wave of terrorist attacks in 1980s and prevents Libyans from studying these sensitive trades in the United States.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Flight school. Nukes. What could possibly go wrong? Seriously, you have to ask yourself, who is Obama working for?”) [62775, 62776]

FreeBeacon.com also reports, “A top House Democrat to whom billionaire liberal Tom Steyer has donated campaign funds steered more than a billion dollars to an infrastructure project that benefitted his hedge fund. That hedge fund, Farallon Capital Management, bought up large plots of real estate in San Francisco’s burgeoning Mission Bay neighborhood in 2004. The area is now booming and Farallon has sold most of its property there. Steyer, who founded and led Farallon until late 2012, has used his fortune to elect Democratic senators and governors. He has pledged to spend \$50 million of his own money in 2014 and to raise another \$50 million. Among the beneficiaries of his political largesse is House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.). ‘We want to support Nancy as much as we can,’ Steyer said in an interview last year.” MRC.org notes, “Steyer has pledged \$100 million to Democratic candidates this election cycle, to ensure that the Keystone Pipeline doesn’t get approved. This wouldn’t be the first time that Steyer has gotten preferential treatment by liberal politicians. Earlier this month, Steyer and fellow liberal billionaire George Soros met with John Podesta [an Obama advisor] to advise him on environmental policy. Both Soros and Steyer have donated millions to the Center for American Progress, a liberal group Podesta founded and led until December 2013. Steyer has given \$3,850,000 to CAP since 2008, while Soros more than doubled that at \$8,067,186 since 2005.” [62863, 62864]

Obama issues a statement on the death of Michael Brown, a black youth shot and killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9. DailyCaller.com notes, “The incident sparked shootings, looting, arson and cries of police brutality by a series of African-American political actors, including Al Sharpton. It has also prompted numerous

comparisons to the death of Trayvon Martin, and the subsequent trial and acquittal of neighborhood watch volunteer, George Zimmerman.” Obama’s statement reads in part, “The death of Michael Brown is heartbreaking, and Michelle and I send our deepest condolences to his family and his community at this very difficult time. As Attorney General Holder has indicated, the Department of Justice is investigating the situation along with local officials, and they will continue to direct resources to the case as needed. I know the events of the past few days have prompted strong passions, but as details unfold, I urge everyone in Ferguson, Missouri, and across the country, to remember this young man through reflection and understanding. We should comfort each other and talk with one another in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds. Along with our prayers, that’s what Michael and his family, and our broader American community, deserve.” (To Obama, rioting and looting are nothing more than “strong passions.” This is not to suggest that residents of Ferguson are wrong to be alarmed by the apparent unjustified actions of a police officer, but robbing a Walmart and a liquor store is certainly not the proper way to voice that alarm. Obama should have made that clear in his statement—or not issued one. Obama’s statement on the death of Michael Brown comes after criticism of the White House for issuing a statement on the death of actor/comedian Robin Williams. Conservatives were annoyed that Obama took the time to note Williams’ death but did not condemn the rioting in Ferguson, Missouri, while leftists were annoyed that Obama noted Williams’ passing but not Brown’s death. Meanwhile, every day about 20 service members commit suicide—without a comment from Obama.) [62694, 62748, 62749, 62762, 62777, 62778, 62781, 62849]

Golfers at the Vineyard Golf Club are frisked when Obama arrives. NYPost.com reports, “‘There was no warning he was coming,’ sniffed a guest. ‘There was security on the way in, but no word as to why they were there.’ The member added, ‘While eating, overlooking the golf course, guests had to stand up and be wanded.’ One asked if he could finish his hot soup first, and an Obama security man cracked, ominously, ‘So, you’re not cooperating?’” [62798]

In a radio interview, France’s foreign minister, Laurent Fabius, says, “There is an evident imbalance between this horrible terrorist group [ISIS] which has highly sophisticated weapons, and Peshmergas, the Kurdish fighters, who are extremely courageous but don’t have the same equipment. I know it is the holiday period in our Western countries, but when people are dying, you must come back from vacation.” [62827, 62831, 62843]

During a discussion of school lunches on the Fox News program *Outnumbered*, Fox contributor Dr. Keith Ablow says Michelle Obama “needs to drop a few [pounds].” To his four female co-hosts, Ablow says, “No, let’s be honest. No, listen—we’re taking nutritional advice from who? Let’s be honest, there’s no french fries ever? That’s all kale and carrots? I don’t buy it.” (In an interview the next day, Ablow states, “I do dislike hypocrisy and I really do believe that people speaking about diet should be role models themselves, and I’m not sure if the first lady is that role model. ...I’m not taking food advice from an American who dislikes America, who in many photographs during her tenure as first lady is obviously not fit, and who has a record of saying things that show that she’s two-faced. This should be obvious; I don’t know why it isn’t. ...It happens to

be the case that the first lady during her tenure has not been consistently a picture of fitness. That's all, it is just a fact." [62780, 62807, 62830]

At Politico.com David Nather and Philip Ewing write that Obama "isn't just grappling with what feels like an endless foreign policy nightmare around the world. Now he's got one hell of a messaging problem at home. The United States will not intervene in foreign crises directly—or indirectly by supplying weapons and assistance—except when it does. Obama needs explicit authorization and funding from Congress in order to escalate American involvement in ongoing conflicts around the world—except when he doesn't. ...The good news for Obama is that the apparent mixed messages don't seem to matter to many American voters. The bad news is the inconsistent signals mean quite a lot to the Middle East, the world and to Obama's own legacy, which he's built on getting the United States out of Iraq—not entangled in other conflict there." [62735]

At HotAir.com Noah Rothman writes, "A grotesque accusation surfaced in the Washington Free Beacon on Tuesday. It is an unconfirmed claim, and is so repulsive that the source of this assertion refused to reveal his or her identity to WFB's Adam Kredo. It is, nevertheless, conceivable that, as this source claims, ...Obama is balking at evacuating American diplomatic personnel from Iraq in order to maintain support among the American left for airstrikes against ISIS targets. One unidentified 'senior Senate source' recently spoke to Kredo about a call administration officials had with their congressional counterparts clarifying the legal basis [Obama] is citing in order to justify airstrikes on targets inside Iraq. The legal authority [Obama] is basing this action on is somewhat dubious, particularly considering the administration's repeated assertions that the 2002 resolution which authorized force in Iraq is defunct and should be fully repealed by Congress. The White House appears to be claiming simply that [Obama] has the constitutional authority to protect and defend American citizens, and he is legally empowered to execute strikes on ISIS targets if they present an immediate threat to U.S. interests or personnel. American military officials are, however, apparently prepared to interpret that which constitutes an 'immediate threat' in a loose fashion." According to FreeBeacon.com, "This rationale from the White House is leading some to speculate that U.S. personnel in the region are being left in harm's way 'as collateral' because the Obama administration 'can't get his party and donor base to support further action in Iraq,' according to the source. 'That's where a lot of the confusion is coming from' on Capitol Hill, the source added. 'When there's an imminent threat you get your civilian employees out of the region.'" Rothman: "It is startling to imply that [Obama] is keeping Americans in the line of fire in order to compel his political allies to back military action in Iraq over their natural objections. While that is not impossible, it is a rather abhorrent suggestion. [Obama] could dispel some of these rumors if he made a full-throated case for intervention in Iraq, but his tentative and hesitant approach to the crisis is inviting this kind of morale-sapping speculation." [62753]

At DailySignal.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, "More than 600 convicted criminals, including felons, were among thousands of illegal immigrants freed under the Obama administration in advance of 2013 budget cuts mandated under sequestration. That's according to a new report today from the inspector general for the Department of

Homeland Security. ...The report provides a scathing portrayal of budget mismanagement and flawed processes at the highest levels inside the nation's immigration enforcement agency." Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) states, "It is baffling how an agency charged with homeland security and immigration enforcement would knowingly release hundreds of illegals with criminal histories. In this single action, ICE undermined its own credibility, the rule of law, and the safety of Americans and local law enforcement. This report provides more evidence that our nation's immigration laws are being flagrantly disregarded. Americans need to be assured the problems within ICE that led to the dangerous release of illegal aliens will be fixed and DHS and ICE will never again violate the law by releasing known criminals into our streets." [62763, 62779, 62804, 62805]

According to Politico.com, "Hillary Clinton called ...Obama on Tuesday to 'make sure he knows that nothing she said was an attempt to attack him' when she recently discussed her views on foreign policy in an interview with The Atlantic, according to a statement from a Clinton spokesman. The statement comes amid tension between the Clinton and Obama camps in the wake of the interview. It also comes as Obama and Clinton, his former secretary of state, are due to cross paths at a social gathering Wednesday night in Martha's Vineyard. In the interview, Clinton dismissed the Obama administration's self-described foreign policy principle of 'Don't do stupid stuff.' And while she also praised Obama several times, Clinton nonetheless called his decision not to assist Syrian rebels early on a 'failure.'" Meanwhile, former Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod tweets, "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision." (HotAir.com comments, "When forced to choose between protecting their own legacy and making life easier for the next Democrat to lead the ticket, the Hopenchange boys have made their choice. If this ship is destined to sink, they're going to make sure that Hillary takes on some water too. *Excellent*. Now she has her own choice to make. Having seen how hard the White House is willing to tug on her leash as she tries to walk away, does she tone down her criticism of them on foreign policy or risk making enemies of them by keeping at it? ...[But] There's no need to pick a fight with Obama right now. Especially when his team is as willing to fight back as they are.") [62767, 62768, 62796, 62810, 62811]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments on Hillary Clinton distancing herself from Obama's foreign policy failures: "This is clearly positioning. I would think she obviously has been watching Fox for the last year or two, ever since she left office, and has now been educated as to the mistakes of her own administration, when she was Secretary of State. So I'm encouraged because we have been saying this now for years, as we've been saying about arming the Kurds. This is the most obvious requirement, the most obvious thing America could do by proxy to hold back ISIS and we're stumbling along, we're dithering alone, we're doing a little bit here, a little bit there. You get [Obama's deputy national security adviser, Ben] Rhodes admitting that because of the urgency we're going to send our arms directly to the Kurds rather than the fiction of going through Baghdad because if you go through Baghdad, it never reaches Kurdistan. So why not have the Pentagon do it and do it with heavy equipment and the stuff that they really need? Anti-tank missiles, what they really need is anti-aircraft stuff as well.

But it's all being dithering, slow, defensive and ad-hoc. [Obama] talks only about tactics. No troops on the ground or an airstrike here. Has he talked about ends, objectives, what we're trying to do? If the objective—even if it's only containment of ISIL and not the defeat and the rollback of ISIL—enunciate a policy and then you fit the means. And the idea of turning the U.S. Air Force into an airlift, spending all our resources on that to get—to do essentially humanitarian work and social work is a misuse of the one power in the world that can help to repel ISIS. The one thing you needed to hear is not an airstrike here or there, but an air campaign that attacks ISIS and instead of an airlift to get those poor people off the mountain top, why not pound ISIS, which is surrounding the mountain, into either destroying them or making them flee so that these people can walk off the mountain on their own? I do not understand the strategy here and it is not an effective one, it's completely piecemeal.” (Obama perhaps has no strategy; he is simply reacting. He has no desire to do anything militarily in Iraq. The limited airstrikes are not meant to destroy ISIS. Nor are they even meant to help the Yazidis who are being threatened by ISIS. They are meant only to avoid criticism that he did nothing to prevent mass killings. Obama's “strategy” is nothing more than public relations: do as little as possible, but just enough to shut up the harshest critics.) [62783]

On August 13 Michelle Malkin notes a Politico report that “the Obama administration has hired about 70 previously registered corporate, trade association and for-hire lobbyists. And many of these former lobbyists work at the highest levels of government,” and reminds readers of a 2007 campaign pledge by Obama: “I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over.” (Obama has rolled back part of a ban on lobbyists—a ban for which he has already issued more than 100 waivers.) [62745, 62782, 62787]

The William J. Olson law firm files an Amicus Brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in *Rudy v. Lee*, a lawsuit that argues “an increase in patent application fees was invalid because it was signed into law by...Obama who does not meet the constitutional requirement to be a ‘natural born citizen.’ The lower courts in the case ruled that the question of ...Obama's citizenship is a ‘political question’ and thus an issue for Congress—not the courts—to decide. Until now, the question of ...Obama's qualifications as a ‘natural born citizen’ has been dodged by the judiciary because those challenging his eligibility had not suffered any personal injury compensable by a court—and thus lacked ‘legal’ standing. There is no such barrier in this case because the patent attorney suffered an out-of-pocket loss of \$90.00 because of the new law signed by ...Obama. Also, until now, no one has questioned the validity of a law signed by [Obama]. Rather, previous cases have sought the removal of ...Obama from the presidential ballot or from office altogether. In this case, however, the complaining patent attorney is not seeking ...Obama's removal from office, but simply a refund of his \$90.00 and a declaration that, unless he is a ‘natural born citizen,’ ...Obama does not have the constitutional authority to sign a bill into law. Yet, the courts are attempting to avoid declaring what the law is based on the judge-made expedient of labeling the issue a ‘political question.’” [62868]

“In addition to possessing the standing that prior challengers lacked, Mr. Rudy’s case comes at an opportune time—just two months after the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously held in *National Labor Relations Board v. Canning* that an Order of the NLRB was invalid because three members of the board were constitutionally ineligible to serve. Our amicus brief in Rudy argued that if the U.S. Supreme Court can decide whether members of the NLRB meet the constitutional requirements of their office, it can also decide whether the President of the United States meets the constitutional requirements of his office. ...Many object to any challenge to the eligibility of a president, or presidential aspirant, but if the law is to apply equally to every person, Presidents cannot be deemed to be above the law based on vague tests such as whether the case presents ‘political question.’ Indeed, demonstrating that the term ‘natural born citizen’ is a constitutional requirement that has continuing political significance which needs resolution are questions not just about ...Obama, but also about Republicans Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, Ted Cruz, and others.” (As *Timeline* readers know, the term “natural born citizen” has historically meant born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. Because he did not have two U.S. citizen parents at the moment of birth, Obama is not a natural born citizen. Nor are Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, Bobby Jindal, or Nikki Haley.) [62868]

Former Congressman Allen West writes, “The only plausible explanation for many actions taken by ...Obama and his administration is that they are working counter to the security of the United States of America. How else can one rationalize the following: 1. The unilateral release of five senior Taliban back to the enemy while the enemy is still fighting us. 2. Providing weapons of support to the Muslim Brotherhood-led Egyptian government... but not to the Egyptian government after the Islamist group has been removed. 3. Negotiations with Qatar and Turkey, two Islamist-supporting countries. 4. Negotiations with Hamas, a terrorist group. 5. Returning sanction money, to the tune of billions of dollars, back to the theocratic regime led by Iran’s ayatollahs and allowing them to march on towards nuclear capability. 6. Obama’s evident support of Islamists in Libya.” Noting that the administration has rescinded its ban on Libyans taking flying lessons and studying nuclear science in the United States, West states, “We just evacuated Libya due to security concerns. There can be no doubt that Libya is an Islamic terrorist sanctuary state, thanks in no uncertain terms to Obama, and now he wants them to come here and learn how to fly planes and understand nuclear science?” [62862]

“...DHS spokesperson S.Y. Lee... told the Free Beacon that the Obama administration is reviewing its policies towards Libya ‘to see how they might be updated to better align with U.S. interests in light of its revolution.’ If I may interject here, Libya is not a stable country and there can be no alignment with U.S. interests as long as there are al-Qaida affiliated groups freely operating in that country. ...Why wouldn’t the Obama administration allow Kurdish Peshmerga members to come to America and receive flight training so they could be given quality helicopter gunships and destroy ISIS? Can anyone explain what the strategy and objective is here in lifting this ban with a nation that is or should be on the terrorist watch list? Sorry, but I can only explain this one way: Barack Hussein Obama is an Islamist in his foreign policy perspectives and supports their cause. You can go back and listen to his 2009 speech in Cairo, where Muslim Brotherhood

associates were seated front and center. All the circumstantial and anecdotal evidence points to that conclusion. The pivot away from the Middle East seems to be nothing more than an opportunity to enable Islamists and their goals. Anyone supporting this Libyan ban being lifted is indeed an enemy of this state. The Obama administration's foreign policy doctrine is self-described as 'don't do stupid s@#t.' But I guess that all depends on what your ultimate goal is." [62862]

The State Department warns against travel to Algeria: "Although the major cities are heavily policed, attacks could still potentially take place. Visitors to Algeria are advised to stay only in hotels where adequate security is provided." [62957]

MyFoxChicago.com reports, "A national business group representing the nation's large employers reported Wednesday that companies desperate to avoid a 40 percent ObamaCare 'Cadillac tax' are finding ways to shift the costs to workers. The so-called 'Cadillac tax,' now four years away, will affect health plans that spend more than \$10,200 per worker. 'The excise tax, when it hits in 2018, will affect both employers and employees,' said Brian Marcotte, president of the National Business Group on Health. ...[E]mployers are shifting workers into plans with higher deductibles, just as ObamaCare does in the health care exchanges, and using health savings accounts to help defray the costs. Another cost saver, Marcotte added, is to increase premiums for spouses who have access to other plans. ...The 'Cadillac tax' was originally intended to take effect sooner, but unions and other groups convinced officials to delay it until 2018, reducing the anticipated income from \$137 billion to \$80 billion over ten years. But many analysts predict it will be far less than that. ...Robert Laszewski of Health Policy and Strategy Associates said he doubted many will end up paying the tax. 'What we're finding is almost no employers are going to be hit by this 'Cadillac tax.' You'd be stupid to get hit by this 'Cadillac tax,' he said. 'They're all cutting their benefits right now.' One analyst noted the tax had less to do with health care than it did with revenue. 'The 'Cadillac tax' is not about health care, it's about the money. It's about getting the money,' said Dan Mendelson of Avalere Health." (Although few or no employers may be hit with the tax, their employees will be paying more out-of-pocket for their health care.) [62815]

With Obama planning a brief (August 17–19) interruption of his vacation to return to the White House for a few days, conjecture about the purpose of the return increases. According to TheHill.com, "officials won't say why Obama is taking the unusual, and costly, trip back to Washington. ...Speculation has circled around whether Obama might make an announcement of executive actions he's taking on immigration reform, or a surprise visit from a foreign leader. But the White House is 'not anticipating a major announcement on immigration when [Obama] is in Washington,' spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters traveling with Obama in Massachusetts. ...Adding more mystery to the topic, Schultz said the administration did not 'anticipate any major significant news developments out of Washington those few days.' But if [Obama] is only coming back to meet with staff face-to-face, it could invite questions about wasting taxpayer dollars. ...A return to Washington merely to meet with staff would also seem to undercut assurances offered by the White House that [Obama] is fully operational, even when vacationing

away from the capital.” (Some speculate that Obama’s return to the White House will be to announce that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg is retiring. He will name a successor, and then point out how important it will be for Democrats to retain control of the Senate so that the Republicans do not block his nominee. Of course, even if Democrats retain control of the Senate the GOP can still block his nominee with a filibuster—unless Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) shamelessly changes the rules again.) [62806, 62873, 62875]

ABC’s Jonathan Karl asks Schultz if Obama plans to ask Democrats to return campaign contributions from U.S. companies that are relocating overseas to avoid the 35 percent corporate tax rate. Schultz replies, “No.” Karl: “Why not? I mean, this is—these guys are profiting off the very practices [Obama has] condemned and wants to see stopped.” Schultz: “We are not privy to the details and have no role in any company’s plans. What we are focused on is stopping the problem.” Karl: “But isn’t it hypocritical? I mean, essentially [Obama] has profited himself, his political apparatus has profited by taking contributions from people that have made money doing exactly this?” Schultz: “I would understand the skepticism more if we weren’t doing something to tackle the problem. But instead, we are going after any company that renounces it’s citizenship in order to pay less in taxes?” Karl: “But why not renounce those donations?” Schultz: “What we’re renouncing is the practice of using shifty accounting in order to avoid paying their fair share, which subsequently passes on to middle class families.” (There is no “shifty accounting” involved. Some corporations are merely relocating to countries where the tax rate is far lower than 35 percent. The solution is to lower the tax rate, not excoriate companies for trying to stay in business.) [62809]

WorldTribune.com reports, “Russia has pledged to accelerate military deliveries to Egypt. Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Kremlin would ensure that Egypt would soon receive billions of dollars worth of Russian weapons. Putin, in a meeting with President Abdul Fatah Sisi, said the deliveries have already begun. ‘We are delivering weapons to Egypt,’ Putin said. ‘We are ready to expand this cooperation.’ On Aug. 12, Putin and Sisi held their first summit since the latter was elected Egypt’s president in May 2014. In March, Cairo and Moscow signed a military protocol that envisioned the sale of \$3 billion worth of attack helicopters, fighter-jets, air defense batteries and other platforms to Egypt. ‘We are actively developing our military and technological cooperation,’ Putin said.” (The Egypt-Russia alliance is a direct result of Obama’s abandonment of former Egyptian President and ally Hosni Mubarak. No longer trusting the United States, Egypt is turning to Russia. Pamela Geller writes, “Another one of Obama’s unmitigated disasters for America. Instead of embracing the Egyptian people’s rational and right collective decision to oust the terror regime of the Morsi government, he punished them. He withdrew aid. He strong-armed Sisi and still does, to this day, to ‘include the Muslim Brotherhood in the political process.’ As the world roils in the wake of Obama’s pro-jihad foreign policy, Obama continues to alienate our allies and partners against the axis of evil. Putin, on the other hand, is no one’s fool, and is exploiting every weakness of this [administration].”) Russia is also increasing its importation of fruit from Israel, as some European Union countries reduce theirs. (While European Jew-haters

want to punish Israel, Putin wants to reward a nation that is willing to resist radical jihadists.) [62821, 62822, 62908, 62909, 62910, 62940]

The Guardian contradicts the Obama administration's "no U.S. boots on the ground" pledge, reporting, "A team of US marines and special forces landed on Mount Sinjar in Iraq on Wednesday to assess options for a potential rescue of Yazidi civilians threatened by Islamic extremists and worn down by lack of food. The personnel flew in on V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft that can land vertically, joining a small number of American special forces who, the Guardian has been told, had been on the mountain for some days. That team had been assessing the military and humanitarian situation and guiding US air strikes against Islamic State (Isis) fighters encircling the mountain." [62824, 62825, 62841]

USAToday.com reports, "The military has sent 130 additional advisers to northern Iraq to plan for the evacuation of refugees under siege by Islamic militants, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Tuesday. 'This is not a combat boots on the ground kind of operation,' Hagel told Marines at Camp Pendleton in California. ... There were about 300 U.S. military advisers already in Iraq, as well as other troops there [about 475] to protect the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad." (ISIS jihadists are no doubt pleased to hear that they will be able to return to their terrorist activities shortly. One can only imagine how Adolph Hitler would have reacted had the U.S. Secretary of Defense announced on June 5, 1944, "No, there is no way we will be invading Europe via Normandy's beaches or anywhere else.") [62784, 62786, 62788, 62799]

At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty reports, "According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the situation on the ground in northern Iraq is so perilous that ... Obama is seriously considering sending a rescue mission to save the displaced Yazidi refugees trapped on Mount Sinjar. The details of such an operation are still in their earliest stages of development (and, of course, there's no telling whether or not [Obama] would even sign off on such a daring operation) but such a rescue attempt, if approved, would send shockwaves through the nation for one obvious reason: it would almost certainly involve redeploying U.S. ground troops to Iraq." Doherty writes, "It's true that humanitarian aid can only go so far. But such a proposal is also fraught with inherent dangers and difficulties. What, for example, is the U.S. supposed to do with upwards of 35,000 refugees stranded on the mountain? Many are too old (or sick) to walk to find food and water. Are U.S. forces supposed to carry them to safety? And where will they go? These are only some of the logistics our newly deployed 'military advisers' will have to figure out, and soon, if such a proposal is going to succeed. At the same time, [Obama] finds himself in an impossible predicament: if he doesn't sign off on a rescue mission, and ISIS slaughters more Yazidis and Christians, he will be accused of letting innocents die on his watch. If, on the other hand, he authorizes the operation and it goes south (or, God forbid, an American soldier is killed) he will be accused (especially by his base) of recklessly re-prosecuting a war he supposedly already won. There are no good options here. But perhaps the worst option would be to sit back and allow an entire sect of people to be systemically exterminated by a rabid band of Islamic extremists. Either way, [Obama] has an important decision to make. Tick tock." (That "there are no good options here" is

arguably Obama's fault. Had he destroyed ISIS with drone strikes when the Iraqis pleaded for that action, the Yazidis would still be in their homes. Additionally, some argue that Obama has no constitutional authority to attack ISIS in order to save the Yazidis—at least not without Congressional approval.) [62801, 62802, 62842]

At Townhall.com Bob Barr writes, “[T]he Obama Administration’s answer to nearly every Middle Eastern crisis (which have come with increased frequency since Obama took office) is to arm the rebel group *du jour*—usually one that appears or claims to support American interests today, but works against us the next. Libya, Egypt, and Syria, come quickly to mind. At the same time, we have appeared strangely hesitant to openly and strongly support the one faction in that part of the world that consistently has been a friend to the U.S.—the Kurds. ...Like the Bill Murray character in ‘Groundhog Day’—forced to relive that day over and over again—we seem to be caught in a similar time-loop of our own making. Unfortunately, unlike the movie, this Administration learns nothing to help us get off the merry-go-round with each new episode of violence in the Middle East. Even more tragically, this is real life, with real-world consequences for our inability or unwillingness to learn from past mistakes, to understand who our real friends are, and to comprehend the very real limitations on our ability to change societies in that part of the world that has resisted such efforts for millennia.” [62803]

Journalist Roland Martin tweets, “Democrats pay Black staffers 30% less[than whites]; minorities got 1.7% of Dem political contracts; but they wanna call out the GOP on race?” [62785]

Moneynews.com reports, “Cisco Systems Inc. is cutting 6,000 jobs, or 8 percent of its workforce, as it confronts weakness in emerging markets and a slump in demand from telecommunications-service providers. [62851]

In a Newsmax TV interview, former Bill Clinton political adviser Dick Morris says, “Today there’s a [Hillary Clinton and Obama] kiss-and-make-up session at [Democratic fundraiser] Vernon Jordan’s house in Martha’s Vineyard, but that’s just for the cameras. The fact is that Hillary has deliberately set about to differentiate herself from Obama in at least five different foreign policy regions. ...[S]he does not intend to run on her record as secretary, but against the administration’s foreign policy.” Morris calls her criticizing an administration if which she was a part a “tightrope to walk. ...The left is now closing in on Hillary. Obama is firing back. Media Matters, the left-wing group funded by George Soros, published a lengthy editorial attacking Hillary for criticizing Obama and saying she should focus instead on Bush’s decision to invade Iraq in the first place. ...You’re going to see a cascade now of negative stories about Hillary that’ll come out of nowhere. They’ll just appear in the media, but it’ll be the Obama administration feeding it. Don’t forget, they control the White House. They are the people who know the State Department. They can get into the details, the travel records, the appointments, the patronage, the policy positions, all of that stuff, and really you’re going to see a lot of anti-Hillary dirt coming from the White House. ...[Clinton] assumes she will have no Democratic primary. She assumes, as she did in ’08, that she would waltz to the nomination. But politics abhors a vacuum. You can’t be this close to the vested corporate

interests. You can't be this close to crony capitalism. You can't be this close to a conflict of interest where your State Department approves speeches your husband makes [and] that [income] goes into your pocketbook. And you can't be this hawkish on foreign policy without getting a Democratic Party opponent. It doesn't have to be Superman; it could be a nebbish. It can be [Senator Bernie] Sanders [of Vermont], it can be [Maryland Governor Martin] O'Malley. [H]e'll draw an unexpectedly high share of the vote [in the early primaries], and that'll trigger the entrance of a... candidate like [Senator] Elizabeth Warren, just as Eugene McCarthy triggered Bobby Kennedy's entrance against Lyndon Johnson in 1968." [62829]

At TheDailyBeast.com Josh Rogin writes, "The rift between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama over Syria that spilled into public view this week was three years in the making and was about much more than just arming the rebels. Throughout 2011 and well into 2012, ...Obama's White House barred Hillary Clinton's State Department from even talking directly to the moderate Syrian rebels. This was only one of several ways the Obama team kept the Clinton team from doing more in Syria, back before the revolution was hijacked by ISIS and spread into Iraq. ...Clinton and her senior staff warned the White House multiple times before she left office that the Syrian civil war was getting worse, that working with the civilian opposition was not enough, and that the extremists were gaining ground. The United States needed to engage directly with the Free Syrian Army, they argued; the loose conglomeration of armed rebel groups was more moderate than the Islamic forces—and begging for help from the United States. ... 'The State Department warned as early as 2012 that extremists in eastern Syria would link up with extremists in Iraq. We warned in 2012 that Iraq and Syria would become one conflict,' said former U.S. ambassador to Syria Robert Ford. 'We highlighted the competition between rebel groups on the ground, and we warned if we didn't help the moderates, the extremists would gain.' But the warnings, which also came from other senior officials—including then-CIA chief David Petraeus and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta—fell on deaf ears. Obama's small circle of White House foreign policy advisers resisted efforts to make connections with rebel fighters on the ground until 2013, when the administration began to train and equip a few select vetted brigades. For many who worked on Syria policy inside the administration, it was too little, too late." [62866]

According to a Fox News poll, "Thirty-one percent of voters approve of how Obama is handling the situation in Ukraine, while 50 percent disapprove. Approval among Democrats (52 percent) is far outweighed by disapproval among Republicans (70 percent). [Obama's] ratings are similar on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: 30 percent approve, while 54 percent disapprove. More voters say the administration has 'not been supportive enough' of Israel (38 percent) than think it has been 'too supportive' (18 percent) or 'about right' in its support (33 percent). ...A majority disapproves of the job Obama is doing on Iraq overall (37 percent approve vs. 52 percent disapprove), yet most voters—65 percent—approve of recent airstrikes he authorized against insurgents. Majorities of Democrats (59 percent), independents (68 percent) and Republicans (73 percent) approve of the action. ...All in all, more voters continue to disapprove (53 percent) than approve (35 percent) of Obama's handling of foreign policy." [62813, 62814]

At Yahoo News, Michael Isikoff writes, “While the U.S. Army weighs whether to bring charges against Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was freed earlier this year after spending nearly five years as a Taliban captive in Afghanistan, six of his former platoon mates are shopping proposals for a book and movie that would render their own harsh verdicts. ...But the political furor over Bergdahl’s release from Taliban captivity—the result of a U.S.-Taliban deal to swap five Guantanamo terrorism suspects in exchange for Bergdahl’s freedom—is complicating the book’s prospects. Agents for the soldiers say that some publishers have balked, in at least one case out of fear that the project would bolster conservative criticism of the Obama administration. ‘I’m not sure we can publish this book without the [political] Right using it to their ends,’ Sarah Durand, a senior editor at Atria Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, wrote in an email to one of the soldiers’ agents.’ ‘[T]he Conservatives are all over Bergdahl and using it against Obama,’ Durand wrote, ‘and my concern is that this book will have to become a kind of ‘Swift Boat Veterans for Truth’—a reference to the group behind a controversial book that [legitimately] raised questions about John Kerry’s Vietnam War record in the midst of his 2004 presidential campaign. ...Two of the would-be authors, who were recently questioned as part of the Army probe, insisted in interviews that they aren’t advancing a political agenda but want to set the record straight, as they see it, about Bergdahl’s conduct and ...Obama’s praise for him at a Rose Garden ceremony in May. ‘There was no way we were going to sit down and be quiet while Obama was calling him a war hero,’ said Evan Buetow, Bergdahl’s former team leader, in an interview with Yahoo News. ‘We’re just trying to tell the truth. It’s not my fault this would make Obama look bad.’ ‘We didn’t politicize this,’ added Cody Full, Bergdahl’s former roommate. ‘They brought his parents out at a White House Rose Garden ceremony and presented him as a hero. ...Why wouldn’t you just have a quiet press release? Why do you have to have a big parade? You don’t do that for the parents who have kids who have died in Afghanistan.’” [62844, 62845, 62871]

HotAir.com observes, “That ‘Swift Boat’ talking point comes straight from the White House itself. Imagine how upset Durand will be when she finds out Obama can’t be swiftboated because—sob—he can’t run again. I trust that Michael Isikoff wouldn’t have run with this if he wasn’t confident that it’s true... but it seems odd that Durand would have laid out her political motives so nakedly in an e-mail to one of the soldiers’ agents. Why do that knowing that it might leak and force Atria [Books] to explain precisely how damaging to Barack Obama a book can be before it’s unfit for publication? That’s something you’d say inside an office at Simon & Schuster while sticking pins in a Ted Cruz doll, not something you’d put down in print and then hand over to someone whose book you’re rejecting.” [62846]

At Vox.com Matthew Yglesias suggests a cure for “second-term woes”: Eliminate the 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and let Obama run for a third term. (Yglesias is reportedly serious.) [62847, 62848]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “A British rapper who travelled to Syria to fight for ISIS has posted a photograph on Twitter showing himself posing with a severed head. The

sickening image was taken in the city of Raqqa—the capital of ISIS’ self-declared caliphate—and uploaded to the social media site along with the caption ‘Chillin’ with my homie or what’s left of him.’ The photograph shows masked former rapper Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, 23, holding the decapitated head while standing in Raqqa’s central square—the same location where the seven-year-old son of Australian jihadist Khaled Sharrouf was seen holding a different severed head earlier this week. The shocking image of Bary emerged as ISIS militants seized a number of key towns and villages close to Syria’s northern border with Turkey.” (Pamela Geller observes, “All the benefits and advantages of a British upbringing are ...irrelevant. Islamic jihad renders all true believers savages. *Islam trumps everything*. This debunks, yet again, the claim that illiteracy, education, and culture are the reasons why Muslims go jihad.”) [62817]

Radical jihadist threats notwithstanding, Secretary of State John Kerry tells an audience in Hawaii that global warming is “the biggest challenge of all that we face right now ...The science is screaming at us. Ask any kid in school. They understand what a greenhouse is, how it works, why we call it the greenhouse effect. They get it. If you accept the science, if you accept that the science is causing climate to change, you have to heed what those same scientists are telling us about how you prevent the inevitable consequences and impacts. That’s why ...Obama has made climate change a top priority. He’s doing by executive authority what we’re not able to get the Congress to do. ...Climate change is here now. It’s happening, happening all over the world. It’s not a challenge that’s somehow remote and that people can’t grab onto.” Kerry absurdly and improperly cites “unprecedented storms, unprecedented typhoons, unprecedented hurricanes, unprecedented droughts, unprecedented fires” as proof of man-caused global warming—when common sense dictates that isolated weather incidents cannot be directly linked to long-term trends. CNSNews.com reports that Kerry’s speech was delivered at the East-West Center, a “Honolulu-based think tank.” (As noted previously in this Timeline, in 1965 Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, met his future step-father, Lolo Soetoro, at the East-West Center—which was established by the State Department and also has CIA links. Additionally, members of the Subud cult could regularly be found at the East-West Center. Loretta “Deliana” Fuddy, the Hawaii Department of Health head who was killed in a mysterious plane crash, was a Subud official. A “Subud-style” memorial service was reportedly held after Dunham’s death. There has also been speculation that Indonesia’s CIA-installed dictator, General Suharto, was an adherent of Subud—and Lolo Soetoro had ties to Suharto.) [13933, 13934, 13936, 13996, 53899, 53900, 53901, 53902, 53918, 53919, 53920, 53921, 53922, 53923, 53945, 54084, 54085, 54209, 54391, 54392, 54393, 54395, 54396, 54397, 54398, 54399, 54400, 54401, 54402, 54403, 54418, 54440, 54469, 54470, 54473, 54480, 54635, 54726, 62855]

Meanwhile, Sky News reports that the British government announces it will suspend arms sales to Israel “if significant hostilities resume.” (The nonsensical threat actually *encourages* Hamas terrorists to violate a cease fire and attack Israel. Israel’s Strategic Affairs Minister, Yuval Steinitz, says, “I tell you honestly, I heard it, but although I have a PhD in Philosophy, I didn’t understand it. What is the message? I want to understand what is the message?”) [62818]

On CNN's *The Lead*, Middle East expert Ali Khedery tells Jake Tapper the Obama administration does not "take the threat of transnational jihad seriously enough. ISIS represents, in fact, the most virulent form of transnational jihad the planet has ever seen. By referring to them as the jayvee team, by sitting back and watching them rise over the three years despite the genocide in Syria, by watching [former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri] Maliki's sectarian policies create an environment where ISIS could again come into Iraq, and then by doing nothing about it for months now, despite repeated warnings from the intelligence community, what's happened now is the cancer has metastasized and we have a major problem on our hands. I consumed a lot of CIA and NSA products over the years, but you don't need access to CIA and NSA products to know that they are coming and that another 9/11 is imminent unless we act decisively, and quickly, and do it right now with our allies in the region and around the world." (HotAir.com's Noah Rothman observes, "The problem for Obama is that to accept Khedery's suggestion is to confess that his approach to Iraq over the last five years has been a failure. Obama cannot even bring himself to tell the country the truth about the nature of the American mission in Iraq (yes, Virginia, there are boots on the ground). Obama is in the midst of a scramble to handle this grave military threat as he would a political crisis. That is a scarier prospect than anything Khedery warned of in this clip." [62840])

On *Special Report, National Journal's* Ron Fournier asks why Obama is "so thin-skinned that he can't let his former secretary of state—who he owes an allegiance to—can't let her say, 'You know, maybe we should've armed the Syrian rebels? And she even said, 'I don't know how it would've turned out, but I think we should've done it.' He couldn't even let her get away with that! He had to sic his attack dogs on her, a very 1990s, old kind of politics thing to do. And this is supposed to be the man that's [sic; who is] above all that. ...[L]et the policy rule your legacy. Your legacy shouldn't be that you're beating up on Hillary Clinton." (If Clinton had any political sense, she would refrain from criticizing Obama until after the November mid-term elections. Until then, she should campaign for Democrat Senators and help them get re-elected. They will then owe her favors, which would come in handy should she win the Oval Office. By focusing on her own 2016 candidacy far too early, she is increasing the odds that the Democrats will lose the Senate—while alienating Democrats who still support Obama.) [62828])

Attorney, author, and radio show host Mark Levin tells *Hannity's* Sean Hannity, "Our enemies, the terrorists, have never had it so good under this truly pathetic commander-in-chief who should be in Washington, D.C., right now calling Congress into session, getting authorization to use deadly military power against these cockroaches. He should be calling together the world leaders... putting together a military and other types of strategies to deal with this. And rather than announcing repeatedly what they're *not* going to do, they should be announcing what they *are* going to do... You have the Secretary of Defense [who] said the United States has never faced a threat like this, you have the Secretary of State saying this [ISIS] is a direct threat to the United States, and then you have them saying out of the other side of their mouths we have to wait and see if this [Iraqi] government can pull itself together. This is a direct threat to the United States, it's a direct threat to humanity, this is genocide, pure and simple. People see it, people know it. ...and rather than sending 129 advisors, I'd send 129 bombers and fighters and put

these cockroaches where they want to be. They want to be in the Stone Age, then we should accommodate them.” [62832, 62833]

Hannity notes the contradiction in his claims that he ended the Iraq war yet cannot be blamed for withdrawing all U.S. troops. Levin responds, “I don’t think we’ve ever had a more pathetic commander-in-chief in our life. Does he not know what his policies are? What are his policies? What is his foreign policy? Can his people even tell us what his foreign policy is? Can he, can his Secretary of Defense or Secretary of State? Our enemies are on the move. They’re on the move because of him. Not because of the prior president, not because of other presidents, not because of James Buchanan or John Tyler or anybody else—because of *him*. He’s hollowing out our military. At the same time he’s telling the world what we’re *not* going to do. He’s playing golf, he’s on Martha’s Vineyard, he’s busy attacking Republicans. The guy is—he’s not focused, he’s disconnected from reality. We have a real problem in this country. I don’t know what we do about it, but people are suffering overseas, they’re being wiped out, we have genocide going on, people are looking to the United States and they have to look to Martha’s Vineyard, and they have to find him on the ninth hole [of the golf course]. I don’t know if he reads his intelligence reports, I don’t even know if he knows what’s going on, if he’s bored with the job, whatever the hell the problem is—the world *is* on fire and this man doesn’t seem to give a damn.” [62832, 62833]

Levin notes that the radical Islamists “are more powerful than ever before, they have more territory than ever before, they have more money than ever before, they have more arms than ever before, they’re slaughtering more people than ever before, and I’ll tell you who I blame, I blame *them* and I blame *this administration*. ‘We got out of Iraq.’ The problem is the enemy didn’t get out of Iraq. ‘So we’re gonna get out of Afghanistan.’ The problem is the enemy’s not moving from Afghanistan. At the same time, Sean, with absolute anarchy and catastrophe on our southern border, the enemy sees that and I fear—and I pray to God I’m wrong—I fear we’re gonna get hit because they’re on the rise and we’re not securing our border, we’re hollowing out our military, the things are all lined up the wrong way. ...Look what [Obama] has surrounded himself with. Have you ever seen more knuckleheads in your life? ...They don’t even understand the enemy, they don’t even understand the United States military...” [62832, 62833]

Obama attends a birthday party for Mrs. Ann Jordan at the tony Farm Neck Golf Club. The White House press release states: “A little color: in his toast for Mrs. Jordan, [Obama] quipped that he met [wealthy attorney] Vernon [Jordan] first, but liked Ann more. The menu consisted of surf and turf and pasta. The Obamas danced nearly every song. A good time was had by all.” (Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton also attend the event. According to *Blood Feud* author Edward Klein, the Clintons “went out of their way to ignore [Obama and his wife], who spent most of the evening on the dance floor avoiding contact with the Clintons.”) [62791, 62792, 62793, 62794, 62795, 62878, 62914, 62938]

On August 14 Obama comments on the continuing rioting in Ferguson, Missouri. Obama says, in part, “Of course, it’s important to remember how this started, uh, we lost a young

man, Michael Brown, in, uh, heartbreaking, tragic circumstances. [Obama does not know the circumstance, as there have been conflicting reports. The “tragic circumstances” may have involved a strong-armed robbery of a convenience store by Brown.] He was 18 years old, and his family will never hold, uh, Michael in their arms again. [Obama does not mention that Brown was also six feet, four inches tall, weighed 290 pounds, and used his size to intimidate a store clerk and steal a box of cigars shortly before police caught up with him.] And when something like this happens, uh, the local authorities, including the police, have the responsibility to be open and transparent about how they are investigating that death, and how they are protecting the people in their communities. There is never an excuse for violence against police, or for those who would use this tragedy as a cover for vandalism or looting. There’s also no excuse for police to use excessive force against peaceful protests or to throw protesters in jail for lawfully exercising their First Amendment rights. ...Police should not be bullying or arresting journalists who are just trying to do their jobs and report to the American people what they see on the ground. Put simply, we all need to hold ourselves to a high standard, uh, particularly those of us who are in positions of authority.” [62857, 62858, 62859, 62881, 62883]

“Uh, I know that emotions are raw right now in Ferguson, uh, and there are certainly passionate differences about what has happened, uh, there’re gonna [sic; there are going to] be different accounts of how this tragedy occurred, there’re gonna [sic; there are going to] be differences in terms of what needs to happen going forward, uh, that’s part of our democracy, but let’s remember that we’re all part of one American family, uh, we are united in common values, and that include belief, uh, in equality under the law, a basic respect for public order, and a right to, uh, peaceful public protest, a reverence for the dignity of every single man, woman, and child among us, uh, and the need for, uh, accountability when it comes to our government. So, now’s the time for healing. Now’s the time for peace and calm on the streets of Ferguson, and now’s the time for an open and transparent process to see that justice is done, and I’ve asked that the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney on the scene, uh, continue to work with local officials, uh, to move that process forward, uh, they will be reporting to me in the coming days about what’s being done to make sure that happens.” [62857, 62858, 62859, 62881]

ABC’s Jonathan Karl notes, “[Obama’s] Statement ended at 12:58. He arrived at the golf club at 1:05.” [62792, 62797, 62857]

Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, criticizes Obama’s remarks about the situation in Ferguson, Missouri, telling TheHill.com, “I would contend that discussing police tactics from Martha’s Vineyard is not helpful to ultimately calming the situation. I think what he has to do... as a constitutional lawyer is remember that there is a process in the United States and the process is being followed, for good or for ill, by the police and by the county and by the city and by the prosecutors’ office. ...I’m not there [in Ferguson], and neither is [Obama]. That is why we have due process in the United States. And this will all be sorted out over time. But right now, I haven’t seen anything from afar—and maybe [Obama] has—that would lead me to believe the police are doing anything except to restore order.” [62865, 62877, 62916]

Laura Ingraham, comparing Obama to a “liberal commentator on Salon.com,” remarks, “The leader of the free world, with sagging approval numbers, jumping into another local criminal justice situation. And, once again, he does this before all of the facts have been gathered, before authorities have completed their own investigation.” [62876]

HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman later writes, “While Ingraham has a valid point, and Obama’s administration has certainly played an unhelpful role on the issue of racial comity at times (one of those times being the entirety of the 2012 campaign), liberals would hardly have recognized Obama’s comments... as those of a liberal pundit. Indeed, more than a handful of left-of-center commentators were disappointed that [Obama] called for calm and deliberation rather than, as have some on the left, more outrage over the appearance of injustice in Ferguson. ...It seems some on the left would have preferred Obama appear boiling with rage over the incident in Ferguson, and have expressed whole and total solidarity with the demonstrators over the police. That is how out of step the liberal commentariat is with their elected leadership. ...While conservatives like Laura Ingraham hear Obama echo the sentiments that would be expressed by only the most sequestered of liberal thinkers, progressives heard Obama hedge and placate to conservatives and whites. These two reactions are a universe apart, and are reflective of just how deeply polarized the realm of opinion journalism has become. I have to believe, however, that most welcomed [Obama’s] call for calm, the mild pox he cast on both the houses in Ferguson, and his request that Americans remain united in the face of adversity. I have to believe that most Americans are not parsing and decoding Obama’s speech in order to divine some divisive hidden message. For most Americans, a cigar is just a cigar, and I have to believe that pundits on the right and left are, in this case, over thinking things just a bit.” [62876]

At the Ferguson, Missouri fire department, New Black Panther Party leader Hashim Nzanga addresses a crowd, saying, “This is a shame that as we speak, [Obama] is talking to Russia, he’s talking to China, he’s talking to North Korea, he’s talking to Iraq and the Middle East about treating their people better. Stop arresting your people. But as he look [sic; looks] out the window at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, he’s watching the black man, who built the White House, shot down like dogs. If you like it or not, he’s from Kenya, he’s a Mau Mau. He need [sic; needs] to go back to his roots and stop people from killing Africans in the streets...” [62882, 62884, 62886]

Major General Harold Greene, who was killed in Afghanistan on August 5, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Greene was the highest-ranking officer killed in combat since the war in Vietnam. (Golf being more important, Obama does not attend the funeral; Vice President Joe Biden does not attend; Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel does not attend. They may perhaps have considered Greene’s death nothing more than “workplace violence.”) [62913, 62921, 62926]

D. W. Ulsterman reports, “Hours prior to taking off for his Martha’s Vineyard millionaires’ paradise vacation, White House staff in conjunction with someone from the Pentagon, attempted to update [Obama] on international security concerns, namely those

focused on both Syria and Iraq, as well as the ongoing Gaza conflict, an attempt that was brushed off by a clearly annoyed Barack Obama who wanted nothing more than to turn his back on the demands of a job he long ago grew tired of. The staff member in question was apparently Deputy National Security Adviser Tony Blinken. The name of the Pentagon official could not be confirmed. Blinken entered Barack Obama's private, second floor study and then soon after was seen following [Obama] down the hallway adjacent to Valerie Jarrett's office with the Pentagon official in tow. A clearly annoyed ...Obama waved away Blinken's attempt to have a moment to update [Obama] on the various situations in the Middle East, the Commander in Chief mumbling the following as he then quickened his pace toward the Private Residence: 'Don't bother me with this sh*t. Update [National Security Adviser] Susan [Rice] or take it to [White House chief of staff] Denis [McDonough]. You know the drill.' Blinken and the Pentagon official were left standing in the middle of the second floor hallway and then soon after made their way back downstairs to the West Wing." [63000]

B. Christopher Agee writes at WesternJournalism.com, "During a recent speech, U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Bill Cowan responded to an audience member's suggestion that Barack Obama is likely not a 'legitimate American.' The terrorism expert and frequent Fox News analyst couched his remarks in abstract rhetoric; however, he noted that the skeptic's concerns could be based in reality. 'You may be right,' he said. 'You may be absolutely right. ...Is he legitimate? We don't know,' he said. 'And we may not know for another 100 years. The problem is we are living in the real world.' He explained that, as it stands, Obama 'was sworn in... and even if tomorrow someone found a real legitimate birth certificate somewhere else that said he couldn't be our president, the legal process to push that through and get him out would far exceed the rest of the time he has in office.' In essence, Cowan lamented, 'we're stuck with the guy.'" [62889]

Jihad Watch's Raymond Ibrahim writes, "The wife of former Egyptian president Muhammad Morsi is the latest Muslim Brotherhood 'insider' to threaten to expose the special relationship between Morsi and the Obama administration—a relationship the latter insists never existed. Nagla Mahmoud, Morsi's wife, is reportedly angry at some statements recently made by Hillary Clinton, including that Morsi was 'naïve' and 'unfit for Egypt's presidency,' as reported by Arabic media. In the words of El-Mogaz News, Morsi's wife 'is threatening to expose the special relationship between her husband and Hillary Clinton, after the latter attacked the ousted [president], calling him a simpleton who was unfit for the presidency. Sources close to Nagla confirmed that she has threatened to publish the letters exchanged between Morsi and Hillary. ...Earlier, the son of Khairat al-Shatter—another top ranking Brotherhood member who was arrested during the June 2013 revolution that ousted Morsi—made similar assertions, threatening to expose documents that would 'undermine his [Obama's] political future and land him in prison.'" (The mother of Huma Abedin, Clinton's closest aide, is associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, as is her brother Hassan Abedin. Their mother, Saleha Abedin, is a member of the Muslim Sisterhood—the "women's division" of the Muslim Brotherhood. How Huma Abedin received security clearance to work closely with Clinton in the State Department is a mystery.) *The Obama Timeline* believes that Morsi's wife, or Morsi himself, could destroy Obama with the release of incriminating documents. [41, 43, 259,

380, 381, 382, 408, 558, 2668, 2669, 2271, 3041, 3376, 21554, 21590, 21989, 22049, 22052, 62867, 63200]

At WashingtonPost.com David Ignatius writes, “The Obama administration’s Iraq policy seems premised on the idea that the terrorist Islamic State is so toxic that it will be self-limiting and ultimately self-defeating. But that’s not the view of U.S. intelligence officials. In a briefing for journalists Thursday, a panel of five U.S. intelligence officials summed up their assessment of an organization that has shown a remarkable durability because it is ‘patient,’ ‘well-organized,’ ‘opportunistic’ and ‘flexible.’ Under the leadership of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi [who was released from U.S. custody in 2009], the group has rebounded from about 1,500 fighters in 2010 to more than 10,000 today—becoming a global jihadist organization that communicates in many languages. ‘We don’t assess this as something that will collapse on its own,’ said one of the officials, who commented based on an agreement that their remarks would not be attributed. ‘But with pressure and alternatives [that might draw away its Sunni supporters], it could collapse over time.’ The intelligence experts cautioned that counterterrorist tools, such as drone strikes and other air attacks, wouldn’t be sufficient ‘to defeat it rather than just ratchet it back.’” (In other words, Obama’s limited airstrikes against ISIS are next to meaningless.) [60279, 60280, 60281, 60301, 60335, 60336, 60352, 62892, 62893]

“The officials expressed skepticism that Baghdadi could be deterred from striking the United States by the threat of pulverizing attacks. ‘We assess that the group sees conflict with the U.S. as inevitable,’ said one official. Although the group is preoccupied with its battles in Iraq and Syria, another official noted a chilling Internet statement several months ago: ‘America, we have not turned our gaze away from you.’” (It bears repeating that when he was released, Al-Baghdadi—who was responsible for the jailbreak that freed about 500 terrorists from Abu Ghraib prison in July 2013—told his U.S. captors, “I’ll see you in New York.”) Ignatius concludes, “My takeaway from this unusual briefing was that the Obama administration needs a broad strategy that gradually degrades this group back to its earlier size. That won’t be quick or easy: Baghdadi has benefited from all of the failures of rival Muslim and secular revolutionaries in the Arab Spring. The Islamic State won’t implode because of its own mistakes. It will have to be fought, patiently and subtly.” [60279, 60280, 60281, 60301, 60335, 60336, 60352, 62892, 62893]

Rudaw.net reports on the persecution of Yazidis by the ISIS army: “A woman told Rudaw that three of her daughters committed suicide after they were raped by ISIS militants and were later allowed to join their family on Mount Shingal. The mother said: ‘My daughters were calling on people to kill them, but no one wanted to do that. So they jumped from the mountain and ended their bitter life.’ ... This war has claimed everyone [as] its victim[s]: men, women, young and old. This man has grown old among his people, but he had never expected to see a day like this. ‘In my whole life I have never seen something like this. Our world is destroyed. I can’t say anything.’ The Peshmerga have now opened a road to save the Yezidis. ‘There was spot that was occupied by the ISIS. The Peshmerga came and took over it. As soon as our people saw the Peshmerga had arrived, they began descending the mountain.’ These people are running towards life,

but hunger, thirst and searing heat is following them. These refugees have paid a high price to reach safety. They have been walking for three days and three nights to reach Zakho, but that is not their ultimate goal. They wonder what their fate would be in the midst of this war.” [62894]

YnetNews.com writes, “The US administration has halted a shipment of Hellfire aerial anti-armor missiles to Israel, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, citing government sources. The sources noted that Israel had requested the transfer of ammunitions directly from the Pentagon, without receiving the approval of the White House or State Department officials. ‘We were blindsided,’ one US diplomat said, while a US defense official insisted that ‘there was no intent to blindside anyone. The process for this transfer was followed precisely along the lines that it should have.’ ...While the Israeli and American militaries worked well together, the [*Journal*] describes a long line of diplomatic battles between the Obama administration and the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, noting relations between the two countries have reached another low point. An Israeli official told the newspaper that the rift between Israel and the US has now deepened: ‘We’ve been there before with a lot of tension with us and Washington. What we have now, on top of that, is mistrust and a collision of different perspectives on the Middle East.’ Obama and Netanyahu reportedly had a ‘particularly combative’ phone call on Wednesday. US officials are quoted by the Journal as saying the current Gaza conflict has ‘persuaded them that Mr. Netanyahu and his national security team are both reckless and untrustworthy.’ Meanwhile Israeli officials view the Obama administration as ‘weak and naive’ and are working to bypass the White House, working with allies in Congress and elsewhere in the US administration instead. The Israeli officials told the Journal Netanyahu isn’t worried about the tensions with the Obama administration and that he believes he can simply ‘wait out’ Obama’s term, while relying on the strong support for Israel in Congress until then.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Israel is in the fight for her life, and Obama cuts off anti-armor missiles during a time of war—while at the same time, he gave the Gaza savages close to 50 million dollars in aid. That defines who and what [Obama] is.”) [62869, 62870, 62872]

Breitbart.com reports, “A Martha’s Vineyard photographer quietly deleted photographs of ...Obama dancing during a birthday party after they went viral online. Editorial and fine art photographer Elizabeth Cecil posted two photos of [Obama] on her Instagram account from the party that was closed to the press. The photos featured ...Obama dancing and one of him offering a birthday toast to Ann Jordan at a party at the Farm Neck Golf Club. The party included about 150 guests, including former President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton. The photo of [Obama] dancing was discovered on Instagram early Thursday morning by Republican National Committee War Room staffer Elliott Schwartz, who posted it on Twitter.” [62791, 62792, 62793, 62794, 62795, 62874]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi reports, “[T]he Justice Department has dispatched its Community Relations Service to the scene of racially charged unrest in Ferguson, Missouri...” prompting Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton to remark, “Eric Holder’s Justice Department is, unfortunately, not to be trusted on racial matters.” Corsi notes, “[T]he Community Relations Service intervened in the Trayvon Martin case in Florida,

helping organize protests that pressed for the prosecution of George Zimmerman, who later was acquitted by a jury of murder. ...The DOJ says its Community Relations Service, created under the Civil Rights Act of 1964, tries to help communities resolve conflicts and tensions arising from racial differences. But Fitton said Judicial Watch has accumulated considerable evidence that Holder's DOJ 'does not operate in a race-neutral manner.' His group is 'carefully watching and keeping abreast' of the situation in Ferguson and wants information about the Community Relations Service's work there. 'How much money is being spent? How many employees are being used? What are their talking points?' Fitton asked. The DOJ Community Relations Service did not return WND phone calls requesting comment." [62856]

CNSNews.com reports, "In 2011, in current year dollars, total government spending in the United States was \$6,115,429,668,000. That included \$2,516,666,590,000 in net state and local government spending and \$3,598,763,078,000 in net federal government spending. That year there were 121,084,000 households in the United States, according to the Census Bureau, which means that the \$6,115,429,668,000 that government spent equaled 50,505.68 per household. Median household income in 2011 was \$50,054 in current-year dollars, according to the Census Bureau. So, government spending per household exceeded median household income by more than \$450." (In other words, if every family in the United States were taxed at 100 percent, that tax revenue would still be less than what is spent by federal, state, and local governments.) [62853, 62854]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey comments on leaked emails that suggest worsening U.S.-Israel relations have soured: "The answer is simple, and easy to deconstruct by reverse-engineering this petulant leak to [*The Wall Street Journal's* Adam] Entous. Israel (and probably Egypt too) has marginalized John Kerry after the Secretary of State attempted to legitimize Hamas by attempting to negotiate through Qatar and Turkey. That leaves Barack Obama out in the cold, but still making demands on Israel to be flexible in the final truce settlement. [Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu wants Obama to make concessions in exchange for that flexibility. That has angered Obama, who finds himself all but impotent in the matter—which is why we have this big leak about the deteriorating relations between Washington and Jerusalem. ...The White House wants to erode Israel's influence on Congress to break out of its no-win position of the moment, but expressing outrage over their own incompetence... won't make Obama and his team look any more sympathetic. It just makes them look more incompetent, and gives Congress more reason to bypass the White House themselves as much as they can to keep the partnership with Israel going until Obama leaves office." [62836]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson notes that much of Cyprus has been controlled by Turkish troops since the island was invaded in 1974. "Some 200,000 Greek refugees never returned home after being expelled from their homes and farms in Northern Cyprus. The capital of Nicosia remains divided. A 112-mile demilitarized 'green line' runs right through the city across the entire island. Thousands of settlers from Anatolia were shipped in by the Turkish government to occupy former Greek villages and to change Cypriot demography—in the same manner the occupying Ottoman Empire once did in the 16th century. Not a single nation recognizes the legitimacy of the Turkish

Cypriot state. In contrast, Greek Cyprus is a member of the European Union. Why, then, is the world not outraged at an occupied Cyprus the way it is at, say, Israel? Nicosia is certainly more divided than is Jerusalem. Thousands of Greek refugees lost their homes more recently, in 1974, than did the Palestinians in 1947. ...The island remains conquered not because the Greeks have given up, but because their resistance is futile against a NATO power of some 70 million people. Greeks know that Turkey worries little about what the world thinks of its occupation. Greeks in Cyprus and mainland Greece together number less than 13 million people. That is far less than the roughly 300 million Arabic speakers, many from homelands that export oil, who support the Palestinians. No European journalist fears that Greek terrorists will track him down should he write something critical of the Greek Cypriot cause. Greek Cypriots would not bully a journalist in their midst for broadcasting a critical report, the way Hamas surely would do to any candid reporter in Gaza. In other words, there is not much practical advantage or interest in promoting the Greek Cypriot cause. ...Turkey is also less emblematic of the West than is Israel. In the racist habit of assuming low expectations for non-Westerners, European elites do not hold Turkey to the same standards that they do Israel. We see such hypocrisy when the West stays silent while Muslims butcher each other by the thousands in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and Syria. Only when a Westernized country like Israel inflicts far less injury to Muslims does the West become irate. The same paradox seems to hold true for victims. Apparently, Western Christian Greeks are not the romantic victims that Palestinian Muslims are. ...[A]lthough the Middle East is not just about a dispute over land. Israel is inordinately damned for what it supposedly does because its friends are few, its population is tiny, and its adversaries beyond Gaza numerous, dangerous, and often powerful. And, of course, because it is Jewish.” [62920]

National Review's Jim Geraghty writes at Morning Jolt, “Suddenly, we’re experiencing the ‘Great Reset.’ ...We’re experiencing the one where America’s largely liberal political elites suddenly realize a lot of hard truths that many voices on the right have been saying all along: *A U.S. troop presence in Iraq could help prevent chaos and genocide. Islamists want to reestablish a caliphate. Vladimir Putin is not a reasonable guy. The United Nations is useless. The worldview and policy solutions expressed by Barack Obama during his rise in 2007 and 2008 were hopelessly naïve. Any day now, they’ll suddenly realize Iran wants nuclear weapons and isn’t likely to give them up at the negotiating table! ...[I]f a U.S. presence in Iraq does turn out to be vital to U.S. national security and basic human decency requires us to do more than just stand by during a genocide ...then maybe George W. Bush wasn’t such a crazed warmonger after all, huh, liberals? ... Here’s the problem: the Democratic base is functionally isolationist. Large swaths of Democratic primary voters do not want money spent overseas or troops deployed anywhere near Iraq. All of the Democratic officeholders’ opportunistic demonization of the Iraq War from 2003 to 2008 has caught up with them; their base actually believed all of that stuff about neocons and oil companies and Halliburton and ‘imperial hubris.’ For the better part of a decade, Democrats insisted U.S. troops could leave Iraq and things would turn out fine for American interests. As [blogger Ace of Spades] put it, ‘Obama is essentially now in the position of fighting a war while pretending to not be fighting a war, because of The Base. That should go well for all of us!’”*

On *Outnumbered*, Pentagon reporter Jennifer Griffin says, "...I have multiple well-placed Pentagon official sources who tell me that there is a great deal of tension between the White House and the State Department on one side and the Pentagon on the other. The Pentagon [is] saying 'look, we have been authorized with these eighteen or so airstrikes that we have carried out so far to hit some ISIS targets around the Erbil area to protect the U.S. consulate there, to also hit the ones who are focusing on the Yazidis, but that is not the complete ISIS threat. ISIS is carrying out suicide bombings in Baghdad; they are on the move and on the march towards Baghdad. They have taken the two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, and all the towns along the route there. All of the officials from the Pentagon side who I'm talking to, Pentagon planners who are involved in the mix, they say that what they need is a strategy from [Obama] to deal with ISIS. This right now is simply authorization to help with the humanitarian situation with the Yezidis. That is not going to kill the ISIS threat.'" [62852]

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki steps down. On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer remarks that the resignation "now calls [Obama's] bluff. He said, up until now, and I think correctly, we are not going to act as the Shi'ite air force, so we're not going to act in a major way on behalf of Maliki, because he's a sectarian, he's wrecked what we left behind. He alienated the Sunnis, he's alienated everybody else, he's got to go. Well, he's now gone. And now there's a replacement. ...[A]ssuming he's going to reach out, include Sunnis, then the bluff is called. ...[Obama] said, we're going to support Iraq if ISIS is a threat, which it is—[we have] a strategic interest to push it back. Well, then he has to deliver, with something he's going to offer Baghdad. ...[but Obama] doesn't seem to want to do anything besides protecting our consulate, which he could evacuate tomorrow if he wanted, and doing humanitarian stuff—social work—which, apparently, he says is now un-needed, because miraculously, the Yazidis have gotten off the mountain. So, if this is a strategic issue, if this is a threat to the west, which it obviously is, and he said, I'm waiting for the new government [to act]—well, the new government is here. What's he going to do?" [62812, 62879]

On August 15 Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, "After listening to excuses from IRS officials about why they cannot produce 'lost' emails requested through a Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan has ordered the IRS to come up with a better explanation as to why the agency cannot produce valid documentation. He's also asking for details about IRS hard drive destruction policy and wants verification from an outside source that IRS hard drives in question were in fact destroyed as officials have claimed. 'In an extraordinary step, U. S. District Court Judge Emmett Sullivan has launched an independent inquiry into the issue of the missing emails associated with former IRS official Lois Lerner,' President of Judicial Watch John Fitton said in a statement. 'Previously, Judge Sullivan ordered the IRS to produce sworn declarations about the IRS email issue by August 11. Today's order confirms Judicial Watch's read of this week's IRS' filings that treated as a joke Judge Sullivan's order.'" [62837, 62888, 62896]

Judge Sullivan's order reads, in part, "In light of... the Declarations filed by the IRS, the IRS is hereby ORDERED to file a sworn Declaration, by an official with the authority to speak under oath for the Agency, by no later than August 22, 2014. In this Declaration, the IRS must: (1) provide information about its efforts, if any, to recover missing Lois Lerner emails from alternate sources (i.e., Blackberry, iPhone, iPad); (2) provide additional information explaining the IRS's policy of tracking inventory through use of bar code property tags, including whether component parts, such as hard drives, receive a bar code tag when serviced. If individual components do not receive a bar code tag, provide information on how the IRS tracks component parts, such as hard drives, when being serviced; (3) provide information about the IRS's policy to degauss hard drives, including whether the IRS records whose hard drive is degaussed, either by tracking the employee's name or the particular machine with which the hard drive was associated; and (4) provide information about the outside vendor who can verify the IRS's destruction policies concerning hard drives." HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "'ORDERED.' 'Must.' 'Speak under oath.' These are not really requests, and the time frame isn't an expression of curiosity, either. Giving the IRS a single week to meet these demands after months of wrangling over Judicial Watch's challenge implies that (a) Sullivan's pretty convinced the IRS has these answers, which then suggests that (b) Sullivan's getting angry over the IRS' intransigence and opacity in dealing with the court. Either Judge Sullivan has run out of patience, or he wants the IRS to think he has." [62837, 62838, 62839]

Attorney Orly Taitz is informed by the Department of Justice, "We are meeting with our clients next week and hope to be able to respond to your request on August 19 or 20." (Some might wonder Obama's brief interruption of his Martha's Vineyard to return to the White House relates to Taitz's lawsuit. The DOJ's message relates to the case *Taitz v. Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, Sylvia Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Barack Obama and Border Patrol*, the Taitz lawsuit that charges immigration laws are not being enforced by the Obama administration. Taitz is seeking a stay of transportation of illegal aliens who illegally crossed the border in Texas for at least two months, until they are deported or there is a signed release by a U.S. licensed doctor stating that they do not carry infectious diseases, confirmation from the country of origin stating that the illegals do not have a criminal record and do not belong to drug cartels, gangs and terrorist organizations, and a signed order by a federal judge stating that the illegals have a legal basis to reside in the United States. Taitz is also seeking an order by the court deeming Obama's DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals) executive order to be unconstitutional, unlawful, and null and void.) [62332, 62906]

Sharyl Attkisson reports, "An email obtained by Congress shows the top official for Healthcare.gov at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the Department of Health and Human Services, Marilyn Tavenner, instructed the agency's top spokesman to 'Please delete this email.' The instruction appears significant for several reasons: First, the email to be deleted included an exchange between key White House officials and CMS officials. Second, the email was dated October 5, 2013, five days into the disastrous launch of HealthCare.gov. Third, federal law requires federal officials to retain copies of—not delete—email exchanges. And fourth, the document to be deleted is

covered under Congressional subpoena as well as longstanding Freedom of Information requests made by members of the media (including me). In a letter today, House Energy and Commerce leaders asked Tavenner to explain why she asked her colleague to delete the email, and the letter questions whether there are other instances in which she instructed HHS staff to delete emails. The letter also asks for more details regarding Congressional subpoenaed documents, including Tavenner emails, that CMS recently said might be permanently lost; and it requests an explanation as to why redactions are made in some documents provided to Congress so far. The meaning of the Tavenner email that she wanted deleted, and the reason why she issued the instruction, isn't clear. Those copied on the email exchange to be deleted include: Jeanne Lambrew, Obama's Director of the White House Office of Health Reform." [62860, 62861, 62887]

D. W. Ulsterman reports, "Last month during an alleged exchange between Valerie Jarrett and other members of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Jarrett dismissed concerns from staff that an increasingly uncooperative and indifferent media were pulling away from the Obama administration, focusing instead on the emerging Democrats who will make up the 2016 run for the White House. The late afternoon meeting between Jarrett and OPE staff reportedly took place just days after a particularly damaging poll was released showing Barack Obama would lose to former presidential candidate Mitt Romney if another election between the two men were held. Staff were not so much angry over the actual polling data, but the media's seemingly too willing inclination to report upon the poll and repeat for a full news cycle the phrase 'buyers' remorse' and other terms applicable to the poll's result, terms that put the Obama administration in a decidedly negative light. These same staff were given notice just prior to the poll's publication, and initiated what has been normal operating procedure for the Obama White House since its inception in 2009—strongly suggesting/dictating to the media how it should proceed in relaying information to the public. Apparently fewer in the media were willing to tow [sic; toe] the White House line, and staff quickly grew alarmed at how much more difficult it was becoming for them to control the message, the very kind of control Valerie Jarrett has repeated is so crucial to the overall success of the longer term Obama legacy. Apparently, when an OPE operative suggested the media sees the Obama White House as 'done,' 'old news,' Jarrett's eyes flashed indignantly as she shook her head from side to side, her right pointer finger tapping the top of a desk several times with enough force it echoed inside the small White House conference room. 'They think we're done? Not quite. Not yet. Not even close.'" [62885]

The Telegraph reports, "At least 300 people, most of them children, died whilst trapped on Mount Sinjar, doctors have told *The Telegraph*. ...Up to 150,000 people fled when Islamic State militants and their allies stormed the Iraqi city of Sinjar, and then suffered a gruelling [sic; grueling] journey over mountain peaks, some walking for days, without food or water, in blistering temperatures. ...To escape Mount Sinjar, the trapped civilians—who mostly from minority groups including Yezidis and Christians—used a narrow 'corridor' that had been carved by the YPG, the Syrian Kurdish military faction. The fighters pushed the Islamic State back from strip of agricultural land linking the edge of the mountain to the territory under their control on the Syrian border. Bolstering the corridor with their defences, it became the only conduit through which people trapped on

the mountain to escape from. Up to 70,000 people passed through Nawrouz camp in Syria, the first place for them to rest and receive aid after the hundreds of miles travelled to get off the mountain. Under mismatched tents or tarpaulin sheets they tried to catch some rest and rehydrate. Most then travelled on to return to Iraq via a crossing that brought them to a safer part of the country, north of Mount Sinjar. They make up an estimated 1.2 million people who have been internally displaced since the Islamic State took control of Mosul in June. The humanitarian crises in this area is now so critical that some have now returned to Nawrouz camp.” (As bad as the refugee camp may be, the people have nowhere else to go. Meanwhile, ISIS fighters kill 80 or more Yazidis when they take over the town of Kojo. [62895, 62897])

Police in Ferguson, Missouri, criticized in previous days for being too tough on looters and rioters, choose to back off—with predictable results: increased looting and rioting. One person tweets: “Have been here for over an hour and there has been absolutely no police engagement at all.” Other Twitter messages: “Sam’s Meat Market owner tells FOX2now: he saw his store being looted on TV, 911 shrugged him off. No response.” “Store owners showing up to find there stores damaged. They’re not happy with police not stopping looters.” “Owners of SAMs Meat Market defending their store because they say police won’t.” “‘We were just waiting for them to leave’ [said a] Looter in Ferguson celebrating the police turning around.” [62898, 62900, 62904]

Meanwhile, TheGatewayPundit.com posts a description of the events of the shooting, according to a friend of officer Darren Wilson who appeared on the Dana Loesch radio program: “He pulled up ahead of them. And then he [Wilson] got a call-in that there was a strong-arm robbery. And, they gave a description. And, he’s looking at them and they got something in their hands and it looks like it could be what, you know those cigars or whatever. So he goes in reverse back to them. Tries to get out of his car. They slam his door shut violently. I think he said Michael [Brown] did. And, then he opened the car again. He tried to get out. He stands up. And then Michael just bum-rushes him and shoves him back into his car. Punches him in the face and then Darren grabs for his gun. Michael grabbed for the gun. At one point he got the gun entirely turned against his hip. And he shoves it away. And the gun goes off. Well, then Michael takes off and gets to be about 35 feet away. And, Darren’s first protocol is to pursue. So, he stands up and yells, ‘Freeze!’ Michael and his friend turn around. And Michael taunts him... And then all the sudden he just started bum-rushing him. He just started coming at him full speed. And, so he just started shooting. And, he just kept coming. And, so he really thinks he was on something [drugs].” WashingtonPost.com reports that a “person familiar with the county’s investigation” said that “Brown had marijuana in his system when he was shot and killed.” (As he did with the Trayvon Martin shooting incident, Obama felt compelled to make a statement before all the facts were known.) [62902, 62912, 62924, 62997, 63228]

SooperMexican.com uncovers “a cache of rap songs” left behind by “gentle giant” Michael Brown “that contain pretty much what you’d expect out of modern rap—lots of boasting about murdering, taking drugs, drinking, and sex with hos [whores]. It appears that most of these were uploaded right before the tragic events that took his life. In one of

the pictures provided by his family, a jar is shown filled with rap lyrics that he was working on.” Brown’s lyrics include:

“I’ll be counting money by myself / I’m a rich nigga so I got that wealth / I fuck three [??] hos by myself / While I’m smoking on this [!?!] / When the sun goes down / You in trouble now” “Smoking on this dope, till I choke / Motherfuckers / Motherfucker, fuck you and your opinions / Do you do smoke weed, keep doing what you do best” “Every time I call your bitch I make her cum / And when she comes I’m cumming all over her tush / I beat that pussy up / I’m smoking purple / I roll fat blunts they look just like my thumb / While I bless him with a dick on his face” “With this Glock in your face / And you betta not make a sound / And I only like white men on my money [??] / Those who are last shall be first / Whites on the bottom / He musta walked up and unloaded because there was no stopping him / Somebody else layin’ across the street, must be his partner / Damn.” [63242]

At NYTimes.com Peter Baker writes, “In this summer of global tumult, the debate in Washington essentially boils down to two opposite positions: It is all ...Obama’s fault, according to his critics; no, it is not, according to his supporters, because these are events beyond his control. ... ‘Apparently,’ he said in frustration the other day, ‘people have forgotten that America, as the most powerful country on earth, still does not control everything around the world.’ While as a statement of fact Mr. Obama’s assertion may be self-evident, it was seen by adversaries as a cop-out and even by more sympathetic analysts as a revealing moment for a [leader] whiplashed by international instability. ...The risk, naturally, is that [Obama] looks as if he is simply trying to excuse his own actions, or inactions, as the case may be. ‘It’s become a refrain to the point where I think people are becoming quite critical that that’s his response to everything,’ said Daniel L. Byman, a former member of the Sept. 11 commission staff now teaching at Georgetown University. ‘He’s not differentiating between things he can influence and those that he can’t.’ ...In a Wall Street Journal opinion article on Friday, Gen. James L. Jones, the retired NATO commander and Mr. Obama’s first national security adviser, said [Obama] should have left some troops in Iraq, retaliated against Syria for crossing his ‘red line’ by using chemical weapons, and pressured the Baghdad government to arm the Kurds. Such criticisms exasperate Mr. Obama and his team. In some cases, they argue, the crises that have emerged were wholly unforeseen. In others, they said, the solutions proffered by critics would not have worked and, in fact, may have made things worse. And besides, they often add, Mr. Obama inherited a situation that was broken when he got it, pointing to Mr. Bush’s decision to invade Iraq in the first place.” [62903]

On August 16 the U.S. military conducts air strikes in northern Iraq, in an effort help the Kurds wrest control of the Mosul Dam from ISIS. HotAir.com notes that a collapse of the dam “could kill as many as a half-million people. The dam could play a critical role for ISIS for extortion purposes and the loss of it could cripple central Iraq, which relies on power generated from the problem-plagued dam. ...The loss of control of the dam created a high degree of concern in Baghdad as well as with its Western allies. Not only does the dam provide power to central Iraq, it’s also a critical part of the fresh-water infrastructure in the region. The dam itself is fragile even when the political situation is

stable; the government in Iraq had planned to partner with the US and others to fix it before it collapsed on its own before ISIS pushed them out of the region. Its destruction—natural or otherwise—would be catastrophic for millions of people in Iraq.” [62897]

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon declares a state of emergency in Ferguson because of continuing violence. (The curfew begins at midnight Saturday and runs until 5 a.m. on Sunday morning.) Nixon says, “This is a test of whether a community—this community, any community—can break the cycle of fear, distrust and violence and replace them with peace, strength and ultimately justice.”

Takimag.com comments on the events in Ferguson: “Our post-racial nation has found its new Trayvon Martin—albeit one bigger, fatter, and possibly even dumber—in the form of 18-year-old Michael Brown of Ferguson, Missouri. Brown is also America’s new Rodney King, but this time it’s even worse—instead of being pummeled with nightsticks by three white policemen and one Mexican, Brown was shot to death by a cop who, unlike Trayvon Martin’s slayer George Zimmerman, is undeniably white. And as with the whole sordid Rodney King affair—when an initial jury verdict found police innocent and LA then burned for days—the dilapidated and mostly black St. Louis suburb of Ferguson has seen rioting in various degrees of intensity since last Sunday night. On the rioters’ and protesters’ side there has been looting and chanting and assaulting and brick-throwing and shooting at police choppers and the tossing of Molotov cocktails. As if the locals weren’t raising enough hell, they’ve been aided and abetted by white communists and New Black Panthers who’ve come down from Chicago to bark about ‘revolution,’ which is a word almost exclusively used by those who wouldn’t have the first clue what to do after all the smoke clears and the embers go cold. They keep screaming for ‘justice,’ although if pressed to actually define that term, many of them would likely babble incoherently before stealing your microphone.” [62905]

“On the law-enforcement side is the chilling spectacle of paramilitary local police forces propped up with high-tech, space-age equipment lovingly supplied by the federal government. They roll in on armored vehicles, lobbing flash grenades and tear-gas canisters and using crowd-dispersing sirens. It makes anyone concerned about liberty squeamish, no matter how dumb and brutish and ineducable and irredeemable the locals are. ... Al Sharpton—who has a cable ‘news’ show and hobnobs with [Obama] despite enabling so many hoaxes and egging on so much previous destruction and being so illiterate and mush-mouthed that it’s a miracle he has yet to be laughed off the planet—rushed to St. Louis to belch out gas from deep within his rancid and corrupt bowels. Benjamin L. Crump, who unsuccessfully represented Trayvon Martin’s family in the Zimmerman trial, is now the Brown family’s lawyer. And so much of the media—mainly rich and sheltered intelligent white people who should know better but keep letting their ideology blind them and their emotions get the best of them—is already spinning limp excuses about the criminalization of blackness and the cycle of poverty and the fact that after all we’ve been through, we still have much more work to do until white America finally gets over its toxic racism. Just as Trayvon was initially depicted as a chocolate cherub innocently buying a bag of Skittles before trial testimony revealed he’d ambushed

Zimmerman and was bashing his head into the concrete, the media mostly portrayed Michael Brown as just another underprivileged and underserved black male with a bright and wondrous future ahead of him who was scheduled to start his first day of ‘college’ (technically, it was technical school) on Monday before he was shot dead on Sunday. Then, yesterday, police revealed that Brown was the primary suspect in a violent grocery-store robbery of a box of Swishers cigars that occurred mere minutes before a white policeman shot him dead only a few blocks away. But mostly the preachers and pundits are right: Not much, if anything, has changed. We’ve gone from Skittles to Swishers. And America is still divided, dumb, and doomed.” [62905]

IJReview.com reports, “In a shocking revelation today, it was revealed that the Department of Justice had the videotape footage of Michael Brown robbing a liquor store in Ferguson, but actually told the police department NOT to release it to the public. ...And why would the Obama administration not want the video to come into the public view?” According to MSNBC contributor Goldie Taylor, “Robbery video was released over the objections of DOJ. Told Ferguson PD [police department] it was inflammatory...” IJReview: “It’s notable that the community was demanding more and more transparency from the police department, but this video was kept under wraps until nearly a week of rioting and confrontation had gone by. The Obama administration wanted to put a lid on that transparency, and ironically, this only suits a political agenda of further stoking racial tension. So much for the ‘most transparent administration ever.’” (Clearly Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder want the public to believe that Michael Brown was an angel who was killed by a white cop simply because he was black—because that gives the Democrats more than two months until election day to gin up the black vote with “subtle hints” that if Republican win the Senate there will be “open season on blacks.” Providing the truth works against that narrative, so the shameless Obama and Holder *do not want anyone to know that Brown was a thug*. His shooting may certainly not have been justifiable, but he was a thug nevertheless.) Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, a Democrat, also did not want the video released. He calls it an “attempt to, in essence, disparage the character of this victim...” (Nixon apparently believes that reporting the truth about a crime is not fair to the perpetrator of the crime.) [62907, 62930]

Jesse Jackson shows up in Ferguson and is booed when he asks for donations for his “church.” (There is also an unconfirmed report that Al Sharpton asked the family of Michael Brown for money in exchange for his “help.”) [62936, 62947, 62949, 62996]

New York Times reporter James Risen calls Obama “the greatest enemy to press freedom in a generation. ...A lot of people still think this is some kind of game or signal or spin. They don’t want to believe that Obama wants to crack down on the press and whistle-blowers. But he does.” (The *Times*’ Maureen Dowd notes, “Attorney General Eric Holder wants to force Risen to testify and reveal the identity of his confidential source on a story he had in his 2006 book concerning a bungled C.I.A. operation during the Clinton administration in which agents might have inadvertently helped Iran develop its nuclear weapon program. The tale made the C.I.A. look silly, which may have been more of a sore point than a threat to national security. ...The subpoena forcing Risen’s testimony

expired in 2009, and to the surprise of just about everybody, the constitutional law professor's administration renewed it—kicking off its strange and awful aggression against reporters and whistle-blowers.” [62927, 62928]

On August 17, at NYPost.com, Michael Goodwin wonders if Obama “is driving Jews” from the Democrat Party: “Without doubt, the party under Barack Obama has left those Jews who view Israel’s security as threatened. Obama recently told a New York Times interviewer, ‘Because Israel is so capable militarily, I don’t worry about Israel’s survival.’ That’s shocking, considering Iran’s threat to wipe Israel off the map once it gets nukes. And even as Obama spoke, the Jewish state was in a mini-war with Hamas, which vows to eliminate Israel and is supported by Iran. Obama apparently doesn’t take those aims seriously, perhaps believing they are only boob bait for the Muslim masses. But if ‘Kill the Jews’ is what the masses want to hear, why assume that isn’t official policy? After all, many thought Hitler wasn’t serious, either. ...It is obvious Obama wants a liberal lapdog in Israel, a point underscored by his complaint to the Times’ Tom Friedman that [Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu’s poll numbers are very high. ‘Bibi [Netanyahu] is too strong,’ Obama insisted, saying it insulated him from having to make the decisions Obama wants him to make. In other words, the Israeli public is also wrong for supporting Netanyahu, and Obama knows what’s best for them. ... To say, as Obama does, that Israel must recognize that Hamas has ‘legitimate claims’ is to reward it for starting the war. It transfers legitimacy and power from Palestinian moderates to the terrorists. As one Israeli paper put it, ‘US livid with Israel? Hamas can’t believe its luck.’ So, is this the moment when American Jews realize the Democratic Party has left them? Gallup surveyed 88,000 Americans through June and found that 55 percent of Jews approved of [Obama], while 41 percent disapproved. Among all religious groups, Muslims gave him the highest approval, at 72 percent. The 55 percent Jewish approval marks a big decline from the 69 percent of the Jewish vote Obama got in 2012, and the 78 percent he got in 2008.” [62922]

On *This Week*, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) says, “We’re missing a critical question here.” She observes that the mission to “take out Islamic extremists wherever they are... has been lost. [The Obama administration] said the air strikes are not a campaign against ISIS. If our mission is not about taking out extremists, then we’ve got a real problem here.” (It is clear that Obama has no desire to wipe out radical Islamists—which leads everyone to wonder what his goal in Iraq is.) [62931]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) says, “We need to do everything we can to repel [the Islamic State]. I don’t think we have the luxury of putting our heads in the sand and saying, ‘Well, it’s over there and we’re not going to do it.’ I think what we’re doing now is effective. We’ve got to do more of it. And ultimately, we may have some boots on the ground there. It’s not something I want. But you know what? We have bad choices, and the worst choice is to do nothing.” [62931, 62939]

Obama returns to the White House, interrupting his golf vacation for a few days. [62925]

DailyCaller.com reports, “An autopsy conducted on Michael Brown, the unarmed 18-year-old fatally shot by Ferguson, Missouri, police officer Darren Wilson last Saturday, shows that Brown was shot at least six times, twice in the head and all in the front of the body. The New York Times reported the results of a private autopsy conducted by Dr. Michael Baden, who was hired by the Brown family. Baden conducted the autopsy on Sunday, according to the Times. One bullet entered the top of Brown’s skull. Four struck him in the right arm. All bullets hit Brown in the front of the body, according to the autopsy. ...Baden provided a diagram to the Times, which shows that the bullet that that struck Brown in the head entered while he was bent forward. ‘It can be because he’s giving up, or because he’s charging forward at the officer,’ Baden said.” (Those who claimed Brown was shot in the back as he fled from the police office were mistaken.) Missouri officials conducted the first autopsy; Baden conducted the second; and Attorney General Eric Holder has ordered a third to be conducted by federal authorities. (How the federal government has any jurisdiction in the case is not clear. HotAir.com comments, “We try not to leap to conclusions, but it seems there is a rather obvious case to be made that the Obama Administration (unless Holder took this upon himself without approval, which seems unlikely in the extreme) has decided to latch on to this incident and it has political fingerprints all over it. How else would you explain it? Yes, the Brown family attorney supposedly made the request, but I’d be willing to wager that most every family in the country—of any race, religion or otherwise—who lost a family member in violent, questionable circumstances would love to have big guns like this brought to bear. But they don’t get it. And that, again, is assuming that it’s even appropriate for the feds to be injecting themselves into an ongoing investigation to begin with. There haven’t even been any charges filed, to say nothing of a trial being held which some might dispute after the outcome. I don’t care for the looks of this at all.”) [62932, 62945, 62948, 62993]

Rioting continues in Ferguson, Missouri. According to BizPacReview.com, “Overnight tension that started with a midnight curfew ended with one shooting, police vehicles coming under gun fire and seven people arrested early Sunday morning as a Missouri town remained racked by violence. ...[T]he victim was shot by an unknown gunman at a barbecue restaurant that was the scene of a reported break-in. Police responding to the break-in were also fired on, Johnson said, but the gunman remained at large.” (MSNBC’s race-baiting Al Sharpton—who is soon to be honored by the jihad-supporting Council on American-Islamic Relations—shows up and pretends he is not inciting violence. Pamela Geller notes that “The Department of Justice is sitting on a ‘mountain of evidence’ in the terror case of Hamas-CAIR, which was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the largest terror funding trial in our nation’s history. CAIR top dogs should be rotting in prison and of course, some of them are. But the enemedia and the enemy Obama administration have elevated these supremacist thugs to positions of influence and power.” On August 20 CAIR’s Nihad Awad tweets, “Israel is the biggest threat to world peace and security.” Americans should be outraged that CAIR is “honoring” Al Sharpton and that Obama relies on Sharpton for help in dealing with racial issues.) [62934, 62935, 62936, 62956, 63223, 63224]

At WashingtonTimes.com Ben Wolfgang writes, “Lawmakers from both parties are increasingly questioning the Obama administration’s strategy for dealing with a powerful

Islamist terrorist group in the Middle East, saying the U.S. should expand its approach, which might include combat troops on the ground in Iraq and airstrikes in Syria. Since authorizing strikes against the Islamic State group two weeks ago, ... Obama has gone to great lengths to assure the American people that no U.S. ground forces will return to war in Iraq. White House officials also have stressed that, although the militants pose a threat to American personnel and interests in the Middle East, the U.S. is not declaring a broad-based war against the group, which now controls swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria. ... Congressional Republicans and Democrats now say the Obama administration should rethink its carefully limited strategy of airstrikes and logistical support for Iraqi forces. Some lawmakers are calling for a George W. Bush-style 'coalition of the willing' of international partners to launch a broader attack against the Islamic State, whose rapid advances in recent months have stunned Westerners. Others say U.S. ground troops in Iraq may become necessary, as could airstrikes against Islamic State fighters in neighboring Syria, where the group continues to clash with the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad." [62939]

On August 18 CBS's Mark Knoller posts a photo released by the White House showing a grinning Obama meeting with Attorney General Eric Holder to discuss the riots in Ferguson, Missouri. (Why Obama is smiling is not known.) [62911]

The NYTimes.com writes that "Obama is seen as frustrating to his own party," and describes a meeting at which Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) sought Obama's support for GOP-delayed White House appointment but was told bluntly, "You and [Senate Minority Leader] Mitch [McConnell (R-KY)] work it out." According to the *Times*, "Mr. Reid seethed quietly for the rest of the meeting, according to four separate accounts provided by people who spoke with him about it. After his return to the Capitol that afternoon, Mr. Reid told other senators and his staff members that he was astonished by how disengaged [Obama] seemed. After all, these were Mr. Obama's own ambassadors who were being blocked by Mr. McConnell, and Secretary of State John Kerry had been arguing for months that getting them installed was an urgent necessity for the administration. But the impression [Obama] left with Mr. Reid was clear: Capitol Hill is not my problem. ... [N]early six years into his term [sic; two years into his second term], with his popularity at the lowest... Mr. Obama appears remarkably distant from his own party on Capitol Hill, with his long neglect of would-be allies catching up to him. In interviews, nearly two dozen Democratic lawmakers and senior congressional aides suggested that Mr. Obama's approach has left him with few loyalists to effectively manage the issues erupting abroad and at home and could imperil his efforts to leave a legacy in his final stretch in office." [63144, 63145, 63146, 63147]

The *Times* quotes Senator Angus King (I-ME): "In order to work with people, you need to establish the relationship first before you ask for something. And I think one of the things the White House has not done well and [Obama] has not done well is the simple idea of establishing relationships before there is a crisis." Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO): "For [Obama], eating his spinach is schmoozing with elected officials. This is not something that he loves. He wasn't that kind of senator [before he entered the White

House].” Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) describes his relationship with Obama: “It’s fairly nonexistent.” [63144, 63145, 63146, 63147]

DailyCaller.com writes, “Cause of Action, a conservative legal group, is suing the White House over allegations of interference with executive agencies complying with FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] requests, The Washington Post reports. The central complaint is that federal agencies have taken over 14 months to complete Cause of Action’s FOIAs, and still has not provided the information, owing to the fact that the requests are currently under White House review. Some of the agencies include the Department of Justice, Office of Management and Budget, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Defense. The process of review, established in April of 2009 by a White House memo, stipulates that FOIA requests to federal agencies dealing with ‘White House equities’ need to be processed by the Obama administration first before being approved for release. ...[T]he undefined ‘White House equities’ phrase has been used to keep a close grip on information that is politically embarrassing. In total, Cause of Action listed 12 agencies in the suit, stating the agencies have failed to respond within the mandated time of 20 days, or even 30 days in unusual circumstances. The goal of Cause of Action’s claim is to move the court to rule that agencies must make a final decision about the documents within 30 days.” [62970]

According to the Media Research Center, “Texans for Public Justice, one of the groups behind [Texas Governor] Rick Perry’s indictment charges, is part of a ‘progressive’ coalition that has received \$500,000 from liberal billionaire George Soros. Perry was indicted by a Texas grand jury for vetoing funding for the state’s public integrity unit, unless the lead prosecutor [Rosemary Lehmborg] resigned following her drunk driving arrest—during which she threatened police officers. (Perry is essentially accused of abusing power for getting rid of a drunk D.A. who abused her power.) Since the news of Perry’s indictment charge broke on Aug. 15, none of the network morning or evening news broadcasts have mentioned the Soros connection, or mentioned Texans for Public Justice at all.” (Soros was one of the primary sponsors and supporters of Obama’s 2008 campaign. He has donated massive amounts of money to far-left organizations.) The indictment against Perry is so absurd that even prominent Democrats have ridiculed and criticized the action. Prosecutors in leftist Travis County, Texas are infamous for indicting political opponents for absurd reasons, knowing that even if they are eventually found not guilty they will be forced to spend a fortune on defense attorneys. And, of course, even after Perry overcomes the charges, the leftist media will eagerly use the word “indicted” and display his mug shot every time they mention his name. The goal of the indictment is not to send Perry to prison; it is to make it more difficult for him to mount a 2016 presidential campaign (and to revoke his permit to carry a concealed handgun until he is exonerated). Former Bill Clinton adviser Lanny Davis calls on his fellow Democrats to denounce the indictment, writing, “[I]t is a perversion of the criminal justice system, a classic case of prosecutorial abuse, to indict Perry as a way of deciding the wisdom of his veto. Voters should decide that, not a prosecutor. ...The grand jury hears only a one-sided presentation of evidence by the prosecutors. No rebuttal is allowed. No cross-examination fundamental to due process is allowed. In fact, an indictment is evidence of nothing. It is literally just an accusation, not even close to

proven facts.”) [62971, 62972, 62973, 62974, 62979, 62986, 62987, 63053, 63201, 63202, 63203, 63387, 63419]

Smelling blood in the water, CBS, NBC, and ABC spend an inordinate amount of time reporting on the indictment of Perry, wondering if it will “end any chance of a White House run in 2016,” and generally ignoring Democrat criticism of the action as unjustified. One exception is *Bloomberg Politics*’ Mark Halperin, who says on MSNBC that the indictment is “the stupidest thing I’ve seen, I think, in my entire career. ...I hope some judge throws it out right away. It’s not just kind of funny and ridiculous, but it’s an infringement on individual liberty. He’s got a First Amendment right just cause he’s governor of Texas and I think it’s—like you said, it’s easy to joke about this, but this is a serious thing. It is ridiculous that he was indicted for this. Ridiculous.” [62988]

Iraqi and Kurdish troops take back the Mosul dam from ISIS fighters.

Tunisia Daily reports that ISIS has been circumcising Assyrian men, without anesthesia and against their will in Mosul. ISIS has also reportedly sold 700 Yazidi women as slaves, for about \$150 each, at an auction in Mosul. [63016, 63018]

In a stunningly bland and emotionless statement from the White House, a tie-less Obama says, “With respect to Iraq, we continue to see important progress there. First, our military operations are effectively protecting our military personnel. We have urgently provided arms to [the Kurds] and Iraqi security forces fighting on the frontlines. ...Let’s remember that ISIL proposes a threat to all Iraqis.” On the Ferguson riots, Obama says, “It’s clear that the vast majority of people are peaceful protesters. It’s also clear that some people are not. ...Giving into that anger by looting, or carrying guns, and even attacking police... undermines rather than advances justice. As Americans we’ve got to use this moment to seek our common humanity. I’ve said this before: in too many communities around the country [too] many young men of color are left behind and only seen as objects of fear.” Perhaps having learned a little from his past mistakes of issuing statements before all the facts were in (Cambridge Police Department, Trayvon Martin, “not a smidgen of evidence,” et al.), Obama says, “I have to be very careful about not prejudging these events before investigations are completed, because, although these are, you know, issues of local jurisdiction—you know, the DOJ works for me. [No, the Department of Justice works for *the American people*—not for Obama.] And then when they’re [sic; it is] conducting an investigation, I’ve got to make sure that I don’t look like I’m putting my thumb on the scales one way or the other.” (Noting Obama’s detached “performance,” *Red Eye*’s Andy Levy tweets, “Obama seems to have the same level of passion for his job right now as I have for cleaning my apartment two weeks before I’m moving.”) [62950, 62951, 62952, 62953, 62985, 62989]

Although some believe the riots in Ferguson will prompt more blacks to vote on November 4, columnist Pat Buchanan suspects otherwise, telling *DailyCaller.com*: “I don’t think that that is going to be helpful to the party of Rev. Sharpton or Jesse Jackson. I think the riots and the violence and the looting are going to cause a lot of folks to recoil from those who appear to be condoning those sorts of act... there is no question about it.

...A lot of people just watch these things, observe quietly and talk with each other... [and] I think you will see it at the polls. The silent majority will react as it always does—it will recoil [from] the cursing, the hollering, the obscene gestures, the assaults on police, the looting and vandalism. ...The polarization is not going to be beneficial to [Obama].” Buchanan suggests that Obama state, “Look, this is a terrible tragedy, an 18-year-old life has been cut off in a violent act in the streets of Ferguson, and we’ve got to let the law and investigation take its course. The protests have been made, the country understands, but it is time for to put an end to violent upheavals.’ The sooner he addresses it the better, but I would hope that the National Guard would restore law and order tonight. This thing in Ferguson is child’s plays compared to Watts, Detroit and D.C. and a hundred other cities after Dr. [Martin Luther] King’s assassination [in 1968]. You had whole sections of cities gutted, dozens killed, troops called out, and thousands arrested. [Ferguson is] nothing comparable to that, but what makes it somewhat similar is the enormous amount of media attention.” [62929]

BizPacReview.com reports, “Raw video taken on the scene immediately following Michael Brown’s shooting is being circulated as a possible validation of police officer Darren Wilson’s account of the incident that has sparked a week of riots and unrest in Missouri and another race debate nationally. Conservative Treehouse blog found the video on You Tube late last week. It was posted by someone who was filming Brown’s body on the street and talking with others about what had just happened. Although the main voice on the clip says he thinks the police shot Brown unjustifiably, an apparent witness to the shooting offered his account that some are saying gives credence to what the police said happened. The alleged witness said Brown was coming back at the officer who had his gun already drawn. There are two very different versions of this pivotal part of the incident. The widely reported version that sparked the riots and looting is that Brown turned around to surrender with his hands up before he was shot. The police version is that the shooting came after a struggle in which Brown tried to take the officer’s gun.” On the video, one person says, “Then the next thing I know he [Brown was] coming back toward him [the police officer] cus [sic; because] the police had his gun drawn already on him...” (Although the video is certainly not definitive, the description “coming back toward him” of conflicts with claims that Brown was surrendering. Brown was reportedly walking down the middle of the street, blocking traffic, and the altercation with the police officer commenced when Brown refused to move to the sidewalk as requested.) [62933, 62937, 62954, 62994]

Curfew violations and continued rioting and looting prompt Governor Jay Nixon to call up National Guard troops to police Ferguson, Missouri. [62934, 62944]

Reuters reports, “Community Health Systems Inc, one of the biggest U.S. hospital groups, said on Monday it was the victim of a cyber attack from China, resulting in the theft of Social Security numbers and other personal data belonging to 4.5 million patients. Security experts said the hacking group, known as ‘APT 18,’ may have links to the Chinese government. ...The information stolen from Community Health included patient names, addresses, birth dates, telephone numbers and Social Security numbers of

people who were referred or received services from doctors affiliated with the hospital group in the last five years, the company said in a regulatory filing.” [62946]

CNN, NBC, and other media outlets broadcast images of the home of Ferguson, Missouri police officer Darren Wilson—despite the fact that some racists have called for his murder. (Wilson has 24-hour protection.) [62958]

HotAir.com points out that the Associated Press has repeatedly violated its own Stylebook, referring to Michael Brown as a “teen” or “teenager.” According to the AP Stylebook, reports should “use man or woman for individuals 18 and older.” “[O]bviously,” observes Hot Air, “if they’re breaking their own rule, they’re doing it to put a thumb on the moral scale of how tragic Brown’s death is. Listing his age as 18 and then following normal style doesn’t quite go far enough in leading the reader to the conclusion they want... to draw. ...Brown’s ‘teenager’ status per the AP Stylebook is a relatively benign illustration of that but some examples are more malignant. Everyone understands why the [New York] Times cooked up the unorthodox term ‘white Hispanic’ to describe George Zimmerman: They were pushing a ‘white man values black life cheaply’ narrative but got tripped up by the inconvenient fact that Zimmerman himself was a minority by virtue of his Latino ancestry, and so rather than jettison the narrative, they concocted ‘white Hispanic’ to keep it intact.” [62982]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld asks, “What do you call six dead and 25 wounded? A weekend in Chicago. Such crime is so mundane, it’s become background music for bad neighborhoods. So why doesn’t the media approach this chaos with the same fervor as they do with Ferguson? Repetitive violence doesn’t excite because it’s not crystallized into one stark act. It doesn’t produce the imagery that Pulitzer protein that builds portfolios and careers. Also a reporter only needs to hoof it to Ferguson for a week. [If] You want to tackle bigger violence, that’s full-time. The incidents are too frequent and the cops are too sympathetic and that’s pretty boring. We’ve been down this road before because the road never changes. Ferguson, Trayvon [Martin] and even Newton [school shooting]—these are media musts because they fit a greater story line, one that often omits facts that don’t fit. The media believes that [such] stories carry a bigger social impact, unlike the horrors that kill more innocents daily. And so their lopsided coverage is actually self-fulfilling, making the story bigger and expanding the suffering. Politicians retreat in response to the media’s gaze acting out of concern for the world view, but not for the shopkeeper. That’s why you have riots and no riot police. With mundane death, you can’t raise money off it, you can’t raise your profile off it and you can’t raise any hell. But with Ferguson you could do all that, facts be damned.” [62983]

At Breitbart.com Tony Lee reports, “After White House officials reportedly met with big-business groups, ...Obama is considering executive actions that will give them more guest-worker visas in the high-tech and low-skilled sectors. This may come on top of Obama’s potential grants of amnesty and work permits to millions of illegal immigrants in the country. While outside groups are urging Obama to ‘go big,’ Senate Democrats have expressed some concerns of late, as poll numbers have shown that executive amnesty may cost them control of the Senate. The White House is reportedly reaching

out to big-business groups on guest-worker visas so they can give Obama air cover on his potential executive amnesty. ...[A]ccording to Politico, ‘the ideas under discussion for executive action include allowing spouses of workers with high-tech visas to work, recapturing green cards that go unused, and making technical changes for dual-purpose visa applications.’ In addition, ‘agriculture industry representatives’ have also pushed the Obama administration for an expansion of the ‘existing agriculture worker program.’ The Obama administration, according to Politico, ‘is also considering provisions for low-skilled workers for industries, like construction, that would allow individuals with temporary work authorization to gain work permits.’ U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Peter Kirsanow has urged Obama and the Congressional Black Caucus to oppose illegal immigration and more low-skilled work permits because it would disproportionately impact black workers at the bottom rungs of the economic ladder. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) has been the leading advocate for American workers in Congress, opposing Obama's executive amnesty and pointing out during every speech that massively increasing the number of guest-worker visas would only deal a ‘hammer blow’ to the middle class and American workers who are already struggling in Obama's economy.” [62960]

Rioting continues in Ferguson, with protesters throwing bottles at the police. Tear gas eventually disperses the crowd. Police call on MSNBC to turn off their bright camera lights, which were aimed at the officers. One protester carries a sign that reads, “ISIS here.” [62966, 62969, 62981, 63001, 63019]

One looter tells *The Washington Post*, “I’m proud of us. We deserve this, and this is what’s supposed to happen when there’s injustice in your community. St. Louis—not going to take this anymore.” One police officer, referring to thugs who came from out of town to loot stores in Ferguson, uses the term, “looting tourism.” [62980]

While protesters, the media, and the Department of Justice focus on Ferguson, Missouri, RebelPundit.com reports that 31 people were shot and seven are killed in Chicago over the weekend, and notes, “HeyJackass.com, a website that maintains a running tally of the shooting and murder mayhem in Chicago also reports the homicide total for 2014 is 259 so far, with a total of 1360 shot and wounded.” [62991]

Obama spends about five hours at the Washington, D.C. home of his soon-to-be married, longtime friend and assistant White House chef Sam Kass. The *Daily Mail* reports, “The White House provided no additional details on Obama’s dinner... and the press never saw [Obama] enter or exit Kass’s building. Kass and the Obama family are close, having known each other from their days in Chicago, Illinois. Kass’s family lived in the same neighborhood as the Obamas, and his father taught Malia’s fifth-grade class. A *Vogue* profile on Kass and his fiancée, MSNBC host Alex Wagner, published earlier this year said a young Kass began cooking for the Obamas when Barack was running for president while serving in the U.S. Senate in Washington and Michelle and the girls were still living in Chicago.” (Wagner’s talent agent is Ari Emanuel, the brother of former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel and one of the architects of ObamaCare, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel.) It may be the case that the interruption of Obama’s Martha’s Vineyard vacation was for the sole purpose of attending Kass’s party. By holding a White House

meeting or two, Obama made the trip to the “bachelor party” “official”—so that the taxpayers would foot the bill for the trip. (Whether there were strippers, pole dancers, or Reggie Love at the party is not known.) [12931, 12932, 19048, 32065, 53965, 63060, 63061, 63062, 63063, 63111, 63112, 63232, 63233, 63572]

On August 19 a 23-year-old black man is shot and killed by police in St. Louis, Missouri. According to the *Daily Mail*, “The man allegedly had a knife when he was killed around 12.30pm in the north of the city, according to Police Chief Sam Dotson. The shooting took place outside the Six Stars Market, according to KMOV, four miles from the unrest in Ferguson over last week's cop shooting of a black teenager. ...Fox [News] reported that the man, described as behaving ‘erratically,’ was trying to rob the store and got into a dispute with the owner who called 911. When police arrived, the man reportedly shouted: ‘Shoot me, kill me now.’ The 23-year-old was holding the knife in an overhand grip, the police chief said today. The officers left their patrol car without their weapons drawn but when the man charged at them with the knife raised and was within three or four feet, they opened fire and killed him.” [62959, 62967, 62990]

Meanwhile, DailyCaller.com reports, “According to a preliminary report from a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter, police say that more than a dozen witnesses back Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson’s version of the events that led to the fatal shooting of Michael Brown.” [62968, 62984]

A Chinese J-11B fighter jet ‘buzzes’ a U.S. P-8A surveillance aircraft (a modified Boeing 737) over the South China Sea. According to DefenseNews.com, “The interception was ‘very close, very dangerous ...pretty aggressive and very unprofessional,’ Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters.” The Pentagon states, “On three different occasions, the Chinese J-11 crossed directly under the US aircraft with one pass having only 50-100 feet separation between the two aircraft. The Chinese jet also passed the nose of the P-8 at 90 degrees with its belly toward the P-8 to show its weapons load out. In doing so, the [Chinese] pilot was unable to see the P-8, further increasing the potential for a collision. The Chinese pilot then flew directly under and alongside the P-8 bringing their wingtips within 20 feet and then, before he stabilized his fighter he conducted a roll over the P-8 passing within 45 feet.” (One U.S. official suggests the incident may be the result of a “rogue pilot.” HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman writes, “Rogue pilots or no, a catastrophic midair collision between American and Chinese aircraft would spark a potentially disastrous international incident. This episode is certain to heighten tensions between the two powers. Moreover, the implication from unnamed American officials that Beijing cannot control its own pilots is sure to produce even more goodwill towards the United States.”) [63316, 63317]

A life-sized statue of a seated Obama is stolen from the front porch bench of a home in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. WNEP.com reports that the theft “upset the owner so much, she ended up in a hospital. It took Tiffany Bruce months to save up for a decorative piece to spruce up her new home in Wilkes-Barre. ‘That statue was actually \$1,249,’ Bruce said.” (The statue is later found seated on a nearby park bench, with a lit cigarette in its mouth and a six-pack of empty bottles of Twisted Tea.) [63148, 63149]

Hamas violates the latest ceasefire, firing at least 50 rockets into Israel. Israel responds with strikes on terror targets in Gaza. [62961, 62978, 62998, 63007, 63008, 63034]

Mark Regev, chief spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, says, “What we’re hoping to have is a situation where Hamas is demilitarized and we have allies, the American administration, the American Congress, the Europeans, the Egyptians and even the official Palestinian government in the West Bank [in agreement]. But is Hamas going to voluntarily going to turn in their weapons? It’s tough. Ronald Reagan once said about the old Soviet Union, and I’m old enough to remember, he said, ‘Trust but verify.’ When dealing with Hamas in contrast you have to verify and you have to verify again and Hamas has broken ceasefires as recently as last week. ...First we took out a lot of it [Hamas rockets and ammunition], secondly they shot a lot of it at us and what’s left is a residual capacity still there that’s much less than what they had two months ago. Part of our challenge in this ceasefire is to make sure they [Hamas] don’t rebuild tunnels and don’t replenish their supply of rockets.” [62962]

Obama returns to Martha’s Vineyard to continue his vacation. [63017]

ISIS releases [arguably suspicious] video of American photojournalist James Wright Foley, who was abducted in Syria in 2012, being beheaded as a warning against U.S. intervention in Iraq. (The hooded executioner in the video speaks with a British accent. Great Britain has been a recruitment target of ISIS.) Obama has no immediate comment, but shameless “journalists” quickly descend on the Foley home in Rochester, New Hampshire. (Pamela Geller writes, “But no worries, because the commandant in chief tells us they are ‘on the run’ and just a bunch of ‘Junior Varsity’ players.”) [62963, 62964, 62965, 62975, 62976, 62995, 63011, 63012, 63035, 63058, 63116]

National Security Council Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden issues a statement: “We have seen a video that purports to be the murder of U.S. citizen James Foley by ISIL. The intelligence community is working as quickly as possible to determine its authenticity. If genuine, we are appalled by the brutal murder of an innocent American journalist and we express our deepest condolences to his family and friends. We will provide more information when it is available.” [63083]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield writes, “James Foley was one of a new breed of activists calling themselves journalists. He didn’t travel to report on a story, but to promote an agenda. And the agenda was obvious from his Twitter feed. Any human life lost is tragic, but a moral individual would have much more empathy for the Syrian Christians who suffered at the hands of Foley’s favorite Jihadists than one of their pet propagandists. For the most [part] Foley only mentioned Syrian Christians when he was promoting the myth that the Sunni Jihadists were actually a secular democracy-loving force that incorporated Christians and Kurds on equal terms. Foley came to Syria to support the Sunni Islamist rebels against the Syrian government. He was a vehement advocate and while he didn’t necessarily side with any single group, he echoed the one sided narrative rather than telling the truth about the Islamists. His Twitter feed was full

of urgings to arm the Jihadists. Meanwhile he sneered at America's War on Terror. He cheered on the Sunni Muslim terrorists fighting to ethnically cleanse the Christians of Aleppo. In the conflict between Israel and Hamas, his tweets and retweets were chock full of pro-Sunni Syrian terrorist propaganda. When Newsweek's Muslim Rage cover story came out, Foley mocked it too. Raging Muslims. How silly and Islamophobic." (Regardless of Foley's motives, it is often the young, unknown and reckless journalists who cover stories in the most dangerous parts of the world. They are trying to establish their careers. The journalists who are famous stay at the best hotels and are surrounded by staffers.) [63117]

A different interpretation of Foley's motives comes from Scott Creighton, who later writes at the Willyloman blog, "James Foley spent his entire photojournalism career (thus far) as a government shill promoting one colonialist war of aggression after another. From Iraq to Libya to Syria to 'ISIS,' James could always be counted on to embed himself with the aggressors and paint their behavior as heroic and humanitarian. He had a knack for missing the larger picture: how Iraqis hated the occupying forces in their country, how the Syrians hated the foreign terrorists James was embedded with, how the Libyans loved Muammar Gadhafi and how their nation had been much better off under his leadership. James missed all of that and reported on how wonderful the monsters were that we unleashed in Syria and Libya. Foley also had a habit of getting himself 'captured' by those the Obama administration needed to demonize: first by Gadhafi's forces then by Assad and finally he ended up in the hands of a British MI6 agent pretending to be something called 'ISIS.' ...James Foley was not only NOT the 'TruthDigger of the Week,' his entire yellow career makes a mockery of every real journalist that ever existed. ...In a just world, in a non-Bizarro World, real journalists would spit on his image and openly mock his Mockingbird career path to fame and fortune. Because his efforts earned him as much. James Foley spoke no 'truth to power' (I've always hated that ridiculous phrase). He lied repeatedly on behalf of established power structures and did so for his own careerist agenda. His mother came out the day after his alleged death and said he was a 'martyr for freedom.' As we can clearly see in Iraq, Libya and Syria, nothing could be further from the truth. The only 'freedom' that James Foley helped create was the freedom of global economic interests to murder, rape, pillage and enslave the indigenous populations of those countries." [63342]

"Foley is no typical apologist in that the usual suspects, the talking heads reading ridiculous copy off teleprompters in an air-conditioned studio back here at home, have no idea what's really going on in the countries our fascist president of 'CHANGE' decides he has the 'right to protect.' Or at least they enjoy some measure of plausible deniable being so far removed from the brutal realities of the various destabilization campaigns, the New Gladio of President Peace Prize. Foley traveled around with the various foreign mercenaries. He ate with them, slept with them. Witnessed their atrocities with his camera turned off and staged 'hearts and minds' video shoots when he could on behalf of whatever MSM outlet would pay him for his propaganda. In his last little act, he allowed terrorists to stage his violent death in the hopes that it would inflame the American public such that they would allow the Obama administration to send YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN INTO HARM'S WAY ON HIS BEHALF TO FIGHT AND DIE... for his lies.

...James Foley was nothing more than a terrorist himself, complicit in whatever crimes these fascist thugs orchestrated with him in tow. According to the law, if you travel with someone to a site where you know a murder is going to take place and you witness said murder doing nothing to stop it, then provide false testimony in an effort to clear the murderer of suspicion, you are a murderer. That is the law. How is what James did any different than that scenario? Foley traveled with terrorists, he watched their crimes against humanity and he provided false witness to their acts of terrorism. What does that make James Foley? That, ladies and gentlemen, is fearlessly speaking truth about power. And that is something James Foley will never have the balls to do.” [63342]

HotAir.com reports, “Just minutes after Obama spoke [about Iraq on August 14], however, independent relief organizations and even the United Nations waned that the Yazidis’ ordeal was not yet over. Several thousand remained trapped on Mt. Sinjar and those who had managed to escape were far from safe. Less than a week after the conclusion of that mission, Reuters reported that many Yazidis still face the threat of ISIS’s horrors. Reporters related stories of militants digging graves in which they would bury civilians alive, women and children executed en mass for refusing to undergo religious conversion, and a general sense of hopelessness among those who have been abandoned by their countrymen and the world. ‘They put women and children under the ground. They were alive. I still hear their screams,’ one 26-year-old Iraqi Yazidi told Reuters reporters. ‘They were trying to keep their heads up to keep breathing.’ ‘They tied the hands of one woman to the back of a car and her legs to another car and they split her into two,’ another said. ‘Have you seen anything like this? This is all because she is not Muslim and did not want to be converted.’ ...Other reports indicate that the Islamic State has captured up to 3,000 Yazidi women and children, all of whom will be sold or are to be forced to serve as servants and wives to their captors. ...The persecuted Yazidis may no longer be dominating Western headlines, but their condition does not seem to have appreciably improved since America intervened in Iraq on their behalf. Even while suffering casualties and setbacks on the battlefield, ISIS does not relent in its campaign of inhumanity. Whether by self-imposed exile or execution, without further Western intervention, it seems likely that Iraq’s ancient Yazidi minority will soon disappear from that country.” [62977]

Reuters reports, “[The] Islamic State [ISIS], the Sunni militant group which seeks to establish a caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria, released a video on Tuesday that gave the strongest indication yet it might attempt to strike American targets. The video with the theme ‘breaking of the American cross’ boasts [that the] Islamic State will emerge victorious over ‘crusader’ America. It follows a video posted on Monday warning of attacks on American targets if Washington struck against its fighters in Iraq and Syria. The latest footage speaks of a holy war between the al-Qaeda offshoot and the United States, which occupied Iraq for nearly a decade and faced stiff resistance from al Qaeda. Islamic State’s sweep through northern Iraq, bringing it close to Baghdad and in control of the second city, Mosul, drew U.S. airstrikes on the country for the first time since the end of the American occupation in 2011.” [63010]

According to Aljazeera.com, “The Islamic State group [ISIS] has an army of more than 50,000 fighters in Syria, and recruited 6,000 people in the last month, a monitoring group has said. Rami Abdel Rahman, the director of the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said on Tuesday that the group's recruitment push was gathering pace every month. ‘July saw the largest recruitment since the group appeared in Syria in 2013, with more than 6,000 new fighters,’ he said. ‘The number of IS fighters has passed 50,000 in Syria, including 20,000 non-Syrians,’ he said. Al Jazeera cannot verify the observatory’s figures. However, an Islamic State source backed the statement and told Al Jazeera that the group also had 30,000 fighters in Iraq. Abdel Rahman said the new recruits in Syria included more than 1,000 foreign fighters from Chechnya, China, Europe and Arab countries. He said most had entered Syria from Turkey.” [63078, 63079]

WorldTribune.com reports, “The U.S. intelligence community has determined that Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant was building an infrastructure in the West. Officials said ISIL was establishing sleeper cells in the European Union in what could mark a prelude to mass-casualty attacks. They said ISIL was recruiting Europeans and Americans with easy access to both continents. ...In a briefing on Aug. 14, representatives of the intelligence community portrayed ISIL as a confident Islamist movement determined to use its base in Iraq and Syria for attacks in the West. The intelligence community determined that ISIL recruited thousands of Westerners, many of whom were fighting in the Levant and gaining skills in intelligence, organization and combat. ‘What they have is momentum,’ another official said.” [63081, 63082]

CNSNews.com reports, “The average price for all types of ground beef per pound hit its all-time high—\$3.884 per pound—in the United States in July, according to data released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). ...A year ago, in July 2013, the average price for a pound of ground beef was \$3.459 per pound. Since then, the average price for a pound of ground beef has gone up 42.1 cents—or about 12 percent. Five years ago, in July 2009, the average price for a pound of ground beef was \$2.147, according to the BLS. In those five years, the average price has climbed by \$1.737 per pound—or almost 81 percent.” [62992]

NYTimes.com reports, “The Afghan attorney general’s office called in a New York Times correspondent [Matthew Rosenberg] for questioning Tuesday, and later barred him from leaving the country, after The Times published an article about discussions among some officials of imposing an interim government. ...The State Department criticized the Afghanistan government’s actions. ‘We are deeply disturbed by the actions of the Afghan attorney general and by this travel ban that has allegedly been put into place, and urge the Afghan government to respect fundamental freedoms of expression and expression of the press, and we’ll continue to monitor it,’ Marie Harf, a deputy State Department spokeswoman, told reporters in Washington.” [63009]

According to Examiner.com, “The Norwegian news portal VG Nett is reporting that a Muslim terrorist group, Ansar al-Sunna’, is threatening that if a section of the nation’s capitol isn’t transformed into a sharia-complaint Muslim nation, an attack rivaling 9/11

will be launched upon the Scandinavian nation.” Pamela Geller writes, “In what is probably the most viciously antisemitic country in that region (and it’s a stiff competition), Norway is getting a taste of what it imported and supported.” (For decades, Europe has welcomed low-paid Muslim labor from the Middle East and Africa. It is now paying the price, with hundreds of thousands of those immigrants going on welfare, having far more babies than the local populations, and demanding accommodations for their ideology.) [63020, 63021]

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon calls for a “vigorous prosecution” of the police officer who shot Michael Brown. (The remark is unconscionable—especially coming from a man who is both a lawyer and a former attorney general of the state. The case warrants an *investigation*, of course, but calling for a *prosecution* before all the facts are in is not only inappropriate, it can make it impossible for the officer to receive a fair trial—because jurors will have heard that their governor has already pronounced the defendant guilty. In fact, the evidence may not even support an indictment.) [63036, 63037, 63070]

Meanwhile, according to *The Kelly File*, Missouri State Senator Jamilah Hasheed (who happens to be black) threatened prosecutor Bob McCulloch in a letter, writing, “If you should decide not to indict this police officer, the rioting we witnessed this past week will seem like a picnic compared to the havoc that will likely occur.” (Her statement has also been quoted as, “If the prosecutor does not indict the white cop, the violence committed thus far will look like a walk in the park.”) The prosecutor, of course, only refers the evidence to the grand jury. It is the grand jury that will decide whether the police officer will be indicted. Examiner.com reports that Michael Brown’s family “and several black leaders of sorts claim that the St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch should not be involved in prosecuting Officer Wilson beginning with the presentation of the case to the grand jury in order to garner an indictment against the cop, said a former prosecutor’s office detective investigator, Samuel Munschen.” McCulloch is white and has relatives who work for the St. Louis Police Department—which some irrationally believe means he cannot perform his duties objectively. “...McCulloch is a Democrat who was elected county prosecutor more than 20 years ago. [Governor Jay] Nixon and local news reporters say McCulloch is known for his ‘tough on crime’ approach.” [63005]

DailyCaller.com reports, “[A] solar thermal power plant co-owned by [Google] and two energy companies is incinerating more than 1,000 birds every year. Google co-owns the Ivanpah solar plant with Brightsource Energy and NRG Energy. The project uses more than 300,000 huge mirrors, called heliostats, which reflect sunlight to water boilers atop 459-foot towers to generate enough electricity to power 140,000 homes. But redirecting the power of the sun has come at a sizable cost in terms of bird life. The Associated Press reports that environmentalists estimate that ‘about a thousand... to 28,000’ birds are incinerated by heliostats every year.” (There are at least 125 million homes in the United States. It would therefore take about 892 similarly-sized solar power plants to provide power for all U.S. homes. If each power plant were to kill between 1,000 and 28,000 birds per year, the total loss would be 892,000 to 24,976,000 birds killed per year.) [62999]

At a “Working for Jobs” rally in Beckley, West Virginia, Mitt Romney tells reporters, “I’m not running” for president in 2016. “I’m expecting to be getting behind some good people or a good person who will be [the Republican nominee].” He also says Obama is doing “a good deal worse than even I expected. ...I was not a big fan of [Obama’s] policies, as you know, either domestically or internationally, but the results of his mistakes and errors, in my opinion, have been more severe than even I would have predicted.” [63002, 63066, 63102]

On *Special Report*, the *Wall Street Journal’s* Jason Riley (who happens to be black) comments on Holder’s trip to Ferguson: “These looters and rioters do not need to hear from the attorney general that criticism of Obama is race-based. What they need to hear from this black man, in this position—the nation’s leading law enforcement official—is that they need to stay out of trouble with the law. They need to pull up their pants and finish school and take care of their kids. That is the message they need to hear, from black leaders and people in positions of authority like Eric Holder and Barack Obama.” [63039]

On August 20 a federal judge orders the Department of Justice to turn over Operation Fast and Furious documents to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by October 1. The Department must also release a “privilege log”—a list of all documents that remain concealed. House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa states, “This Administration has been so intent on hiding the contents of these documents that it allowed Attorney General Holder to be held in contempt instead of just turning them over to Congress. ...The privilege log will bring us closer to finding out why the Justice Department hid behind false denials in the wake of reckless conduct that contributed to the violent deaths of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry and countless Mexican citizens.” (The White House has claimed “executive privilege” in its refusal to release thousands of documents. At the same time, it claims it had nothing to do with Operation Fast and Furious. If that is the case, there would be no White House documents to shield.) According to MRC.org, ABC, CBS, and NBC ignore the story on their evening news broadcasts. [63032, 63033, 63103, 63104, 63118]

Attorney General Eric “Nation of Cowards” Holder arrives in Ferguson, Missouri. (There are already about 40 FBI agents in the town. Exactly what they and Holder will be doing is not clear.) [63004, 63047]

FreedomOutpost.com reports, “A video has surfaced in which a man in the Saint Louis area, who has been involved in the protests in Missouri tells viewers that agent provocateurs are infiltrating legitimate protests in Missouri, all for the sake of the government growing its militarized presence in the area.” The (unconfirmed) suggestion is that people are being paid to protest, hold signs, and throw objects at the police. [63119]

At NYTimes.com John Harwood, recognizing that the GOP may win the Senate on November 4, argues that “A Republican takeover of the Senate this fall would hurt Mr. Obama” in his final two years, “but it might help [Hillary] Clinton if she runs to succeed

him. Republican control of both the House and Senate would provide Mrs. Clinton a clearer target to run against in courting voters fatigued by Washington dysfunction. The longer an unpopular [Obama] and his more-unpopular partisan adversaries battle to a standstill, the easier it is to offer herself as a fresh start.” [63283]

British Prime Minister David Cameron cuts short his vacation to chair meetings on the situation in Iraq and Syria. (The hooded terrorist who beheaded James Foley speaks with a British accent in the video of the brutal killing. The Brits will certainly attempt to identify the perpetrator based on his voice, and compare it with those of former Guantanamo detainees. Foley wears an orange prison jumpsuit in the video—as do prisoners at Gitmo. That may have been an intentional act of symbolism by ISIS. If it turns out that Foley’s killer was released from Gitmo by the Obama administration, Obama’s already low approval ratings may sink even further.) [63022, 63023, 63029, 63040, 63043, 63048, 63049, 63059]

In Denver, FBI Director James Comey says, “We are up against savages. These are people who make ordinary terrorists look civilized so it sharpens the mind all the more to the threat arising in that part of the world.” Pamela Geller writes, “They are savages, of course, but when I called them that in an ad, I was denounced as a racist-islamophobic-antimuslim-bigot. Will James Comey likewise be denounced? Mona Eltahawy, grab your spay paint and head for the FBI offices.” (Eltahawy is a Muslim writer who was arrested for defacing Geller’s New York City subway ad that reads, “In Any War Between the Civilized Man and the Savage, Support the Civilized Man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad.” More than a few cities have refused to run Geller’s ad, and she has responded with First Amendment-based lawsuits. According to Geller, Eltahawy’s attorney, Stanley Cohen, has also represented Hamas, “members of the Peruvian terror group Shining Path; the cop-killer and leftist icon Mumia Abu-Jamal; a militant Muslim charged with torching a New York synagogue; Moataz Al-Hallak, an imam from Texas with suspected ties to al-Qaeda; Imam Kariye, a black Muslim suspected of terrorism; Hazem Ragab, who co-founded the Global Relief Foundation and was named as a co-conspirator to the 9/11 attacks; and Abdelhaleem Ashqar and Ismail Elbarasse, both of whom refused to testify before a grand jury investigating allegations of money laundering in support of Hamas. ...Immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Cohen told the Village Voice, ‘If Osama bin Laden arrived in the United States today and asked me to represent him, sure I’d represent him.’”) [37656, 37657, 37658, 37659, 37663, 37677, 37739, 37740, 37741, 63163, 63164]

Secretary of State John Kerry issues a statement that reads, in part, “James Foley went to the darkest of places to shine the light of truth. Nothing could stop him from sharing with the world the reality of what was happening on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, or the struggle against a brutal dictator in Libya, and he was just as determined to do the same from Syria. He was brave and bold, and no masked coward can ever steal the legacy of this courageous American who lived out the meaning of the word journalism. ...There is evil in this world, and we all have come face to face with it once again. Ugly, savage, inexplicable, nihilistic, and valueless evil. ISIL is the face of that evil, a threat to people who want to live in peace, and an ugly insult to the peaceful religion they violate every

day with their barbarity. We grieve for James Foley. We mourn for his family and his loved ones. We honor the courage and pray for the safety of all those who risk their lives to discover the truth where it is needed most. And make no mistake: We will continue to confront ISIL wherever it tries to spread its despicable hatred. The world must know that the United States of America will never back down in the face of such evil. ISIL and the wickedness it represents must be destroyed, and those responsible for this heinous, vicious atrocity will be held accountable.” (At JihadWatch.org Robert Spencer writes, “The imam Kerry did not explain how the Islamic State is violating the Religion of Peace. He is just sure that they must be doing so. The possibility that they might be acting in accord with the Qur’an never enters his mind, even to be rejected. Even to consider such a possibility would be ‘Islamophobic.’ But what do you expect? This is a man who learned about Islam from a Board member of a lobbying group for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Reza Aslan.”) [63167, 63169]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “A Frenchman who was held captive with murdered American journalist James Foley for months said today he has a ‘rough’ idea who his executioner is. Didier Francois said a video of the suspected British jihadist stirred painful memories of being chained up in the dark with Mr Foley and other ISIS hostages in Syria. It came as a former MI6 chief said the British jihadist will be identified and the SAS will be sent to Syria to ‘bring him to justice.’ The suspect accused of murdering the reporter has been named as ‘John’—one of a gang of British jihadis known as ‘The Beatles’ who are guarding western hostages for ISIS. ... For two-and-a-half months, Mr Francois was chained to fellow French hostages, Nicolas Henin, Edouard Elias, and Pierre Torres. They were released in April after France paid a ransom. Mr Henin said today that Mr Foley was beaten more than any other hostage because he was an American and ISIS knew his brother was in the U.S. Air Force, and in one incident he was ‘crucified against a wall,’ it has emerged. The killer spoke in a distinctive English accent and his eyes and build are clearly visible in a propaganda video in which he cuts Mr Foley’s head off. Mr Francois spent eight months with Mr Foley as a captive in Syria, enduring most of that time in underground cells with no natural light.” [63095]

Daniel Hannan, a member of the European Union’s parliament, suggests, “We should legislate so that British nationals who fight for Islamic State lose their citizenship. Let them stay there.” [63064]

On *Outnumbered*, Harris Faulkner reminds viewers that radical jihadists “do this [brutal killings and beheadings] to people every day. They did to the Yazidis as they were moving up on that mountaintop, before we got their with our firepower.” Fox contributor Pete Hegseth adds, “They’re doing this to Christians, they’re doing this to Yazidis. Yazidi women [are] in prison today, being forcibly married and raped. This is ongoing. [But] This [James Foley’s beheading] is an American journalist so it gets attention. Men and women and children, Muslims, Christians and others, are beheaded on a daily basis by this group [ISIS].” A fired-up Andrea Tantaros says, “And they’ve been doing this for hundreds and hundreds of years. If you study the history of Islam, our ship captains were getting murdered. The French had to tip us off. I mean, these are the days of Thomas Jefferson. This isn’t a surprise. You can’t solve it with a dialogue. You can’t solve it with

a summit. You solve it with a bullet to the head. That's the only thing these people understand. ...All we've heard from [Obama] is the case to heap praise on this religion, as if to appease them. His Cairo speech, his remarks from last Memorial Day saying that we have a shared history of tolerance. Instead of making the case against this threat that is never going to stop. He has been wrong about this threat. He hasn't just ignored it. He has been fundamentally wrong. He misled the nation about it." (The Asian American Journalists Association, apparently in defense of beheading jihadists, demands an apology from Tantaros. Tantaros responds, "I will not apologize for speaking the truth about radical Islamic jihadism. Period.") [63038, 63672, 63673]

At an elementary school, Obama delivers a brief statement on the beheading of journalist James Foley. (On Twitter, more than a few people comment on Obama's strange penchant for delivering remarks from schools. One quips: "Because he likes audiences looking up at him, and he likes looking down on them.") Obama says, "The United States of America will continue to do what we must do to protect our people. We will be vigilant and we will be relentless." (He does not say *what* he will do.) "No faith teaches people to massacre innocents." (Actually, Islam does just that.) "No just God would stand for what they [ISIS terrorists] did yesterday and what they do every single day. People like this ultimately fail. They fail because the future is won by people who build and not destroy." ("People like this ultimately fail." They do not fail if *no one acts against them*, and even if ISIS does "ultimately" fail, such a statement does little to help the family of Steven Joel Sotloff, the other journalist ISIS holds captive and threatens to behead. Nor does it stop the persecution and massacre of ISIS's innocent victims while Obama waits for it to fail.) "When people harm Americans, we do what's necessary to see that justice is done, and we act against ISIL [ISIS] standing alongside others." (Americans are still waiting for Obama to act against the terrorists who killed four Americans in Benghazi.) Strangely, Obama refers to James Foley as "Jim"—as if he knew him personally. (Hillary Clinton referred to slain Ambassador Christopher Stevens as "Chris" after the Benghazi attack. She at least had met Stevens.) The use of the first name is intended to make it appear as though Obama "cares deeply." [63024, 63025, 63026, 63027, 63029, 63030, 63050, 63054, 63055, 63057, 63059, 63071, 63093, 63110]

Obama takes no questions from the media (perhaps because he did not want to face the questions, "Aside from your words condemning ISIS, what exactly are you going to *do*?" and "Exactly *how* will you be 'vigilant and relentless?'")

Obama's response is only slightly less emotionless than previous comments about ISIS. Some will argue that he showed almost no anger over the beheading of Foley. Others will argue that it was not anger that he displayed, but annoyance—annoyance that his golf vacation was interrupted by ISIS and that its actions are something he will have a difficult time ignoring. NYTimes.com does not help Obama. It posts the monumentally stupid headline: "*Obama, Outraged Over Beheading, Vows to Stay on Course.*" (The online headline is later changed to: "Obama, Appalled by Beheading, Will Continue Airstrikes.") Another *New York Times* headline: "Rockets From Gaza and Israeli Response Break Cease-Fire." (That can be translated to: " Hamas violated the cease fire, but we want to blame Israel too.") [63027, 63028, 63051, 63093]

CBS's Major Garrett tweets, "According to WH travel pool w/POTUS, [Obama] arrived at Vineyard Golf Club at 1:05 p.m., following statement on #JamesFoley and #ISIS." (Obama's golf partners are Alonzo Mourning, Glenn Hutchins, and Cy Walker. Whether they relentlessly discussed strategy to annihilate ISIS is not known.) [63029, 63071]

Criticism of Obama for quickly returning to the golf course via Golf Cart One is immediate and even comes from Democrat politicians and media leftists. On Fox News, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Ralph Peters says, "There is no way [Obama] should be stupid enough to go play golf after such a somber speech. Not only did he insult the Foley family; he sent a message to [ISIS leader] Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and all of the other jihadi terrorist militants—now soldiers of a jihadi army—that he doesn't take it all seriously." Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) comments, "Unfortunately for those who want evil ISIS members eliminated before they kill more Americans, [Obama] spent more time lining up his many putts than he did lining up efforts to stop the killers." Liz Cheney tweets, "Obama is more dedicated to golfing than he is to defending the nation." Congressman Lou Barletta (R-PA) tells the *Daily Mail*, he "cannot begin to imagine the anguish felt by the Foley family, and I offer them my heartfelt condolences. ...[But] Within half an hour of announcing that one of our own—an American—lost his life to terrorists in a horrendous fashion, and with the whole world watching, our commander in chief decided to go golfing. This image of [Obama] is disheartening, and sends the wrong signals to our enemies. ISIS needs to be stopped, and fist bumps between [Obama] and his [golf] buddies won't stop them." ABC News political director Rick Klein observes that the White House is apparently "well past the point of caring about the so-called 'optics' of things like this. And [Obama] himself clearly doesn't... care about the way it looks." Even the far left Vox.com's Ezra Klein, a fervent Obama supporter, tweets, "Golfing today is in bad taste." *Investor's Business Daily* wonders, "Murdered ambassador. Beheaded American. Just what exactly would it take to keep Obama from a fundraiser or off the golf course?" [63090, 63091, 63092, 63096, 63097, 63257]

Congressman Mike Pompeo (R-KS), a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence and former Army officer, states, "[Obama] is correct that terrorist groups like ISIS don't belong in the 21st Century and that we must be relentless to see that justice is done. But there is another, even greater reason the United States must take action: To prevent more Americans from being killed. [Obama] is wrong to continue to downplay this threat by saying that ISIS is claiming to be at war with America merely out of expediency, or that ISIS is motivated by sheer 'nihilism.' This is not a 'J.V. team,' as [Obama] has put it. ISIS is an army of cold-blooded killers motivated by radical Islam. They continue their march, uninterrupted, to convert by the sword, kill Christians and other religious minorities, and expand their control of the Middle East. The Iraqis have already demonstrated that they cannot stop them on their own. [Obama's] current path of action has been far too limited to make a difference. We must do what is necessary to eliminate ISIS, protect the innocent, and keep Americans safe."

In *The New York Times*, Maureen Dowd writes, "First [Obama] couldn't work with Republicans because they were too obdurate. Then he tried to chase down reporters with

subpoenas. Now he finds members of his own party an unnecessary distraction. [Obama's] circle keeps getting more inner. He golfs with aides and jocks, and he spent his one evening back in Washington from Martha's Vineyard at a nearly five-hour dinner at the home of a nutritional adviser and former White House assistant chef, Sam Kass. ...The extraordinary candidate turns out to be the most ordinary of men, frittering away precious time on the links. Unlike L.B.J., who devoured problems as though he were being chased by demons, Obama's main galvanizing impulse was to get himself elected. Almost everything else—from an all-out push on gun control after the Newtown massacre to going to see firsthand the Hispanic children thronging at the border to using his special status to defuse racial tensions in Ferguson—just seems like too much trouble. The Constitution was premised on a system full of factions and polarization. If you're a fastidious pol [politician] who deigns to heal and deal only in a holistic, romantic, unified utopia, the Oval Office is the wrong job for you. The sad part is that this is an ugly, confusing and frightening time at home and abroad, and the country needs [Obama] to illuminate and lead, not sink into some petulant expression of his aloofness, where he regards himself as a party of his own and a victim of petty, needy, bickering egomaniacs. ...The man whose singular qualification was as a uniter turns out to be singularly unequipped to operate in a polarized environment." (Long an Obama cheerleader, Dowd—who now suggests he talk to someone other than Valerie Jarrett—has moved significantly away from him as she prepares to push for her favorite Democrat candidate in 2016.) [63105, 63124]

At The Federalist.com Mollie Hemingway comments on Obama's statement, "One thing we can all agree on is that a group like ISIL has no place in the 21st century." "What does this even mean?" she asks. "Just at the most obvious and basic level, if 'we can all agree' with this statement, then ...what? What do we do if we agree that this group must not exist in our general space-time continuum? Does this mean we have a foreign policy objective of exterminating ISIS? Breaking its will? Killing off just its leaders? Not really doing anything? Sort of bombing some strategic locations but trying not to get too involved? Mass conversion attempts away from ISIS ideology? What? What's the specific thing we're all agreeing to? But on a deeper level, the statement suggests... some serious problems with this administration's understanding of man's nature and propensity for evil. ...The Founding Fathers of this country were part of a long line of people who acknowledged that, well, evil exists and that men are tempted toward it. This is an important part of understanding why they set up a government of checks and balances. Progressives, as their self-given label suggests, believe that human nature can change, if we can speak of nature at all. And not just change but be perfected. They frequently see government as the means to such transformation into a perfect society. That's why they say... **unbelievably inane things such as, 'you're on the wrong side of history.'** Or 'The future is always won by those who build, not destroy.' That is literally Mickey Mouse philosophy. And I don't mean that in a good way." [63106]

"...Obama's utopian fantasy of 'the future' 'always' being 'won by those who build, not destroy' is just obviously and resoundingly false, for better or worse. I mean, define 'future.' And define 'winning' and 'building vs. destroying.' [The 14th century Turko-Mongol ruler] Tamerlane had tremendous success destroying and slaughtering his

enemies—for most of a century. And World War II didn't end by building up Nagasaki. There are good winners and bad winners littered throughout history. What's more, this 'wrong side of history' nonsense is nothing more than a religious belief in supernatural causality. It implies that history isn't shaped by men but, instead, by outside inevitable forces that can always be counted on. If this were so, we wouldn't need to work so hard to raise up good children and fight the evils all around us. ... We must always be on guard against tyranny, be it the kind we see in ISIS or the kind we see in our own hearts. That line from Alexander Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago*, a book about the horrors of the Soviet forced labor camp system, comes in handy. Describing the basic error in another well-known form of progressivism's thinking—that some men are good and some men are bad—he wrote: 'If only that were true! If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.' By no means does this suggest that therefore we should be cool with the Hitlers, ISISes and Kim Jong IIs and Uns of the world. It does mean, however, that believing in right and wrong sides of history and the perfectability [sic; perfectibility] of men is absolute madness if we want to fight against tyranny at home, wrought by the sinful passions in our own hearts, and abroad, springing from the sins of our fellow man." [63106]

According to ABC's Jonathan Karl, the White House knew in advance of ISIS threats to kill James Foley. (Obama went on his golf vacation anyway.) [63031]

ABCNews.com reports, "U.S. special operations forces early this summer launched a secret, major rescue operation in Syria [reportedly on July 4] to save James Foley and a number of Americans held by the extremist group ISIS, but the mission failed because the hostages weren't there, senior administration officials told ABC News today. ... Obama authorized the 'substantial and complex' rescue operation after the officials said a 'broad collection of intelligence' led the U.S. to believe the hostages were being held in a specific location in the embattled Middle Eastern nation. When 'several dozen' U.S. special operation members landed in Syria, however, they were met with gunfire and 'while on site, it became apparent the hostages were not there,' one of the officials said. The special operators engaged in a firefight in which ISIS suffered 'a good number' casualties, the official said, while the American forces suffered only a single minor injury. The American forces were able to get back on helicopters and escape." (That this information was released is stunning. The Department of Defense would *not* be telling the media about covert operations; that it did so can only mean that Obama specifically authorized—or even ordered—the leak. Obama's action is clearly political: he wants everyone to know "he *tried*" to rescue Foley—even if doing so means America's enemies know details about the operation, which involved "special operations forces from multiple branches of the military, helicopters, fixed-wing airplanes, and surveillance aircraft." Some will no doubt theorize that there was, in fact, no rescue mission at all, and that it is a phony story concocted by Obama's "Valsputin," Valerie Jarrett, to attempt to reduce the damage to Obama caused by the beheading of Foley. The claim of an unsuccessful rescue attempt—legitimate or not—also helps Obama avoid some

responsibility for the next beheading of an American.) [63040, 63072, 63094, 63108, 63123]

The Muslim Issue reports, “The White House was aware of James Foley’s location before his death claims the murdered journalist’s former boss, who says he hired an international security firm to locate the kidnapped reporter. GlobalPost CEO, Philip Balboni, said today that his organization knew of Foley’s whereabouts in Syria and said it was safe to assume the US government knew of it too. The media executive also said Secretary of State John Kerry had been personally involved at some level of the search or negotiations for Foley’s return, but refused to go into details. In a press conference, Balboni revealed he had personally spent ‘millions’ trying to retrieve Foley, 40, but the journalist was ultimately shown ‘no mercy’ by his captors who beheaded him and posted the grisly video online on Tuesday. Speaking from Boston, Balboni also revealed that Foley’s family had been emailed by ISIS last Wednesday and informed that the terror group intended to execute the reporter in retaliation for US bombing in support of Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq. ...Foley was held captive with other hostages, who were European journalists and Balboni told the Boston Globe that they were released when their ransoms were paid. However, because Foley was an American, ‘There were monetary challenges that were not going to be easy to overcome.’” [63073, 63074]

Obama tweets, “ISIL speaks for no religion. Their victims are overwhelmingly Muslim, and no faith teaches people to massacre innocents.” (Pamela Geller responds, “Obama took this savage act of war and proselytized, lied for Islam. The Islamic State is true Islam. Pure Islam. [Obama’s] tweet is a complete falsehood. Islamic jihad commands the non-believer be slaughtered. It is a religious imperative. The war against the Jews is Islamic. The murder of one million Christians murdered and expelled from Iraq is Islamic. The mass slaughter of Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, is commanded in the quran. The Muslims that Obama refers to in this tweet are Shia Muslims. Sunni Muslims kill Shia Muslims because they do not consider them *true Muslims*, real Muslims. And his kill ratio is wrong. Muslims kill far more Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Zoroastrians, Chinese, Pagans etc. ...Only an enemy of the state would deceive and disarm the American people to the gravest threat the nation faces. The Islamic State (ISIS) will attack us. It is only a matter of time. The Islamic State wants to extend itself to the whole world. Whether or not it ever does, it considers its chief rival in terms of political ideology to be the US. Thus to attack and weaken the US, and ultimately to destroy it, is its highest priority. Many Muslims from the US have gone to wage jihad in Syria and Iraq. They will return trained and battle hardened, and will stage jihad attacks here. The beheading of Foley shows that the Islamic State meant what it said when it said that all Americans were legitimate targets. That beheading and the ISIS sign in Ferguson shows that the Islamic State wants to strike in the USA and will when it can. Obama has constantly downplayed the threat of the Islamic State. This endangers Americans. Obama has constantly denied the jihad threat outside of al-Qaeda. **The Islamic State exists because he abandoned Iraq.**”) [63080, 63162]

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf tells reporters, “I think ISIL wants to make this about the United States and our actions. And I think what [Obama] was trying to say

was that this is not about the United States and what we do. This is about countries in the region coming together to fight a shared threat, and this is not about us. ...Clearly there's more we can all do to fight ISIL." Absurdly, Harf (a young blonde known in some spheres as "State Department Barbie") says, "ISIL does not operate in the name of any religion. [Obama] has been very clear about that, and the more we can underscore that, the better." (The claim is nonsensical. ISIL/ISIS calls itself the Islamic State and declares that it is establishing an Islamist caliphate—a Muslim empire. To claim that is not related to Islam is laughable.) [63120, 63162, 63180]

Harf also says, "We don't have evidence that governments are supporting this group [ISIS]. I've said that over and over and over again in this briefing room." (This statement is also ridiculous. It is common knowledge that Qatar funds both Hamas and ISIS. Harf, like Obama, is trying to portray Islam as a "religion of peace," remove all links of violence to Islam, and suggest that the terrorists are merely "hijackers" of the religion or "bad apples." If the Obama administration believes that, it is incredibly naive. If it knows better but is lying for some reason, it is placing the American people at risk.) [62104, 62127, 62251, 62330, 63121, 63205]

Obama's naiveté was noted in Walter Russell Mead's August 24, 2013 article at WJS.com. He wrote, "The Obama administration had a grand strategy in the Middle East. It was well intentioned, carefully crafted and consistently pursued. Unfortunately, it failed. The plan was simple but elegant: The U.S. would work with moderate Islamist groups like Turkey's AK Party and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood to make the Middle East more democratic. This would kill three birds with one stone. First, by aligning itself with these parties, the Obama administration would narrow the gap between the 'moderate middle' of the Muslim world and the U.S. Second, by showing Muslims that peaceful, moderate parties could achieve beneficial results, it would isolate the terrorists and radicals, further marginalizing them in the Islamic world. Finally, these groups with American support could bring democracy to more Middle Eastern countries, leading to improved economic and social conditions, gradually eradicating the ills and grievances that drove some people to fanatical and terroristic groups. ...It is much too early to anticipate history's verdict on the Obama administration's foreign policy... Nevertheless, to get a better outcome, [Obama] will have to change his approach. With the advantages of hindsight, it appears that the White House made five big miscalculations about the Middle East. It misread the political maturity and capability of the Islamist groups it supported; it misread the political situation in Egypt; it misread the impact of its strategy on relations with America's two most important regional allies (Israel and Saudi Arabia); it failed to grasp the new dynamics of terrorist movements in the region; and it underestimated the costs of inaction in Syria." (*The Obama Timeline* would add a sixth: Obama mistakenly believed the Muslim Brotherhood was moderate, rather than the radical organization that it is.) [63206]

BizPacReview.com reports, "Police Officer Darren Wilson suffered fractures around his eye socket during the scuffle with Michael Brown that preceded Wilson shooting Brown to death in Missouri, a conservative website is reporting. According to the Gateway Pundit, the injuries were confirmed by sources in the St. Louis County prosecuting

attorney's office and the St. Lucie County Police Department. The extent of Wilson's injuries could be crucial in a case that relies so far on conflicting eyewitness reports—especially when some of those reports are contradicted by autopsy results. For instance, witness claims that Brown had been shot in the back were flatly contradicted by autopsy results released Monday that he'd been [struck] by six bullets, all in the front of his body or the top of his head. The details reported by Gateway Pundit are also consistent with initial reports by Ferguson Police Chief Tom Jackson, who told reporters days after the shooting that Wilson had been hit on the side of the face during the confrontation and that his 'face was swollen.'" [63041]

The Jerusalem Post reports, "A senior Fatah official is quoted by the pan-Arab daily *Al-Hayat* as saying that the Qatari government threatened to expel the Hamas political bureau chief, Khaled Mashaal, if the Palestinian Islamist group agreed to the Egyptian cease-fire proposal. ... The Fatah official told *Al-Hayat* that Hamas has insisted that Qatar be given a seat at the negotiating table in Cairo. According to the official, Hamas wants either the Qatari foreign minister or the head of intelligence to be permitted to take part in the discussions. Egypt has adamantly refused to permit Qatar to participate in the cease-fire talks, according to the report. Cairo wants a Qatari apology for the government's policies toward Egypt since the military coup against the Muslim Brotherhood brought Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to power." [63044]

Blogger Yid With Lid observes, "If the *Al-Hayat* report is true then the break down [sic; breakdown] of talks falls directly at the feet of John Kerry. It was the United States Secretary of State who initially brought Qatar into the talks over the objections of Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority. Now that those parties have frozen out the terrorist-funding Qatar, the Qatari government want to make sure they don't succeed." [63046]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes that this "puts the US in a difficult spot. Several American administrations have tried to build up an alliance with the Qataris, and we recently sold them \$11 billion in military equipment to sweeten the relationship. Even more recently, Barack Obama cut a deal with the Taliban for the release of Bowe Bergdahl that included the release of five of the most dangerous Taliban figures in Guantanamo, who will spend the next year under the supervision of the same Qataris. If this report from the 'senior Fatah official' is true, then it considerably undermines what little confidence Americans had in the Bergdahl swap, among other things. ... The idea to rope Turkey and Qatar into the process was a dumb idea from the beginning, as it legitimized Hamas as a governing organization rather than treated them as the terrorist group that they are. It cut the knees out from under the Palestinian Authority as well, with whom Israel had at least some basis of cooperation in the West Bank. That brings us to whether this report can be trusted, however. Fatah has every reason to pin failure on Qatar in order to keep them out of the peace talks. Qatar will favor Hamas over Fatah in any settlement in which they participate, so it's in Fatah's interest as well as Egypt's to keep them locked out of the talks. ... Egypt, meanwhile, is not about to invite the Qataris or anyone else backing Hamas to these talks. They are fighting their own insurgency in the Sinai, for which they blame the Muslim Brotherhood, which is the parent organization of Hamas. Today they found four beheaded corpses near a village in the

peninsula, and Reuters reports that this is part of a stepped-up terror campaign by MB-linked groups protesting the al-Sisi military government.” [63045]

Hamas takes credit for the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers—the action that started the renewed conflict between the terrorist group and the Jewish state. (Hamas apologists had claimed the group had nothing to do with the killings.) [63076, 63077, 63089]

CNSNews.com reports that “109,631,000 Americans lived in households that received benefits from one or more federally funded ‘means-tested programs’—also known as welfare—as of the fourth quarter of 2012, according to data released [August 19] by the Census Bureau. ...[T]he 109,631,000 living in households taking federal welfare benefits as of the end of 2012, according to the Census Bureau, equaled 35.4 percent of all 309,467,000 people living in the United States at that time. When those receiving benefits from non-means-tested federal programs—such as Social Security, Medicare, unemployment and veterans benefits—were added to those taking welfare benefits, it turned out that 153,323,000 people were getting federal benefits of some type at the end of 2012. ...The 153,323,000 total benefit-takers at the end of 2012, said the Census Bureau, equaled 49.5 percent of the population.” [63052]

At WND.com Garth Kant writes, “Attorney General Eric Holder is in Ferguson, Missouri, ostensibly to investigate the shooting of an unarmed African-American by a white police officer. What he is not investigating is the shooting of an unarmed African-American woman by his own federal officers, in his own jurisdiction, the District of Columbia. And that has the family of the late Miriam Carey so outraged, they announced Wednesday they plan to double the amount of money in their lawsuit against the federal government to \$150 million. While the attorney general looks for the possibility of bad intentions and a wrongful death by an officer in the Midwest, Carey family attorney Eric Sanders believes he need look no further than under his nose in Washington, D.C., where an innocent, unarmed, suburban mother was gunned down in a barrage of bullets by Holder’s officers, all because, he said, one off-duty U.S. Secret Service officer ‘wanted to make that b—h pay.’ Those were the exact words used in a claim filed Wednesday morning by the Carey family, which serves as a prerequisite before filing a mammoth civil lawsuit against the United States, the U.S Secret Service and the U.S. Capitol Police.” (The unarmed Carey was shot and killed by Secret Service officers on October 3, 2013 after she mistakenly tried to drive onto the White House grounds. Miriam Carey’s sister, Valerie, has wondered if Miriam was quickly disposed of because her daughter is Obama’s “love child.”) [49208, 49219, 49265, 49286, 49299, 49302, 49323, 49434, 49574, 49628, 49661, 49662, 51825, 53032, 59461, 63056]

Holder tells a group of community leaders in Ferguson he understands why many blacks do not trust the police. “I understand that mistrust. I am the attorney general of the United States. But I am also a black man.” (Holder’s statement is totally inappropriate and only fans the flames of racism. Had the same shooting occurred while George W. Bush was president, the media outrage would have been monumental had Bush’s white attorney

general said, “I understand why police officer Darren Wilson feared for his life when confronted by a big, burly, angry black man.”) [63107]

FoxNews.com reports that Darren Wilson, the Ferguson, Missouri police officer who shot Michael Brown, “suffered severe facial injuries, including an orbital (eye socket) fracture, and was nearly beaten unconscious by Brown moments before firing his gun, a source close to the [police] department’s top brass told FoxNews.com. ...According to the well-placed source, Wilson was coming off another case in the neighborhood on Aug. 9 when he ordered Michael Brown and his friend Dorain [sic; Darian] Johnson to stop walking in the middle of the road because they were obstructing traffic. However, the confrontation quickly escalated into physical violence, the source said. ‘They ignored him and the officer started to get out of the car to tell them to move,’ the source said. ‘They shoved him right back in, that’s when Michael Brown leans in and starts beating Officer Wilson in the head and the face.’ The source claims that there is ‘solid proof’ that there was a struggle between Brown and Wilson for the policeman’s firearm, resulting in the gun going off—although it still remains unclear at this stage who pulled the trigger. Brown started to walk away according to the account, prompting Wilson to draw his gun and order him to freeze. Brown, the source said, raised his hands in the air, and turned around saying, ‘What, you’re going to shoot me?’ At that point, the source told FoxNews.com, the 6-foot-4, 292-pound Brown charged Wilson, prompting the officer to fire at least six shots at him, including the fatal bullet that penetrated the top of Brown’s skull... Wilson suffered a fractured eye socket in the fracas, and was left dazed by the initial confrontation, the source said. He is now ‘traumatized, scared for his life and his family, injured and terrified’ that a grand jury, which began hearing evidence on Wednesday, will ‘make some kind of example out of him,’ the source said. The source also said the dashboard and body cameras, which might have recorded crucial evidence, had been ordered by Ferguson Police Chief Thomas Jackson, but had only recently arrived and had not yet been deployed.” (Johnson was with Brown during the store robbery. Johnson also has an outstanding arrest warrant for providing false information to the police in a previous robbery.) [63067]

Meanwhile, police in Salt Lake City, Utah investigate what appears to be an unjustified shooting of a white teenager by a black police officer. (Obama, Al Shaprtton, Jesse Jackson, and Eric Holder have not commented on the case.) [63068, 63268]

At Shoebat.com Ben Barrack reports, “For the second day in a row, State Department spokesman Marie Harf was pressed on Turkey’s support for Hamas launching a coup in the West Bank so that it can better fight Israel. There is also grave concern over Turkey’s alleged harboring of a Hamas leader implicated in the kidnapping and subsequent murdering of three Israeli teenagers earlier this summer. For the second day in a row, Harf didn’t seem to have any answers. ...Regardless of where one stands on the issue of Russia and Ukraine, the fact is that a big factor there—especially in Crimea—has been Russia’s concerns over the Muslim tartars, which are allies of the Turks. Their heaviest population can be found in Crimea. Another dispute between Russia and Turkey is in Syria. Russia has been on the side of Bashar al-Assad, and Turkey—like the U.S.—has been on the side of the opposition there. That is, until now. Now, Turkey is on the side of

ISIS, and the U.S.—whether it wants to acknowledge it or not—is on the side of Assad by default (the U.S. is fighting ISIS in Iraq). Then, of course, we have the situation with Israel. As is the case in Egypt right now, Russia is aligning with anti-Muslim Brotherhood forces by siding with Gen. el-Sisi. The Obama administration has been siding with the Brotherhood there (siding with Turkey). By aligning with Turkey, the U.S. is siding *against* Israel, increasingly so.” [63069, 63261]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri reports, “After ...Obama warned Americans not to ‘rush to judgement’ [sic; judgment] regarding the case of a white cop, Darren Wilson, shooting an unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, Obama’s top adviser Valerie Jarrett on Monday secretly held a conference via telephone and Skype with a number civil rights leaders to brief them on the prosecution of the Ferguson, Missouri, police officer, according to Frederick Pearlman, a police official in Washington, D.C. While saying his administration is being unbiased about the case, Obama’s staff—especially Jarrett, who is called by many ‘Obama’s puppetmaster’—is working the phones to assure [sic; reassure] the Democratic Party’s important ‘civil rights community’ voting block, said Pearlman, a former president of a top police organization. Attorney General Eric Holder and White House adviser Valerie Jarrett assured the leaders, who are still not identified, that the Brown case is a top priority. Holder allegedly took part in the phone conference, as well. Holder and the people on the call discussed the FBI agents locating more than 200 people to interview about the case. Holder reportedly said that the FBI agents are attempting to find out if there is sufficient evidence to show that the Ferguson police officer used excessive force and violated the 6’4” tall, 290 lbs. Brown’s civil rights that can be used in a federal criminal prosecution.” (If the massive, 290-pound Brown charged the police officer, that officer may very well have felt threatened and been justified in firing at his attacker. A person 5’8” tall with a proportional weight would be about 260 pounds. A normal weight for a person 6’4” tall would be 182–222 pounds. A normal weight for a person 5’8” tall would be 139–169 pounds.) [63070, 63142, 63143]

In St. Louis, Missouri, Attorney General Eric Holder meets with the parents of Michael Brown. (He does not meet with police officer Darren Wilson or his family.) [63126, 63127]

Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) tells Oklahoma City’s Fox 25, “We’re in the most dangerous position we’ve ever been in as a nation. ISIS, they are really bad terrorists, they’re so bad even Al Qaida is afraid of them. ...They’re crazy out there and they’re rapidly developing a method of blowing up a major U.S. city and people just can’t believe that’s happening. ...[Obama is] going to have to come up with something that we’re going to do because they’re holding another hostage in place and the problem is, [Obama] says all these things and he never does them.” [63150, 63155, 63156]

At WarOnTheRocks.com Brian Fishman writes, “This is the most important strategic lesson from Iraq: Don’t bullshit the American people into a war with shifting objectives (even if those goals are important) because they will not put up with that commitment long enough for those goals to be achieved. This is not a call for pacifism; it is a call for fighting to win, which requires sustained commitment, which requires forthrightness in

our discourse about whether to choose war. We should only fight if we are fighting to win, and we will only win when we commit as a country—not 51 percent, or the viewers of one cable news station or another, or because one party or faction has managed to back a president into a political corner. The country must be ready to accept the sacrifices necessary to achieve grand political ends. Until then, any call to ‘defeat ISIL’ that is not forthright about what that will require is actually an argument for expensive failure.” [63191]

On *The Kelly File*, retired General Jack Keane tells Megyn Kelly, “I think as a matter of principle, Megyn, we really shouldn’t talk about these operations. And certainly an operation like this [the attempt to rescue James Foley] is no reason to disclose it. At deference to Mr. Foley’s family, I probably would have told that family what we had attempted to do at least and give them some comfort that we may did try to rescue him. But, you know, even going back to the [Osama] bin Laden raid which was obviously successful, the amount of information that was released after that infuriated the Secretary of Defense. I know if our special operators were here, [they would say] they don’t want these things talked about. They don’t want them out in the media. What will happen now because we disclosed the event, journalists will pursue with sources to get more information about the details of that event. And that is what the special operators don’t want out there. ... You know, first of all, they need accurate intelligence. And obviously in this case they didn’t have it. Secondly, they need the element of surprise because we plop them downright usually in the middle of the enemy. And after that they certainly have to rely on their extraordinary skill and also on their daring and courage. All those elements contribute to success. And certainly surprise is something they absolutely need to have or else they lose the advantage. And so, they don’t want people on their guard about these kind of operations. We’ve got about eight hostages in seven different countries. You can know for a fact that every one of those people who are holding them captive are looking at where are they, should we move them, what’s [sic; what are] the circumstances, do we have enough... prevention here in the event that somebody was coming after them.” [63161]

Kelly asks, “And the question is, you know, why did they do it, general? Was this a CYA, was this a, you know, the critics had been saying, you know, why did—why didn’t we do more to get these Americans and so did the administration have to defend itself?” Keane: “Well, I think, the obvious conclusion you come to it, they want to take some credit for something they tried although it, you know, it obviously didn’t work. And I don’t think that’s enough reason for this kind of a disclosure, because we want to do this again. The fact of the matter is when we have somebody hostage, Megyn, that is a very high-intelligent collection priority. And we are focused on that. And we seized the moment to try to get them. These are the most dangerous missions we conduct. It’s easier to go kill Bin Laden than it is to rescue someone because success of the mission is dependent on rescuing them successfully, getting them out alive.” (The next morning it is revealed that the intelligence information was not, in fact, bad. Obama simply delayed making a decision so long that the information with regard to the whereabouts of Foley became stale.) [61359, 63160, 63161]

On *Hannity*, former Vice President Dick Cheney tells Sean Hannity, “there’s no question” that ISIS is “very much a threat to the United States, to our friends and allies, not only in the Middle East but in Europe. And when you see them behead an American reporter... that’s obviously a terrible development, but magnify that a million times over because that’s what’s in store for the rest of the world if we don’t deal effectively with this crisis. ...The intelligence is there for all to see. There’s no question about what’s happening. But [Obama] and the people around him refuse to recognize it and certainly refuse to deal with it. The damage that is being done as we talk tonight, Sean, to the American military, is enormous. They’re taking our Army down below levels we haven’t seen since Pearl Harbor. They’ve made major reductions in the Air Force and the Navy... so it’s a train wreck. And there’s one more train wreck every day. It’s hard to believe that [Obama] is as ineffective as he clearly is. ...[Obama is] not up to speed and does not want to believe all that’s going on out there. But every day, we find new evidence that he’d rather be on the golf course than he would be dealing with the crisis that’s developing rapidly in the Middle East. ...[Obama] simply refuses to recognize the reality of the world we live in. ...The issue is whether or not we’re going to allow them [ISIS] to succeed in their basic fundamental objective in achieving a caliphate, a true caliphate, representative of the kind of thing we saw centuries ago in the Middle East, and follow their ideology, which calls not only for the destruction of Israel but also the United States. Now, are we going to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and get on with the business of destroying ISIS, or are we simply going to sit back and agonize every time they commit another outrageous act?” [63122]

On August 21 Obama again plays golf—his eighth round in 11 days. [63091]

Former British boxer Anthony Small, who now calls himself Abdul Haqq, posts a video on the Internet claiming that the United States “fabricated” stories of ISIS massacring Yazidis in Iraq in order to justify attacks on the Islamist group. He then essentially admits that the Yazidis were murdered because they chose unwisely when told they had several options: convert to Islam, live under Shari’ah law, leave the area, or fight and die. The options offered, states Haqq, prove “that the Islamic State has shown a certain degree of leniency.” Haqq warns, “If [Great] Britain ups their own ante, ups their own attacks, against the Islamic State, me myself [sic; I] am not going anywhere near any trains, buses, or tubes [subways]. As a matter of fact, I would even consider moving out of the city I live in, London, to some remote farm somewhere. ...If Britain follows the United States of America in their attack against the Islamic State, the U.K. will become a very unsafe place because, by their own standards, they have no idea how many [terrorist] sleeper cells they have.” (Small/Haqq cannot be deported because he is a British citizen, born and raised in the United Kingdom. That is the problem faced by western Europe and the United States: terrorists and terrorist sympathizers who live among everyone else, and who are protected by the laws of their countries even as they advocate overthrowing their governments and imposing Islamic Shari’ah law. Of course, a terrorist who cannot be deported can perhaps be prosecuted for treason or sedition. Pamela Geller asks, “How is the British government going to ‘de-radicalize’ these Muslims?”) [63742]

AirForceTimes.com reports, “The former top lawyer for the Army will be chief counsel for Republicans on the House committee investigating the 2012 terrorist attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Retired Lt. Gen. Dana Chipman was judge advocate general for the Army from 2009-2013. The special committee, led by [Congressman] Trey Gowdy [R-SC], is preparing for its first public hearing in September. Chipman ‘is a person of great character and integrity, with outstanding legal credentials, who dedicated his professional life to the apolitical service to our country and reached the highest levels of his profession,’ Gowdy said Thursday through a spokeswoman. ‘If you are serious about conducting a fair, thorough, fact-centric investigation devoid of gratuitous partisanship, it stands to reason you would select someone with those same characteristics to lead the investigation,’ he said.” [63353]

Students in Elyria, Ohio will no longer be allowed to enjoy the pink butter cookies that the city’s schools cafeterias have sold for almost 40 years—because they do not meet the Obama administration’s new food guidelines. Scott Teaman, food services director with Sodexo Inc., the district’s contracted food provider, tells Lorain County’s *The Chronicle-Telegram*, “We can’t have them in the cafeteria for sale, period. The guidelines for snacks are very strict, and there is no wiggle room.” “Over the years,” reports the newspaper, “the cookies have developed a cult following. The cookies even were dubbed the ‘Best Cafeteria Cookie’ by Cleveland magazine in 2009.” (Whether Ohio’s Obama voters knew the loss of their favorite cookies would be the result of his “fundamental transformation” of America is open to debate.) [63262, 63263]

On *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough, noting Obama’s quick escape to the golf course after his comments on the Foley beheading, suggests, “I think there are probably one or two terrorists... going, ‘Wow, that’s one cold bastard.’ ...I’m sure Barack Obama would say, ‘You know, if we can’t go golfing at an exclusive golf course on Martha’s Vineyard, then the terrorists have already won.’ ...These are horrible optics domestically, but internationally..., for terrorists, it’s basically like, ‘Screw you. We’re not going to live by your rules.’” (Scarborough may be the only one of 315 Americans who believes his argument has some merit. HotAir.com writes, “I ...suppose that’s one way to look at it. Not the way the left looked at it when Bush went golfing, of course. ...Is Scarborough right? Was ISIS maybe thinking of hijacking a plane and steering it into a skyscraper *until* they noticed [Obama] teeing off on Martha’s Vineyard, at which point they concluded that they don’t dare? The ‘cold bastard’ routine would be more convincing, I’d think, if O wasn’t in the habit of announcing red lines he later refused to enforce and handing over Taliban prisoners at Gitmo in exchange for an apparent deserter. At the very least, I think we can safely conclude that ISIS’s reaction to these optics is unpredictable. The mind of someone who’d saw off an innocent man’s head to make a point is a mind not easily knowable by civilized people.”) [63185, 63226]

At WashingtonTimes.com Judson Phillips writes, “[James] Foley was allegedly a journalist. To call him a journalist is to stretch that word beyond all meaning. Mr. Foley was an activist and a propagandist. He did not go to report the truth. He was not ‘fair and balanced.’ He wasn’t even accurate. That did not matter. His cause was the Sunni Islamists fighting the Syrian government. He tweeted repeatedly about this, ignoring the

attacks of Islamists on Christians and repeating the pro-Islamist talking points. He hated Israel. He hated America. He despised Mitt Romney and Republicans. Mr. Foley was kidnapped in Syria in November 2012. An interpreter who traveled with him was also kidnapped but later released. Mr. Foley was held for almost two years before he was executed. In July, U.S Special Forces were sent into Syria to try and rescue Mr. Foley. It is ironic that Barack Obama sent the American military to rescue an activist who despised our military and this nation, while Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi, a Marine who served his country honorably is left to rot in a Mexican jail. ...When did that horrible realization occur to Mr. Foley that despite his support for the Islamist cause, they were going to kill him anyway? There is a lesson here that people need to realize. There is evil in this world and right now, the focus of evil in the world is an organization called IS or ISIS or ISIL. Pleas for moderation and peace will not work with these people. Strongly worded letters will not work. Surgical airstrikes will not work. There is only one thing that will work against evil. That is force. ...James Foley's death should serve as a lesson to anyone who believes there can be accommodation with evil. Mr. Foley supported them. He was their propagandist. He was their cheerleader. What did that get him? A gruesome death and an unmarked grave someplace. Americans generally want to mind their own business and live their own lives. Unfortunately we face an evil that does not believe in accommodation. They believe in surrender or die. Mr. Obama does not want to admit there is a war coming. After all, he is cheering for the enemy. There is a war coming. The only question is when will it hit our shores. James Foley's death is a warning to America. Is anyone in Washington listening?" [63269, 63270]

Muslim cleric Hussein bin Mahmoud writes, "I don't know what to say. My mind is perplexed by words I have read and heard from people whom I do not know how to describe!! Millions of Muslims have been killed, tortured and driven from their homes; tens of thousands of Muslim women have had their honor violated and have been sexually abused by the Americans—yet people are weeping over a Christian American harbi infidel [James Foley] who entered the Islamic State, knowing full well what the Islamic State is, and without a pact [of protection]. Were the soldiers of the Islamic State supposed to pat this American harbi on the back and smile at him? All scholars, without exception, agree on the permissibility of killing a harbi infidel, and agree that his blood and property are fair game. Most of them [also] agree on the permissibility of killing him if he is taken prisoner. So where does this condemnation of the IS come from?... Let it be known to all people that when a harbi enters the land of Islam without a legal pact [of protection], his property, life and progeny are fair game." [63360]

"...Chopping off the heads of infidels is an act whose permissibility the [Muslim] ummah agrees on. Beheading a harbi infidel is a blessed act for which a Muslim is rewarded. The [only] matter scholars disagree about is the question of transferring the head from one place to another, traveling with it and carrying it around. ...As for beheading infidel Jews, Christians and 'Alawites, as well as apostate Shi'ites, who commit crimes against the Muslims, they must be terrorized, filled with fear and beheaded without any respect. Cutting off heads is part of the tradition of the [Prophet's] Companions. In the Koran Allah ordered to smite the infidels' necks and encouraged the Muslims to do this. He said [in Koran 47:4], 'When you meet those who disbelieve on the battlefield, smite at their

necks until you have killed and wounded many of them...’ ...Islam is a religion of power, fighting, jihad, beheading and bloodshed, not a religion of turning the left cheek to whoever slapped you on the right cheek. On the contrary, it is a religion of breaking the hand that is stretched out to humiliate the Muslim. [Any Muslim] who fights for his property, blood or honor is a martyr. In Islam, tourism [means] jihad for the sake of Allah... There is no true life for its believers except through jihad, [and] the goal of its fighters is to die for the sake of their religion...” [63360]

In Gaza, Israeli air strikes kill three senior Hamas commanders. [63186, 63187]

While there is not doubt that Israeli air strikes have killed Hamas terrorists in Gaza, Hamas apparently feels the need to “embellish” the body count of civilian casualties. AmericanOverloko.com posts Gaza news video of a mass Islamic funeral—in which more than a few of the corpses were moving under the sheet placed on top of them. [63241]

The center-left *New York Daily News* headline reads: “BAM’S GOLF WAR. Prez tees off as Foley’s parents grieve.” The lead editorial lambastes Obama for heading to the golf course immediately after his brief comments about the beheading of journalist James Foley. A sample: “...Obama put his own spin on the oft-quoted advice of predecessor Teddy Roosevelt: speak strongly and carry a nine iron.” [63084, 63085, 63125, 63182]

Pamela Geller writes, “Obama released an embarrassing report of a failed mission to provide cover and excuse for the expected beheadings of additional journalists. There are 20 more journalists kidnapped by jihadists in addition to Steve Sokoloff. [Most are not Americans.] Obama released this [information about his] pathetic failure (giving the enemy another boost) in anticipation of additional beheadings. Mind you, Obama was informed of journalist James Foley’s scheduled execution a week ago—but preferred to play golf. Obama was aware of James Foley’s location before his death, claims the murdered journalist’s former boss, who says he hired an international security firm to locate the kidnapped reporter.” Geller observes, “Twenty-five percent of the Muslims waging jihad for the Islamic State are Brits. So much for illiteracy and poverty being the main drivers of jihad. It is not surprising at all that Muslims in the West would express support for the Islamic State. The idea of a caliphate transcending national allegiance goes back to the beginning of Islamic history. Western analysts are surprised by this because they have discounted Islamic theology as a motivating factor for jihadis, and don’t understand the implications of the jihadi’s attachment to Islam.” [63074, 63075]

On WMAL radio in Washington, D.C., retired Lieutenant Colonel Tony Shaffer, a CIA-trained former senior intelligence officer and author, says, “I’m hearing from my friends in the Pentagon, they are giving him [Obama] every single option way ahead of time. And let me give you a little secret here: The reason that raid into Syria failed to get [James] Foley and those guys was because [Obama] drug his feet. He waited too long, the intel got stale, and by the time we actually gave the ‘go’ word it failed because we just didn’t react quick [sic; quickly] enough.” (In other words, Obama’s indecision cost

journalist James Foley his life. It will probably also cost the life of Steven Joel Sotloff, another journalist who was being held with Foley.) [61359, 63160]

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports that Obama violated the law with his prisoner swap for Army deserter Bowe Berghdal because it “prohibits the DOD [Department of Defense] from using appropriated funds to transfer any individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay unless the Secretary of Defense notifies certain congressional committees at least 30 days before the transfer.” (That is, Obama was not legally permitted to spend the funds to perform the prisoner exchange.) Further, Judge Andrew Napolitano has noted: “By releasing these guys [the five Taliban leaders] into the theater of war in the Middle East, [Obama] has provided material assistance to a terrorist organization. Fact: the Taliban has been declared by the Congress... to be a non-state terrorist organization. Fact: federal statute makes it a crime, punishable by 10 years in jail, up to life in prison, for materially aiding a terrorist organization. Fact: the courts have ruled any assistance, knowingly and intentionally provided to a terrorist organization by an American, makes that American liable for prosecution under this statute. ... There is exception [in the law] for [Obama’s] behavior. That’s the Nixon argument, if the president does it it’s not illegal; this statute governs everybody.” [63086, 63087, 63109, 63134, 63229]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel tells reporters the failed mission to rescue James Foley and other hostages on July 4 was not a failure of intelligence: “Intelligence doesn’t come wrapped in a package with a bow. ... This operation was a flawless operation, but the hostages were not there.” Hagel also says ISIS is “an imminent threat to every interest we have, whether it’s in Iraq or anywhere else. ... They are beyond just a terrorist group. They marry ideology, a sophistication of strategic and tactical military prowess. They are tremendously well-funded. This is beyond anything we’ve seen. So we must prepare for everything.” Asked if the United States would strike ISIS/ISIL in Syria, Hagel responds, “We continue to explore all options regarding ISIL and how best we can assist our partners in that area—the Middle East, particularly in Iraq—against ISIL. ... So that’s what we’re looking at, that’s what we’re doing and we’ll continue to stay focused as I said on—on what we’re doing now, and exploring all options as we go forward. ... [W]e’re looking at all options.” General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, warns that ISIS is “an immediate threat... because of open borders and immigration issues. ... This is an organization that has an apocalyptic, end-of-days strategic vision and which will eventually have to be defeated. [Can ISIS] be defeated without addressing that part of their organization which resides in Syria? The answer is no. That will have to be addressed on both sides of what is essentially at this point a non-existent border.” (Hagel and Dempsey apparently have not gotten the Obama memo that ISIS is only a “jayvee team.”) [63088, 63094, 63139, 63183, 63194, 63195, 63205, 63207, 63211, 63462]

The press conference by Hagel and Dempsey may be an indication that the Department of Defense has decided that if it cannot convince Obama privately that ISIS is a serious threat, it will take its case to the public. The intelligence community has been warning the White House of the ISIS threat for months and has essentially been ignored. At some

point the generals may simply tell Obama, “Stay on the golf course” and tell Valerie Jarrett, “Stay out of our way,” and do what is necessary to protect the United States of America. Obama will then occasionally be handed a speech and told, “Here, go read this in front of the cameras and take credit for what we did to save the nation.” If Obama continues to be afraid to make decisions, at some point others will start making them for him.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf continues to insist the United States is not at war with ISIS. A reporter says, “I mean, even they are announcing, ISIL people in their message, whatever, the recorded message, other messages, that now we [ISIS] are in a war with America.” Harf responds, “This is not about ISIL versus the United States. I think I made that clear yesterday. They are killing anyone who gets in their way: Sunnis, Shia Muslims, Christians, Yazidis, Iraqis, Syrians, anyone who gets in their way — and now an American. So this is not about what the United States is or isn’t doing,” Harf continued. “This is about ISIL [having] stated a commitment to murder, rape, enslave people who don’t agree with their ideology and who get in their way. And I think, you know, the more we can say that, because it’s true, it’s important for people to remember that as they look at the overall picture.” Reporter: “...But they are announcing that it’s a war against America. Right or wrong, that’s what they are saying.” Harf: “Well, they can say whatever they’d like, but what I am making clear is that’s not what ISIL represents. And they don’t represent any religion. Uh, they are at war with everybody they come into contact with. And that’s why we are very focused, uh, when we, uh, outline goals, on, on, uh, attacking their targets when they threaten those goals, on helping the Iraqis gain in capability to fight this one on their own, and, and, to be very clear, uh, holding people accountable when they hurt our people. That’s something we’re very focused on, uh, and that’s certainly what will be a guiding principle of our action going forward.” (In other words, “The United States is not at war with ISIS, even though ISIS is at war with the whole civilized world, and we’re going to let the Iraqis do the fighting for the whole world.” Once again, the Obama administration says ISIS has nothing to do with religion—a claim which is absurd on its face, inasmuch as ISIS has declared an Islamic State. If an army had declared a “Christian State,” it is difficult to see how Obama could claim the action had nothing to do with religion.) [63151, 63162, 63180, 63220, 62373]

Obama Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes (who penned Obama’s atrocious June 2009 Cairo speech) tells National Public Radio, “[W]e have launched a focused military mission in Iraq that is protecting our people in Baghdad and Erbil. And it has stopped the advance of ISIL inside of Iraq. And it has helped the Iraqi security forces begin to regain some territory that was claimed by ISIL. We’ve also launched a humanitarian mission to save many dozens of people who are trapped in Mount Sinjar. At the same time, we don’t rule anything out when it comes to the protection of Americans and the disruption of terrorist plotting against the United States. So we would not restrict ourselves by geographic boundaries when it comes to the core mission of U.S. foreign policy which is the protection of our people. We haven’t made decisions to take additional actions at this time. But we certainly don’t rule out additional action against ISIL if it becomes warranted.” (In other words, the U.S. military may launch air strikes or drone strikes at ISIS positions in Syria. The upside of such action is that it will weaken

ISIS. The downside is that it will strengthen Syrian President Bashar al-Assad—because it weakens his opposition. HotAir.com writes, “Either way, I wonder when O’s planning to have a little chat with the public about just how broad the new war against ISIS could get.”) [63188, 63189, 63190, 63741]

Pope Francis telephones the family of James Foley to offer his condolences. (It is assumed that after the call the Pope did not play golf.) [63098]

Blogger Ace of Spades writes, “Obama is a scourge. He’s terrible. He’s making things much, much worse, and many suspect this is not entirely by chance. That said, as I said to someone last week: There is what Obama does to us, and then there is what we do to ourselves. When life hands you a setback—a disease, a death of a close one, a financial crisis, Obama—that’s bad. But how we deal with that setback is on us. Whether we handle adversity gracefully, or whether we let it bend us and twist us, that’s a choice. Everyone’s angry, and everyone’s afraid, and, honestly, they should be. A friend of mine feels it in his bones that another 9/11 is coming, and, while I don’t have that intuition, I can’t tell him he’s just making things up or being silly. That’s certainly out there in the possibility-space. These are frightening times, and our political leadership’s reaction to this is to double down on failure and futility and fairways. But people don’t make good decisions in a state of anger, and they usually don’t say useful or correct things in that state, either.” [63310]

While Obama’s Attorney General, Eric Holder, continues to insist that vote fraud is not a problem in the United States, WatchDog.org reports that Virginia Voters Alliance “is challenging the status of nearly 15,000 voters reportedly registered in both Fairfax County [Virginia] and Maryland.” The group has called on the Fairfax County electoral board to purge the voter registration lists of duplicate voters. (Seventeen cases of multiple voting are quickly identified, and one of the fraudsters had been doing so for at least a decade.) [63099, 63100, 63412, 63423, 63424, 63459, 63460, 63604]

At Shoebat.com Ben Barrack writes, “The beheading of *any* American should send *every* American into orbit from outrage. That includes the beheading of James Foley. What must be made known, however, is that evidence suggests Foley was sympathetic to the Muslim Brotherhood’s cause and may have been a liberal. If that’s true, why would ISIS behead him? The answer is strangely simple. ISIS beheads liberals too, in much the same way that the Tsarnaev brothers set off pressure cooker bombs in a predominantly liberal city—Boston. A look at Foley’s twitter feed from 2012 indicates he was a supporter of the Syrian opposition (FSA). [A Foley Twitter message from October 8, 2012: ‘Dear Syrians don’t believe that Romney will help you acquire surface to air missiles. He’s just saying that to prove Obama’s ‘weak.’’] It’s now being reported by IBT that Foley may have been handed over to ISIS in a good faith gesture by a group that had been aligned with the FSA [Free Syrian Army]: ‘According to Syrian sources who have worked previously to locate and rescue kidnapped journalists in Syria, American journalist James Foley, who was beheaded by Islamic State in a video the militant group made public on Tuesday, was most likely used by another guerrilla group as a token of allegiance to ISIS. According to those sources, Foley was in the hands of the Dawood Brigade [sic;

brigade], a group that was originally aligned with relatively moderate opposition groups such as the Free Syrian Army, but recently pledged allegiance to ISIS.’ Of course, the very sick and twisted irony is that Foley was being sympathetic to a group that ultimately betrayed him. Though Foley’s fate was not predictable, such a betrayal was. Foley also seemed to express support for the Muslim Brotherhood’s agenda. Barely a month prior to the Benghazi attacks, Foley tweeted a link to a defamatory CNN propaganda piece that suggested ‘right-wing’ terrorism was equal to the brand practiced by al-Qaeda. In the article, Nazi terrorists were identified as ‘right-wing’ when in reality, Nazis are extreme leftists as is the KKK, which was founded by the Democratic Party. In another tweet, Foley linked to an article which made the argument that Muslim Brotherhood winning elections is a good thing. That argument is demonstrably absurd. ...Sadly, Foley lost his life despite being on what he thought was the right side. This is not about an ‘I told you so’ moment for the right. It’s a plea for leftists to wake up.” [63113, 63114, 63165, 63166]

Also at Shoebat.com, Ted Shoebat writes, “James Foley was not the only American to be captured by jihadists. James Foley went missing in 2012 when he was in Syria to cover the revolution.” Austin Tice also “went to Syria as a sympathizer for the jihadists and an opponent of the government, and he too was captured and executed by the same Islamic killers that he supported. ...Tice went missing in 2012, in Syria, the same date and the same country in which Foley went missing. Tice disappeared just days after his birthday, which he celebrated with jihadists, who were members of the FSA. [It is worth noting that the Obama administration, Senator John McCain (R-AZ), and others have all considered the FSA ‘moderate.’] The jihadists threw a pool party for him and treated him very much hospitality, a common thing Muslims do before killing their victims. Just as Cain projected a facade of peace before slaughtering Abel, so did the Muslim jihadists treat him very well prior to murdering him. Tice’s last message on Twitter (and to his family), was: ‘Spent the day at an FSA pool party with music by @taylorswift13. They even brought me whiskey. Hands down, best birthday ever.’ Days later, he disappeared, with the last visual of his existence being a video of him in the hands of jihadists. What happened to Tice? The same thing that happened to Foley. It angers me greatly that the government and the leftist media is using the death of Americans as propaganda for their pro-jihadist agenda. These scheming news agents and politicians do not go against humanity, but against God, with their lies and slanders.” [63115]

FoxNews.com reports, “An award-winning filmmaker and self-described revolutionary who knew James Foley well from their work in some of the world’s most dangerous war zones blames ...Obama’s policies for helping create the monstrous terror organization that killed his friend. Matthew VanDyke, a 35-year-old Baltimore native, said U.S. dithering when Syrian rebels needed help in their ongoing civil war with President Bashar al-Assad created a vacuum for Islamic State, the jihadist group that on Tuesday released a gruesome video showing Foley’s beheading. Had America helped the moderate rebels, they would not have formed their doomed alliance with the Al Qaeda-linked jihadists who then morphed into ISIS, or Islamic State, he said. ‘[Obama] has been dragged kicking and screaming every time an American force has to be used and, like it or not, we are the sole super power on this planet and if we aren’t going to do it, who is

going to do it? ...They [ISIS] have a bull's-eye on us. Now that we started this, we have to just wipe ISIS out." [63129]

Fox also reports, "Attorney General Eric Holder said Thursday that his Justice Department is opening a criminal investigation into the brutal execution by Islamic State militants of American journalist James Foley, in the latest move by the administration to use the criminal justice system to pursue terrorists." He states, "Those who would perpetrate such acts need to understand something—this Justice Department, this Department of Defense, this nation, we have long memories and our reach is very wide. We will not forget what happened, and people will be held accountable, one way or the other." Congressman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) responds, "This is more nonsense. What's most aggravating is that either in Foley's situation, or the other Americans in captivity, the Defense Department is being forced to take a backseat to the FBI and DOJ." (Whether Obama and Holder expect the U.S. Armed Forces to sit and do nothing to retaliate against ISIS while Holder waits for a CSI crew to ask the terrorists for fingerprints and DNA is not known. The situation would be laughable if the security of the American people were not at stake.) [63128, 63131, 63133]

Addressing the Heritage Foundation, Texas Governor Rick Perry says, "ISIS is not going to stop. They need to be eliminated; they need to be eliminated now. ...They've seen glimpses of our air power. They must see much more of it." Perry warns that "there is a very real possibility" that ISIS or other terrorists may already have entered the United States via Mexico. "We know that there are individuals from countries that have terrorist ties that are being apprehended, and we had reports of record-high numbers of those individuals who were coming in back in the summer. What rational observer doubts that such an attack is not part of their plan? And who thinks it's a good idea to wait and give them more time instead of eliminating this menace this right now? ...Beheadings, rape, enslavement, crucifixions. That's the character of this enemy. In case we miss the point, they post pictures online and call it a preview of what we can expect in America. ...The administration wishes—and who doesn't—that this [rescue of some Yazidis in Iraq] was just a humanitarian crisis. And when they talk about limited air strikes, they place great emphasis on limited. Yet clearly more strikes will be necessary ...nothing less than a sustained air campaign to degrade and destroy ISIS forces. The Iraqi people are up against a terrorist blitzkrieg." Noting the fears of U.S. "mission creep," Perry says, "But, in this case, we should be more worried about an ISIS version of mission creep. It may be a team of terrorists arriving with papers. Or it may be a team sneaking across border. But who thinks such an attack is not part of their plan?" [63130, 63140, 63193]

On *America's News Headquarters*, NationalReview.com and *Daily Telegraph* columnist Tom Rogan says of the ISIS threat, "It can be stopped, but it's gonna [sic; going to] take a far more coordinated strategy on the behalf of [sic; by] the White House. Up until now we've seen, really, a delusion, a willful delusion, about the nature of the threat, the nature of the severity of the threat, and how to address it. ...I think the greatest concern here is that [Obama] is simply doing the bare minimum that he can do to alleviate domestic political criticism. ...This is Salafi [an Islamic sect, primarily in Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia] jihadism. It's a totalitarian death cult. They revel in death. ...Everything they do

they do because they believe they're [on] an ordained mission to purge the world of anyone who is not them. And that includes [other] Muslims. ...And they will not stop until they are either killed or arrested and put in prison..." [63152, 63154]

Dr. Kent Brantly is released from Emory Hospital, having recovered from Ebola. He says, "I want to express my deep and sincere gratitude to Samaritan's Purse, Emery and all of the people involved in my treatment and care. Above all, I am forever thankful to God for sparing my life." (Ebola patient Nancy Writebol was released in August 20.) [63132, 63133, 63141, 63181, 63192]

Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, calls for an investigation into the leak of information about a failed July 4 attempt to rescue journalist James Foley. McKeon states, "Successful or not, such operations are incredibly sensitive, even after they have concluded. Disclosure of these missions puts our troops at risk, reduces the likelihood that future missions will succeed, and risks the lives of hostages and informants alike." According to TheHill.com, "The White House said it 'never intended to disclose' the rescue attempt, but decided to disclose the mission because reporters had somehow learned of it. 'We only went public today when it was clear a number of media outlets were preparing to report on the operation and that we would have no choice but to acknowledge it,' National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a statement." (*The Obama Timeline* believes the "unauthorized leak" was not a leak at all, but an intentional release of information by the Obama administration to make it look like Obama was doing something other than play golf, and to provide cover for the next ISIS beheading of a U.S. citizen. Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett likely took care of the details for Obama.) [63135, 63137, 63204]

GlobalPost.com posts the text of the last email (August 12) ISIS sent to the family of James Foley (factual, spelling, and grammatical errors are left uncorrected): "HOW LONG WILL THE SHEEP FOLLOW THE BLIND SHEPPARD? A message to the American government and their sheep like citizens: We have left you alone since your disgraceful defeat in Iraq. We did not interfere in your country or attack your citizens while they were safe in their homes despite our capability to do so! As for the scum of your society who are held prisoner by us, THEY DARED TO ENTER THE LION'S DEN AND WHERE EATEN! You were given many chances to negotiate the release of your people via cash transactions as other governments have accepted, We have also offered prisoner exchanges to free the Muslims currently in your detention like our sister Dr Afia Sidiqqi, however you proved very quickly to us that this is NOT what you are interested in. You have no motivation to deal with the Muslims except with the language of force, a language you were given in 'Arabic translation' when you attempted to occupy the land of Iraq! Now you return to bomb the Muslims of Iraq once again, this time resorting to Arial attacks and 'proxy armies', all the while cowardly shying away from a face-to-face confrontation! Today our swords are unsheathed towards you, GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENS ALIKE! AND WE WILL NOT STOP UNTILL WE QUENCH OUR THIRST FOR YOUR BLOOD. You do not spare our weak, elderly, women or children so we will NOT spare yours! You and your citizens will pay the price

of your bombings! The first of which being the blood of the American citizen, James Foley! He will be executed as a DIRECT result of your transgressions towards us!” (According to CNSNews.com, Sidiqqi is “a Pakistani woman whose lengthy prison term for attempting to kill U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan has made her a cause célèbre in Pakistan and among jihadists worldwide. ...A U.S.-trained neuroscientist, [Aafia] Siddiqui [who is known as ‘Lady al-Qaeda’] was convicted in February 2010 on counts of attempted murder, assault, armed assault and firearms charges, and that September was sentenced to 86 years’ imprisonment.”) [63196, 63197, 63209, 63274]

Noah Rothman adds at HotAir.com, “On November 26, 2013, the Foley family was told by IS militants [they] demanded \$132 million and the release of unspecified prisoners in American captivity in exchange for James Foley, the Global Post revealed. That negotiation proved unsuccessful, and there was no communication between IS militants and the Foleys until August 12, 2014 when they received another letter with a series of much more specific demands that the terrorists claimed were unmet. It is as much a letter from ISIS to America as it is to the Foley family. ...There are some who will object to the publication of this letter, perhaps in much the same way that so many were enraged by the *New York Post’s* decision to publish an image of Foley the moment before he was beheaded by an IS terrorist. That’s not an unjustified emotion, but it is sometimes better to look evil in the eye than to rage against those media outlets that refuse to sanitize reality. These people would like nothing more than to kill you and your family. No one is well-served by being shielded from that fact.” [63197]

Jim Kouri reports at Examiner.com, “An illegal alien from Mexico who was convicted of killing two young girls is still being protected by ...Obama’s ‘Dreamers’ amnesty decree which stipulates that illegal aliens ‘brought to the United States through no fault of their own as children will not be deported,’ according to an ‘Inside the Beltway’ watchdog that investigates and exposes government corruption and criminal activity on Wednesday. According to Judicial Watch’s Corruption Chronicles, the ‘Dreamer’ in this case—19-year-old Cinthya Garcia-Cisneros—had been convicted of felony hit-and-run after killing two little girls who were playing innocently in a pile of leaves on Jan. 17, 2014, in the town of Forest Grove, Oregon, near Portland. She was sentenced to three years probation. ...According to Judicial Watch, while driving a sports utility vehicle, [Cisneros] crashed into a pile of leaves, struck and killed 6-year-old and 11-year-old stepsisters, and then she fled the scene of an accident. With the help of her boyfriend she covered up the crime. Garcia-Cisneros was nabbed by police the day after she killed the children, while her boyfriend was imprisoned for hindering prosecution. After her trial, the jury delivered guilty verdicts for two counts of felony hit-and-run and she was placed on probation. Because she was an illegal alien she was taken to an immigration detention center in Tacoma, Washington, in order to be face removal proceedings. Garcia-Cisneros this week saw her deportation case vanish thanks to an immigration judge who dismissed her case. ‘The judge gave no reason for dismissing the deportation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has declined to say why the case was dropped,’ according to Judicial Watch.” [63136]

According to *The Denver Post*, “The Colorado Division of Insurance has reported that there were about 2,100 health-plan cancellations in the state over the past two months, bringing this year’s total to more than 6,150. ... Since 2013, there have been about 340,000 policy cancellations in Colorado. Many customers received notices last fall as the Affordable Care Act was rolling out. ... Opponents of the Affordable Care Act cite the cancellations as proof that it is hurting consumers more than helping.” [63184]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The chief medical examiner of St. Louis County, who performed the first autopsy on Michael Brown after he was shot on Aug. 9, says that she is concerned by one of the men hired by the Brown family to conduct its own exam. ‘I can tell you absolutely that I find what Parcels does to be abysmal,’ Dr. Mary Case told The Daily Caller when asked about Shawn Parcels, a Kansas-based forensic pathologist assistant. He has been accused in the past of fabricating his job title and of conducting autopsies without a license. Parcels, along with Dr. Michael Baden, was hired last week by the Brown family to conduct an independent private autopsy. They did so, they said, because they did not trust local authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into Brown’s police shooting death. The team released its results on Monday and determined that Brown was shot at least six times. ... Mary Case, along with a number of other medical examiners and pathologists have been heavily critical of Parcels. ‘He is doing forensic autopsies which may send someone to prison, and he is not a physician, much less a forensic pathologist,’ she told TheDC, adding that forensic pathologists and medical examiners throughout the U.S. ‘are shocked by this man and how bold he is to do what he does.’ ‘No one stops him,’ she said. Case said that Baden, 80, ‘is an excellent forensic pathologist.’ At a press conference Monday, Baden said the same thing about her. But Case claims that Baden was unaware of what she called Parcels’ ‘baggage.’ ‘Dr. Baden did not know about Parcels’ baggage or he would not have become associated with him,’ Case told TheDC. ‘His association with Parcels is very unfortunate.’ ... Forensic pathologist Dr. Erik Mitchell complained to a Kansas City news station earlier this week that Parcels is working without a license.” [63138]

At Politico, Glenn Thrush writes, “If anything, the Ferguson crisis has underscored [Al] Sharpton’s role as the national black leader Obama leans on most, a remarkable personal and political transformation for a man once regarded with suspicion and disdain by many in his own party.” (Obama would never have been reelected had the voters known Obama relies on the race-hustling, riot-inducing, tax-avoiding Sharpton.) “It’s a status made all the more surprising given that Obama... ran on a platform of moving beyond the country’s painful racial divisions while Sharpton is the man who once defined those divisions for many Americans.” (Whether the inclusion of the word “once” was an error or Thrush is ignorant is not clear.) [63174]

At FoxNews.com Joshua Rhett Miller reports that the Islamic State, or ISIS, “now controls seven oil fields and two small refineries in northern Iraq, bringing in as much as \$2 million per day by selling up to 40,000 barrels via middlemen in illicit deals. The black market oil sells for roughly \$25 to \$60 per barrel, compared to the current market rate of \$102, according to Luay al-Khatteeb, founder and executive director of the Iraq Energy Institute. And while this is a veritable drop in the global bucket of oil production,

the crude spigot will continue translating into terror funds for Islamic State militants if unchecked, al-Khatteeb and other experts told FoxNews.com. ‘Unless we choke this organization’s revenues, and the areas it’s able to access revenues, it’s going to keep growing,’ said Denise Natali, a senior research fellow for the Institute for National Strategic Studies. ‘The Iraqi government has announced it now, but this has been going on for months.’ On Wednesday [August 20], Iraq’s Oil Ministry warned buyers of crude oil that unauthorized purchases made in the country could be used to fund terror activities by Islamic State. Buyers were urged to ‘exercise caution’ and were reminded that any purchases without authorization from Iraqi officials could result in sanctions for financial terror activities.” [63157, 63158, 63703, 63704]

Former CIA officer Bob Baer tells CNN, “I have been told with no uncertainty there are ISIS sleeper cells in this country.” [63178]

Meanwhile, former CIA director General Michael Hayden tells *Newsmax*, “I would imagine that both of them [ISIS and al-Qaeda] are trying to prove their credentials as Islamic Fundamentalist Organization number one by conducting a successful attack in the West, if not in the United States. ... We try to identify people who may have gone there [to the Middle East] and are coming back to Europe or the United States, but getting ready is offense. Rather than letting them sit there and plan to threaten my survival, we need to make them start spending an awful lot of time thinking about their own survival. ... I would use air power to go after the capacity of ISIS to do harm. That means the equipment that they’ve stolen from the Iraqi army. It means their leadership. It means degrading them in a powerful and very meaningful way. If you can put Special Operations Forces on the ground to attempt a rescue, you can put Special Forces on the ground for other purposes, too. Not necessarily just for rescue.” [63179]

On *The Kelly File*, syndicated columnist and best-selling author Charles Krauthammer comments, “It is ridiculous to go back to the pre-911 paradigm of treating acts of terror as criminal acts.. They are not. They are acts of war against the United States. Now when [Attorney General Eric] Holder says we’re going to track down the people who did this [beheading], I mean it’s as if FDR would have announced the day after Pearl Harbor that we’re going to track down the pilots who bombed us...”

On August 22 White House deputy press secretary Eric Schultz is asked why the Obama administration negotiated with terrorists to secure the release of Army deserter Bowe Bergdahl but would not do so for journalist James Foley. Schultz replies, “I think, again, what [Obama] made clear at the time of the Guantanamo transfer was that his commitment to the men and women that serve overseas is a bedrock one, that we will leave no man or woman behind. That’s what he was keeping faith with, and that’s something that’s unshakeable for him. As we’ve made previously clear, the administration determined that it was lawful to proceed with a transfer in order to protect the life of a U.S. service member held captive and in danger for almost five years, notwithstanding that Congress did not receive the 30 days’ notice.” (In other words, “Bergdahl served in the U.S. Army and Foley didn’t.”) [63170, 63171]

Schultz defends Obama's golf outing after he made brief comments about James Foley's beheading, saying it "absolutely captured [Obama's] attention." [63216]

A convoy of Russian trucks carrying food, water, generators, and sleeping bags crosses the border into eastern Ukraine. The Pentagon condemns the move and demands that the Russians withdraw. (Based on U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power's August 8 statement, the move is "an invasion of Ukraine." In other words, Russia crossed another Obama "red line." What, if anything, Obama will do remains to be seen.) [63212, 63522, 63523]

A store in Martha's Vineyard sells T-shirts that read: "I vacationed with Obama—Martha's Vineyard '14." [63172, 63173]

Breitbart.com posts a photograph of a giant ISIS flag held by fans at a soccer match in Tunisia. "The provenance of the picture is unclear, although other sources on the Internet confirm that it was indeed taken at a Tunisian League football game, possibly some time last year. The image as it appeared on Twitter has been cropped slightly; other sources show a slightly extended image in which words in Arabic script can clearly be seen superimposed. *Breitbart London* understands that they read 'The Caliphate to come, God willing.'" [63243]

In *The Washington Post*, Vice President Joe Biden writes that ISIS (ISIL) can be defeated without U.S. combat forces on the ground. "For Iraq," Biden writes, "success will require genuine compromise from all sides and a new government in Baghdad capable of responding to the needs of all of Iraq's communities. We cannot want that more than Iraqis do. Unless Iraq can do this, no amount of outside intervention will matter—nor will it continue indefinitely. ... We are also encouraging Iraq's neighbors to refrain from fueling sectarian divisions, which only plays into ISIL's hands, and instead to treat this shared challenge as an opportunity to begin a new chapter in their relations with Iraq and with each other. ... ISIL is far from invincible. Its ideology is rejected by most Iraqis. It establishes order not through consent but through fear. It has destroyed ancient religious sites, enslaved women and girls and brutally executed many of the very Sunnis it claims to speak for. ISIL has no legitimate cause or grievance to espouse. And as we saw at the Mosul dam, when its fighting strength is eroded, it can be routed by local forces without U.S. boots on the ground. This is a fight that Iraq, with help from America and the world, can and must win. We all have a stake in empowering moderates in Iraq to prevent a terrorist state from taking root in the heart of the Middle East. The threat, of course, is not confined to Iraq. Addressing it will also require continued support for our partners in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian opposition and others to counter ISIL and address the flow of foreign fighters to and from the battlefield." (Biden is late in wanting to "prevent a terrorist state from talking root." It has already taken root. Despite his editorial appearing in the leftist *Washington Post*, numerous readers leave negative comments on the online version. One writes, "Watch out Captain Obvious. Joe Biden is after your job. ISIL must be defeated. They are bad. Iraqis must set aside their differences and unite. Can't wait for this foreign policy expert to weigh in on Palestine v Israel. All he has to do is change the names in the column above.") [63230]

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI issue a joint statement to the nation's law enforcement agencies warning them to be on the alert for possible terrorist actions even though they are "unaware of any specific, credible threats." According to WJLA.com, "The bulletin... noted that ISIS' English-language messaging online 'has primarily been focused on calls' for Muslims to join the group in Iraq and Syria. The group and its supporters, meanwhile, 'have employed—and will almost certainly continue—Twitter 'hashtag' campaigns that have... been able to quickly reach a global audience of potential violent extremists,' the bulletin said. In the joint bulletin, DHS and FBI mentioned the propaganda video released this week showing Foley's beheading, and it cited a photo posted online showing the ISIS (ISIL) flag in front of the White House. 'ISIL members and supporters will almost certainly continue to use social media platforms to disseminate their English-language violent extremist messages,' the bulletin concluded. 'Although we remind first responders that content not explicitly calling for violence may be constitutionally protected, we encourage awareness of media advocating violent extremist acts in particular locations or naming particular targets, to increase our ability to identify and disrupt potential Homeland threats. We urge state and local authorities to promptly report suspicious activities related to homeland plotting and individuals interested in traveling to overseas conflict zones, such as Syria or Iraq, to fight with foreign terrorist organizations.'" [63309]

At DailyCaller.com a "a ranking Department of Defense official with a background in U.S. special operations and combat experience in Iraq and Afghanistan [who] has worked in strategic planning" writes, "On Wednesday [August 20], the White House leaked a classified special forces operation to rescue American hostages in Syria. The reason: political cover. The cost: so far, unknown. But this much, we know: The politicized leak of this operation cut through the fog of war to let our enemies know exactly what happened that day in the desert, and because of that, future attempts to free American hostages will be more difficult to plan, farther between, and more dangerous to carry out. ...The leak was designed to provide political cover for President Barack Obama, who has been taking fire from the press for failing to take more decisive action against the Islamic State in either Iraq or Syria. ...Following the mission, it was determined that the Islamic State [ISIS] did not know that it was the United States that had conducted the raid. ...The Islamic State is now aware that the United States is tracking the whereabouts of the Western hostages, and that the U.S. has shown a willingness to take military action to free them. They will likely increase their operational and communication security postures in order to prevent a repeat operation. Wednesday's selfish, politically motivated leak has reduced the chances for a successful second rescue attempt, and has likely increased the risk to the lives of the hostages still in the Islamic State's possession." [63217, 63231]

"...I wish I was surprised by the decision to leak information that would endanger the lives of additional hostages in order to provide the administration with a few political points, but I am not. This is par for the course for an administration that is more concerned with domestic politics and opinion polling than they are with taking the actions necessary to safeguard American national security. ...The objective of the overall U.S. mission remains unclear. U.S. military commanders recognize the threat posed by

the Islamic State, and have requested permission to target the group more broadly, but the administration is wavering. When White House national security staffers do see a proposal that they like from either the U.S. military or intelligence community to take action, they will take it to [Obama] or the responsible authority for action. Normally, concepts of operations are designed to achieve policy goals stipulated by the White House. What we have here is the opposite: something we call ‘policy by concept of operations.’ ...This is not how national security decision-making should be conducted, and it is how we ended up with the current mission in Iraq: limited airstrikes and humanitarian air drops in a localized area, with no connection to a larger strategy or goal because for the White House, it does not matter. For them, it’s politics. As long as they are doing something, that’s all that matters. During the end of the 2008 presidential campaign, Sen. John McCain charged that then-Sen. Barack Obama ‘didn’t know the difference between a tactic and a strategy.’ The current U.S. military mission in Iraq is evidence that McCain was right.” [63217, 63231]

“Airstrikes by themselves without a larger goal or objective are a tactic, not a strategy. What are we trying to achieve? The threat posed by the Islamic State far exceeds the localized conflict taking place in northern Iraq, on which the administration has been hyper focused. But few in the administration seems to either understand or care. It’s a reflection of the lack of experience, over-politicization of national security matters, and trying to control everything at the White House. At this time, the Obama administration still has no workable strategy or policy for the Syrian civil war or for the growing threat posed by the Islamic State. The White House is in strategic paralysis and seems unable to make a decision as to what the U.S. should do. Obama has publicly stated his reluctance to take on a more expansive U.S. military operation for political and economic reasons, but the current problem is not entirely of his making: Obama is only able to make the decisions that his staff bring to him for consideration. From dangerous leaks to failed policies in the Middle East, the White House is a mess from the bottom, all the way to the top.” [63217, 63231]

At NationalReview.com former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “Our barbaric jihadist enemies—the ones ...Obama repeatedly assured us he had ‘decimated’ and put on ‘the path to defeat’—are now stronger than ever. Not stronger than they have been in years, or decades—stronger than ever. They have seized a country-size swath of territory (and growing). They have just beheaded an American journalist—which is the sort of thing they do as a matter of routine but has obviously, and finally, gotten our attention. Not to worry, though: The Obama Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation. I’m sure ISIS is quaking. ...The enemy decapitates an American *because he’s an American*, and the administration announces the opening of a criminal investigation. The enemy bombs and beheads, we subpoena and indict.” (“Decimate” means “to kill every tenth person,” although the word is commonly misused. Some might argue that when Obama claimed he had “decimated” al-Qaeda he meant that original definition.) [63260]

In Dongzhimen, downtown Beijing, China, a giant outdoor television screen shows the video of the moments preceding the beheading of journalist James Foley, along with

scenes of the rioting in Ferguson, Missouri. (Pamela Geller writes, “In a strikingly different approach to the threat of jihad terror, the Chinese government wants its people to understand the horror and savagery of the jihadists that threaten that country. China has suffered some of the worst Islamic terror attacks in recent months. Mass machete attacks, bombings in Tiananmen Square, etc. The Chinese government knows what they are up against and this crude exercise is their way of educating their people to this grave threat... On the one hand, [Obama] is so nonplussed by the unspeakably gruesome beheading... that he merely takes a break from his golf game... and tosses off some empty rhetoric about being heartbroken and such and then returns to his basketball buds on the green. China, on the other hand, is running edits from the Foley beheading in the public square on an endless loop. Gruesome? Absolutely. Effective? Most definitely. It may be crude, but it sends a message. Obama, on the other hand, rushes to protect Islam in the wake of jihadi attacks. China is arming its people. Obama is disarming us. Is the American flag flying at the end of the video a shot at America? Most certainly. But look, we elected that evil clown twice, we have to take the punishment we so richly deserve.”) [63221]

On *America's Newsroom*, Mary Katharine Ham comments on Obama's trip to the golf course after his comments on the brutal killing of James Foley: “I think you could leave a space of more than eight minutes... When his aides say, ‘the game of golf did not accurately reflect his grief’ it's because the game of golf is not renowned for reflecting grief. ...On the question of whether [Obama is] engaged, let me just offer from last week when he was in Martha's Vineyard, at a party, when the situation in Ferguson—there was upheaval going on, it was really starting to heat up there. His communications staff was tweeting from that party that ‘a good time was had by all,’ when a cursory look at the Internet would have shown them that this was not the time for that [comment]. So I'm not sure how engaged that staff is when they don't know that.” [63213]

Hamas executes 18 Palestinians (including two women) suspected of collaboration with the Israelis. [63175, 63210]

DailyCaller.com reports that according to a CBS/New York Times poll, “Only 60 percent of African Americans are pleased with ...Obama's handling of the Ferguson shooting and riots... The new poll also showed that only 61 percent of Democrats rate his performance positively. Twenty percent of African-Americans, and 16 percent of Democrats, give a negative rating to his handling of the Ferguson drama, much of which has taken place during his vacation in Martha's Vineyard.” (Meanwhile, mainstream media coverage of a black police officer in South Salt Lake, Utah who on August 11 killed an unarmed white man, 20-year-old Dillon Taylor, is almost non-existent.) [63176, 63214, 63215, 63280]

The CBS affiliate in Chicago reports, “Over the past six years, Chicago has become a top potential target for international terrorists, a top security expert said Friday, making the posting of a veiled threat by Islamic radicals on Twitter a higher cause for concern. ‘Many terror organizations refer to Chicago as Obama Town,’ said CBS 2 security expert Ross Rice, a former FBI agent in Chicago. ...In the meantime, the U.S. government on Friday issued a security bulletin to all U.S. law enforcement in light of the overall threat

posed by Islamic State, commonly known as ISIS or ISIL. The ominous post on Twitter, purportedly from somebody connected with Islamic State, shows a photo of the Old Republic Building, 307 N. Michigan Ave., in Chicago and the White House.

The text reads:

‘#AmessagefromISISstoUS

We are in your state

We are in your cities

We are in your streets

You are our goals anywhere...’

The handwritten note is dated June 20. ...The Twitter message seems to imply that Islamic State operatives are in Chicago and other U.S. cities.” [63218, 63219, 63256]

In an interview with Breitbart.com, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters says, “[C]ertainly [Obama and his advisors and staffers] came to office with zero interest in international affairs except for a few pet projects and with the naiveté to believe that ...[Obama], through sheer charm and force of personality, could change the world. The Cairo Speech is classic evidence. The new political elite came with a very negative view of the United States, very much formed by the likes of Bill Ayers, Reverend [Jeremiah] Wright, that entire milieu. So as you heard in speech after speech from [Obama], America wasn’t the solution. The United States of America was the problem, or at least part of the problem. This is a group that is very uncomfortable with the idea of American leadership, made up of people inculcated with the belief that all cultures are equal—except that we may be less equal than others—and that there’s a virtue in all developing cultures, or underdeveloped cultures. This is combined with an utter lack of appreciation of the brutality that exists in most of the rest of the world. Additionally elements of [Obama’s] personal biography clouded his judgment terribly: the fact that he always claimed how well he knew Islam, that he lived in Indonesia, in Java, a few years and attended school there. But Islam is at its absolutely most benign in Indonesia, except for the odd case of Aceh, on the extreme western tip of Java, which has been Arab-influenced since the Middle Ages. ...So those that make up the administration were distinctly unequipped for this role. They didn’t understand history, didn’t understand foreign affairs. They came to office with a very strong domestic agenda and that’s what they wanted to concentrate on. They regarded foreign affairs as a nuisance—something that, well, you just have to deal with sometimes. And also, they came to the office with a very strong, not just anti-militarist, but anti-military bias.” [63198]

“A classic example among many is their handling of the Private [Bowe] Bergdahl case. For five years since he walked off his post, I’ve been scratching my head and other body parts wondering why they were so intent on shielding this person, of covering for him when the evidence from the start was overwhelming that he deserted. Then you get all the way to the Rose Garden debacle with his parents, and just the other day, driving home from Fox [News], it hit me. It’s really very simple, flash of the obvious. The people in the

administration understand, given their worldview, why someone would desert from the military. They just don't understand why somebody would join the military. And if you look at their overall actions—and you know, I never blame a conspiracy for anything that can be explained by incompetence—but they really have tried to use the military as a tool of social engineering, essentially to neuter the military. And the generals and admirals have not resisted in any meaningful way.” [63198]

Yahoo Global News' Katie Couric interviews Michael Foley, the brother of James Foley. The grieving Foley says, “I really don't think I should get into this, but the United States could have done more on behalf of the Western and American hostages over there and still dealt with the broader world wide issues. ...I really, really hope that, in some way, Jim's death pushes us to take another look at our approach, our policy to terrorist and hostage negotiations and rethink that. Because if the United States is doing it one way and Europe is doing it another way, then by definition, it won't work. ...We are sitting on prisoners here in Guantanamo; it doesn't have to be financial.” (In other words, Michael Foley believes it is appropriate for European nations to pay ransoms for hostages, and believes Obama should have traded one or more GITMO prisoners for his brother.) [63227]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld observes, “When someone has a problem and it's someone you care about, you should confront him. You've got to sit him down and say, this is serious. [Mr.] Obama, you have a problem. Not with drugs or women or booze, it's worse. You have a problem with golf and it's getting weird. Even for me, I never once cared, but now it's strange. Think about it. You played golf after that press conference, after an appalling terrorist act. How was that possible? I have no problems with vacations and have grown to like your aloof take on our country's decline. I know you can't change, but now something is wrong. You have a problem. You can't see it, but it's there. We all see it now. Golf is your Lewinski, it's your bimbo eruption, it's your blue dress, it's your compulsion that blinds you to the hell unfolding around you. How much of it occupies your head? How much time do you [you spend] think[ing] about golf? Do you find yourself promising you'll cut back? Do you find your life empty if you don't have a round on the horizon? Do you see golf as your oasis in a world far beneath you? Look, we all have compulsions. And golf hurts no one. It's legal, and relaxing. But for God's sake, man, it's time to lead. Plot a course instead of walking one. Show some drive, instead of making one. After an American is beheaded, no president should be heading to the course.” [63222]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says of Obama's reaction to the rapid growth of ISIS and warnings from the Pentagon and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, “I don't think the issue is [that Obama] was unaware or taken by surprise. I think this was willful blindness to the nature of the threat. For the five and a half years he's been in office, he's tried to minimize the whole idea of the 'war on terror.' He abolished the term. He gave a speech six months ago saying the war on terror must end, it's damaging our country—as if he can unilaterally declare an end to a war when the other guy hasn't declared an end on his side. He has said the tide of war is receding. But he did that by defining the threat and the enemy as 'al-Qaida central,' as if the enemy is a club that lives in Pakistan or

parts of Afghanistan and that's it. So whenever you had an explosion of Islamic radicalism in Mali or Libya or elsewhere, it was considered something else, as he said, a jayvee team. This is a willful attempt to actually will away the war that we were looking at. Well, now with ISIS, the pretense and the will to pretend otherwise can no longer exist. He knows that the threat is there, and what's happening is he isn't on board. This is his advisers and the military trying to prepare him for a decision he has not yet made, but is going to have to make." [63177]

On August 23 Congressman Peter King (R-NY) says in a CNN Interview, "I don't see how we can defeat ISIS without going into Syria. I believe in massive airstrikes. This is not about Syria. This is not about Iraq. It's about our national security. [Obama] has the obligation, if he is serious about going after ISIS, to go into Syria." Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) says, "[Obama] should have done it when he first announced it when he said Assad has crossed a red line in the use of chemical weapons. In fact, they used chemical weapons twice [since then] and still we did not do what we said we would do. It was a mistake for us not to act then. We cannot let this cancer grow." [63225]

ChristianPost.com reports, "James Foley, the American photojournalist beheaded by ISIS militants was reportedly trying to forge dialogue between Christians and Muslims, his former fellow hostage said. 'It's completely ironic,' French journalist Nicolas Henin told the Irish Times after learning of Foley's beheading. 'James got hold of a Koran in English and he was fascinated by it. There were times he read it without interruption. After being taken hostage twice, he said his career as a reporter was obviously jinxed.' However, Foley was not deterred and continued working for the Global Post and the Agence France-Presse. He was taken hostage in 2012 while on assignment in Syria, which was under attack from ISIS at the time. During his imprisonment, Foley was convicted and felt the need to try and do his part to encourage dialogue between Christians and Muslims. 'He was exasperated by widespread Islamophobia, and he wanted to build bridges between the Christian and Muslim worlds. He said that when he was free, he would apply to the Committee to Protect Journalists, or commit himself to the dialogue between civilizations,' Henin added." [63356, 63357]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Liberal groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Immigration Council filed a lawsuit against the government Friday, arguing that the Obama administration's recently adopted expedited deportation procedures are unconstitutional. The case centers on woman and children deported from a detention facility in Artesia, N.M., an isolated center housing over 500 people detained along the southwest United States border. The center has already been accused of keeping immigrants in unsanitary conditions, and earlier this summer had to halt all deportations because of a chicken pox outbreak. 'This loss of due process is a recurring theme in Artesia,' wrote Sarah Perez, an immigration attorney who visited the facility in July. Perez said that in addition to being hours away from any attorneys, the facility made it very difficult for lawyers to speak with detainees once there, and that phone calls are limited to five minutes." The lawsuit claims, "Families detained at Artesia are almost completely cut off from communications with the outside world, provided insufficient information and in some cases no information about their rights under the INA

[Immigration and Nationality Act], affirmatively precluded from effectively contacting and receiving assistance from attorneys and ultimately forced to navigate pro se [on their own] a complex immigration process that is heavily weighted against them.” (Of course, none of the families would have been “cut off from communications” had they stayed at home and not entered the United States illegally. The complaint is tantamount to a house burglar complaining that the homeowners did not leave him sufficient snacks to munch on while he ransacked the premises.) [63264]

According to the Associated Press, Obama “is sending three White House officials to the funeral service of [Michael Brown] the Missouri teenager whose death in a police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri, has sparked days of racial unrest. Leading the group for Monday’s service will be the chairman of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force, Broderick Johnson. My Brother’s Keeper is an Obama initiative that aims to empower young minorities. ...Also attending will be the deputy director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, Marlon Marshall, and an adviser for the office, Heather Foster.” At Townhall.com Leah Barkoukis points out that no one from the White House attended the funeral of Major General Harold Greene, the highest-ranking officer killed in the line of duty in decades (Obama played golf that day), and no White House officials attended the funeral of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The eulogy for Michael Brown will be delivered by riot inciter Al Sharpton. (Whether Sharpton will read any of Brown’s “creative” rap lyrics is not known.) [63242, 63246, 63247, 63248, 63258]

On MSNBC, network contributor Michael Eric Dyson is asked by host Melissa Harris Perry if Obama should have visited Ferguson, Missouri. Dyson (language left uncorrected) replies, “...Had we had a discursive, intellectual, ontological, that is, bone deep feeling, that [Obama] is with us, had he stood up—look at what happened after the grisly, brutal, terroristic execution of Mr. Foley. ...Obama was calm but you could tell he was upset. ...Now, we’re looking at black men in the streets of our American city being executed. That is not right. We want to see that same kind of brio. We want to feel that same kind of passion. Calm, but still upset with the fact that this is occurring. Now, [Attorney General] Eric Holder is great. Let me tell you what: Eric Holder, one of the, what, five most powerful black figures ever. Obama, Holder, Clyburn, William Gray. These figures have been extraordinarily important in politics with. But, but, but, you know I’m a Christian preacher and God finally said, ‘look, I can’t send nobody else. I got to go myself.’ And I ain’t saying that Obama is Jesus, but for many of his followers he is. But I’m saying show up, dog, and show us you are seriously committed to the interests of your people because your presence says something even louder than your words.” [63381]

At NationalReview.com former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy asks, “Why has a federal civil-rights murder investigation arisen out of the tumult in a St. Louis exurb [Ferguson, Missouri]? There is only one plausible reason: Eric Holder is guilty of racial profiling. To be clear, we are not talking here about whether there was justification for the shooting of a young black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown, by a young white police officer, 28-year-old Darren Wilson. ...Whatever the outcome, though, murder—including homicide caused by a policeman’s application of excessive force—is generally not a

federal crime. It is a concern of state law. ...To constitute a civil-rights crime, it is not nearly enough for a violent act to have the 'racial overtones' assorted agitators and commentators choosing to frame the case in racial terms contend it does. To justify a federal investigation, the Justice Department must have a rational basis to believe it could prove these invidious and evil purposes *beyond a reasonable doubt*. That requires compelling evidence, not a farfetched social-justice narrative. ...Based on what is known about the unblemished six-year record of Officer Darren Wilson and the facts surrounding his shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, there is no reason to suspect racism, much less that any thought was given to Mr. Brown's federal rights during the sudden, violent exchange. There is no way this is a civil-rights case ...unless you are a backward-thinking dolt who spots racism based on nothing more than the fact that the police officer is white and the victim is black." [63675]

"...Simply stated, it is impermissible for federal investigations to be commenced in the absence of colorable suspicion based on solid evidence. Yet, despite the absence of any suggestion that Darren Wilson is a racist, we know he has been made the subject of a civil-rights investigation. ...No sooner had the looting followed the shooting than Holder ceremoniously announced a Justice Department civil-rights murder probe. Based solely on Wilson's race. ...So how could Holder be what he purports to abhor, a racial profiler? It is because his selectively zealous anti-racism is the necessary flipside of his race obsession. This obsession holds that racism is America's original, indelible sin. Crusading for 'racial justice'—understood as *desired outcome*, not *due process*—becomes the highest cause. And the crusade can never end, no matter how objectively just society has become, because that would put the crusaders out of business ...and out of power. ...As Professor [Victor Davis] Hanson described this mindset, to Holder's ilk laws are just 'constructs that legitimize the prejudices of the wealthy and the privileged of society.' Thus, the attorney general's job is not to enforce laws; it is to use them to even the score—or run roughshod over them if they are not useful to the social-justice enterprise. ...A Justice Department that devolves from a bulwark of the rule of law to a bridge between law and lawlessness, between civil-rights enforcement and civil-rights offense, is not a Justice Department worth having. Neither is an attorney general who would lead it so." [63675]

White House Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes says, "We're not going to be restricted by borders" when it comes to defending national security," and "We've shown time and again that if there's a counter-terrorism threat, we'll take direct action against that threat, if necessary." (That the Deputy National Security Adviser would want to take action *against* a *counter*-terrorism activity should leave some Americans worried.) [63870, 63871]

On August 24 a magnitude 6.0 earthquake strikes northern California, near Napa Valley. FoxNews.com reports, "Leslie Gordon of the U.S. Geological Survey says the tremor struck just before 3:30 a.m. Sunday local time, about 10 miles northwest of American Canyon, which is about 6 miles southwest of Napa." There are at least 100 injuries but no reported deaths. (How long it will be before envirosocialists blame "global warming" is not known.) [63234, 63272]

Fox News also reports, “American and British intelligence officials are eyeing a British-born rapper as the militant who beheaded journalist James Foley. A senior Western intelligence official told Fox News that 23-year-old London rapper Abdel Majed Abdel Bary [who NYPost.com notes ‘recently tweeted a photo of himself holding up a severed head’] is the suspect believed to be Foley’s executioner. U.S. intelligence officials are not commenting publicly on the reports, but a well-placed source told Fox News that Bary’s Egyptian-born father was extradited from London to the United States in 2012 for his alleged connection to Usama bin Laden and the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa. Bary traveled to Syria last year to fight with ISIS, the source said. The Sunday Times and Sunday People identified Bary as a member of a group of at least three British-born ISIS fighters known among former hostages as ‘The Beatles.’ ...According to The Mail on Sunday, the ‘Beatles’ ...boasted that they had made millions of dollars from ransoms paid by European countries, enough to ‘retire to Kuwait or Qatar,’ as one [former] hostage told the paper. The U.S. and Britain have a policy of not paying ransom to terrorist groups in exchange for captured citizens. However, other Western countries have no such policy. The New York Times reported last month that Al Qaeda and its direct affiliates have received at least \$125 million in ransom money since 2008, paid by European countries like France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Switzerland.” According to NYPost.com, Bary—known as “L Jinny”—“appeared in music videos posted on YouTube for songs titled ‘Overdose,’ ‘Flying High’ and ‘Dreamer.’ But he was reportedly radicalized by followers of firebrand-Islamic preacher Anjem Choudary and walked out of his family’s plush home in the Maida Vale district of London last year, saying he was ‘leaving everything for the sake of Allah.’” (Despite having left everything “for the sake of Allah,” State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf has insisted, “ISIL does not operate in the name of any religion.” Harf is perhaps unaware of the meaning of “Allah.”) [63120, 63151, 63162, 63180, 63220, 63235, 63244, 63245, 63259]

On Martha’s Vineyard, Secret Service agents block Vocativ.com journalists from photographing Michelle Obama as she “power walks” with several friends. [63402, 63484]

The Sunday Times reports that Obama waited nearly 30 days to decide whether to authorize a mission to rescue journalist James Foley. “Pentagon sources said Foley and the others might well have been rescued but Obama, concerned about the ramifications of US troops being killed or captured in Syria, took too long to authorise the mission. ...Anthony Shaffer, a former lieutenant-colonel in US military intelligence who worked on covert operations, said: ‘I’m told it was almost a 30-day delay from when they said they wanted to go to when he finally gave the green light. They were ready to go in June to grab the guy [Foley] and they weren’t permitted.’” Breitbart.com writes, “However, it also seems worth noting that the eventual timing of the mission may have made for a nice July 4th weekend announcement for Obama had the mission succeeded. Instead, Obama played golf on July 5th, as well as an additional six times in the month he is said to have spent agonizing over his decision, the delay of which may have cost journalist Foley his life.” Another Defense Department source comments, “The White House constantly goes back and forth on these things. These people are a bunch of academics who endlessly

analyse stuff and ordering [sic; order] up another deep-thinking paper but can't decide what to order for lunch." (Clearly, Obama worried that if the mission failed and U.S. troops were lost, he would be compared with Jimmy Carter. Obama's placing his legacy and approval ratings ahead of the mission may have been Foley's death warrant.) [63301, 63302, 63303, 63329, 63365, 63366, 63386, 63435]

The al-Qaeda-tied terrorist al-Nusra Front, also called Jabhat al-Nusrah, releases American hostage Peter Theo Curtis. Secretary of State John Kerry states, "Particularly after a week marked by unspeakable tragedy, we are all relieved and grateful knowing that Theo Curtis is coming home after so much time held in the clutches of Jabhat al-Nusrah." According to Bloomberg.com, "Curtis, 45, worked as a journalist in Yemen before going to Syria, where he was captured in October 2012 and held by Jabhat al-Nusrah or by splinter groups allied with it... Islamic State militants may be holding two dozen or more hostages, including American journalist Steven Satloff, whom the group threatened to kill if U.S. airstrikes continue, intelligence officials have said." [63249, 63250, 63255]

On *America's News Headquarters*, retired Army Lieutenant General Thomas McInerney warns of possible terrorist attacks: "We may even see a 9/11/14, MH370 resurface again. [MH370 refers to the missing Malaysian Airlines plane.] We should be prepared for anything. We should go to DEFCON 1, which is our highest state of [military] readiness, and be prepared as we lead up to 9/11. ...America should take notice. We are less safe today than we were six years ago." According to McInerney, "On the seventh of September" a book will be released that will be "earth-shattering" with its description of "what's happening and what happened." (McInerney provides no details, but his statement suggests the book will be about the missing Malaysian Airlines plane and terrorism. One book, *Goodnight Malaysian 370: The Truth Behind the Loss of Flight 370*, was released on August 10. That book claims the pilot intentionally starved the passengers of oxygen and then ditched the plane in the Indian Ocean. Another book, *Flight MH370: The Mystery*, claims the plane was shot down during a joint U.S.-Thai military exercise.) At RedState.com Aaron Gardner writes, "Well, this has never happened. The United States has never gone to DEFCON 1 for the simple reason that it would mean that Nuclear War is imminent. The closest we have come is DEFCON 2 and that was during the Cuban Missile Crisis. If what McInerney's people are telling him is true, and we really do need to go to DEFCON 1, then the excrement is on an imminent course of impact with the rotary wind device [the shit is about to hit the fan]. ...I don't know when I last heard a retired general go on television and beg for DEFCON 1. We live in interesting times." [63294, 63295, 63296, 63297, 63298, 63299, 63300, 63352]

National Review Online's Jim Geraghty tweets, "Pointless for Obama to stop golfing now. It will seem like caving to critics and generate lots of stories about why he had to stop. No?" IowaHawkBlog's David Burge responds, "It's like an episode of the Twilight Zone—the man who was forced to golf FOREVER." [63252, 63253, 63254]

A restaurant in Winooski, Vermont removes a sign that advertises its bacon—because it offended one of the town's Muslims who claimed it was "insensitive to those who do not

consume pork.” (At the very least, the removal of the sign probably helps avoid a visit from a rapid-response team from the Department of Justice. Some might argue, of course, that the removal of the sign is not the news; it is the fact that Muslims live in Winooski, Vermont.) [63304, 63305, 63448, 63548]

On CNN’s *State of the Union*, “Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) is asked by Candy Crowley if he would support action against ISIS in Syria. He responds, “If it is directly related to a threat to the United States or our interests there... a specific threat to the United States in the region or worldwide even, then I think we have the obligation to go in and take out that threat. ...[T]he most effective use of our force is not putting troops on the ground but using capable troops like the Kurds with air strikes... What we sort of have to do is have the Iraqis reorganize their military so it’s no longer politicized, it’s an effective military force. Then, with that kind of leadership... we can use Iraqi security forces and, very rarely but, at times, American air power to make the difference.” [63251]

Also appearing on *State of the Union* is Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who warns, “I would argue that the intel that we’ve been provided in Congress is that there are hundreds of American citizens holding U.S. passports, [and] there are European citizens going to the fight [with ISIS/ISIL]. They can penetrate America by having European and U.S. passports. ...If our military commanders tell us that we need ground forces to defeat ISIL, which is a threat to the United States, so be it. We have got to win and stop these guys. ...I hope the new mission is to defeat and destroy ISIL as a threat to our homeland. We should, in my view, look at ISIL as a direct threat to the United States, a threat to the region that cannot be accommodated. The strategy has to meet the threat.” Graham says he has no problem with Obama taking vacations; his concern is that Obama’s “strategy of leading from behind and [having a] light footprint has failed. He has to realize, as President George W. Bush did, that his strategy is not working. President Bush adjusted his strategy when it was failing, and he brought about a surge that worked. ...Obama has to admit to himself, if no one else, that what he’s doing is not working.” [63267]

Graham also says, “It’s about time now to assume the worst about these [ISIS] guys, rather than underestimating them. They’re not the J.V. team anymore. They’re the most prominent terrorist organization in the world, but they’re not the only one. They’re in competition with the other jihadist groups. And the gold medal will be awarded to the group that can hit America. They’re fighting for status with al-Qaeda, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Nusra. All of these guys are bidding for future recruits and status, and the gold medal goes to the one that can hit us here at home. To those who underestimate this threat, you do so at America’s peril.” [63323]

Former CIA head Michael Hayden tells CNN, “This [the threat of an ISIS attack] is a question of timing, not inevitability, not of intent. And right now I think it’s fair to say that ISIS is a very powerful *local* terrorist organization and probably a reasonably powerful *regional* terrorist organization, but it’s one that has global ambitions. And it has the tools... American passport holders, European passport holders. It’s expressed the intent [to attack the United States], and so, if it’s is not Tuesday [for example], it’s at a

time and place of their choosing. And it will come probably sooner rather than later.” [63502, 63503]

On *Meet the Press*, Al Sharpton is asked about his status as a White House surrogate on race relations issues. He responds, “First of all, I’m not a surrogate. I have access to the White House in every era going back to Lincoln with Frederick Douglass. Presidents talk to those that [sic; who] were leading at that time.” (Inasmuch as Sharpton was born in 1954, it is difficult to comprehend how he had access to the White House in the 1860s.) “I went to Ferguson because the family; the grandfather called to ask me to come. The White House called while I was there, talked to me, the head of the NAACP and others. So it’s not a surrogate, it is a customary, traditional role.” [63265]

Also on *Meet the Press*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, warns that ISIS terrorists “are one plane ticket away from U.S. shores” because so many of them have British or U.S. passports that would enable them to easily enter the country. Roger disputes the argument that al-Qaeda considers ISIS “too barbaric,” explaining that the differences between the groups related to tactics and goals: “It was all about direction, control of those individuals.” Al-Qaeda wanted the ISIS fighters to focus on Syria, while ISIS leaders wanted to attack western targets. [63282, 63321]

On *Face the Nation*, former deputy director of the CIA Mike Morell warns, “I think there’s [sic; there are] three things we have to worry about [with ISIS]. Two are short-term, one is long-term. The two short-term pieces are number one: will they inspire somebody here to conduct an attack? The second is that there are a number of Americans, a number of Canadians and a number of west Europeans who went to Syria to join ISIS to fight with them. Any one of those could be directed back to the United States to conduct a small-scale attack. Over the long-term, two and a half, three years, we need to worry about a 9/11 style attack by ISIS.” [63265]

On ABC’s *This Week*, host George Stephanopoulos asks *Weekly Standard* editor Bill Kristol, “It struck me how quickly this has all moved. From ISIS being a minor threat, [Obama] talking about it several months ago as the ‘junior varsity,’ to now ‘an imminent threat,’ the words of [Secretary of Defense] Chuck Hagel, to the United States. And I guess I wonder, is there a danger here of overreacting?” Kristol responds, “The fundamental danger remains under-reaction. ...I would like a little overreaction by [Obama] now. He’s coming back from his vacation. He should go to Congress right away to get an authorization. But meanwhile, he’s acting under the War Powers Act and he shouldn’t wait. He shouldn’t wait. There’s a huge amount of bombing and damage that could be done to ISIS tomorrow if [Obama] orders it.” *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan adds, “What was very interesting the past week, was the comments of Chuck Hagel. Not a burly, pro-war figure. Someone who has been skeptical in the past [who is now] saying, this is the biggest and worst thing we have seen in a long time. The comments of General [Martin] Dempsey saying, essentially the same thing. Something big and bad is happening here. It’s part of the reason [Obama] was so criticized for not

saying what, in fact, I think Hagel and Dempsey said. Do you know what I mean? *They* were making presidential-type statements.” [63306]

Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX), tells Stephanopoulos, “I do think they [ISIS terrorists] present the greatest threat we’ve seen since 9/11. This has been festering for the last year, and now it’s culminating with the killing and the beheading of an American journalist. ...The American people—it has sort of opened their eyes to what ISIS really is, the true character of ISIS, how savage they really are and ...their intent to harm Americans. ...Their focus right now is establishing the caliphate. But don’t kid yourself for a second, they are intent on hitting the west. And there are external operations, I believe, under way. We have tens of thousands of foreign fighters from all over the world pouring into this safe haven that’s now been established, including hundreds of Americans with Western passports and legal travel documents, which would enable them not only to travel to Western Europe, but to the United States. ...I believe that America, the United States, shouldn’t bear this burden alone. We have regional allies, both Muslim allies and European allies, that can bring a lot of pressure on ISIS. And I don’t think you’re going to... win this with a containment policy alone. This administration thus far has only dealt with containment. We need to expand these air strikes so that we can ultimately defeat and eliminate ISIS, because I would far prefer to eliminate them over there than have to deal with them in the United States.” [63307, 63308, 63322]

Retired General John Allen adds, “It’s going to take more than what we’re doing right now, George. There’s just no question of this. We need to give the American public more clarity in terms of our commitment solely using the terms boots on the ground. I think we’ve been very clear that we don’t want to put American maneuver forces necessarily, conventional maneuver forces back on the ground, but we have really significant capabilities to provide special operators into these formations, both at the tribal level, some of the more recently emerging Sunni conventional forces that are appearing in northwest Iraq, the Free Syrian Army, and Sunni tribes in Syria.” [63308]

On *Fox News Sunday*, veteran *Washington Post* journalist Bob Woodward says, “I think you’ve got to look at what’s the threat. There’s a big debate in the intelligence community about whether ISIS is going to send people to the United States to attack here. Let’s remember, I hate to go back to 9/11, but it’s a critical turning point here. Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 19 hijackers, spent—as best we have been able to tell—\$400,000 on that attack. It was pretty cheap. He came here a year before, planned it in a very sophisticated way. And if you have a very aggressive, unfortunately, talented middle manager like that, you can do something very, very serious. And everyone says ISIS has got more money, and has this vengeance quotient.” [63266]

A memorial mass is held in Rochester, New Hampshire for slain journalist James Foley. (No one from the White House attends, even though three officials are being dispatched to the August 25 funeral of Michael Brown.) [63401]

Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, tweets, “This pic says it all—@NMDEMS are motivated and ready to win!...” (The

photograph shows her addressing a group of decidedly unmotivated New Mexico residents, most of whom look like senior citizens impatiently waiting for a bingo game to start.) [63377, 63378]

About one thousand Iraqi-American Christians rally in downtown Detroit. According to *Detroit Free Press*, “The rally was one of several that have been held in recent weeks by metro Detroit’s sizable Iraqi-American Christian population, one of the biggest in the U.S. Protests have been held in Southfield, Sterling Heights, Birmingham and Troy to call attention to the growing violent attacks on Iraqi Christians and other minorities such as Yazidis. They also are meeting with officials to gain support for humanitarian relief.” (The next day, a group of Muslim leaders meet in Dearborn, Michigan to denounce ISIS.) [63361, 63362, 63375]

At Shoebat.com Walid Shoebat reports, “Between 5 to 7 thousand supporters of ISIS have announced themselves officially in Jordan, and the organization began to raise its flag in several provinces starting from Ma’an. The sudden development with show of arms in the main roads, and the fighters even began to stop government convoys amid a barrage of bullets and shouts of Allahu Akbar, which raised the ire of observers to the absence of the state and security agencies to prosecute, monitor and follow up on these moves for the supporters of ISIS. The three videos were traded through social networking sites and YouTube, which show Jordanians carrying machine guns, one of which was in front of a police car and a security patrol which did not move to stop them while ISIS supporters showered the sky with shots to celebrate the departure of an ISIS supporter... from prison.” [63271]

After seizing control of the airport in Tripoli, Libya, radical Islamists proclaim their own government. According to GulfNews.com, “Fajr Libya (Operation Dawn), a coalition of Islamist and Misrata forces, captured the airport on Saturday in fierce fighting against pro-government militias after a five-week siege that has battered parts of the capital. Television images from the scene showed jubilant bearded militias dancing on wrecked airliners, firing machine guns in the air and chanting ‘Allah O Akbar’ (‘God is great’). On Sunday, they set the airport buildings ablaze, apparently intending to destroy rather than hold it. The victory, which secures Islamist control over Tripoli, was a culmination of weeks of fighting triggered by elections in July which Islamist parties lost. Rather than accept the result, Islamist leaders accused the new parliament of being dominated by supporters of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi, and have sought to restore the old national congress.” (Pamela Geller asks, “Isn’t it astonishing how the media never queries Obama on his devastating failures in Libya and North Africa?” The civil war in Libya is a direct result of Obama’s efforts to help rebels oust Gaddafi. Although Gaddafi was certainly no humanitarian and no friend of the United States, Libya was not a threat to the United States. Increasingly it now may be, because of Obama.) [63277, 63293, 63388]

NYTimes.com reports, “Twice in the last seven days, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have secretly teamed up to launch airstrikes against Islamist-allied militias battling for control of Tripoli, Libya, four senior American officials said, in a major

escalation between the supporters and opponents of political Islam. The United States, the officials said, was caught by surprise: Egypt and the Emirates, both close allies and military partners, acted without informing Washington or seeking its consent, leaving the Obama administration on the sidelines. Egyptian officials explicitly denied the operation to American diplomats, the officials said. The strikes are the most high-profile and high-risk salvo unleashed in a struggle for power that has broken out across the region in the aftermath of the Arab Spring revolts, pitting old-line Arab autocrats against Islamists. ...American officials said the Egyptians and the Emirates had teamed up against an Islamist target inside Libya at least once before.” [63324, 63421, 63595]

“In recent months, the officials said, teams of ‘special forces’ operating out of Egypt but possibly composed primarily of Emirates had also successfully destroyed an Islamist camp near the eastern Libyan city of Derna, an extremist stronghold. Several officials said in recent days that United States diplomats were fuming about the airstrikes, believing the intervention could further inflame the Libyan conflict as the United Nations and Western powers are seeking to broker a peaceful resolution. Officials said the government of Qatar has already provided weapons and support to the Islamist-aligned forces inside Libya, so the new strikes represent a shift from a battle of proxies to direct involvement. It could also set off an arms race on both sides. ...The strikes have also, so far, proved counterproductive. Islamist-aligned militias fighting for control of Tripoli successfully seized its main airport just hours after they were hit with the second round of strikes.” (The airstrikes by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates prove that those nations no longer trust or have confidence in the United States—or at least the Obama administration.) [63324, 63421, 63595]

Britain’s *Mirror* reports, “A British jihadist feared to be one of The Beatles militants behind US journalist James Foley’s killing has claimed Allah makes beheading victims ‘easy.’ Abu Abdullah al-Britani, who fled the UK for Syria earlier this year, made the horrific claim while admitting he was ready to die fighting for the Islamic State. He told of his terror training and revealed his fitness regime to keep fit for battle. Chillingly, he even bragged that ‘wrist exercises’ made it easier to cut off enemies’ heads. Until now his only contact with the outside world has been warped comments online, where he has posted pictures of life as an insurgent. But now he has stepped out of the shadows to speak to one of our men acting on a tip-off that al-Britani, 23, was communicating through an obscure messaging app. Speaking a day after the sickening video emerged of American James Foley, 40, being beheaded, al-Britani said he had no fears about carrying out similar atrocities in Syria.” [63278, 63279]

WND.com reports, “Abdul Maulana Aziz, a follower of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar who led the infamous Red Mosque rebellion in Pakistan, has declared his support for the newly formed Islamic State, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. ...Aziz’s backing of Baghdadi is seen as ominous by Western intelligence, since he is close to such groups as Sipa-e-Sahaba and the Tehnik-i-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, which seek the overthrow—even by violent means—of the Pakistani government, which possesses nuclear weapons. Aziz has vowed that Islam will ‘spread all over Pakistan, then all over the world.’” [63281]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Since Illinois started granting concealed carry permits this year, the number of robberies that have led to arrests in Chicago has declined 20 percent from last year, according to police department statistics. Reports of burglary and motor vehicle theft are down 20 percent and 26 percent, respectively. In the first quarter, the city’s homicide rate was at a 56-year low. ...As of July 29 the state had 83,183 applications for concealed carry and had issued 68,549 licenses. ...Illinois became the 50th state in the nation to issue concealed weapons permits. An individual permit costs about \$600 and requires at least 16 hours of classes.” Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association, observes, “It isn’t any coincidence crime rates started to go down when concealed carry was permitted. Just the idea that the criminals don’t know who’s armed and who isn’t has a deterrence effect. The police department hasn’t changed a single tactic—they haven’t announced a shift in policy or of course—and yet you have these incredible numbers.” [63313]

Obama ends his two-week vacation and returns to the White House. [63291, 63292, 63311]

WSJ.com reports that “Burger King Worldwide Inc. is in talks to buy Canadian coffee-and-doughnut chain Tim Hortons Inc., a deal that would be structured as a so-called tax inversion and move the hamburger seller’s base to Canada.” TheBlaze.com writes, “As many outlets have noted, tax inversion deals have been taking off this year, so much so that earlier this month ...Obama’s administration said [Obama] was considering issuing an executive order to put the brakes on fleeing American corporations. A high-profile deal like Burger King’s move to Canada could call the bluff of the White House and the Treasury Department.” (Obama cannot legally change the tax code with an executive order—but that wouldn’t stop him from trying. While Obama considers ways to penalize such corporate moves, he seems quite uninterested in lowering the U.S. corporate tax rate—because that would mean negotiating with Congress.) White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “I have read reports that this is a specific financial transaction that is being contemplated by a specific American company. I’m not in a position to comment on those specific transactions.” [63325, 63326, 63372, 63374, 63385, 63394, 63416, 63438, 63439, 63457, 63458, 63505, 63547, 63642]

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) calls for a boycott of Burger King, and Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MI) tweets, “@BurgerKing wants your money. Now they want you to pay their taxes too. Time to ditch the Whopper?” (Responses to Van Hollen’s tweet include: “Taxes drive BK to Canada? Is that what it means to have it your way?” “Nope. Best of luck in Canada @BurgerKing. Sorry govt. doesn’t understand taxes are too high for all.” “Sorry Congressman it’s global competition & we’re getting our butt kicked. Get off yours lower the corp tax rate” “stop blaming @BurgerKing for your failed policies. Be a man & take responsibility for your actions w/out spinning blame.” “YOUR FAULT. Fix ridiculous corporate tax rates and stop whining like a baby” and “Taxes aren’t an ATM machine for government spending. You’ve made it too difficult for @BurgerKing to do business in the US.” Razor tweets: “Q: Difference between Burger King and Obama? A: One’s a creepy king known for whoppers, and the other’s a fastfood chain

bolting high taxes.”) [63325, 63326, 63372, 63374, 63385, 63394, 63416, 63438, 63457, 63458, 63505]

BusinessWeek.com later provides more information about the Burger King action: “Canada’s corporate tax rate is 26.5 percent, which is considerably lower than the 40 [sic; 35] percent rate in the U.S. But Burger King only pays an estimated 27 percent. ‘We don’t expect our tax rate to change materially,’ Burger King Chief Executive Daniel Schwartz said in a conference call today. ‘This transaction is not really about taxes. It’s about growth.’ It’s easier to understand Burger King’s motivation if you know something about 3G [3G Capital Management], the Brazilian private equity firm that bought Burger King in 2010 and owns 70 percent of its shares. The people at 3G are bankers; they acquire companies and grow them through acquisitions. ... This deal makes sense for several reasons. Burger King doesn’t have much of a breakfast business. Tim Hortons is a coffee-and-doughnuts joint; even if Schwartz maintains the chains as two separate brands, as he says he intends to, breakfast dollars accrue to Burger King. Schwartz can probably also convince the company’s deep-pocketed overseas franchisees to add Tim Hortons to their mix of restaurant offerings, although it remains to be seen whether a Canadian coffee chain will have the same appeal as the company’s flagship. Best of all, there are undoubtedly cost-cutting opportunities at Tim Hortons. Bloomberg News reports that Tim Hortons’ profit margin was 25 percent last year, compared with 50 percent at Dunkin’ Brands.” (Not surprisingly, politicians like Brown and Van Hollen are distorting the reality of the issue in order to score points with uninformed voters. It is worth remembering that the Obama administration, which opposes Burger King’s move, eagerly forced the sale of Chrysler to Italy’s Fiat.) [63413, 63422]

On August 25 Deutsche Welle reports, “Islamic State fighters have captured a major military air base in northeastern Syria. The facility was the last government-held outpost in a province otherwise dominated by the Islamist group. After several failed attempts to breach the facility in recent days, fighters from the ‘Islamic State’ (IS) managed to storm the Tabqa air base Sunday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The SANA state news agency also confirmed that the government had lost the air base, saying troops ‘are successfully reassembling after evacuating the airport and are continuing to strike precise blows at the terrorist groups in the area.’ ... The airfield—home to several warplane [MIG-21B] squadrons, helicopters, tanks, artillery, and ammunition bunkers—is located some 45 kilometers (25 miles) from the extremists’ stronghold in the city of Raqqa along the Euphrates River.” (There were reportedly 1,600 Syrian troops at the base, yet they were still defeated.) Whether ISIS has anyone capable of flying the captured aircraft is not known, but later reports claim ISIS is forcing captured Syrian pilots to teach its jihadists how to fly. [63275, 63276, 63312, 63320, 63492, 63493, 63700, 63701]

The Obama administration criticizes the airstrikes in Libya by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, with State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki telling reporters, “We believe outside interference in Libya exacerbates current divisions and undermines Libya’s democratic transition.” HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey later comments, “How did this possibility of a proxy war arise in the first place? The Obama administration led a

NATO effort to decapitate the Moammar Qaddafi regime without putting any boots on the ground to shape the outcome and prevent the inevitable power vacuum from the collapse. That's what makes American whining about 'outside interference' so hypocritical, and the claim that Libya is undergoing a 'democratic transition' utterly risible. Tripoli isn't being *liberated by democrats*, but captured by radical Islamists who will impose another dictatorship on the ancient city. That's the outcome that Egypt and the UAE want to prevent, and that's especially important to Egypt. Sisi's military government has outlawed the Muslim Brotherhood, the parent organization of these radical terrorist networks, after Mohamed Morsi tried to impose a *shari'a* state on Egypt after an election. They want the secular militias to emerge as the controlling clique instead. That may not sound palatable to the Obama administration—but that's precisely the outcome that the administration favored in Syria, and the strategy which it's attempting to follow there now after the rise of ISIS. To call this finger-wagging incoherent is an exercise in understatement. It's difficult to know what 'democratic transition' this administration believes is in process in Libya, because it exists only in their fantasy world where their foreign policy has enjoyed the entirety of its success." [63324, 63421, 63449, 63454]

General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, changes his tune on ISIS and, according to NBCNews.com, tells reporters "he would recommend against American airstrikes on ISIS in Syria because there is no evidence that ISIS is involved in 'active plotting against the homeland' or Europe." (On August 21 Dempsey said ISIS is "an immediate threat... because of open borders and immigration issues. ...This is an organization that has an apocalyptic, end-of-days strategic vision and which will eventually have to be defeated. [Can ISIS] be defeated without addressing that part of their organization which resides in Syria? The answer is no. That will have to be addressed on both sides of what is essentially at this point a non-existent border.") The revised statement suggests the White House scolded Dempsey for strongly suggesting the possibility of air strikes against ISIS in Syria. [63088, 63094, 63139, 63183, 63194, 63195, 63205, 63207, 63211, 63284, 63358, 63420]

Obama appoints Heidi Shierholz to the position of chief economist at the Department of Labor. According to FreeBeacon.com, Shierholz "is a far-left activist who has worked for a think tank funded by labor unions, founded by George Soros, and that is in league with the Democracy Alliance. ...Her most prominent research has focused on pet issues of the Obama administration. She has supported Obama's \$10.10 minimum wage proposal that the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says will cut as many as 1 million jobs and has dedicated much of her work to solving income inequality through redistributing wealth." [63432]

At DCClothesline.com Dave Hodges reports on long-range Obama administration schemes to keep people in cities and stop suburban sprawl, partly by punishing people who move to the suburbs. "The real brains behind the coming Agenda 21-inspired mass migration from the suburbs to the inner cities is Mike Krulig and his new group of community advisers, Building One America. Most of you have never heard of Krulig or Building One America and there is a good reason for their anonymity. If a majority of the

American people ever discovered Krulig's true intentions for suburban dwelling Americans, they would chase him down the street and string him and his people up from the nearest light poles. The secretive agenda of Building One America has been mostly achieved by Obama's appointment of like-minded community activists to his staff. In fact, Krulig was one of Obama's original community organizing mentors from [his] Chicago Southside days. ...Krulig's Agenda 21 Building One America group proposes the creation of a regional tax-base, sharing revenues in which suburban tax money is directly redistributed to nearby cities and economically depressed concentric zones of inner-ring suburbs. Building One America also seeks to move the poor out of cities by **imposing mandatory low-income-housing quotas for middle-class suburban developments.**" (In other words, suburbanites would be taxed to subsidize the lives of the residents of the cities they thought they had left behind.)" [63441]

"...Krulig's group also seeks to export the controversial regional tax-base sharing scheme currently in place in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to the rest of the country. Under this program, a portion of suburban tax money flows into a common regional pot, which is then effectively redistributed to urban, and a few less well-off 'inner-ring' suburban, municipalities. The Minneapolis-St. Paul area regional government is run by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats (i.e. Commissars) who are out of control." (These are "redistribute the wealth" schemes that will use high taxes and vehicle mileage fees to punish any white Americans who dare to flee to the suburbs to escape collapsing cities like Detroit and Chicago. Of course, the taxes would also punish middle-class blacks who also seek better lives for their families, but they are simply "collateral damage" in Obama's eyes.) [63441]

Judicial Watch's Tom Fitton tells Fox News' Shannon Bream he was told by a Department of Justice attorney that backup copies of former IRS employee Lois Lerner's emails do, in fact, exist. (That does not mean the IRS will act expeditiously to extract or release them, of course.) Fitton says, "They say it would be too hard to go get Lois Lerner's emails from that back-up system. So everything we've been hearing about scratched hard drives, about missing e-mails of Lois Lerner, other IRS officials, other officials in the Obama administration—it's all been a pack of malarkey. They could get these records but they don't want to. ...It's all been a big lie, they've been lying to the courts, the American people, and to Congress. It's really outrageous." Despite the importance of the story, it is not mentioned by NBC, CBS, and ABC on their evening news broadcasts. (Someone from the IRS should go to jail for lying to Congress. Whether anyone will remains to be seen.) [63285, 63286, 63287, 63331, 63364, 63368, 63376, 63380, 63391, 63399, 63400]

Former FBI director Louis Freeh, age 64, is injured in a mysterious daytime, one-car crash in rural Vermont. (WhoWhatWhy.com later writes, "A still unidentified FBI agent was one of the first people to arrive at the accident scene, according to police. He was apparently from out of state. What he was doing there is still not clear. Police believed him to be off-duty, but could not say with certainty.") [64255, 64256]

During the coverage of Michael Brown's funeral, a CNN reporter mistakenly identifies the father of Trayvon Martin, Tracy Martin, as the father of Michael Brown. CNN also describes the situation as "a mother laying her son to rest," as if Brown had no father. The network broadcasts the funeral live, as though Brown were a head-of-state—and not the robber of a convenience store. Three White House officials are present—which is three times the number Obama sent to the funeral of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. [63242, 63246, 63247, 63248, 63258, 63288, 63289, 63290, 63319]

To his credit, Al Sharpton tells funeral attendees, "Some of us act like the definition of blackness is how low you can go. Blackness has never been about being a gangster or thug. Blackness was, no matter how low we were pushed down, we rose up anyhow. Blackness was never surrendering our pursuit of excellence. It was when it was against the law to go to some schools, we built black colleges and learned anyhow. When we couldn't go downtown to church, we built our own... We never surrendered. We never gave up. ...[But] Now you want to be a nigger and call your woman a ho. You've lost where you come from. We've got to clean up our community so we can clean up the United States of America. ...[N]obody [is] gonna [sic] help us if we don't help ourselves. Sittin' around, feeling sorry for ourselves won't solve the problems." [63327, 63616]

Rockets are fired at Israel from Lebanon. TimesofIsrael.com notes, "It was the third consecutive day in which Israel came under rocket fire from the north as well from the Gaza Strip in the south." (Pamela Geller writes, "Lebanon bears watching. Hezb' Allah [had] better be careful—they are in the Islamic State's sights as well (Hezb' Allah is Shia and the Islamic State is Sunni). Hezb' Allah needs Israel in order to survive." [63359]

On MSNBC, reporter Chris Jansing says, "I can tell you that the executive action [Obama] is considering on immigration is not expected this week, it's not expected until he gets back to [sic; from] a trip to Europe, to Estonia and Wales, which will happen next week, and senior White House officials tell... us that [amnesty] supporters should not expect something huge, that what he does will probably affect somewhere in the neighborhood of maybe five million undocumented [illegal] immigrants." (That is, Obama will break the law on behalf of "only" five million illegals immigrants, but not all of them.) [63318]

In a fundraising email for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), Obama says, "If the GOP gains just six seats, the same Republicans who just voted to sue me will control both Houses of Congress. Republicans will control everything in Congress from Medicare to education. I don't need to tell you how devastating the consequences would be." [63328]

Obama authorizes the use of surveillance drones in Syria, and President Bashar al-Assad demands his permission be requested before any airstrikes are launched against ISIS targets in Syria. TheGuardian.com reports, "Syria has declared it is ready to help confront the rising threat from the Islamic State group but warned the US against carrying out air strikes on its territory without the consent of Damascus, saying any such attack would be considered an aggression. Walid al-Moallem, the Syrian foreign minister, said his

government was ready 'to co-operate and co-ordinate' with any side, including the US, or join any regional or international alliance against Isis. But he said any military action inside Syria should be co-ordinated with the Syrian government. 'Any strike which is not co-ordinated with the government will be considered as aggression,' he said." At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty writes, "[T]he current administration is only leaving themselves with two outs: (1) Do nothing militarily and risk more Syrian government losses to ISIS forces as they expand their caliphate. Or (2) conduct limited military airstrikes in the region unilaterally, thus possibly aiding Assad and fanning the flames of mistrust between Washington and Damascus." [63330, 63379, 63407, 63408]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tries to provide cover for the "jayvee team" comment made by Obama, telling reporters, "It's important to understand the context. [Obama] was not singling out [the Islamic State, or ISIS]. He was talking about the very different threat that is posed by a range of extremists around the globe." (Obama said in January, "The analogy we use around here sometimes, and I think is accurate, is if a JV team puts on Lakers uniforms that doesn't make them Kobe Bryant." By claiming that Obama did not *mean* ISIS, he is essentially saying that Obama was *ignoring* ISIS—which is arguably just as disturbing. But, in fact, Obama's JayVee remark was in response to a question from *The New Yorker's* David Remnick, who *specifically* referred to ISIS and its capture of Mosul. Earnest is lying. *The Washington Post* later gives "four Pinocchios" to Earnest for his whopper of a fabrication.) Remarkably, when asked about the "optics" of Obama heading to the golf course immediately after his James Foley remarks, Earnest says, "I think understandably people look at a lot of things that happen in this town through a political lens. That's an understandable pursuit. That's just not how we look at them." (Understanding the absurdity of the comment and knowing it will be ridiculed, the White House removes the video of the exchange from its web site.) [63354, 63355, 63367, 63411, 63509, 63841, 63854]

International Business Times, noting the increasing amount of doubt about the video showing the beheading of journalist James Foley, writes, "Conspiracy theories suggest that the entire beheading itself could have been faked" and lists several arguments in favor of a hoax. "A study of the four-minute 40-second clip, carried out by an international forensic science company and published by The Australian, notes that no blood can be seen, though the knife is drawn across Foley's neck at least six times. The report also noted that the sounds, allegedly made by Foley, are not consistent with a real execution scenario. The report concluded that the video has to be a fake as there was no incision made on Foley's neck." Second, the video itself is edited: "The video fades to black the moment the beheading starts and ends with the bloody image of the decapitated head lying over the body." Additionally, no one speaks in Arabic or chants "Allahu Akbar." "The video is too polished for an Islamic State. Most beheading and other videos made by militants, which circulate online, are generally amateurish with poor video and audio quality. The Foley execution video was shot on an HD camera, and with more than one camera. Also, the audio is extremely clean and the video was edited by a professional." "A conspiracy theory suggests that the entire execution was shot using a green screen. Though the masked militant dressed in black is seen standing in a desert-like land, neither his dress nor his shoes look dusty. There is no sign of even wind

activity, which is highly unlikely for a desert terrain.” “Another conspiracy suggests that Foley’s parents are crisis actors. The theory notes that it is highly abnormal for parents, who just witnessed the beheading of their son on video, to appear before the media in less than 24-hours, ‘full of smiles and nice sunny memories.’” Even the *Times of London* writes, “The video of a British jihadist beheading an American hostage was probably staged, with the actual murder taking place off-camera, according to forensic analysis.” [63332, 63333, 63334, 63335, 63336, 63337, 63338, 63341, 63344, 63345, 63346, 63436, 63437, 63480]

In an interview with Yahoo News’ Katie Couric, Katie and Michael Foley, the brother and sister of James Foley, also smile repeatedly and appear quite “griefless”—an odd reaction when one’s brother has just been beheaded. At the start of the interview a photograph on the wall behind them falls to the floor. Neither even reacts to the noise. (One suggestion is that the interview is not conducted at their home, but in a studio arranged to resemble a living room.) [63343]

At PrisonPlanet.com, Paul Joseph Watson writes, “The obvious question that arises out of this is why ISIS militants, who have quickly developed a global reputation for their barbarity and carelessness for human life, would not simply have beheaded Foley on camera without the need to stage the event.” Watson speculates, “The only logical conclusion, whether Foley was later killed or not, is that the video was not produced or released by actual ISIS militants but by western intelligence agencies to be used as a casus belli to expand military expansion in the middle east. For years we have exhaustively documented how so-called Al-Qaeda, Bin Laden and other terrorist propaganda videos were in fact produced by companies working on behalf of the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency. It has also emerged that the identity of the individual seen staging the murder, one Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, is a former rapper from a wealthy family who left London to fight in Syria. Bary fits the profile of an informant for British security services. The beheading video has been used as a poster child to push for a renewed U.S. military strike on Syria, a prospect that was derailed last year after it emerged that a supposed chemical weapons attack which was blamed on the Assad government had in all likelihood been carried out by western-backed rebels. U.S. officials have cited the ‘new context’ for confronting ISIS that was spurred by the release of the Foley beheading video, with Washington signaling its intention on Saturday to prepare a new military assault on Syria.” [63339]

At the Willyloman blog Scott Creighton writes, “The fake James Foley beheading video was so badly conceived, in order to try to maintain it’s credibility a little longer, government shills started an online social media campaign in an effort to keep Americans from watching it. But it didn’t work. Sites like mine and a few others (a few) openly discussed the flaws with the production value of the pro-war infomercial and Americans, tired of wars and the lies that bring them, found their way to the video then found their way to sites like this one as that little voice in the back of their heads said ‘uh. that’s bullshit.’ The story of James Foley’s last kneel has crumbled completely as they attempt to salvage what they can from the manufactured consent psyop. The fake head lying on the fake body is their last ditch effort to maintain some semblance of credibility. Let’s do

away with that shall we? ...Here we are a week later and the MSM is starting to have to acknowledge what most already know from just one glance at the stupid James Foley beheading video: it's as fake as Joan Rivers' face. But they can't let go of the propaganda no matter how stupid the new narrative sounds: they faked the beheading on camera and then beheaded him for real. ...As I and others have painstakingly pointed out over the past few days, the video of the beheading, the speech leading up to it, the bloodless sawing at Foley's neck with a fake stage knife... it was all stagecraft and poorly scripted, poorly acted. ...The last thing they have to hang their hats on is that final scene of their sophomoric production, the 'head on his back' money-shot. It's a fraud. A lie. A prop just like the knife. Just like James. A skilled artist made that head, not James' parents." [63340]

"...It makes no sense that ISIS would fake the beheading with a stage prop knife and then kill him off camera. That's just stupid. It makes no sense that Foley would go along with the ruse while the MI6 agent pretended to cut his head off. That's just stupid. The head on the fake body is a prop just like the knife and we should be just as diligent in promoting that 'truth to power' as we were in exposing the fake beheading itself. How many young men and women, Iraqi or American, are really going to lose their heads over this manufactured consent propaganda? I wonder if James' proud parents have wondered that while doing the talk show circuit. I wonder if they care. ...The epic fail fake James Foley beheading video has been reduced to shambles and now they desperately cling to it's tattered remains. Let's push this crap over the cliff like the WMDs story and the Yellow Cake from Niger story because unlike James Foley, you and I still have a moral center and that little voice in the back of our head that says 'bullshit.'" [63340]

Timeline readers can certainly be excused if they are confused. To some, Foley was a dedicated journalist telling "truth to power." To others, he was anti-American and sympathetic to the cause of the jihadists. To still others he is part of a sinister plot to gin up support in Great Britain and the United States for committing money and lives toward a military action to defeat ISIS. If, however, ISIS has been brutally butchering thousands of innocent people across Syria and Iraq, it would seem the proper thing to do would be to stop them—*regardless* of whether James Foley was beheaded. The 9/11 "truthers" claim that on September 11, 2001 the World Trade Center towers were felled not by airplane strikes but by controlled demolition explosives—as part of a supposed evil plot by Vice President Dick Cheney and Jews. What the "truthers" never explain is why the towers had to be collapsed in order to gin up support for war against jihadists. One would think that airliners striking the towers would have been enough to prompt Americans to respond, even if the towers had *not* collapsed. The same argument applies with the death of Foley—real or not. ISIS and other jihadists should be stopped, whether their victims are Iraqi children or American journalists. Of course, more than a few wars that could have been avoided have been started through deliberate acts of subterfuge, while some acts of war have been "transformed" into accidents in order to avoid confrontation (such as the downing of TWA Flight 800 on July 17, 1996). It is certainly possible that a beheading of Foley could have been staged in order to help "persuade" Americans—and even Obama—to return to the battlefield. It would not be the first time a nation went to war to distract citizens from a failed economy. Additionally, it is worth recalling the

words of George Orwell: “War against a foreign country only happens when the moneyed classes think they are going to profit from it.” [63427]

TheDailyBeast.com reports that ObamaCare “prohibits health insurance companies from discriminating against transgender people, and it bars insurers from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions. That makes it possible for more transgender people to purchase private plans. And in states that expanded their Medicaid programs, those with low incomes may get free coverage. The federal anti-discrimination regulations have yet to be written, but California insurance regulators have said that companies must treat transgender patients the same as other patients. For example, if plans cover hormones for post-menopausal women, they must also cover them for transgender women. Medicare, the program for the elderly and disabled, lifted its ban on covering sex reassignment surgery earlier this year. ‘The law and policy are on a transgender person’s side for the first time,’ said Anand Kalra, program administrator at the Oakland-based Transgender Law Center. Conservative and religious groups oppose using government funds for transgender surgeries, questioning whether they are medically necessary, ethical or effective. ‘We would oppose sex change operations all together,’ said Peter Sprigg, senior fellow at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. ‘But as a public policy issue, we would feel particularly strongly that taxpayers shouldn’t be asked to pay for it.’” [63347, 63348]

MilitiaNews.com reports, “The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) regained its 501(c)(3) tax exemption after it was revoked for failure to file [Form 990-N] tax returns. The group was also accused credibly of ties with Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization, although not of providing it with material support such as money or weapons. The Government has produced ample evidence to establish the associations of CAIR, ISNA and NAIT with HLF, the Islamic Association for Palestine (‘IAP’), and with Hamas. While the Court recognizes that the evidence produced by the Government largely predates the HLF designation date, the evidence is nonetheless sufficient to show the association of these entities with HLF [Holy Land Foundation, a Texas-based Palestinian charity used as a front for laundering money that eventually makes its way to the terrorist group Hamas], IAP, and Hamas. The purpose of 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status is to promote donations to genuine charitable, educational, religious, and humanitarian activities that benefit our society. It is difficult to see how promotion of illegal activities, and verbal support for terroristic violence, conforms to this purpose.” (CAIR most certainly has terrorist ties, and was an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation Hamas-funding trial. Many have argued that CAIR could and should have been indicted and prosecuted. It is worth noting that in the case *Berg v. Obama*, one of Obama’s defense attorneys was Joe Sanders of the Washington law firm of Sandler, Reiff, and Young. Sanders also represents CAIR. Out of more than one million lawyers in the United States available to represent him, Obama chose one with direct ties to CAIR.) [216, 226, 325, 368, 390, 391, 665, 721, 1362, 1280, 1971, 2440, 2666, 2667, 9117, 9133, 19896, 19926, 20576, 20577, 20581, 21718, 21719, 21720, 21729, 21761, 21790, 63349]

According to TheWrap.com, “Some 550 buyouts are to be offered at Time Warner’s Turner network this week, including a large number of those at CNN and HLN, which will lead to layoffs if they are not taken voluntarily, according to an individual with knowledge of the network’s plans. The buyouts will come across the Turner division, with a couple of hundred expected at CNN and HLN, the individual said.” [63350]

Examiner.com reports, “In the wake of a recent \$11 billion weapons deal with the Obama Administration, the Persian Gulf nation of Qatar is denying allegations that they are responsible for funding the ISIS terrorist organization. ...During an interview with the German public broadcasting network *Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen*... Germany’s Minister of Development Gerd Mueller ‘said it was important to examine who is financing the group [ISIS], and that ‘the key word is Qatar.’ Government spin doctors for the *Bundesrepublik Deutschland* swung into action to backtrack on Minister Mueller’s comments.” (Regardless of whether Qatar funds ISIS, it most certainly funds the terrorist group Hamas. Obama nevertheless believed it was reasonable to sell Qatar \$11 billion worth of weaponry.) [63351]

At PJMedia.com, Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer lists “10 Acts of Jihad in America That Americans Haven’t Heard About.” [63397]

At DCClothesline.com Dean Garrison comments on retired Army Lieutenant General Thomas McInerney’s recent warning: “We may even see a 9/11/14, MH370 resurface again. We should be prepared for anything. We should go to DEFCON 1, which is our highest state of [military] readiness, and be prepared as we lead up to 9/11.” Garrison writes, “McInerney either knows something or he is part of a government propaganda campaign. The latter might be more likely, but either way the warning should be taken seriously. It could be nothing, it could be real intelligence or, Heaven help us, it could be a planned false flag. It does not matter. There is the potential that something real could be about to happen, no matter who may be planning it. With an obvious and renewed push for military intervention in Syria, I would take these words seriously. It is pretty clear that we are trying to escalate things with ISIS and I think most Americans are behind that objective. But is one beheaded American journalist enough to put boots on the ground in Syria or to simply ramp up current operations? Would the American people support that? That’s the question. Don’t forget that it is heavily documented that we trained and funded ISIS and some also believe that ISIS is run by our CIA, so literally anything is possible. ...If that plane [Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370] resurfaces and you do not recognize it is a possible false flag then there is no hope for you. Be prepared for anything and stay vigilant.” [63294, 63295, 63296, 63297, 63298, 63299, 63300, 63352]

In a Newsmax.TV discussion, Pamela Geller warns of the dangers of radical Islam and Obama’s failed leadership, while Tina Dupay, a “nationally syndicated op-ed columnist, freelance investigative journalist, comedian and on-air commentator,” argues, “Here’s the thing, statistically there have been, uh, substantially more Americans who died of, uh, extreme weather than there have been people who died in, Americans who died in terrorist attacks. Uh, the, the American, uh, we have a, uh, we have a, uh, deep flaws in our infrastructure. We have a much more likely chance of being in a bridge collapse than

we have dying from a terrorist attack in this country. Um, yes, terrorism is horrible, and, and those pictures of James Foley were absolutely egregious and disgusting and it should be condemned and it absolutely has been. Uh, however, when it comes to leadership there are a lot of things that we need to, as a country, start talking about if the goal is to keep Americans safe... and [those things are] having our infrastructure not fall down around us and being able to prepare for the changing climate.” [63363]

With NBC’s *Meet the Press* failing in the ratings and program moderator David Gregory being replaced by Chuck Todd, NBC President Deborah Turness tells *The New York Times*, “The show needs more edge. It needs to be consequential. I think the show had become a talking shop that raked over the cold embers of what had gone on the previous week. The one-on-one conversation belongs to a decade ago. We need more of a coffeehouse conversation.” At WashingtonMonthly.com Ed Kilgore writes, “If Turness is serious about this, we need to organize a grassroots campaign to ask that certain journalists be permanently banned from the panel of *Meet the Press*, or we’ll boycott the damn thing ab initio. I’d start with Peggy Noonan, Bill Kristol, David Gergen, David Brooks and George Will. Even at their best, they’ve all gotten more airtime than their shaky talents merit. But I’m sure you have dozens more who deserve the *Meet Ban*. Fire away in the comment thread.” (*Meet the Press* has lost viewers primarily because David Gregory is a leftist who continually defends Obama... and Kilgore’s “solution” to disastrous ratings is to ban anyone who might criticize Obama.) [63389, 63390]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The federal government is spending nearly \$1 million to create an online database that will track ‘misinformation’ and hate speech on Twitter. The National Science Foundation is financing the creation of a web service that will monitor ‘suspicious memes’ and what it considers ‘false and misleading ideas,’ with a major focus on political activity online. The ‘Truthy’ database, created by researchers at Indiana University, is designed to ‘detect political smears, astroturfing, misinformation, and other social pollution.’ The university has received \$919,917 so far for the project. ... ‘Truthy’ claims to be non-partisan. However, the project’s lead investigator Filippo Menczer proclaims his support for numerous progressive advocacy groups, including ... Obama’s Organizing for Action, Moveon.org, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, Amnesty International, and True Majority.” (The term “social pollution” is not defined.) According to the university’s grant, “This service could mitigate the diffusion of false and misleading ideas, detect hate speech and subversive propaganda, and assist in the preservation of open debate.” Takimag.com comments, “OK, so it’s going to encourage ‘open debate’ while urging users to snitch on anything they deem to be ‘hate speech’ and/or ‘subversive propaganda’? Got it. Doublethink mode is on full blast here. Why not simply call it the Ministry of Truth?”) [63392, 63393, 63406, 63428, 63445, 63447, 63642]

At the Belmont Club, PJMedia.com’s Richard Fernandez observes, “The only difference between the ideology of the French socialist minister and the Ferguson looter is scale. That and the immensely superior quality of the Frenchman’s comestibles. But the principles which govern both are the same. Eventually you run out of other people’s money and other people’s patience. And that’s starting to happen all over the world right about now.” [63395, 63396]

At an event in California, while introducing Mexico's president, Enrique Peña Nieto, Governor Jerry Brown tells the immigrants in attendance—the legal and the illegal—“You're all welcome in California.” According to Breitbart.com, Nieto refers to Californias as “the other Mexico.” (Whites are a minority in California, with Hispanics and blacks making up the majority.) Nieto also insults Americans who are concerned about controlling immigration, saying they have not “evolved.” Brown also signs legislation requiring that California schools teach about the “significance” of Obama's election. Assemblyman Chris Holden (D) states, “We want to make sure that future generations understand that the election of [Obama] ... was a historic step in the effort towards equality and that previous elections involved intimidation and violence that prevented millions of African Americans from voting.” According to Holden, the law is “the first step toward acknowledging ... Obama's legacy for generations to come.” [63405, 63463, 63508]

On August 26 the Department of Justice announces, “The former acting director of cyber security at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was convicted by a federal jury in the District of Nebraska today of engaging in a child exploitation enterprise, conspiracy to advertise and distribute child pornography, and accessing a computer with intent to view child pornography in connection with his membership in a child pornography website. ... Timothy DeFoggi, 56, formerly of Germantown, Maryland, is the sixth individual to be convicted as part of an ongoing investigation targeting three child pornography websites. The three websites were run by a single administrator, who has since been convicted in the District of Nebraska of engaging in a child exploitation enterprise in connection with his administration of the sites. According to evidence presented at trial, DeFoggi registered as a website member on March 2, 2012, and maintained his membership and activity until Dec. 8, 2012, when the website was taken down by the FBI. Through the website, DeFoggi accessed child pornography, solicited child pornography from other members, and exchanged private messages with other members where he expressed an interest in the violent rape and murder of children. DeFoggi even suggested meeting one member in person to fulfill their mutual fantasies to violently rape and murder children.” [63369, 63426]

CNET.com reports that scientists at Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory are conducting a one year experiment to determine whether the universe is actually a 2D hologram. (Taxpayers are footing most of the bill.) [63514, 63515]

At BloombergView.com Megan McArdle describes some of the realities about the Burger King acquisition of Tim Hortons: “The U.S., unlike most developed-world governments, insists on taxing the global income of its citizens and corporations that have U.S. headquarters. And because the U.S. has some of the highest tax rates in the world, especially on corporate income, this amounts to demanding that everyone who got their start here owes us taxes, forever, on anything they earn abroad. This is a great deal for the U.S. government, which gets to collect income tax even though it's not providing the companies sewers or roads or courts or no-knock raids on their abodes. On the other hand, it's not a very good deal for said citizens and corporations... As my colleague Matt

[Levine] points out, most Americans—including a lot of journalists who write about this—seem to be under the misimpression that companies that invert, or people who renounce their citizenship, are doing so to get a lower tax rate on income they earn here. ...In most cases, however, including Burger King, they're doing it because the U.S. inexplicably insists on taking a big chunk off the top of all their foreign income, and making their lives miserable in the process. If we're worried about inversion, then the U.S. government should follow the lead of other developed countries, and move to territorial taxation. Otherwise, we should stop complaining when people and corporations decide that they'd rather be a citizen of some more sane system somewhere else.” [63628]

Matt Levine explains, “The purpose of an inversion has never been, and never could be, and never will be, ‘ooh, Canada has a 15 percent tax rate, and the U.S. has a 35 percent tax rate, so we can save 20 points of taxes on all our income by moving.’ Instead the main purpose is always: ‘If we’re incorporated in the U.S., we’ll pay 35 percent taxes on our income in the U.S. and Canada and Mexico and Ireland and Bermuda and the Cayman Islands, but if we’re incorporated in Canada, we’ll pay 35 percent on our income in the U.S. but 15 percent in Canada and 30 percent in Mexico and 12.5 percent in Ireland and zero percent in Bermuda and zero percent in the Cayman Islands.’” That is, companies based in the United States are double-taxed for income earned in another country. They must pay the corporate tax of the country where the income is earned, *plus* the 35 percent corporate rate in the United States. But companies based in other countries generally pay only the U.S. corporate tax for income earned in America, and no tax in the country of the corporate headquarters. [63628, 63629]

If a company based in the United States makes widgets in both New York and in Ireland, the U.S. government absurdly demands taxes on *all* widget income—even the income earned in Ireland that has *already* been taxed by the Irish government. But if a company based in Ireland makes widgets in both New York and in Ireland, it reasonably is required to pay U.S. taxes only for its U.S. income, and pay Irish taxes only for its Irish income. Burger King’s acquisition of Canadian coffee-and-donut chain Tim Hortons would mean, if the corporation were U.S.-based, that Burger King would have to pay U.S. taxes on coffee and donut income earned solely in Canada. That is absurd. By forming a Canadian corporation, Burger King will continue to pay U.S. taxes on U.S. hamburger sales, and Canadian taxes on its Canadian sales of coffee and donuts. Burger King is not trying to avoid paying U.S. taxes. It is trying to avoid double-taxation. It is trying to keep the IRS from double-dipping (pun intended). The U.S.-based corporation does not have to pay U.S. taxes on the foreign-earned income until it transfers that income to the corporate coffers in the United States. Not surprisingly, therefore, many U.S. corporations are sitting on that money in their foreign accounts—where it will likely remain unless Congress and Obama have the sense to lower the corporate tax rate. That money—about \$2 trillion—would then come to the United States and be taxed, and the enormous sum left would be used to create American jobs (or to fund more government waste). [63628, 63629]

The State Department's Jennifer Psaki is asked, "What exactly is U.S. strategy for dealing with ISIS?" Psaki responds, "I don't know why there's confusion. Do you have a question?" [63370, 63371]

The Satya Blog, noting the brutality of jihadists, including ISIS' beheading of women and children, writes, "From the advent of Islam, it is the brutality that was used to conquer. ...There is a Hindu Kush (Hindu slaughter) mountains in now Afghanistan and Pakistan region where just on one day they [be]headed 100,000 Hindus. But that is history and why we worry. Because it is repeating again and again and we live in our own world, rather not see to it. On Direct Action Day in 1946 hundreds of thousands were slaughtered that resulted in one million people killed and many beheaded and paraded in the streets like today. ...Those Muslims who do not perform the brutalities either become immune or indifferent because deep in their psyche, a Kafir is less than animal. Many are in a denial phase and have little courage to face the truth. When Muslims pray in Mosque, with all men standing in rows and fiery sermons, it is nothing but a call for conquest. Why do Muslims want to create Mosques on the destroyed places of Kafirs[?], it is symbol of conquest." [63597]

"...A miniscule world population of Jews has the most Nobel prize winners and one Billion+ Muslims only produced terrorists and suicide bombers. A brutal religion only can produce the brutes that are ISIS. While one is using its abilities to shield its people, the other is using every opportunity to use its people as shields. ...This is Islam for the world. ...But reading this stuff and putting our heads in the sand will not help. We all have to take personal responsibility to stop Islam hate preachings. ...How many of us took up with our congressmen and senators to address why America is allowing immigration of those who consider this hate ideology as a religion into our nation and potentially destroy us from within eventually? How many of us took time to expose shady Muslims Organizations like CAIR? ...We worry for children, but we will possibly be leaving a living hell for our descendants starting with Europe. The demographic changes in Europe and India where many Muslims are using women as breeding machines combined with others reducing their populations, is a dangerous and direct threat to democracies and it is literally a matter of survival. From Michigan to Meeankshipuram, we are heading towards a disaster for all humanity if we do not take responsibility?" [63597]

At ToThePointNews.com Angelo Codevilla writes, "The Islamic State's video-dissemination of one of its goons beheading an American is an existential challenge from which we cannot afford to shrink. Until the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL/IS) did that, it made sense for the U.S. government to help contain it because the Islamic world, which the IS threatens most directly, must destroy it sooner or later. But internetting that beheading was a gory declaration of America's impotence—a dare-by-deed that is sure to move countless young persons around the globe to get in on killing us, anywhere they can. The longer the Islamic State survives, the more will take up its dare. Either we kill the IS, or we will deserve the wave of terrorism that will engulf us. Killing the IS requires neither more nor less than waging war—not as the former Bush administration waged its 'war on terror,' nor by the current Obama administration's pinpricks, nor according to the too-

clever-by-half stratagems taught in today's politically correct military war colleges, but rather by war in the dictionary meaning of the word. To make war is to kill the spirit as well as the body of the enemy, so terribly as to make sure that it will not rise again, and that nobody will want to imitate it." [63692]

"... To kill IS, take note of its makeup: Sunni Wahabis from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, Syrian Sunnis who rebelled against the Alawite regime of the Assad family, the Ba'athist cadre of Saddam Hussein's army and security services who ran the war against the U.S. occupation and who now runs the IS military, plus assorted jihadis from around the world including the United States and Western Europe. Note, as well, that the IS did not have to exert much power to conquer Sunni majority areas in either former Syria or former Iraq. The people there want to be ruled by Sunni, unless they are given a compelling reason to accept something else. ...Note the material sources of the Islamic State's power: supplies from and through Turkey's Muslim Brotherhood government, paid for largely with money from notables in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, as well as from the government of Qatar. Beyond religious sectarianism, the motivation for this support is the Qataris' and the Turks' foreign policy seemingly based on promotion of Sunni political Islam wherever possible. The first strike against the IS must be aimed at its sources of material support. Turkey and Qatar are very much part of the global economy-one arena where the U.S. government has enormous power, should it decide to use it. If and when—a key if—the United States decides to kill the IS, it can simply inform Turkey, Qatar, and the world it will have zero economic dealings with these countries and with any country that has any economic dealing with them, unless these countries cease any and all relations with the IS." [63692]

"Striking at the state's belly would also be one of the objectives of the massive air campaign that the U.S. government could and should orchestrate. 'Orchestrate.' Not primarily wage. Saudi Arabia has some 300 U.S. F-15 fighter planes plus another hundred or so modern combat aircraft, with bases that can be used conveniently for strikes against the IS. Because Saudi Arabia is key to the IS's existence, to any campaign to destroy it, and to any U.S. decision regarding such a campaign, a word about the Saudi role is essential. The IS ideology is neither more nor less than that of the Wahabi sect, which is the official religion of Saudi Arabia, which has been intertwined with its royal family since the eighteenth century, and which Saudi money has made arguably the most pervasive version of Islam in the world (including the United States). Wahabism validates the Saudis' Islamic purity while rich Saudis live dissolute lives—a mutually rewarding, but tenuous deal for all. But increasingly, the Saudi royals have realized they are riding a tiger. Wahabi-educated youth are seeing the royals for what they are. The IS, by declaring itself a Caliphate, explicitly challenged the Saudis' legitimacy. The kingdom's Grand Mufti, a descendant of Ab al Wahab himself, declared the IS an enemy of Islam. But while the kingdom officially forbids its subjects from joining IS, its ties with Wahabism are such that it would take an awful lot to make the kingdom wage war against it. American diplomacy's task is precisely to supply that awful lot." [63692]

Obama's sympathies, for whatever reasons, lie with Sunni Muslims over Shi'ites, Kurds, Christians, and Jews. Thus, it is asking quite a bit for Obama to wage an all-out war

against the Sunnis of ISIS. He opposed Hosni Mubarak so that the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood could (if only briefly) take over Egypt; he helped oust Moammar Gaddafi so that Sunni rebels could take over Libya; he has supplied Sunni rebels in Syria with arms in an effort to oust Bashar al-Assad; in Iraq, he has pressured the primarily Shi'ite Iraqi government to include more Sunnis in high positions; in the United States, he has Attorney General Eric Holder suing communities that dare to block the construction of mosques and Islamic centers, which are primarily Sunni and follow Wahabism. Obama will act against ISIS, but only if he is pressured by Congress and U.S. citizens, and he will act only to degrade or slow down ISIS—he will not act to destroy it. [63692]

The Associated Press reports, “Syrian rebels, including fighters from an al-Qaida-linked group, seized control of a frontier crossing with Israel in the Golan Heights on Wednesday after heavy clashes with President Bashar Assad’s forces, activists and rebels said. ...The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said an array of rebel fighters, including from the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and the Western-backed Free Syrian Army [Obama’s “moderates”], took the crossing after heavy fighting that left at least 20 Syrian soldiers and an unknown number of rebels dead.” (Whether the change in control of the crossing will result in jihadists infiltrating Israel remains to be seen.) [63598, 63599]

At the Pentagon, Navy Rear Admiral John Kirby tells reporters, “We discourage other nations [like Egypt and the United Arab Emirates] from taking a part in Libya’s issues through violence. We want the issues solved in Libya to be done peacefully and through good governance and politics and not violence.” (When Obama helped oust Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi he did it with airstrikes and violence, not “good governance and politics.”) [63454]

At the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, Obama delivers an address that DailyCaller.com calls “painfully awkward.” “[W]hen Obama began by lecturing the veterans about cynicism and explaining his most recent foreign policy choices—instead of addressing the VA [Veterans Administration] crisis—the audience clearly wasn’t pleased. Fox News cameras captured a sea of blank or frowning faces looking silently back at [Obama] as he paused for failed applause line after failed applause line. Obama’s assertion of the indispensability of American leadership worldwide failed to merit a single clap. And when he outlined the ‘progress’ made in Afghanistan, [Obama] resolutely paused for several agonizing seconds until the veterans provided their tepid support. He didn’t fare much better once he finally reached the VA scandal, with halfhearted applause accompanying his promises to make things right at the corruption-plagued agency. ‘We need to make the system work!’ [Obama] declared, as the camera caught one veteran turn skeptically to another, open his mouth as if to speak, then turn back and continue to listen disinterestedly.” Obama also brags to the veterans about having brought home all the troops from Iraq, despite having said on August 9, “I find interesting the degree to which this issue [his not keeping troops in Iraq] keeps coming up, as if this was my decision.” [62637, 62644, 62655, 62659, 62685, 62764, 62826, 62833, 63373, 63382, 63418, 63432, 63443, 63453, 63468, 63471]

At WashingtonPost.com Ed Rogers later writes, “I think [Obama’s American Legion] speech got the worst reception of any he has given since his commencement address at West Point in May. While the commander in chief was not treated disrespectfully at West Point, his reception was decidedly cool, and the substance of the speech was slammed as well. ...[Active] members of our military are equally suspicious of ...Obama. Instead of being praised by the military after obtaining the release of Bowe Bergdahl from captivity in Afghanistan, [Obama] faced an onslaught of criticism. The backlash over Bergdahl’s release still lingers. In fact, there are rumors that books may be written and television movies made about the swap—and they are not likely to be flattering for ...Obama. It is worrisome how unpopular ...Obama is with our military and their families and how uncomfortable he seems with military culture. At a time when [he] still has to rely heavily on our military, it is troubling that he cannot seem to gain their trust or even appear to be able to relate to their challenges. So far, this has been underreported, but with yesterday’s speech, the Democrats’ problems with the military and military families are becoming more obvious. Add this to the growing list of problems the Democrats face as we approach the 2014 elections.” [63511]

According to a Pew Research Center/USA Today poll, 64 percent of black Americans have a positive view of race relations—down from 76 percent before Obama entered the White House. (In other words, race relations were better under George W. Bush than they have been under Barack “uniter not divider” Obama.) [63450, 63465, 63466]

At DailySignal.com, Hans von Spakovsky writes, “In its latest assault on the U.S. Constitution, the Obama administration is proposing to recognize so-called ‘Native’ Hawaiians as an Indian tribe entitled to separate and become an independent sovereign and to ‘reestablish’ a ‘government-to-government relationship between the United State and the Native Hawaiian community.’ Such an unconstitutional action would amount to authorizing secession for certain residents of Hawaii. It would also implicitly authorize government-sanctioned, discriminatory conduct against any other residents who don’t meet the explicit ancestry and blood-quantum requirements to be considered a ‘Native.’ This would balkanize Hawaii, dividing the islands into separate racial and ethnic enclaves, and undo ‘the political bargain through which Hawaii secured its admission into the Union.’” [63383]

“...From a constitutional standpoint, the administration has no legal authority to implement its proposal. Only Congress, not [Obama], has the authority to recognize Indian tribes under Article I, Section 8. Congress has specifically *refused* to provide that authority. ...Hawaii’s own former attorney general, Michael Lilly, says that any effort to recognize Hawaiians as an Indian tribe is unconstitutional, because so-called Native Hawaiians don’t meet any of the political requirements necessary for such recognition. Hawaii went from being an independent kingdom to a territory to a state and four commissioners from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights have told ...Obama that neither Congress nor the president can ‘reconstitute a tribe or other sovereign entity that has ceased to exist as a polity in the past.’ In other words, there is no Native Hawaiian government with which the administration can establish a government-to-government relationship because ‘it is an extinguished government, and therefore, no government at

all.’ ...At worst, the Obama administration’s proposal is unconstitutional, and as a number of U.S. senators have told the administration, it is ‘at best offensive to the character of a country devoted to the advancement of all its citizens regardless of race.’ The proposed rulemaking should be withdrawn and rescinded and the administration should stop engaging in unconstitutional behavior that is outside of its authority.” (The purpose of Obama’s move is not clear.) [63383]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Department of Justice’s board of immigration appeals has decided to let Guatemalan women win asylum in the United States if they claim to be victims of domestic violence. The decision creates a huge new incentive for Guatemalan women to cross the U.S. border, because if their asylum claim is accepted, their children get U.S. citizenship, plus the use of federal health, education and retirement programs, regardless of their initial education and work skills. The new decision also means that many of the Guatemalan women who have already crossed the border this year have a new claim for asylum.” (According to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, asylum applies only to persons who face persecution in their home country based on race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group having opposing political opinions. Being beaten by one’s husband does not fall into those categories.) [63440]

Algemeiner.com reports, “The government of Qatar and the Turkey-based, terror-tied IHH Islamic charity on Monday agreed that the Gulf state would fund an upcoming ‘humanitarian’ flotilla to Gaza, according to Israel’s NRG News. ...The Turkish organization, which several countries deem a terrorist entity, organized the infamous Mavi Marmara flotilla in 2010, which tried to breach an Israeli anti weapons-smuggling naval blockade. Israeli naval commandos commandeered the lead vessel in the six-ship group, killing nine foreign nationals after they were attacked upon boarding the craft. IHH last month said they’d try to repeat the act, soon. ‘The organization will send another flotilla after they receive permission from the government in Ankara that Turkish naval forces will defend the flotilla and its participants,’ IHH leader, Bulent Yildirim, said. Ankara, however, pulled its support for the planned protest several weeks ago. Both IHH and Qatar are close to Hamas, and Yildirim reportedly also has ties to al-Qaeda. ...Qatar has faced harsh criticism from Israel in recent weeks over its funding for terror group Hamas which has been engaged in an ongoing battle with the Jewish state.” [63384]

At RealClearPolitics.com *The Washington Post’s* Michael Gerson, a former speechwriter for George W. Bush, writes, “The problem for ...Obama has come in managing the symbolic aspect of his office. Playing a round at the Farm Neck Golf Club was appropriate. Giving a speech after the murder of James Foley was necessary. It is the immediate juxtaposition of beheading and golfing that should have raised questions. Those questions would have been so obvious to any reasonably competent deputy press secretary that the incident raises further issues: Is there really no one on the White House staff with the standing to confront Obama when he is about to make a self-evident mistake? Is he surrounded by sycophancy? Or has re-election liberated Obama from all considerations of symbolism or appropriateness? One gets the impression of a particular message being sent. [Obama] is so aggressively indifferent to appearances that he doesn't

really seem indifferent at all. He appears to be telling the media, his political critics and the world: You can criticize me, vilify me, challenge me; but you are powerless, at least, to change my tee time. It shows resilience. Yet there is a fine line between not giving an inch and not giving a damn. ...Obama rose to prominence, in part, because of a certain aloofness and emotional distance. The contrast to his opponent in the 2008 election, John McCain, was particularly vivid during the financial collapse. McCain seemed excitable and unsteady; Obama was cool and self-contained. In political success, Obama's manner was reassuring. As his failures have multiplied, he seems disconnected and tone-deaf. It must be frustrating for [Obama] to know he is actually the same leader, and tempting to display a defiant unconcern." [63403]

While Obama tries to decide what, if anything, he will do about the threat of ISIS, Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) tells MSNBC, "I do not believe that our expanded military operations against ISIL [or ISIS or the Islamic State] are covered under existing authorizations from Congress. ...And so [Obama] needs to come to Congress again with respect to the threat that ISIL poses. And he needs to explain it and crisply define what a military mission would be. And then ...let Congress debate it and vote it up or down. That's what the framers of the Constitution intended. It's the right thing to do legally, it's the right thing to do morally, because if you're going to put servicemen and women in harm's way, you ought to try to get a political consensus first, that the mission is worth it. And it's the most likely way for things to work out well, after that kind of considered debate." [63426, 63452]

The Obama administration announces that an American, Douglas McAuthor McCain, age 33, was killed in Syria—reportedly fighting with ISIS. State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki tells reporters, "There's a process that needs to be gone through before any confirmation can be made, and I won't have any more information at this time." According to Newsmax.com, "McCain had been on a U.S. watch list of potential terrorism suspects, American officials said. If he had tried to re-enter the country, he would have almost certainly faced an extra level of scrutiny before boarding any commercial airliner bound for the United States, officials told The New York Times. ...Though he was raised Christian, McCain said in social media posts he 'reverted' to Islam about 10 years ago. He called himself 'Duale ThaslaveofAllah' on Facebook." (Pamela Geller writes, "Of course, NBC buries the lede—which is no accident. And of course they include the remarks of a non-Muslim friend who said of Duale nee McCain: 'We would talk just a little bit about religion,' Kohlin added. 'He respected my Christianity.' Yes, that is why the Islamic State is slaughtering Christians en masse and that over one million Christians have been murdered or expelled from Iraq by the Muslim group. But NBC never mentions that.") [63423, 63424, 63433, 63475, 63483, 63591]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tells Breitbart.com, "I would say the objective evidence shows that Libya is a less safe place and less secure place, a more chaotic place with more jihadist groups—and really, we've had two really bad things happen because of Hillary's push for this war. One is that our ambassador was killed as a consequence of not having adequate security and really as a consequence of having a really unstable situation there because of the Libyan war, and then most recently our embassy having to

flee by land because they couldn't leave via the airport because of such a disaster in Libya. So I think it's hard to argue that the Libyan war was a success in any way. From my perspective, the first mistake they made was not asking the American people and Congress for authority to go to war. ... Sometimes people are trying to say I don't have enough concern for this. Well, actually, I have a great deal of concern—and not thinking through the consequences of intervention has caused Islamism and radical jihadist groups to proliferate. So I think Qaddafi and Saddam Hussein were both secular dictators who were awful, and did terrible things to their people, but at the same time were also enemies of the jihadists. [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad is the same way. What we've done in Libya, and now what we're doing in Syria, is we have armed groups that are commingled with jihadists. ... Think what would have happened had we seriously degraded Assad to the point where he was overrun, think who would be in charge of Syria right now? ISIS. So we are very lucky that the American people are much wiser than Hillary Clinton, and much wiser than [Obama]. We got [Obama] and Hillary Clinton to slow down, but Hillary Clinton was widely reported to be the chief person proposing that we get involved in Syria. But really the only person directly involved in bombing ISIS's bases right now is the Syrian government—so for all their wrongs, we're actually quite lucky we didn't have regime change, because I think it is a very realistic prediction that, had we had that happen, that ISIS would be in charge of Syria. Really, Syria, with Assad and all this war, is somewhat of a counter to the power of ISIS.” [63482]

“We need to do what it takes to make sure they're [ISIS terrorists are] not strong enough to attack us. That means sometimes perhaps continuing the alliance with the new Iraqi government. Perhaps it means armaments, or perhaps it means air support, but frankly if I were in ... Obama's shoes at this time, I would have called Congress back, I would have had a joint session of Congress, and I would have said 'this is why ISIS is a threat to the United States, to the stability of the region, to our embassy, to our diplomats, and this is why I'm asking you today to authorize air attacks.' I'm betting if he would have done that to a joint session of Congress, he would have gotten approval. When you don't do it through Congress, and you do it yourself, then you really have not galvanized the will of the nation. As a true leader, what I think we need to do is galvanize the nation when we go to war. ... Americans do want strong leadership from [Obama]. They do think that ... Obama is not being a strong leader. They do want a strong leader, something more akin to the public persona of Reagan. But they also don't want somebody who is reckless in engaging in war; they don't want somebody to put troops back in the Middle East. That was my point with Hillary Clinton—her eagerness to be involved in Libya and to be involved in Syria, in Libya led to very bad, probably unintended consequences and in Syria unintended consequences also. But I think you have less unintended consequences if you come to the American people through Congress and have a full-throated debate. It's frankly difficult to convince Congress to do things—and that way, if you do it that way, you're unlikely to go to war unless there is a consensus among the American people.” [63482]

The cost of setting up Healthcare.gov reaches \$1.7 billion, according to a review of 60 federal contracts by the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services. (The web site could probably have been set up for \$25 million or less.) [63461]

At TabletMag.com former Associated Press correspondent Matti Friedman “explains how and why reporters get Israel wrong, and why it matters.” [63429, 63430]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Iranian military leaders on Tuesday vowed that Tehran would take military action against Israel in response to an alleged Israeli drone that was shot down in Iran on Sunday. Iran ‘will not give a diplomatic response,’ but will air its grievances with Israel on the ‘battlefield,’ senior Iranian generals were quoted as saying on Tuesday. ‘Our response to this aggression will not be diplomatic, we will retaliate in the battlefield, but will not necessarily announce it,’ Brigadier General Hossein Salami, the Lieutenant Commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was quoted as saying during a ceremony on Tuesday meant to commemorate ‘martyred’ Iranian military personnel.” [63431]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Congressional investigators made another call for the appointment of an IRS scandal special prosecutor after discovering that key lawyers for the scandal-plagued agency have a ‘conflict of interest’ in the case. Department of Justice tax division attorney Andrew Strelka, who represented the IRS in litigation related to the scandal, worked under Lerner at the IRS Exempt Organizations division from 2008 to 2010. While at the agency, Strelka was part of the IRS’ conservative targeting scheme, according to documents obtained by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and provided to The Daily Caller.” Strelka was among those who received a March 17, 2010 email from a Lerner staffer, Carter Hull, that read, “Be on the lookout for a tea party case. If you have received or do receive a case in the future involving an exemption for organization having to do with tea party let me know.” [63467]

NationalReview.com reports, “According to the second round of IRS affidavits submitted to U.S. district court judge Emmett Sullivan, who is presiding over the lawsuit brought against the nation’s tax agency by watchdog group Judicial Watch, Inc., IRS technical analysts did not search Lois Lerner’s Blackberry for her allegedly ‘lost’ e-mails—and the smartphone was destroyed after congressional investigation had begun. ... In his sworn declaration, Stephen Manning—deputy chief information officer for strategy and modernization with the IRS Information Technology business unit—reports that ‘there is no record of any attempt by any IRS IT employee to recover data from any Blackberry device assigned to Lois Lerner in response to the Congressional investigations or this litigation.’ This despite the fact that Lerner had been in possession of a government-issued Blackberry since November 2009... and it would likely have hosted at least some of Lerner’s electronic communications. Moreover, IRS documents... show that Lerner’s Blackberry ‘was removed or wiped clean of any sensitive or proprietary information and removed as scrap for disposal in June 2012.’ By that time, a congressional investigation was well under way. In March of that year then-IRS chief Douglas Shulman was questioned by Congress about the targeting of conservative groups, and in April Republican congressman sent questions to Lerner about the targeting. Lerner responded on April 26. These revelations increase the likelihood that Judge Sullivan would grant a motion requesting limited discovery, which Judicial Watch is permitted to file after September 10.” (The Media Research Center reports: “Big Three (ABC, CBS, NBC)

network coverage of this fishy behavior on the part of the IRS and Lerner? 0 seconds. There hasn't been a single story on the BlackBerry destruction or the DOJ lawyer's admission of the existence of Lerner's e-mails on any of the Monday evening or Tuesday morning shows on ABC, CBS or NBC.") [63404, 63442, 63464, 63643]

NYTimes.com reports, "The Obama administration is working to forge a sweeping international climate change agreement to compel nations to cut their planet-warming fossil fuel emissions, but without ratification from Congress. In preparation for this agreement, to be signed at a United Nations summit meeting in 2015 in Paris, the negotiators are meeting with diplomats from other countries to broker a deal to commit some of the world's largest economies to enact laws to reduce their carbon pollution. But under the Constitution, a president may enter into a legally binding treaty only if it is approved by a two-thirds majority of the Senate. To sidestep that requirement, ...Obama's climate negotiators are devising what they call a "politically binding" deal that would 'name and shame' countries into cutting their emissions." (Such a deal would not be binding in any way on the people of the United States, the utopian dreams of Obama and European socialists notwithstanding.) The *Times* writes, "The deal is likely to face strong objections from Republicans on Capitol Hill and from poor countries around the world, but negotiators say it may be the only realistic path." (The deal will also "face strong objections" from Democrats who represent constituents who earn a living producing energy and who do not want to lose their jobs.) The *Times* brazenly—and falsely—claims, "The strategy comes as scientists warn that the earth is already experiencing the first signs of human-caused global warming—more severe drought and stronger wildfires, rising sea levels and more devastating storms—and the United Nations heads toward what many say is the body's last chance to avert more catastrophic results in the coming century." (There is absolutely no evidence that mankind has caused more severe droughts, wildfires, rising sea levels, or storms. There is no direct causal link between driving an SUV and the development of a hurricane—and it is absurd to believe there is.) [63416, 63451, 63469, 63524, 63688]

Meanwhile, reports CNSNews.com, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), warns, "we are not very far" from declaring climate change an "international public health emergency." "The disease is something we rarely admit. The disease is humanity's unhealthy dependence on fossil fuels, deforestation and land use that depletes natural resources." [63527]

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters says on Fox News, "The way you deal with Islamic State, these bloodthirsty, blood-drunken terrorists, is to kill them, keep on killing them, until you kill the last one—then you kill his pet goat. That's how you deal with them." [63410]

The BBC reports on a child abuse scandal in Rotherham, England, where as many as 1,400 children as young as 11 "were raped by multiple perpetrators, abducted, trafficked to other cities in England, beaten and intimidated... The inquiry team noted fears among council staff of being labelled 'racist' if they focused on victims' descriptions of the majority of abusers as 'Asian' [that is, Muslim] men. Professor Alexis Jay, who wrote the

latest report, said there had been ‘blatant’ collective failures by the council’s leadership, senior managers had ‘underplayed’ the scale of the problem and South Yorkshire Police had failed to prioritise the issue. ...Revealing details of the inquiry’s findings, Prof Jay said: ‘It is hard to describe the appalling nature of the abuse that child victims suffered.’ The inquiry team found examples of ‘children who had been doused in petrol and threatened with being set alight, threatened with guns, made to witness brutally violent rapes and threatened they would be next if they told anyone.’” [63434, 63528, 63642, 63720, 63721, 63752, 63753, 63865, 63866, 63925, 64694]

One Rotherham whistleblower complains that she was told she “must never refer to Asian men,” and was booked “on a 2 day ethnicity and diversity course to raise my awareness of ethnic issues.” In other words, he or she was told to ignore reality and then subjected to two days of government-sponsored brainwashing by officials afraid of being labeled “Islamophobes.” Some claim the abuses are continuing, and that little is being done to stop the perpetrators. One victim tells the *Daily Mail*, “It is more dangerous in Rotherham today than ever. The sex assaults are still going on, yet the girls are afraid to go to the social workers in case they are put in care. They refuse to go to the police because they do not trust them to arrest the culprits. No one is protecting them.” (The Media Research Center’s Brent Bozell later reports at Townhall.com, “There’s been nothing [about Rotherham] on ABC, CBS, NBC or PBS. A Nexis search can’t even find any transcripts mentioning the story on CNN or MSNBC, and just one on Fox News. USA Today hasn’t found it, and The Washington Post only placed a story online, not in the paper. Do they only care to report on England’s royal children? Do no one else’s matter? The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times discovered the story briefly on August 27, and NPR aired two reports, on August 26 and 27. The New York Times then put it on the front page on September 2. But none of these stories made any mention of Muslims or Islam. These child abusers were not clerics, but their religious heritage was as politically touchy as their ethnicity. Take the Catholic Church out of it, and child sex scandals aren’t particularly scandalous in the eyes of the press.”) [63434, 63528, 63642, 63720, 63721, 63752, 63753, 63865, 63866, 63925, 64694]

ABCNews.com reports, “A third American hostage held by ISIS has been identified as a 26-year-old American woman who was kidnapped a year ago while doing humanitarian relief work in Syria. The terror group is demanding \$6.6 million and the release of U.S. prisoners for the life of the young woman, whom a representative for the family requested not be identified. ...In addition to the multi-million dollar ransom, the terror group has also demanded that the U.S. release Aafia Siddiqui, an MIT-trained neuroscientist who was convicted by the U.S. in 2010 of trying to kill U.S. officials two years before, according to a supporter of Siddiqui who has been in contact with the hostage’s family.” [63425]

The New York Times refuses to endorse Democrat Governor Andrew Cuomo in the primary, writing, “He failed to perform Job 1. The state government remains as subservient to big money as ever, and Mr. Cuomo resisted and even shut down opportunities to fix it. Because he broke his most important promise, we have decided not to make an endorsement for the Democratic primary on Sept. 9.” (Corrupt or not, Cuomo

will easily win the primary and be reelected to his second term in November.) [63422, 63446]

MRC.org writes, “As the 2014 midterm elections approached, the media were quick to criticize conservative donors like the Koch brothers for backing issues important to them. But journalists largely ignored the incredible financial power being used to promote the liberal agenda. Five top donors—Michael Bloomberg, Warren Buffett, Pierre Omidyar, Tom Steyer and George Soros’s own son, Jonathan—are major funders of the left. Together, they have contributed at least \$2.7 billion since 2000 to groups pushing abortion, gun control, climate change alarmism and liberal candidates. That’s not how major media depicted them. Broadcast networks applauded when billionaire hedge fund manager Tom Steyer promised \$100 million to influence environmental policy. CBS News praised Steyer for ‘giving back’ and ABC News called the billionaire an ‘everyman.’” (Many believe that Obama’s refusal to approve the Keystone XL pipeline is directly related to Steyer’s pledge to donate as much as \$100 million to Democrat campaign coffers—if the candidates fall in line with his environmental ideas.) [63481]

An Israeli-Hamas cease fire begins at 7 p.m. Gaza time. According to WND.com, “The truce calls for an end to Hamas attacks and Israel Defense Force strikes and the opening of Israel’s border with Gaza to more humanitarian goods. The Gaza-Egypt border is to be gradually reopened under the supervision of the Palestinian Authority, which will take responsibility for ensuring against weapons smuggling. Also, Israel agreed to extend a so-called fishing zone off Gaza’s coast to six miles from three miles. The truce calls for the discussion of broader issues in the near future, including the release in Israel of hundreds of Hamas prisoners and Hamas requests for an airport and seaport. Israel is demanding the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip, possibly under an international mechanism.” (Meanwhile, Hamas has reportedly already begun constructing new terror tunnels.) [63504, 63627]

On *On the Record*, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) tells Greta Van Susteren that ISIS terrorists are “a threat like no other. It is a threat to the homeland. We can either fight them there or fight them here. And I would rather have them fought over there. ...I think it’s incumbent now on [Obama] ...to show leadership, to come forward and express to the American people, articulate the threat that we, as Americans, face and what he is going to do in a comprehensive way to deal with this direct threat that we face. ...[Obama] is speaking with his military leadership. Has not come to Congress at all. I don’t think he ought to let Congress off the hook. Congress ought to be able to, and have to, stand up because this is the way you interface with voters at home. But [Obama] needs to make the case, what is he going to do. ...[W]e need to put together a coalition of other countries. And [Obama] needs to lay out the threat to the United States and his plan to deal with it, because I think his secretary of state and secretary of defense are [doing that] right. ...And it’s time now for [Obama] to lay out a plan.” [63478]

In the Florida primary, Republican-turned-Independent-turned-Democrat Charlie Crist wins the Democrat primary for governor. GOP Governor Rick Scott wins his primary race, collecting far more votes than Crist and his opponents combined. (The totals should

worry Crist, because they clearly show little enthusiasm from Democrat voters. If the situation is similar across the country, November 4 may be a very bad day for Democrats and White House strategists. On the other hand, a medical marijuana referendum is also on the ballot in Florida, which Crist hopes will increase the number of Democrat voters.) [63417, 65223]

On August 27 Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal files a lawsuit against the Obama administration for its funding schemes that are pushing states to adopt the Common Core education program. The Associated Press reports, “The U.S. Department of Education has used a \$4.3 billion grant program and federal policy waivers to encourage states to adopt uniform education standards and testing. The Republican governor says that ‘effectively forces states down a path toward a national curriculum’ in violation of the state sovereignty clause in the Constitution and federal laws that prohibit national control of education content. The lawsuit, obtained first by The Associated Press, was filed in the federal court based in Baton Rouge.” Jindal states, “The federal government has hijacked and destroyed the Common Core initiative. Common Core is the latest effort by big government disciples to strip away state rights and put Washington, D.C., in control of everything.” (One Common Core history textbook includes an entire chapter on Islam’s virtues, and no chapter on Christianity.) [63414, 63415, 63601]

Billy and Karen Vaughan, parents of a Navy SEAL killed in Afghanistan, write Obama: “After finally choosing to view the barbaric, on-camera beheading by ISIS of freelance war correspondent James Foley, I have been left with a level of rage known only to those of us who have sacrificed unspeakable offerings on the altar of world peace. My offering was my only son—Aaron Carson Vaughn. Aaron was a member of SEAL Team VI. He was killed in action when a CH47D Chinook, carrying thirty Americans and eight Afghans was shot down in the Tangi River Valley of Afghanistan on Aug. 6, 2011. Many times over the past three years, I have been asked what drove my son to choose his particular career. What made him want to be a Navy SEAL? My answer is simple. Aaron Vaughn was a man who possessed the courage to acknowledge evil. And evil, once truly acknowledged, demands response. Perhaps this is why so few are willing to look it in the eye. It is much simpler—much safer—to look the other way. That is, unless you are the leader of the Free World. As Commander-in-Chief, your actions—or lack thereof—Mr. [Obama], cost lives. As you bumble about in your golf cart, slapping on a happy face and fist-pounding your buddies, your cowardly lack of leadership has left a gaping hole—not only in America’s security—but the security of the entire globe. Your message has come across loud and clear, sir: You are not up to this job. You know it. We know it. The world knows it.” [63758, 63782, 63787, 63802, 63850]

“Please vacate the people’s house and allow a man or woman of courage and substance to seize the reigns of this out-of-control thug-fest and regain the balance we, America, have provided throughout our great history. Thanks to your ‘leadership’ from whatever multi-million dollar vacation you happen to be on at any given moment, the world is in chaos. What’s been gained, you’ve lost. What’s been lost, you’ve decimated. You’ve demolished our ability to hold the trust of allies. You’ve made a mockery of the title ‘President.’ And you’ve betrayed the nation for which my son and over 1.3 million others

have sacrificed their very lives. But this should come as no surprise, since your wife uttered a vile statement on Feb. 18, 2008, during the primary campaign—one that speaks volumes of your true convictions. ‘For the first time in my adult life, I am really proud of my country,’ she said. I am sure my deceased son thanks you for that, Mrs. Obama. Oh, and you’re welcome. Never in my lifetime have I witnessed such despair and such growing fear that the world’s last best hope, America, has finally been dismantled. Perhaps the better word is transformed—fundamentally transformed. Come to think of it, it’s become difficult—if not impossible—to believe things haven’t gone exactly as you planned, Mr. [Obama]. Amazingly, in five short years, your administration has lurched from one disaster to another. You spearheaded the ambitious rush to end the wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan—with no plan on how to do so effectively. Also, the release of ‘the Taliban five’ in exchange for one American—without consulting Congress—is also on your shoulders.” [63758, 63782, 63787]

“You have been at the helm during unprecedented national security leaks—including, but not limited to the outing of SEAL Team VI on the Bin Laden raid, the outing of the Pakistani doctor who provided the intelligence for that raid, the outing of Afghanistan’s CIA station chief, and the outing of your personal ‘kill list’ to make you look tough. In addition, 75 percent of American deaths in Afghanistan and 83 percent of Americans-wounded-in-action have occurred on your watch, according to icasualties.org. And now, we have this recent, heinous event: the beheading of an American citizen by a barbaric organization you foolishly referred to as ‘the JV team’ in your statements to the New Yorker magazine in January. You, sir, are the JV team. It’s time for you to step down and allow a true leader to restore our honor and protect our sons and daughters. America has always been exceptional. And she will be again. You, Mr. [Obama], are a bump in our road.” [63758, 63782, 63787]

Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Elmendorf tells reporters this year’s budget deficit will be about \$500 billion. (George Bush’s final deficit—the one Obama promised to cut in half during his first term—was about \$458 billion.) At Townhall.com David Lambro later notes, “CBO forecasts that, if federal spending policies are not changed soon, the government will pile up \$7.2 trillion in additional debt in the next 10 years. Debt held by the public is now expected to reach \$12.8 trillion in this fiscal year which ends in September and then soar to \$26.6 trillion by 2024.” [63631]

Examiner.com reports, “Investigative journalist Charles C Johnson, founder of GotNews.com filed [a] civil lawsuit in order to gain access to the juvenile arrest records of Michael Brown, who was shot-to-death by Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson on Aug. 9, 2014. ...According to Johnson and his staff, there is suspicion that the teenaged Brown was a member of the Crips street gang which is based in Los Angeles but has “cliques” throughout the U.S. Ironically, one of the celebrities who attended Brown’s funeral service on Aug. 25 was one of the alleged Crips founders, Snoop Dogg, now a wealthy hip-hop star. In conversations on Twitter and elsewhere, people claiming to be police officers have alleged that rather than being a saintly teenager, Brown was a budding killer and criminal. In order to confirm whether those police officers are correct or not may only be determined by the examination of Brown’s juvenile criminal records,

which are always sealed in order to protect those who are under 18-years-old. But Johnson in his lawsuit contends that now those records should be made available since Brown is now dead and so his right to privacy no longer exists.” [63491, 63619, 63636]

Ailina Tsarnaeva, the sister of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, is charged with “aggravated harassment” after threatening to bomb her boyfriend’s former girlfriend. (Her history includes counterfeiting, lying to police, and skipping bail—yet she has somehow managed to avoid both jail and deportation. According to Michelle Malkin, her sister Bella “is a high school dropout and also a single mother. She arrived in the U.S. with jihadi brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan and sister Ailina in 2003. The family received a plethora of immigration and welfare benefits. In December 2012, she was arrested and charged with marijuana possession and distribution. Both of her brothers were also tied to illegal drug activity. Now-dead brother Tamerlan (killed in the post-Boston Marathon bombing shootout) was posthumously implicated in a horrific 2011 triple-murder in Waltham, Mass., that authorities believe was drug-related.”) [63494, 63495, 63519, 63820]

Obama’s Department of Justice sues the town of St. Anthony, Minnesota for rejecting the construction of an Islamic center based on zoning issues. StarTribune.com reports, “The lawsuit alleges that the [city] council’s decision to deny the Abu Huraira Islamic Center the right to establish a worship center in the basement of the St. Anthony Business Center violates the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act passed by Congress in 2000.” The city had previously denied a similar request by a Christian organization. (Pamela Geller observes, “Here again we see Obama’s Department of Justice acting as the de facto legal arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in America. This is a pattern. Anywhere American law and Islamic conflict, it is American law that gives way under the Obama administration’s sharia enforcement division, the DoJ.”) [63592, 63593, 63594]

While Minnesota Muslims seek to build another Islamic center, the Al-Kataib Foundation, which the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI.org) describes as “the media wing of the Somalia-based Al-Qaeda affiliate jihadi group Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen,” releases a recruitment video aimed partly at Minnesotans. (Minnesota has a large population of Muslims, many of whom are from Somalia.) One speaker in the video says, “...Those who are living in the U.S., especially Minnesota, Great Britain, Germany, and many parts of the kufr [unbelievers] world—you have a decision to make today. This decision [is] a decision that makes you successful in this dunya [life] and the hereafter, a decision that will have a great effect on your children and your grandchildren. This decision is hijra [emigration] fi sabilillah [for Allah’s sake] to the lands of Muslims, such as Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and many places in the Muslim world. If you chose to not make this decision and not answer the call of Allah, know that there is clear evidence against you in the Day of Judgment, in the court of Allah the Exalted. For what are you still living in dar al-kufr [house of unbelief] for? Is it the schools, the jobs, and the nice settlements you have... know that this was only temporary and the hereafter is internal [sic; eternal]. So save your own souls from the great punishment of Allah the Exalted and make hijra fi sabilillah...” (Whether Attorney General Eric Holder will act against the

jihadist recruiters as eagerly as he sues Minnesota towns remains to be seen.) Pamela Geller notes, “Vienna is a hub, Hamburg is a hub, London is a hub, Paris is a hub and increasingly Minneapolis is a hub. Anywhere there is large Muslim immigration, the jihad threat grows. That is elemental. But no one is talking about restricting Muslim immigration from jihad nations. So this will only get worse. Much worse.” [63648, 63649, 63652]

All schools in Pickerington, Ohio are placed on lockdown after a threat to murder children with an AK-47. Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen tells FreeBeacon.com, “The school received a call from a male with a heavy accent and he indicated that he was going to attack Pickerington North [High School] due to attacks on Israel and was going to kill the kids and that he had an AK-47 gun. He identified himself as ‘Mohammed Shehad’ ... My sense is that due to the way he identified himself it sounds like he was upset at Israel. ... We have detectives assigned to that; they’re working on trying to trace the phone number and identify the suspect.” Area resident Patrick Poole, a terrorism analyst, says, “We have had a growing problem here in the Columbus area for years that local law enforcement and the media want to continue to sweep under the carpet. Not only has Central Ohio been the home of the largest known al-Qaeda cell since 9/11—with several members currently in prison on terrorism charges and at least two deported—we’ve had a number of cases of homegrown jihadists come through town, including al-Shabaab rapper Omar al-Hammami and Little Rock Army recruiting station killer Carlos Bledsoe. An al-Shabaab recruiter and fundraiser from the area was killed in a fire in Mogadishu in 2010, and we know of several cases of young men who have left from Columbus to join the Somali terrorist group. One of the original online jihadist forum operators, Sarfaraz Jamal, grew up in the area and initially ran his operation from his Worthington home. ... [W]e just had a pro-Hamas rally at the statehouse a week and a half ago, a regular feature here in central Ohio whenever there is conflict in that part of the world. In fact, two of our local Hamas activists are currently in prison in Egypt. Now that the threat is targeting area school children, hopefully it will begin to wake people up to the scope of the problem.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the call was made so that the caller and his friends could observe the school’s reaction—in the event they want to carry out an attack. Of course, the call could have been made by a student who simply wanted school to be canceled.) [63496, 63497]

The Telegraph reports, “British jihadists fighting abroad should be stripped of their citizenship and banned from returning home, the country’s most senior police officer has said. Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, also vowed tougher action against preachers of hate and other extremists who take to the streets to air their air their rants. The senior officer became the latest senior figure to call for a change in the law to combat the threat of home grown Islamist fanatics. He also backed [London Mayor] Boris Johnson’s demands for those returning from Syria or Iraq to be presumed as terrorists unless they can prove their innocence. And he called for a return of the control orders regime so suspects can be ordered where to live and placed under tougher curfew regimes.” [63500, 63501]

The Congressional Budget Office forecasts 2014 GDP growth of only 1.5 percent. (The Obama administration has predicted 2.6 percent economic growth for the year.) [63476, 63477, 63521]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest, proudly illustrating that he has learned to repeat the words “broken immigration system,” tells reporters, “We would hope that Republicans wouldn’t do the same thing again, to shut down the government, over a common sense, bipartisan, uh, effort, to try to mitigate, uh, at least some of the worst problems that are caused by our broken immigration system. ...[Obama] is determined to take the kinds of common sense steps that are required, uh, to address, uh, the worst problems of our, of our broken immigration system. Nothing [Obama] does is a replacement for the kind of robust solution that passed with bipartisan support through the United States Senate, uh, but [Obama] is determined to act, uh, where House Republicans won’t, and there is strong support for that all across the country, from the business community, the labor community, law enforcement, uh, even members of the, senior members of the faith community... [who] are supportive of trying to put in place policies that will address some of the, uh, worst inequities of our broken immigration system. So, uh, again, it would be a real shame, uh, if Republicans were to engage in an effort to, uh, shut down the government over a common sense solution like that...” (No Republicans are threatening to “shut down the government” if Obama signs an illegal and unconstitutional executive order granting some form of amnesty for illegal immigrants. The shutdown message is clearly a desperate effort to link to amnesty something most Americans object to in order to gin up support for Obama’s action—whatever action that may be.) [63506, 63520, 63525, 63550, 63610]

Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, responds, “Subverting the rule of law and the legislative process to declare millions of people [legal when they are illegal] would be an extremely unpopular action, and would be the equivalent of a nuclear bomb in some of the [2014 Senate] races. It defies all political logic that [Obama] seems to think [amnesty] would be something that the American people would accept. There is no data that suggests that. ...Executive amnesty would not only subvert the law, but depress wages, and hurt the poorest Americans most of all—including legal immigrants looking to rise into the middle class.” Congressman Steve King (R-IA) states, “If [Obama] wields his pen and commits that unconstitutional act to legalize millions, I think that becomes something that is nearly political nuclear [war]. I think the public would be mobilized and galvanized and that changes the dynamic of any continuing resolution [for the 2015 budget] and how we might deal with that.” (King is *not* threatening a government shutdown. He is merely suggesting that there may be some significant budget slashing of some programs if Obama defies Congress.”) Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) states, “I assume there will be some sort of a vote on this... I’m interested to see what kinds of ideas my colleagues have about using funding mechanisms to address this issue.” (That is, if Obama issues an illegal executive order, Congress can simply not appropriate funds for Obama to implement his scheme. But that is *not* a government shutdown threat. It is merely blocking Obama from doing something the American people do not support. In any event, whatever Obama does will likely be challenged in court.) Rubio spokesman Alex Conant states, “The only people talking

about shutting down the government are partisan extremists like [Congresswoman] Debbie Wasserman Schultz [D-FL] who are looking for a way to raise money and divert attention from the failed presidency of Barack Obama. All Senator Rubio has called for is for Senator [Harry] Reid [D-NV] to allow votes on Republican solutions to the immigration catastrophe our nation faces. Let's be clear: The only thing Senator Rubio wants to shutdown is Harry Reid's tenure as majority leader by winning a Republican majority this November." [63506, 63520, 63525, 63550, 63610]

Although Obama has promised amnesty supporters he would act before the end of summer, it looks increasingly as though he will not do so—depending on whether one defines the arrival of Labor Day as the “end of summer.” Democrat Senators facing tough reelection battles—and even some in arguably “safer” seats—have no doubt pleaded with the White House not to cost them votes with an amnesty action. (If the Democrats retain control of the Senate, Obama can take action without fear of his actions being overturned. If the Democrats lose control of the Senate, Obama can still sign an illegal executive order and defy Congress to stop him. Any legislation passed for that purpose could then be vetoed by Obama. He essentially cannot be stopped—unless Congress refuses to provide funding for the amnesty activities he initiated.) [63551, 63576, 63607]

CNSNews.com spots a blog on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that “has found an upside to all those ‘healthy’ school lunches that students refuse to eat: It says schools can use the plate waste as a ‘learning opportunity’ to turn young students into ‘civic-minded, community-conscious adults.’ ...[A]n elementary school in Northern Virginia is now donating untouched food to a local food pantry. ‘The school’s Eco Team, run by sixth graders, ensures their fellow students are putting waste into the correct bin,’ the blog says. ‘The team then collects, weighs, categorizes, and places the food to be donated into separate refrigerators, provided by the Food Bus, a non-profit organization that works with schools to donate food that would otherwise go to waste. At the end of the week, PTA members or community volunteers deliver the food to the local food pantry.’ ...USDA says the 12 schools that worked with the Virginia-based Food Bus in the last school year provided 13,502 pounds of food to local pantries. The donations included packaged peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, bananas and apples, yogurt, string cheese, containers of apple sauce and sliced peaches, granola bars, and cartons of milk. According to USDA, ‘Food waste and recovery is also incorporated into science lesson plans.’ And Food Bus founder Kathleen Weil was quoted as saying that children ‘are not only learning how to not throw away their food and add it to the national waste stream, but they’re learning that it can be used by someone who is hungry. They are getting a little spark of community service now that may have an impact in their life and the lives of the many people around them when they are adults.’” (Some might argue that there may be some serious health code violations taking place in Virginia schools.) [63455]

With the Obama administration absurdly demanding that schools not verify ages of illegal immigrant children enrolling in classes, some schools are seeing adults trying to enroll. CNSNews.com reports, “The mayor of Lynn, Mass. says that some of the illegal aliens from Guatemala who are enrolled in her city’s public schools are adults with graying hair and ‘more wrinkles than I have.’ ‘They are not all children,’” Judith

Flanagan Kennedy told reporters at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. ...She added that the federal government will not allow school officials to verify their ages, even though one of the students turned out to be 35 years old. ...‘We were told through a directive from the Department of Justice (DOJ) that we were not to question or verify—attempt to verify these ages,’ Kennedy stated at the press conference, hosted by the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS).” [63479, 63526, 64133]

The Associated Press writes, “The White House is crafting a blame-it-on-Congress legal justification to back up ...Obama’s impending executive actions on immigration. Facing an expected onslaught of opposition, the administration plans to argue that Congress failed to provide enough resources to fully enforce U.S. laws, thereby ceding wide latitude to White House to prioritize deportations of the 11.5 million people who are in the country illegally, administration officials and legal experts said. But Republicans, too, are exploring their legal options for stopping Obama from what they’ve deemed egregious presidential overreaching. A self-imposed, end-of-summer deadline to act on immigration is rapidly approaching. While Obama has yet to receive the formal recommendations he’s requested from Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, administration officials said [Obama] is intimately familiar with the universe of options and won’t spend much time deliberating once Johnson delivers his recommendations.” [63485]

In a discussion of media bias on Fox News, Brent Bozell, founder and president of the Media Research Center, notes as an example MSNBC’s Chris Matthews statement that former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has “got that crazy Mephistophelian grin of his. He looks like he likes torturing.” Bozell adds, “How long do you think Sean Hannity’s show would last if four times in one sentence, he made a comment about, say, [Obama], and said that he looked like a skinny, ghetto crack head? Which, by the way, you might want to say that Barack Obama does.” [63486]

On *Hannity*, attorney, author, and talk show host Mark Levin tells Sean Hannity, “[T]hese cockroaches [in ISIS] organized, funded themselves, built a forceful military, started conquering geographic areas all around the world, under his [Obama’s] nose. He ignored it, he did nothing about it, he didn’t talk to the American people about it—as a matter of fact, he downplayed it. This is one of the worst military national security screw-ups in modern American history, and he’s *still* screwing up. Has he rallied the American people? Has he spoken to Congress? Has he asked for a declaration of war or at least a joint resolution to fund an aggressive offensive against these cockroaches? No he hasn’t. We’re dealing with a very peculiar, petulant man, who operates with [only] a few advisors around him, a man who really needs as much counseling and expertise as he can get given his very thin résumé and experience record, and this is what’s going on.” On the issue of Obama’s attempt to commit the United States to a “climate treaty” without the approval of the Senate, Levin says, “If [Obama] thinks that by changing the word treaty to accord, or treaty to deal, that he can violate Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, which involves the essential rights of the Union [of States]... this treaty process involves essential rights of the Union, then this is number twelve

hundred example of a lawless, imperial president. ...There has never been a debate, ever, that the Senate has the right under our Constitution...to ratify treaties.” [63513]

“I don’t know how *these* Republicans should deal with this [problem of Obama’s lawlessness]. I’ve been arguing for a long time that the leadership is impotent and that we need more conservatives with courage to stand up to [Obama]... But I do want to say this again to the American people, we’re living increasingly in a post-Constitutional period. [Obama] is destroying the United States Congress with the help of his party, with the help of Harry Reid in the Senate, whether it’s the filibuster rule, whether it’s treaties, or what have you, we’ve never seen anything like this in American history. Even Franklin Roosevelt’s vice president objected... when he tried to pack the Supreme Court. We don’t have these ethical, leading Democrats any more who are standing up to [Obama]. [Obama] does not want to work with Congress. He does not want to rally the American people. He wants to go it alone. He’s incapable of going it alone. He’s doing enormous damage to this country. He’s eviscerating what’s left of the Constitution. And let me be very clear about this: he is attacking American sovereignty with this U.N. [global warming] deal that they’re talking about, with the open borders and the executive fiat that he’s talking about—these are all efforts to destroy American sovereignty by Barack Obama.” [63513]

Hannity notes Congress’ “power of the purse,” to which Levin responds, “It’s a power if they use it. If they don’t use it it’s just words on a piece of parchment. And the fact of the matter is, within weeks of becoming Speaker of the House, John Boehner surrendered it. When he came to that continuing resolution, he said he’s not going to shut down the government—great, don’t shut it down, but do you have to announce it to your adversary on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue? The government’s been shut down 20 times. I don’t see where it’s done enormous damage. But, that said, you’ve had Paul Ryan coming on saying it’s a disaster, a disaster. So what they’ve done is, they have surrendered their powers. Okay, impeachment we can’t talk about. The power of the purse they’re not going to exercise. What the Hell’s left? I mean, if they’re not going to act like Congress, then Congress is going to be destroyed. And let me be clear, Mr. Boehner, and Mr. McConnell, and the Republicans: He [Obama] is destroying Congress. And the Senate has been eviscerated. And none of you guys have the guts to stand up and tell the American people over and over and over again who he is and what he’s doing.” [63513]

On August 28 the BBC reports, “Pro-Russian separatists have entered the port town of Novoazovsk in eastern Ukraine, an area which could be strategically vital. The town sits on the Sea of Azov, along the coastal road which runs from the Russia-Ukraine border to Crimea, through Ukrainian territory.” [63470]

Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko claims Russian forces have moved across the country’s eastern border. According to NBC, “East Ukraine rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko said Russians were fighting alongside separatist forces in the restive east of the country.” According to the *Daily Mail*, “A top NATO official said Thursday that at

least 1,000 Russian troops had entered Ukraine and had made direct ‘contact’ with Ukrainian soldiers.” [63472, 63473, 63488, 63516]

CNN reports, “A top Ukrainian army officer said a ‘full-scale invasion’ of his country was under way Thursday, as a U.S. official said up to 1,000 Russian troops had crossed Ukraine’s southern border to fight alongside pro-Russian rebels. U.S. officials said Russian troops were directly involved in the latest fighting, despite Moscow’s denials. ‘This is a full-scale invasion,’ Lysenko said, referring to the fighting in the south. Intelligence now indicates that up to 1,000 Russian troops have moved into southern Ukraine with heavy weapons and are fighting there, a U.S. official told CNN...” [63474]

FoxNews.com reports, “Ukrainian border guards retreated Thursday as two columns of Russian tanks streamed into the nation, prompting fears that Russia is creating a land link between its territory and Crimea. Ukrainian security council spokesman Col. Andriy Lysenko says Ukrainian forces were fired at using Grad missile systems from Russian territory at about 11 a.m. Lysenko said about an hour and a half later, two columns—including tanks and other fighting vehicles—began an attack on a border post. They later entered Ukraine from Veselo-Voznesenka and Maximovo of the Rostov region in Russia. Ukrainian border guards retreated because they didn’t have heavy equipment.” [63510]

The Obama administration will likely do its best to not call the invasion and invasion, probably using terms like “illegal incursion.” The United Nations will be useless, because Russia has veto power on the Security Council. NATO forces will not act because Ukraine is not a member of the organization. Russian President Vladimir Putin knows that the Obama administration will do little to stop his actions—which is why he was willing to authorize them. (On August Obama’s ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, stated that even humanitarian aid brought into Ukraine by Russia “would be viewed as an invasion of Ukraine.”) [63522, 63523]

In remarks to the White House press corps, Obama admits, “We don’t have a strategy yet” for dealing with ISIS in Syria. “We need to make sure that we’ve got clear plans. As our strategy develops, we will consult with Congress. ... We need to make sure that we’ve got clear plans, that we’re developing them. There’s no point in me asking for action on the part of Congress before I know exactly what it is that is going to be required for us to get the job done.” (The Pentagon no doubt has different strategies outlined, but the risk-averse and indecisive Obama is reluctant to choose one. Further, Obama does not need to provide any detailed outline of military plans to Congress; that is simply his excuse for inaction.) “My priority at this point,” says Obama, “is to make sure that the gains that ISIL [ISIS] made are rolled back... Clearly ISIL has come to represent the very worst elements in the region that we have to deal with effectively.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Now that they have succeeded in conquering whole swaths of the Middle East, he is telling these Islamic savages he has no strategy. In other words, Muhammad, have your way with the world. Why doesn’t Obama give them the coordinates to our most sensitive military and intel sites while he’s at it. The man is practically begging them to hit us. No matter what they do, no matter how horrific, Obama smiles.”) [63488, 63532, 63537, 63546, 63584, 63614, 63620, 63621]

Obama says, “I think what I’ve seen in some of the news reports suggests that folks are getting a little further ahead of where we’re at than we currently are. ... The options that I’m asking for from the Joint Chiefs [of Staff] focuses [sic; focus] primarily on making sure that ISIL is not overrunning Iraq. ... As commander in chief, I will always do what is necessary to protect the American people. Our military action in Iraq has to be part of a broader comprehensive strategy to protect our people and to support our partners who are taking the fight to ISIL. ... It also means that states in the region stop being ambivalent about these extremist groups. This should be a wake-up call to Sunni, to Shia, to everybody that a group like ISIS is beyond the pale; that they have no vision or ideology beyond violence and chaos and the slaughter of innocent people. ... The idea that the United States or any outside power would perpetually defeat ISIS, uh, I think is unrealistic. Uh, as I’ve said before, I think said it in the previous press conference, our military is the best in the world. We, we can rout ISIS on the ground and keep a lid on things temporarily, but then as soon as we leave, the same problems come back again. So we’ve gotta [sic; got to] ... We’ve gotta [sic] make sure that Iraqis understand, in the end they’re gonna be responsible for their own security.” [63488, 63532, 63537, 63546, 63584, 63614, 63620, 63621]

On the one hand, Obama says he “primarily” wants to prevent ISIS from “overrunning Iraq.” That is, he does not seek to *eradicate* ISIS, he believes he can only *temporarily contain them*. Yet on the other hand, he says “they have no vision or ideology beyond violence and chaos and the slaughter of innocent people.” Why then should they merely be *contained* and not *eliminated*? From Obama’s perspective, continuing “violence and chaos and the slaughter of innocent people” are apparently acceptable as long as those atrocities are limited to a few million non-Sunni Muslim victims outside the United States. Obama says “our military is the best in the world,” yet he believes it can do nothing more than “rout ISIS on the ground and keep a lid on things temporarily.” Rush Limbaugh later comments, “Even if you think this, even if you’re just... so corrupted that you even think this, why in the world go out and say it? In a worldwide press conference! Why go out and telegraph that we don’t even expect to be able to stop you? I don’t know. I just wonder about all these people who told us six years ago, ‘We’ve never seen anything like this before! Oh, no! We’ve never been in the company of such brilliance. Don’t question the man’s qualifications. He’s fine.’” [63488, 63532, 63537, 63546, 63584, 63614, 63620, 63621]

Of course, the U.S. military is certainly capable of defeating ISIS. Obama’s statement, “but then as soon as we leave, the same problems come back again,” is defeatism. What Obama *should* be saying is, “ISIS is evil—as are all radical Islamists whose goal is to kill anyone who does not submit to their ideology—but ISIS can be defeated. Yes, even if we kill every ISIS fighter, some other radical jihadist group may take its place. If necessary, we will annihilate them as well. We will do whatever it takes to protect the United States, Western civilization, and humanity.” It is shameful that Obama could not say that and instead chose to shrug his shoulders and imply, “Well, that’s life. If radical jihadists take over one-third of the world, so be it.” Every American should be ashamed of his statements. If Obama’s words reflect ignorance and naiveté, every American should be

outraged. If Obama's words reflect indifference, every American should be frightened to death. [63488, 63532, 63537, 63546, 63584, 63614, 63620, 63621]

Carefully avoiding the word "invasion," Obama then tells reporters that "Russia is responsible for the violence in eastern Ukraine. ... Russia has deliberately and repeatedly violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and the new images of Russian forces inside Ukraine make that plain for the world to see. [The assailant did not break the victim's nose, he "violated the territorial integrity of his face."] ... This is not a home-grown, indigenous uprising in Eastern Ukraine. The separatists are backed, trained, armed, financed by Russia. Throughout this process we've seen deep Russian involvement in everything that they've done." Obama claims, "Russia is already more isolated than at any time since the end of the Cold War," as if that alone would encourage President Vladimir Putin to decide not to take Ukraine. Obama stops short of calling the invasion an invasion, pretending that there are no Russian soldiers or agents in Ukraine. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) responds, "Russia's ongoing aggression in Ukraine can only be called one thing: a cross-border military invasion. To claim it is anything other than that is to inhabit President Putin's Orwellian universe. A sovereign nation in the heart of Europe is being invaded by its larger neighbor. This runs completely contrary to the civilized world that America and our partners have sought to build since World War II." (Some might wonder why Obama bothered to meet with the press at all. He provided no new information; said he had no plans to deal with ISIS, and responded to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as though it was nothing significant.) [63488, 63532, 63537, 63546, 63584, 63614, 63620, 63621]

Meanwhile, according to the *Daily Mail*, State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki says, "Our focus remains on nonlethal assistance [to Ukraine]. This will be a discussion with the international community. But it hasn't changed the fact that our preference in our priority and our focus is on nonlethal assistance and is on a diplomatic path forward." She calls sanctions "the most effective tool, the best tool" for resolving the conflict. (Some may wonder why, if sanctions are the "best tool" for dealing with international thugs, they were not used in place of military force when dealing with Germany and Japan during World War II.) [63488]

CNN's Barbara Starr comments, "This is the [commander in chief] that [sic; who] doesn't beat the war drum, but you have to wonder exactly what message he was sending here today. Let's be very clear. *ISIS heard all of this*. So [Obama] says we have no strategy yet. This is a little surprising because of course the Pentagon has openly acknowledged they are working on military options. Military options to pursue what strategy? There must be something out there, or what are these options that the Pentagon's been scribbling away at for weeks now? Where are they really headed? [Obama] talked about 'degrading' ISIS. Remember it was Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel a couple of days ago that [sic; who] said ISIS was like 'no threat we've ever seen.' There has been concern about a homeland threat from ISIS down the road and yet, no strategy to deal with it. Very blunt, very honest, absolutely where [Obama] is on all of this, no question about that [sic]. But perhaps worth remembering [is] that ISIS fighters, ISIS leadership will hear this statement that the U.S. right now has no strategy to deal

with them. I don't think anybody thought a military strategy was the whole answer, but *no* strategy? A little odd perhaps." [63602]

At PJMedia.com Richard Fernandez writes, "[Obama] has just held a press conference announcing he will do nothing much to counter the crises unfolding in the Ukraine and Syria. The New York Times reports: 'Obama Urges Calm in Face of Two Crises.' ...[Obama is] right: it's not time to panic. The time to panic was about six months ago. It's essentially too late to halt the dynamic of events now. Timing matters. Once the batter misses the ball it doesn't matter how hard he subsequently swings. Someone should tell [Obama] the time to bat is over and the janitor can't keep the stadium lights on much longer. ...The sanctions of course, have done nothing to stop Russia so far. It will now take a frightening amount of either military or economic pressure to rein in the Bear. So what's [Obama] going to do? The only thing he can do: keep going down the road he started. Obama's time to stand came a long time ago and it's receding rapidly in the rear view mirror. They've taken the reset ring off Obama's finger already. Now watch him give them the shoes. The wolves now know that the sheepdog isn't coming. ...The amount of force—or bribery—[Obama] now has to employ to slow this rout will exponentially grow. It's just like cancer. Catch it early and it could be a minor operation. Leave it till later and it will be major." [63612]

At WashingtonPost.com Jennifer Rubin writes, "What was the Obama administration's initial reaction [to Russia's invasion of Ukraine]? 'These incursions indicate a Russian-directed counteroffensive is likely underway in Donetsk and Luhansk. Clearly, that is of deep concern to us,' a State Department spokeswoman said yesterday. She could not have been more inoffensive. ...Plainly, Russian President Vladimir Putin has taken the measure of ...Obama and found him to be no obstacle to re-creation of the Russian empire. Former assistant secretary of state Brian Hook observes: 'Putin's aggression is a direct challenge to the post-Cold War security order in Europe that America largely created. [Obama] doesn't seem to fully appreciate this, which is both strange and troubling.' ...There is no better example of the ruinous Obama foreign policy than Ukraine. [He] has issued empty threats, diminished sanctions and refused to allow Ukraine to protect itself. If you are the leader of a Baltic state, you're probably and justifiably panicked. [Obama] will no doubt issue more empty threats. But that doesn't do Ukraine any good, and it surely won't protect other potential victims. Hillary Clinton's reset policy, it seems, has been a complete failure. Or is she going to blame others for this one as well?" [63613]

Some residents of Ferguson, Missouri are angered when a police car drives over a memorial of flower petals and candles for Michael Brown. (The "memorial" was placed in the center of the busy road where Brown was shot. Had a police car not run over the flowers and candles, another car eventually would have.) [63487]

Hillary Clinton finally gets around to commenting on the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri—at an invitation-only software event (the Nexenta OpenSDx Summit) that paid her a reported \$250,000 to appear. Clinton says, "I applaud ...Obama, for sending the Attorney General to Ferguson, and demanding a thorough and speedy

investigation... that's both appropriate and necessary to find out what happened, to see that justice is done, to help this community begin healing itself. ...We cannot ignore the inequities that persist in our justice system, inequities that undermine our most deeply held values of fairness and equality. ...Watching the recent funeral for Michael Brown, as a mother and as a human being, my heart just broke for his family, because losing a child is every parent's greatest fear and an unimaginable loss. But I also grieve for that community and for many like it across our country. Behind the dramatic, terrible pictures on television are deep challenges that will be with them and with us long after the cameras move on. This is what happens when the bonds of trust and respect that hold any community together fray. Nobody wants to see our streets look like a war zone. Not in America. We are better than that." [63489, 63490, 63575, 63606]

Clinton's comments are clearly scripted and rehearsed—yet she appears to be reading them. Her mannerisms are also clearly coached and rehearsed. The remarks themselves were likely poll-tested before her advisors dared to let her speak on the topic. She says nothing risky or controversial. The statement and its delivery are robotic and calculated. She may make no enemies, but she will also win no converts. CNN's Brooke Baldwin states the obvious: "She clearly had put some thought into that." HotAir.com's Noah Rothman later writes, "Clinton has no excuse for her silence save for the legitimate reason she was quiet: She hoped she could get away without addressing this issue and only spoke on it when it was clear she could not. This is as calculating a maneuver as any a Clinton has ever embraced, and that's saying something. It is timed to ensure her the maximum political benefit with minimal fallout. There was nothing courageous here. Those too quick to forgive her will be doing so to preserve her viability as a potential Democratic standard-bearer in 2016. Regardless of what is said in public, Clinton created a rift between her and her supporters on the left. They may be quick to forgive, but they will not forget." [63489, 63490, 63575, 63606]

FoxNews.com reports, "A new English-language Al Qaeda magazine features a how-to article on making car bombs and suggests terror targets in the United States, including casinos in Las Vegas, oil tankers and military colleges, and implies that an attack is imminent. The online publication, called 'Palestine-Betrayal of the Guilty Conscience Al-Malahem' and put out by the media arm of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, calls for Muslims around the world to follow 'the recipe' provided to set off car bombs in crowded venues. It includes a timeline of 'selected jihadi operations' that the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), which first flagged the slickly-produced latest edition of the terror publication, finds chilling. ...There is a suggested list of targets for lone-wolf, or individually executed, terror attacks, including New York's Times Square, casinos and night clubs in Las Vegas, oil tankers and trains, the Georgia Military College, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, and General Atomics defense contractor in San Diego. ...There is also a list of targets in Britain including a military academy and the Marks and Spencers chain of department stores. The magazine calls for the stores to be hit on Friday during prayers so that Muslims won't be affected." (Pamela Geller comments, "Obama, the JVers are playing in the major championships. Step up man, pretend you're the President of the United States not the President of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]. You owe the American people that much for

your vile ruse. Obama, the biggest con ever put over on so many earnest people. I believe an attack is imminent—all of these Muslim groups are vying for power and popularity across the Muslim world as the conquests of the global jihad multiply. There's no bigger and better way to get major cred than to attack the US (the great Satan)." The Obama Timeline agrees, and urges all Americans everywhere to be cautious on September 11, 2014.) [63498, 63499, 63545]

Fox also reports, "A second American reportedly killed fighting with the Islamic State group in Syria has been identified as Abdirahmaan Muhumed, of Minneapolis, two sources told Fox News late Wednesday. KMSP-TV in Minneapolis reported that Muhumed was killed in the same battle as Douglas McAuthor McCain, who grew up outside Minneapolis in the town of New Hope and most recently lived in San Diego. The State Department confirmed McCain's death earlier this week, but spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Wednesday that the U.S. has no independent confirmation of the second American's death. 'We're looking into it,' she said." Minneapolis has a sizeable population of Somalis and Muslims. (It is later reported that Muhumed had worked for Delta Global Services at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport, fueling and cleaning planes—a job that gave him access to the tarmac and, of course, planes. While elderly grandmothers were being groped by TSA thugs inside the airport, a future jihadist was attending the planes they would be boarding. Attorney General Eric Holder has sent 40 FBI agents to investigate the Ferguson, Missouri police department to look for proof of systemic racism, and some Americans may wonder how many agents have kept a close watch on the hiring practices at U.S. airports.) [63512, 63600, 63845, 63868]

Police in Cancun, Mexico stop a Mercedes Benz with Belize license plates driven by Hacsam Elsayetd and three other passengers. According to the Creeping Sharia blog, "These terrorists belong to the group 'Hezbollah' ... Mexican authorities are aware that Belize is being used as a base for Hezbollah cells. ... Sources have not yet confirmed if the Hacsam Elsayetd is also Hassan El Sayed, a man who absconded Belize in 2002 when he was facing over 100 forgery charges in relation to passport applications. El Sayed was also wanted for questioning for \$1.4 million dollars that then BTL CEO Gaspar Aguilar allegedly gave to him to change into US dollars on the black market. The funds were never returned. El Sayed allegedly died in a car crash in Lebanon in 2005 and was allegedly buried 24 hours later." (There is almost no doubt that if Hezbollah terrorists are in Belize and Mexico, they are also in the United States. Pamela Geller writes, "But don't worry, Obama's Department of Homeland Security quickly denied that the Islamic State has jihadists stationed in Juarez, Mexico who plan an 'imminent' attack against the United States. This is typical of the DHS—they are too busy monitoring the tea party, vets and grandma. For years I have documented Hezb' Allah's infiltration of Mexico, partnering with the drug cartels and using their narco terror routes to expand and infiltrate the US. The spike in beheadings in recent years in Mexico near our southern border is a direct result of their Islamic influence. Islamic terrorists and Mexican drug gangs have teamed up to successfully penetrate the U.S., as well as finance terror networks in the Middle East. It's only a matter of time—and it's going to get very ugly.") [63705, 63706, 63729]

ForeignPolicy.com reports on the contents of a laptop computer captured in Syria that was being used by a member of ISIS: “The laptop’s contents turn out to be a treasure trove of documents that provide ideological justifications for jihadi organizations—and practical training on how to carry out the Islamic State’s deadly campaigns. They include videos of Osama bin Laden, manuals on how to make bombs, instructions for stealing cars, and lessons on how to use disguises in order to avoid getting arrested while traveling from one jihadi hot spot to another. But after hours upon hours of scrolling through the documents, it became clear that the ISIS laptop contains more than the typical propaganda and instruction manuals used by jihadists. The documents also suggest that the laptop’s owner was teaching himself about the use of biological weaponry, in preparation for a potential attack that would have shocked the world. The information on the laptop makes clear that its owner is a Tunisian national named Muhammed S. who joined ISIS in Syria and who studied chemistry and physics at two universities in Tunisia’s northeast. Even more disturbing is how he planned to use that education: The ISIS laptop contains a 19-page document in Arabic on how to develop biological weapons and how to weaponize the bubonic plague from infected animals. ...The laptop also includes a 26-page fatwa, or Islamic ruling, on the usage of weapons of mass destruction. ‘If Muslims cannot defeat the kafir [unbelievers] in a different way, it is permissible to use weapons of mass destruction,’ states the fatwa by Saudi jihadi cleric Nasir al-Fahd, who is currently imprisoned in Saudi Arabia. ‘Even if it kills all of them and wipes them and their descendants off the face of the Earth.’” [63578, 63603, 63623]

The Telegraph reports, “Syrian militants have reportedly captured more than 40 United Nations peacekeepers during skirmishes on the Israeli border. Forty-seven soldiers from the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) are understood to have been abducted during clashes in the Golan Heights area between Syrian government forces and militants fighting with the Al-Nusra Front [the “moderates” Obama wants to help], an al-Qaeda linked group.” [63579, 63580, 63608]

Catherine Herridge reports at FoxNews.com, “The convicted shooter in the Fort Hood massacre [Nidal Malik Hassan] has written a letter to the leader of the Islamic State saying he wants to become a ‘citizen’ of the caliphate, in the latest example of the terror group’s reach inside the U.S. ...In the undated letter, Hasan—who fatally shot 13 people [14, counting the unborn child of a pregnant victim] and injured more than 30 at Fort Hood in 2009 in what the Defense Department called ‘workplace violence’—tells ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that he wants to join the caliphate. ‘I formally and humbly request to be made a citizen of the Islamic State,’ Hasan says in the handwritten document addressed to ‘Ameer, Mujahid Dr. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.’ ‘It would be an honor for any believer to be an obedient citizen soldier to a people and its leader who don’t compromise the religion of All-Mighty Allah to get along with the disbelievers.’” (Hasan’s letter makes a mockery of the Obama administration’s claim that his shooting spree was not a jihadist action but was mere “workplace violence.” Hasan was motivated by Islam, not anger toward any specific co-workers.) [63581, 63582, 63708]

On *The Steve Malzberg Show*, economist Lawrence Kudlow says, “Warren Buffett is involved heavily in the financing of this [Burger King merger] issue—Buffett, who is

Obama's pal who has been going on for years about how wealthy millionaires don't pay their fair share [of taxes]. Here's Buffett involved in a corporate inversion, in other words, a tax deal to lighten the tax burden on Burger King and the other companies. Buffett kind of pulls the rug out from under Obama. Buffett's his pal and if Buffett's doing this, what is Obama going to say? You attack inversions, you're attacking his buddy Warren Buffett. ...I want to see how this plays out because this really damages Obama's whole credibility, his whole argument and his whole 'economic patriotism.' This is his buddy Warren Buffett who is engaging in inversions, that's what he's doing." [63507]

Gallup reports, "Americans are more than twice as likely to say they 'strongly disapprove' (39%) of ...Obama's job performance as they are to say they 'strongly approve' (17%). The percentage of Americans who strongly disapprove of Obama has increased over time, while the percentage who strongly approve has dropped by almost half." Counting "moderate" approval and disapprovals, Obama's combined approval/disapproval ratings are 44/53 percent. [63717, 63718]

WesternJournalism.com reports, "A new report from the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point blows a gaping hole in Team Obama's claim that the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) suddenly became a major terror threat. The study shows that the ultra-radical Islamist organization began its rise to power more than four years ago and is now widely considered a 'full-blown army.'" [63513]

The chances of Democrats retaining control of the Senate fall a bit more as news spreads throughout Louisiana that Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), who is up for reelection on November 4, actually maintains full-time residency in a \$2.5 million Washington, D.C. mansion—and falsely lists her parents' New Orleans home as her permanent address. (In Federal Election Commission filings she listed her D.C. home as her residence.) WashingtonPost.com notes, "The New Orleans house... is a new flash point in one of the most closely contested Senate races in the country. Republicans are considering taking legal action to question Landrieu's residency in the state, arguing that since winning her seat in 1996 she has become a creature of Washington. ... 'I don't think she lives there,' said [neighbor] Fontaine Wells, 65, pointing at the Landrieu home. 'She might come visit, but come on now—she lives in D.C. I don't think I've ever seen her.'" (Landrieu, of course, is not the only Senator who lives in Washington, D.C. but maintains a "pretend" home somewhere else. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) lives almost full-time in a D.C. hotel, and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) rarely sets foot in Kansas. Technically, Landrieu, her parents, and her many siblings are co-owners of the house. But she does not live there.) [63517, 63518, 63549, 63661, 63848, 64187]

Politico reports that Obama "is slated to attend the wedding of his personal chef Sam Kass and MSNBC host Alex Wagner on Saturday... at Blue Hill at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills, N.Y. Kass is the Obama family's personal chef and the... senior policy adviser for nutrition policy. He is also the executive director of 'Let's Move.' Wagner hosts the MSNBC weekday program 'Now with Alex Wagner.' Both Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will be in attendance at the wedding..." (Obama interrupted his

Martha's Vineyard golf vacation to briefly return to Washington, D.C. to attend Kass' bachelor party—proving that he considers attending parties more important than attending to national security issues.) [63060, 63061, 63062, 63063, 63111, 63112, 63232, 63233, 63529, 63572]

Obama also plans to attend weekend fundraisers, which NYPost.com notes “is grounding wealthy weekenders who planned to fly to the Hamptons or Nantucket for the Labor Day holiday. The FAA has issued a no-fly warning that extends for most of Friday and all day Saturday through Sunday, grounding seaplanes to East Hampton, Montauk, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. On Friday [August 29], Obama will be feted at the home of one of his top bundlers, 32 Advisors' Robert Wolf, in the aptly-named Purchase, NY, with 250 high-rollers paying up to \$32,000 each to bend Obama's ear. Obama will then fly to Newport, R.I. for an event to benefit House Democrats. Melissa Tomkiel, president of seaplane companies, Fly the Whale (which flies from NYC to the Hamptons and Nantucket) and Tailwind (NYC to Boston and DC), told us, ‘A flight restriction was issued banning operations in the NYC area due to [Obama's] visit on Friday for practically the whole weekend, causing major business losses and inconvenience for our passengers on the busiest weekend of the year. It is frustrating. We have had to move at least 10 flights and cancel a number of private charters, costing us thousands of dollars. We count on this weekend to get us through the quieter months of the year. This will create a perfect storm on a holiday Friday, creating air space havoc between New York City and Boston.’” (Wolf is CEO of the American branch of the Swiss banking giant UBS, which is infamous for helping wealthy Americans shelter income in Switzerland to avoid taxes. In 2008 Wolf collected more than \$370,000 in campaign contributions for Obama.) [123, 448, 1286, 63535, 63536]

Amazingly, in response to criticism over attending a wedding and fundraisers while he has yet to develop a strategy for dealing with ISIS and Russia invades Ukraine, Obama changes his schedule—*not* by skipping the events, but by scheduling a return to the White House so he can sleep in his own bed in between the events. (The additional trips will save hotel expenses, but that will be more than offset by the added cost of flying back and forth to the nation's capitol. Readers are welcome to speculate as to whether Obama will be discussing ISIS strategy with Pentagon officials at the Wagner-Kass wedding.)

Newsmax.com reports that former president Jimmy Carter is scheduled to address the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) on August 30. ISNA was one of several unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation terrorist funding trial. Like CAIR, ISNA engages in money-laundering to transfer funds to the terrorist group Hamas. Socialist Congressman Keith “Hakim” Ellison (D-MN) will also speak at the event. Newsmax adds, “Constitutional law expert Alan Dershowitz stressed that Carter's actions, in raising funds for the ISNA, place him ‘very close, if not across the line,’ of criminal behavior.” (The Hamas-supporting Carter should know better than to address the group, but his fanatical hatred of Jews overcomes reason.) [63530, 63615]

On Chicago's southwest side, a man with an ISIS flag on his vehicle threatens police with a bomb. The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports, "Emad Karakrah, 49, was charged with felony counts of disorderly conduct and aggravated fleeing; and a misdemeanor count of driving on a never-issued license, according to Chicago Police. He was also issued three traffic citations. ...Officers attempted to pull over the vehicle, but the driver took off, according to the report. The officers called for assistance, and another officer pulled the vehicle over after it went through several red lights. The man told police during his arrest that there was a bomb in the car and he would detonate it if they searched the vehicle, according to the report. A bomb squad, the FBI and Homeland Security responded to the scene and searched the vehicle, but no bomb was found, authorities said." [63585, 63586]

Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) proposes legislation that would significantly restrict travel to Syria and other "nations of concern," and imprison for up to 20 years Americans who travel to those countries to Syria to fight with ISIS. According to FreeBeacon.com, "Wolf petitioned other members of Congress on Thursday to finally 'do something to prevent Americans fighting with ISIS from freely returning to the U.S.,' according to a copy of a letter sent across the Hill. 'Limited U.S. intelligence about their activities in the region effectively means our law enforcement can do nothing when they return home, despite concerns about their activities, contacts and training while in Syria,' Wolf writes. 'I think most would agree we need to do more to prevent these terrorists from returning freely to the U.S. ...The U.S. is not taking any substantial steps to discourage Americans from going over to fight—and these would-be fighters can see there is little price to pay for doing so. This is an untenable situation that puts our country at greater risk of attack from a radicalized American who trains and fights with these groups and later returns home.'" [63587, 63588]

Former Senator Scott Brown, running for the U.S. Senate in New Hampshire, apparently agrees with Wolf. Brown states, "One of the greatest threats facing the homeland today is the mayhem that will happen when hundreds of American ISIS fighters return to the United States to spread their terror here. Their goal is to march down Pennsylvania Avenue and plant a flag at the White House, and mass killing is their means for achieving that goal. That's why Congress needs to pass legislation that would strip the citizenship of any American who joins a foreign terrorist organization. We need to keep our country safe by stopping these American ISIS fighters from re-entering the country." (DailyCaller.com notes, "When a senator in Massachusetts in 2010 and 2011, Brown introduced a pair of bills that would have revoked the citizenship of Americans who joined terrorists.") [63617]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The U.S. intelligence community has observed a 'significant increase' in chatter among terrorist organizations as the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks nears. 'We've noticed a significant increase in chatter among Islamic terrorist organizations overseas both on the Internet and phone lines,' a U.S. government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Blaze. While the intelligence community can not pinpoint whether or not an attack is planned, the official said that agencies 'did see this kind of increase in chatter before the September 11 attacks.'" [63589, 63590]

WND.com reports, “Attorney Larry Klayman, fresh off a preliminary court ruling that the National Security Agency’s spying on Americans likely is unconstitutional, now has named ...Obama and others in a racketeering complaint. Klayman, founder of Freedom Watch and a columnist for WND, alleges [Obama] and others laundered U.S. taxpayer money that was spent on Hamas rockets fired against Israel. The civil lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington falls under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, alleges criminal acts by Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. Seeking \$1.5 billion in compensatory damages as well as punitive damages, it accuses the global figures of ‘laundering U.S. dollars’ to Hamas, which is officially designated by the U.S. government as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. ‘This money has been foreseeably [sic] used to buy rockets and construct tunnels to attack Israel and terrorize and kill American and dual American-Israeli citizens who reside or are located in Israel,’ Klayman said in a statement. ‘The nation and the world have increasingly come to see that Obama views himself primarily as a Muslim and acts accordingly in favoring Islamic interests over Judeo-Christian ones, and the complaint lays out Obama’s history in documented detail,’ he said. Klayman said Obama’s actions ‘were calculated to harm the nation of Israel.’ ...The case, No. 14-1484, alleges the defendants conspired to send hundreds of millions of dollars to Hamas ‘under the false pretext that this financial support will be used for humanitarian purposes.’” (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Obama and other high-ranking Democrats may be subject to prosecution under RICO for participation in a conspiracy to gain the White House even though they knew he was not a natural born citizen. By lying to the American people and providing fraudulent and forged documents, Obama and his co-conspirators illegally collected hundreds of millions of dollars in campaign contributions. If indicted and convicted, Obama and others would not only face jail time, they could be ordered to return more than \$1 billion in campaign donations.) [63533, 63618]

DailyCaller.com writes, “The Department of Justice is giving liberal activist groups money from a \$16.6 billion settlement with Bank of America, Judicial Watch reports. The groups benefiting from the lawsuit, according to Investor’s Business Daily, are the National Council of La Raza, Operation Hope, National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America. The money also went to ‘delinquent borrowers’ in Chicago, Oakland, Detroit, Philadelphia and other major ‘Democrat strongholds.’ ‘This is a wealth redistribution scheme disguised as a lawsuit,’ Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, told The Daily Caller. ‘And who benefits from the distribution? Interest groups the administration relies on, outside interest groups, allies and politicians in communities trying to benefit as well.’ Fitton noted that these liberal groups are basically what’s left of the Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN) network, and that ...Obama has ties to ACORN. ‘You have La Raza that’s getting money, [and] their former head is at the White House in a top position whose funding from the feds has gone up immensely under the Obama administration,’ Fitton said. La Raza, Operation Hope, National Community Reinvestment Coalition and Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America have all intimidated banks to give loans to minorities, even if they can’t afford to pay them back. This is part of an ongoing

scheme in which the DOJ puts the money it has received from bank settlements in a slush fund and then funnels the money to liberal groups. Judicial Watch points out that liberal groups—many of which are the same ones benefiting from this lawsuit — also received money from multi-billion dollar settlements from JP Morgan Chase and Citibank, as well as a \$335 million settlement from Countrywide Financial Corporation.” [63577, 63674]

Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) tells Fox News’ Neil Cavuto that Obama “has never had a good strategy. And I don’t want people to lose sight of the fact, when we’re talking about ISIS, ...the rebels in Syria, the rebels in Iraq. When people say [Obama] should have bombed [Syria]—he was going to bomb [the regime of President Bashar al-] Assad a year ago. If he had done what he said he was going to do, ...then ISIS would already have taken over all of Syria—if [Obama] had done in Syria, as he did in Libya. ...He saw it, a few ears ago, as being an ‘Arab Spring.’ [But] It was radical Islam, and he kept choosing to help radical Islam. ...[S]ome of us knew. Last year, we were going [sic; saying], ‘You’re helping, just like we did in Libya, you’re going to help the radical Islamists take over.’ Assad’s not a good guy, [but he’s the lesser of two evils], just like Mubarak was, just like Gaddafi was—after 2003 only, after we went into Iraq. But [Obama] has consistently chosen, with whatever ridiculous advice he’s been getting, to choose the side of the radical Islamists.” Gohmert says he would support military action in Syria “as long as he’s going after the radical Islamists and not the Assad administration.” [63541]

Retired U.S. Army Major General Bob Scales adds, “ISIS is overwhelmingly a military problem. It is a military challenge to the west, not diplomatic or political. ...And nowhere in [Obama’s] speech did he talk about offensive military options, only defensive military options to protect embassies and... to use for humanitarian purposes. The bottom line is this: ISIS can’t be defeated unless we, or someone, kills them. That’s it. ISIS doesn’t care about anything else. They want to establish a caliphate over the bodies of the unbelievers, and the way you get rid of them is to kill them, not to deal with them...” [63541]

Shoebat.com writes, “The horrific video showing ISIS herding hundreds of men in the nude and then are executed in masse is reminiscent to the Jewish Holocaust. The ISIS has become like the *Einsatzgruppen der Sicherheitspolizei*, a group of SS whose sole purpose was the extermination of Jews and other ‘undesirables.’ The ISIS are now even emulating the Nazis SS when units traveled with the Wermacht in order to ‘purify’ newly conquered territories. ISIS is not only practicing beheadings and shootings and as one notices there are no signs of missing heads, blood, or bullet holes on any of the piles of bodies. The SS used the insecticide Zyklon B (‘Cyclone B’) to asphyxiate the prisoners whom they herded into the gas chambers at Auschwitz. Its active ingredient was a form of cyanide, hydrocyanic acid. And now, reports from Arabic sources of what ISIS is doing is its spiking the drinking water which they give to their victims by placing an unknown toxic material which poisoned soldiers of the Syrian army. Instead of depriving soldiers of water in the known style by ISIS and according to the Arabic sources, ISIS is putting a chemical that has no smell or taste and doesn’t react chemically in the human body. The information was obtained from testimonies of some of the soldiers of the Syrian army who came out alive from the battle talked about their observations of their colleagues

who drank from the water that turned them in a period of hours to die of the result of what they termed ‘the erosion of the body from the inside.’ From reviewing the video, this is a possibility.” [63542, 63583]

Garth Kant writes at WND.com, “A former CIA agent bluntly told WND, America has switched sides in the war on terror under ...Obama. Clare Lopez was willing to say what a few members of Congress have confided to WND in private, but declined to say on-the-record. She said the global war on terror had been an effort to ‘stay free of Shariah,’ or repressive Islamic law, until the Obama administration began siding with such jihadist groups as the Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliates. Why the switch? Lopez explained, when the so-called Arab Spring appeared in late 2010, ‘It was time to bring down the secular Muslim rulers who did not enforce Islamic law. And America helped. And why would Obama want to do that? As she told WND earlier this month, Lopez believed the Muslim Brotherhood has thoroughly infiltrated the Obama administration and other branches of the federal government. She also came to the conclusion Obama had essentially the same goals in the Mideast as the late Osama bin Laden: ‘to remove American power and influence, including military forces, from Islamic lands.’ Why would Obama order the killing of bin Laden? Because [Obama] ‘couldn’t delay any longer,’ once the opportunity was presented, Lopez told WND. There were ‘no more excuses’ available to avoid it and he ‘thought it might look good,’ she mused.” (Many in the Obama administration have bought into the false claim that the Muslim Brotherhood is “moderate.” Whether they have convinced Obama or he never needed convincing is not entirely clear, but evidence suggests the latter. As an example, in his June 2009 Cairo address Obama insisted that several members of the Muslim Brotherhood be allowed to sit in the first row—even though the group was outlawed by the Mubarak regime.) [3041, 3376, 63543, 63699, 63945]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says, “Look, I thought [Obama] could no longer surprise me. I was wrong. He shocked me today. [Obama], in the middle of a real crisis, a few days after the beheading of an American—deliberately sort of spitting in the face of the country and demonstrating [ISIS]’ cruelty—[Obama] gets in front of the world and says, ‘I don’t have a strategy.’ If that is true, *don’t say anything*. Why do you announce you don’t have a strategy? But even worse was what he said about Ukraine. He basically said on Ukraine, ‘I do have a strategy.’ The strategy is to do absolutely nothing! He said, you know, Russia is only hurting itself. ‘I can see that.’ The rest of the world probably will see it later but *he* can see that. ‘Russia has stupidly declined to take all the off-ramps I’ve offered it...’ And he basically said we’re going to do nothing. ‘I’ll wait until I chat with the allies next week.’ I thought he had a phone? How about picking up the phone and talking to the allies? ...What he could’ve said was, ‘We are going to now impose the sanctions I have been saying for *months* we would impose if there’s an invasion, and this was an obvious invasion.’ Obama said there’s nothing new here, to move along, as if the sending of a column of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and ...artillery into Ukraine is not what it obviously is. It’s an invasion.” [63534]

On *On the Record*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) comments on Obama’s plan to pursue an international “climate change” treaty without the ratification of the Senate: “Not only is it

an abuse of power, I think it almost leads us to a constitutional crisis of sorts. It's one thing after another. You know, he says he has 'no choice but to act,' he says he 'has a pen and a phone and he's going to act.' That doesn't sound like our republic. ...He doesn't seem to grasp the [concept of] 'checks and balances.' ...The House rejected 'cap and trade,' so now he's going around democracy, he's doing sort of an end-around Congress, and you can't imagine that the American public would let him do this, or we [in Congress] would let him do it, frankly. So, I hope that we will see resolutions, and legislation, and actual legal action. ...I support Speaker Boehner's legal fight to say, you know, [Obama] can't just do what he wants. He's not a king. He has to really get approval from Congress." Paul also criticizes Hillary Clinton for her Libyan policy as Secretary of State, which resulted in the death of four Americans and left the nation far less stable than when Moammar Gaddafi was in power. (Some have argued that Paul should "take the gloves off" with his criticism of Clinton and discuss the influence of her radical, Muslim Brotherhood-connected advisor, Huma Abedin.) [63538, 63539, 63540]

On August 29, on NBC's *Today* program, host Matt Lauer wonders if critics took Obama's "we don't have a strategy yet" statement "too literally." (Lauer does not offer an alternative meaning of Obama's words.) [63789]

Jamie Dettmer writes at FoxNews.com, "Syria's bloody civil war has spawned a separate rift with ramifications well beyond the region known as the Levant—a battle for the very soul of the global jihad movement. Islamic militants who poured into the embattled nation to help the Free Syrian Army in its bid to topple dictator Bashar Assad are now fighting Assad, the rebels and each other in a barbaric free-for-all. At the center is the split between Al Qaeda's regional affiliate, Jabhat al-Nusra, and the newly emerged Islamic State, which are fighting each other on the battlefield and in the war for recruits to the cause of Islamic terrorism. 'The two groups are now in an open war for supremacy of the global jihadist movement,' according to Middle East scholar Aaron Zelin in a research paper published by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a U.S.-based think tank. Throw in the jihadist-led insurgency in neighboring Iraq, which has become intertwined in the insurrection in Syria, and the shifting alliances are becoming for many even harder to understand. ...Several important affiliates have sworn allegiance to ISIS, while many others are avoiding declaring their choice between [ISIS leader] al Baghdadi or Al Qaeda, preferring to hedge their bets and wait to see who comes out on top. On the ground in Syria and Iraq, the top dog at the moment is ISIS. With the advanced weaponry it has captured from fleeing Iraqi forces and the money it looted from Iraq's regional banks, it has taken over the group and has much to offer recruits." [63544]

AFP reports, "The Islamic State has declared Denmark an 'enemy of Islam' and the country is on the militant organization's radar. This is according to a Danish-Turkish jihadist, who only gave his name as OA and previously fought for the organization in Syria. The 27 year-old, who was born and raised in Denmark says The Islamic State, ...previously known as ISIS, 'has become very international and Denmark is high up on the list, believe me,' speaking to the Danish broadsheet newspaper, Politiken. 'Denmark is not my country. The Muslims' country is the caliphate and inshallah [Allah willing] there will soon be an attack here. Denmark should prepare itself,' the militant added as

cited by The Local. ‘It is an open war now. ISIS has said that all infidels should be battled. They should be eliminated and soon it will be Denmark’s turn,’ OA continued.” [63707]

At PJMedia.com Freedom Scholar chair at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies Michael Ledeen writes, “They [Obama administration officials] DO have a strategy, but they prefer to appear indecisive. That’s because the strategy would likely provoke even greater criticism than the false confession of endless dithering. The actual strategy is detente first, and then a full alliance with Iran throughout the Middle East and North Africa. It has been on display since before the beginning of the Obama administration. During his first presidential campaign in 2008, Mr. Obama used a secret back channel to Tehran to assure the mullahs that he was a friend of the Islamic Republic, and that they would be very happy with his policies. The secret channel was Ambassador William G. Miller, who served in Iran during the shah’s rule, as chief of staff for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and as ambassador to Ukraine. Ambassador Miller has confirmed to me his conversations with Iranian leaders during the 2008 campaign. Ever since, ...Obama’s quest for an alliance with Iran has been conducted through at least four channels: Iraq, Switzerland (the official U.S. representative to Tehran), Oman and a variety of American intermediaries, the most notable of whom is probably Valerie Jarrett, his closest adviser. In recent months, Middle Eastern leaders reported personal visits from Ms. Jarrett, who briefed them on her efforts to manage the Iranian relationship. This was confirmed to me by a former high-ranking American official who says he was so informed by several Middle Eastern leaders.” [63694, 63695]

“The central theme in Obama’s outreach to Iran is his conviction that the United States has historically played a wicked role in the Middle East, and that the best things he can do for that part of the world is to limit and withdraw American military might, and empower our self-declared enemies, whose hostility to traditional American policies he largely shares. ...It is exceedingly unlikely that Mr. Obama will do anything that would threaten [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad’s rule or Iran’s power. To do so would be tantamount to abandoning his core strategy of creating a U.S.-Iranian alliance that would make Tehran the major regional power and Washington a friendly kibbitzer and adviser. It is even more unlikely that Mr. Obama and his spokespeople will confess to actually having a strategy, because of the political firestorm that would result. Better to be thought a fool than to remove all doubt, after all.” (*The Obama Timeline* finds Ledeen’s analysis somewhat confusing inasmuch as Obama seem to have repeatedly sided with the Sunnis in any conflict between Sunnis and non-Muslims or Sunnis and Shi’ites. On the other hand, anti-American actions may trump any pro-Sunni sympathies Obama may have, and he is certainly capable of changing his allegiances as needed.) [63964, 63965]

NationalReview.com reports, “Southern Utah University has decided to do away with its Harry Reid Outdoor Engagement Center. Not the building itself, but the current Senate majority leader’s name on the building due to his unpopularity as well as unfulfilled promises in donations.” [63552]

BizPacReview.com reports, “Chelsea Clinton Mezvinsky, at the tender age of 34, is giving up her \$600,000 per year [part-time] gig at the peacock network, she told People Magazine on Friday, and later confirmed by Alex Wallace, a senior vice-president in the NBC News Department. Clinton said in a statement, that she ‘plans to continue focusing on my work at the Clinton Foundation’ and welcoming her and her husband’s first child.” Wallace says, “Chelsea’s storytelling inspired people across the country and showcased the real power we have as individuals to make a difference in our communities. While she will be missed, we look forward to working with her in the future.” (Wallace apparently never viewed any of Mezvinsky’s on-air reports.) [63637, 63662]

WSJ.com reports, “Consumer spending fell in July and income growth was weak, signs that cautious consumers could restrain economic growth in the second half of the year. Personal spending, which measures what Americans pay for everything from sneakers to doctor visits, declined a seasonally adjusted 0.1% in July from a month earlier, the Commerce Department said Friday. It was the first time spending fell in a month since January. Personal income, reflecting income from wages, investment, and government aid, rose 0.2% in July—the smallest monthly increase of the year. ‘[It] Looks like the pilot threw the economy’s engines into reverse at the start of the third quarter,’ said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ. Forecasts that the economy would grow at a strong 3% clip in the third quarter ‘look increasingly unrealistic if consumers don’t return to the shops and malls.’” [63632, 63633]

Some of the nation’s malls may have few shoppers on September 12, 2014: According to Judicial Watch, “Islamic terrorist groups are operating in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez and planning to attack the United States with car bombs or other vehicle born improvised explosive devices (VBIED). High-level federal law enforcement, intelligence and other sources have confirmed to Judicial Watch that a warning bulletin for an imminent terrorist attack on the border has been issued. Agents across a number of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense agencies have all been placed on alert and instructed to aggressively work all possible leads and sources concerning this imminent terrorist threat. Specifically, Judicial Watch sources reveal that the militant group Islamic State of Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) is confirmed to now be operating in Juarez, a famously crime-infested narcotics hotbed situated across from El Paso, Texas. Violent crimes are so rampant in Juarez that the U.S. State Department has issued a number of travel warnings for anyone planning to go there. The last one was issued just a few days ago. Intelligence officials have picked up radio talk and chatter indicating that the terrorist groups are going to ‘carry out an attack on the border,’ according to one JW source. ‘It’s coming very soon,’ according to this high-level source, who clearly identified the groups planning the plots as ‘ISIS and Al Qaeda.’ An attack is so imminent that the commanding general at Ft. Bliss, the U.S. Army post in El Paso, is being briefed, another source confirms. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) did not respond to multiple inquiries from Judicial Watch, both telephonic and in writing, about this information. The disturbing inside intelligence comes on the heels of news reports revealing that U.S. intelligence has picked up increased chatter among Islamist terror networks approaching the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.” [63553, 63554, 63556, 63624, 63638, 63729]

Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy observes, “For those of us who’ve been raising alarms about both the jihadist threat and the national-security vulnerability created by the Obama administration’s non-enforcement of the immigration laws, this [warning of possible terrorist attacks] is not a surprise—particularly less than two weeks before September 11. But it is nonetheless jarring to read.” [63555]

The State Department tweets, “How can we do a better job of serving the American people & improving the world? Learn how to submit your thoughts: <http://go.usa.gov/ycDR>.” The link is to a brief State Department video that suggests, “We hope people will email us at QDDRideas@state.gov and visit our web site. We’re looking for ideas from across the spectrum of how we can do a better job of serving the American people and making the world a better place.” (Ridicule is immediate, with Twitter messages such as, “Oh good, we’re crowd sourcing foreign policy now” and “Prize for contestant with best ISIS strategy.”) [63557, 63558, 63559, 63565]

Meanwhile, National Review Online’s Jonah Goldberg ridicules a Democrat fundraising email that reads, “All hope is lost” and begs for campaign donations. Goldberg tweets, “At this rate, next DCCC email headers will be ‘You Will Crap Your Pants!’ & ‘Might As Well Kill Yourself Now.’” [63560, 63677]

USAToday.com reports, “The FBI’s Minneapolis bureau is looking into reports that a second American citizen from the area was killed fighting with the Islamic State as it works to find out whether the group is actively recruiting Muslims in the Twin Cities region. ‘That’s something we are looking into,’ Kyle Loven, division counsel for the FBI in Minneapolis, said when asked about Abdirahmaan Muhumed, 29, who Fox News reported was killed in the same battle as another American from the Twin Cities area. Earlier this week, the State Department confirmed that Douglas McAuthur McCain died fighting with the Islamic State. ‘We’re aware of media reporting and social-media activity that a second American citizen has been killed in Syria. We don’t have any details to confirm,’ State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Thursday about Muhumed.” Pamela Geller observes, “Minnesota Muslims have been flocking to jihad wars (i.e. Somalia, Kenya) for years and the FBI is only looking into it now? Pure Obama. He has been taking his marching orders from Muslim Brotherhood goons. And the FBI should not just be looking at Islamic State recruiting. They should be looking at all jihad recruiting, and not just Minneapolis, but all across the US. But Obama insisted that all counter-terror materials be scrubbed of jihad and Islamic doctrine, so this is going to be the blind leading the deaf. A number of parents and concerned members of the Muslim community spoke to this very thing at [Congressman] Peter King’s [R-NY] hearings [in 2011 and 2012] on Islamic jihad. King was derided. The parents and community members who spoke were attacked by Muslim Brotherhood Congressman Hakim Muhammad (aka Keith Ellison) [D-MN] and jihadist Muslim Brotherhood groups like CAIR.” [63653, 63654]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters that Obama’s “We don’t have a strategy yet” was misinterpreted. On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, Earnest says that although

there is not yet a strategy for “what we could do militarily in Syria, when it comes to confronting ISIL, [Obama has] made very clear that we do have a comprehensive strategy for confronting ISIL. ...What is required is a comprehensive strategy, and certainly an element to that comprehensive strategy is the use of American military force that can be effective in temporarily, at least, stabilizing the security situation. But what will be required is an effective and sophisticated and integrated Iraqi security force working closely with the Kurdish security forces to fight this war and fight this threat inside their own country. They need to take the fight to ISIL, and the United States will stand by them while they do it.” (Some might argue that Earnest’s statement is tantamount to Churchill and Roosevelt saying at the start of World War II, “We’ll stand by Poland and France as they take on the Nazis, giving them all the uniforms and ammunition they need.”) [63488, 63532, 63537, 63566]

Great Britain raises its terror threat level from “substantial” to “severe.” Prime Minister David Cameron says ISIS poses “greater and deeper threat to our security than we’ve seen before” and goes where Obama fears to tread, adding that the cause is “the poisonous narrative of Islamist extremism.” Cameron warns, “I believe we will be fighting for years, and perhaps decades.” Fighting the Islamic State is “a generational struggle” against a “poisonous ideology,” and Great Britain “must respond calmly and with purpose” to a “greater and deeper threat to our security than we’ve seen before.” Cameron states that he will make a statement in parliament on September 1 about measures to cancel the citizenship of Brits who join ISIS. (In other words, Cameron and his advisors appear to have at least the beginnings of a strategy. Perhaps Cameron could follow in the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher and tell Obama, “This is not the time to go wobbly.”) As many as 3,000 British Muslims may have been “radicalized,” according to some estimates. One Member of Parliament claims there are more British Muslims fighting for jihad than serve in the British Army. (While Cameron may have begun to see a glimpse of the light of reality, his government continues to ban AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller and Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer from even entering Great Britain to deliver speeches about the dangers of radical Islam.) [63568, 63569, 63570, 63571, 63596, 63611, 63630, 63658, 63695]

The Washington Post editorial board writes, “...Obama’s acknowledgment that ‘we don’t have a strategy yet’ in Syria understandably attracted the most attention after his perplexing meeting with reporters Thursday. But his restatement of the obvious was not the most dismaying aspect of his remarks. [Obama’s] goal, to the extent he had one, seemed to be to tamp down all the assessments of gathering dangers that his own team had been issuing over the previous days. This argument with his own administration is alarming on three levels. The first has to do with simple competence. One can only imagine the whiplash that foreign leaders must be suffering. They heard U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power denounce Russia as ‘today ...they open a new front ...Russia’s force along the border is the largest it has been ...the mask is coming off.’ An hour later, Mr. Obama implicitly contradicted her: ‘I consider the actions that we’ve seen in the last week a continuation of what’s been taking place for months now ...it’s not really a shift.’ Similarly, his senior advisers uniformly have warned of the unprecedented threat to America and Americans represented by Islamic

extremists in Syria and Iraq. But Mr. Obama didn't seem to agree. 'Now, ISIL... poses an immediate threat to the people of Iraq and to people throughout the region,' he said. 'My priority at this point is to make sure that the gains that ISIL made in Iraq are rolled back.' Contrast that ambition with this vow from Secretary of State John F. Kerry: 'And make no mistake: We will continue to confront ISIL wherever it tries to spread its despicable hatred. The world must know that the United States of America will never back down in the face of such evil.'" [63622]

"The discrepancies raise the question of whether Mr. Obama controls his own administration, but that's not the most disturbing element. His advisers are only stating the obvious: Russia has invaded Ukraine. The Islamic State and the Americans it is training are a danger to the United States. When Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. says the threat they pose is 'in some ways ...more frightening than anything I think I've seen as attorney general,' it's not because he is a warmonger or an alarmist. He's describing the world as he sees it. When Mr. Obama refuses to acknowledge the reality, allies naturally wonder whether he will also refuse to respond to it. Which is, in the end, the most disturbing aspect of Mr. Obama's performance. ...[H]e has excelled at explaining what the United States cannot do and cannot afford, and his remarks Thursday were no exception. 'Ukraine is not a member of NATO,' he said. 'We don't have those treaty obligations with Ukraine.' If Iraq doesn't form an acceptable government, it's 'unrealistic' to think the United States can defeat the Islamic State. Allies are vital; the United States overstretched in the Bush years; it can't solve every problem. All true. But it's also true that none of the basic challenges to world order can be met without U.S. leadership: not Russia's aggression, not the Islamic State's expansion, not Iran's nuclear ambition nor China's territorial bullying. Each demands a different policy response, with military action and deterrence only two tools in a basket that includes diplomatic and economic measures. It's time Mr. Obama started emphasizing what the United States can do instead of what it cannot." (Some might argue that the issue is not so much what the United States *can and should* do, but what Obama is, for whatever reason, *unwilling* to do.) [63622]

Vladimir Putin, referring to Russian separatist fighters in Ukraine, says, "It's best not to mess with us. ...Thank God, I think no one is thinking of unleashing a large-scale conflict with Russia. I want to remind you that Russia is one of the leading nuclear powers." [63681, 63682]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "The FBI's most recent national threat assessment for domestic terrorism makes no reference to Islamist terror threats, despite last year's Boston Marathon bombing and the 2009 Fort Hood shooting—both carried out by radical Muslim Americans. Instead, the internal FBI intelligence report concluded in its 2013 assessment published this month that the threat to U.S. internal security from extremists is limited to attacks and activities by eight types of domestic extremist movements—none motivated by radical Islam. They include anti-government militia groups and white supremacy extremists, along with 'sovereign citizen' nationalists, and anarchists. Other domestic threat groups outlined by the FBI assessment include violent animal rights and environmentalist extremists, black separatists, anti- and pro-abortion activists, and Puerto

Rican nationalists. ‘Domestic extremist violence continues to be unpredictable and, at times, severe,’ the report states. A copy of the unclassified, 60-page National Threat Assessment for Domestic Extremism, dated Aug. 14, was obtained by the Washington Free Beacon. It warns that the threat of domestic-origin extremism was moderate in 2013 and will remain so for this year.” [63625, 63626, 63702]

Various media outlets report that O. J. Simpson has expressed a desire to convert to Islam. According to Ummid.com, the Simpson “occasionally wears the traditional Kufi prayer cap and studies the Holy Quran, [an] insider reveals, but he’s struggled with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which requires all Muslims to fast. ‘O.J. didn’t quite make it through the entire fasting process.’” Simpson, who is not eligible for parole until 2017, “has reportedly asked ...Obama to grant him clemency so he can treat his life-threatening brain cancer outside prison.” (Whether Simpson’s throat slashing experiences influenced his religious conversion is not known.) [63646, 63647]

At the Americans for Prosperity’s “American Dream Summit,” Texas Governor Rick Perry says, “To this day [Obama] has yet to see the facts on the ground at our southern border, even though they are direct consequence of his policies. Young boys and girls, children, thousands of miles away from their parents—they’re vulnerable, they’re afraid, they’re drawn here by rumors of amnesty. There are these coyotes and these smugglers and these gang members and these other low-lives that are taking advantage of these children. ...The unaccompanied children you’ve been reading about and seeing video[s] of are just about 20 percent of those who are illegally crossing our border. Most are adults, and a lot of those folks are working for cartels, engaged in criminal activities. There are thousands of criminal aliens who have committed theft and assault and murder after coming here illegally. ...Because of the danger that is posed by these drug smugglers, these transnational gangs, the human traffickers—that is the reason that I deployed the National Guard to the border to secure it. If Washington, D.C., will not do its job to secure that border, Texas will.” [63738]

The Pentagon announces that Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel will visit Turkey to help build a coalition against ISIS. According to Stripes.com, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby tells reporters, “Turkey is a key NATO ally. And given its border with Syria and Iraq, they share our deep concerns with... the regional threat posed by ISIL [ISIS].” Kirby also says he is “not aware” of pledges by any other countries in the region to support possible U.S. air strikes on ISIS fighters in Syria. [63650, 63651]

Hagel’s visit makes no sense at all. Of all the nations in the region, Turkey is possibly the most sympathetic to the creation of an Islamist state and a caliphate—or at least its prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan is. Obama’s friend Erdogan, a Jew-hater who is arguably a radical Islamist, has stated, “The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets, and the faithful our soldiers.” Erdogan does not distinguish between “moderate” Islam and “radical” Islam. He stated in 2007, “These descriptions are very ugly. It is offensive and an insult to our religion. There is no moderate or immoderate Islam. Islam is Islam, and that’s it. ...Turkey is not a country where moderate Islam is sovereign. First of all, the ‘moderate Islam’ concept is wrong.

The word ‘Islam’ is a simple word—it is only Islam. If you say ‘moderate Islam,’ then an alternative is created.” Erdogan has also said that Muslims who emigrate to Europe should not assimilate, and for them to do so would be “a crime against humanity.” Erdogan has also called democracy “a bus ride. Once I get to my stop, I’m getting off.” In other words, Erdogan pretends to support democracy but will reject it as soon as he accumulates enough power not to bother fooling the voters. Pamela Geller comments, “Bush had close to 50 countries in his ‘Coalition of the Willing.’ Obama has so alienated and abandoned our allies, he has no one. He is sending Hagel to Turkey to build a coalition to fight the Islamic State. Note to Obama: Turkey is supporting the Islamic State. But he knows this, too. Obama says he has no strategy to defeat ISIS. He doesn’t because he has provided tacit support for the Islamic State—especially in Syria.” [11748, 11776, 11818, 26011, 26012, 26013, 26014, 26025, 30578, 30635, 40434, 42529, 43609, 43725, 43726, 63650, 63651]

At one of three weekend fundraisers (his 401st, 402nd, and 403rd since entering the White House, according to CBS News’ Mark Knoller), Obama says, the “truth of the matter” is that the “world has always been messy. ... In part, we’re just noticing now because of social media and our capacity to see in intimate detail the hardships that people are going through. The good news is that American leadership has never been more necessary and there’s really no competition out there for the ideas and the values that can create the sort of order that we need in this world.” He says, “If you watch the nightly news, it feels like the world is falling apart,” but “we will get through these challenging times just like we have in the past.” Obama also argues that the threat from ISIS is “not something that is comparable to the challenges faced during the Cold War. This is not comparable to the challenges that we faced when we had an entire block of Communist countries that were trying to do us in. This is something we can handle, because we are Americans and that’s what we do.” Obama also claims, “things are much less dangerous now than they were 20 years ago, 25 years ago or 30 years ago.” (While Obama spoke those words, British Prime Minister David Cameron was warning that the United Kingdom was facing “the greatest and deepest terror threat in its history.” Obama’s claim, and his history, are of course mistaken. No “block of communist countries” was trying to attack the United States. The Soviet Union was invading eastern European nations, converting them to communist countries, and including them in its evil empire. The threat was from the Kremlin and the missile silos it controlled, *not* countries like Hungary and Czechoslovakia, whose citizens were forced to submit to the brutal tyranny of communism. Obama says ISIS is “something we can handle, because we are Americans,” yet on August 28 he said “what we’re doing... is limited,” “we don’t have a strategy yet,” and “the idea that the United States or any outside power would perpetually defeat ISIS I think is unrealistic.”) [63561, 63562, 63563, 63564, 63567, 63609, 63639, 63659, 63676]

On *The McLaughlin Group*, *New York Daily News* publisher Mort Zuckerman observes that the economy “has... grown by about 2 percent, 2.1 percent for the last five years, which is the lowest rate of growth coming out of a recession we have had ever, since the Great Depression. And what’s more, that only took place, not because of the fact that the economic environment was that good, it’s because we have a hugely stimulating

monetary policy and fiscal policy. We have run up huge national debt and we have undermined the value of the dollar, and this is in my judgment not representing a good economic policy. [Obama] has lost the confidence of the business community and the business world in terms of where it counts, which is investment, and new plant[s] and equipment.” The massive national debt will “restrict what we are going to be able to do as a country for decades. We have a situation where we are losing the competitive edge that we had, not totally, but in many, many areas.” [63645]

On August 30, children across the country may perhaps be celebrating National Roasted Marshmallow Day—unless they read the U.S. Forest Service’s lengthy article on how to roast them safely, in which case they may have been too frightened to start a campfire. According to TheBlaze.com, “[T]he article is riddled with safety tips that might make you think twice about even carrying matches into the forest at all, let alone actually igniting a marshmallow and putting your family’s life at risk. ‘First, let’s talk safety,’ the article says. ‘Never start a campfire when there are fire restrictions in place. The restrictions are put in place for your safety and for the safety of others.’ It also warns that children should be given a stern talking-to before any of the ‘fun’ begins. ‘Some experts advocate a 10-foot rule between young children and a campfire,’ it reads. ‘For more information about campfire safety, let Smokey Bear guide you.’ Finally, the article gets down to ‘marshmallow basics,’ and starts by recommending the use of a roasting stick ‘of at least 30 inches.’” (If children are expected to be at least 10 feet from the campfire, of course, they would need roasting sticks a lot longer than 30 inches.) The article also suggests substituting healthy fruit for the chocolate in “s’mores” treats. (Whether Michelle Obama or White House assistant chef Sam Kass contributed to the article is not known.) [63640, 63641]

Obama skips golf in order to attend the wedding of longtime friend and White House nutrition advisor Sam Kass and MSNBC host Alex Wagner—at the tony “Blue Hill at Stone Barns” in Pocantico Hills, New York. (The restaurant’s web site states, “A meal at Blue Hill has no menus (at least not the traditional kind). Instead, a meal here is a succession of tastes, small plates and a large diversity of flavors that change daily, sometimes even hourly.” A “Grazing, Pecking, and Rooting” meal costs \$198.) [63572, 63573, 63574, 63693, 63731, 63732, 63733]

In Egypt, Muslim Brotherhood “supreme leader” Mohammed Badie and seven others are sentenced to life in prison for planning riots, murder and sabotage. According to TimesofIsrael.com, “[T]he court Saturday also sentenced six Islamists to death in absentia. Under Egyptian law, those sentenced in absentia will face a retrial once in custody. Badie has been sentenced to death in another case but can appeal.” (At the time of Badie’s arrest, then deputy White House press secretary Josh Earnest condemned the action, claiming it “was not in line with the standard the U.S. expects in upholding human rights.”) [47398, 47439, 50892, 50893, 50943, 50951, 51064, 63656, 63657]

The Los Angeles Rams cut Michael Sam, the first openly-gay player drafted by the National Football League. Obama has no comment, but leftist blogger heads explode because the Rams dared to release a less-than-exceptional, but gay, player who was not

even drafted until the seventh round—by a team that already had two exceptional players at his position. (Leftists get their heads back on September 3, when the Dallas Cowboys pick up Sam for their practice squad—reportedly at the urging of the National Football League.) [63634, 63635, 63671, 63830, 63936, 63952]

FoxNews.com reports, “U.S. warplanes carried out airstrikes and dropped humanitarian aid Saturday to Shia Turkmen who have been trapped and besieged by Islamic State militants for two months in the town of Amirli, a U.S. senior defense official confirmed to Fox News. Aircraft from Australia, France and Britain joined the U.S. in delivering the aid to the farming community about 105 miles north of Baghdad, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement. The aid came at the request of the Iraqi government, he said.” [63640, 63663, 63686]

Pamela Geller writes, “More weakness and cowardice from the jihad sympathizer in the White House. In the wake of Obama’s catastrophic failure in Iraq and Syria, the Obama administration is laying off on everyone else. The ‘Junior Varsity’ team has conquered whole swaths of the Middle East and there is no stopping them. At least not while Hussein is in the White House. Obama’s Secretary of State John Kerry, in a NY Times editorial, which I am sure the Islamic State reads every morning over the pile-up of heads and corpses, is [seeking] a ‘global coalition using political, humanitarian, economic, law enforcement and intelligence tools to support military force.’ Obama has no global coalition. He has alienated every ally we had. Unlike George Bush, who had a ‘Coalition of the Willing’ of 48 countries. This is just another embarrassing example of Obama’s impotence. The rise of the Islamic State is a direct result of Obama’s foreign policy—the disengagement and dismantling of American influence and power in the Middle East and the world. The spread of jihad is the symptom of a vacuum. Whenever jihad wins, it is only by default: by the moral failure of those who evade the fact that there can be no compromise on basic principles (paraphrasing Ayn Rand). We have the military, cultural, and moral superiority to defeat jihad. We choose not to. A global coalition needs a leader. Has anyone called [Canadian Prime Minister] Stephen Harper [who stands up for Israel and against radical Islamists]?” [63655]

At the Americans for Prosperity summit in Dallas, Texas, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, “The Russian bear is encountering the Obama kitty cat. ...The reason Putin feels no fear to march into his neighbors, the reason our allies up and down Europe are terrified of what happens next is because [Obama] is leading from behind.” According to WashingtonTimes.com, Obama “said that the U.S. should combat Russia economically by approving U.S. natural gas exports, which would dampen world gas prices and hit the Kremlin where it hurts, ‘in the cash register.’” On the issue of ISIS, Cruz “quoted President Reagan who said his strategy going into battle was ‘we win and they lose.’ ‘It’s almost as if ...Obama read that and got it backwards,’ Mr. Cruz said and added, ‘We ought to bomb [the Islamic State] back to the stone age.’” [63679]

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia warns new foreign ambassadors to his country, “If we ignore them [ISIS], I am sure they will reach Europe in a month and America in another month. ...Terrorism knows no border and its danger could affect several countries

outside the Middle East. ...It is no secret to you, what they have done and what they have yet to do. I ask you to transmit this message to your leaders: ‘Fight terrorism with force, reason and speed.’” (The Saudis are not warning Europe and the United States about ISIS because they want to save the West; they want the Europe and the United States to save the Saudis from the monster they unleashed by funding Sunni terrorists.) [63680, 63746, 63762]

In Detroit, Michigan, naive, Israel-hating, former president Jimmy Carter addresses Islamic Society of North America’s annual convention. He says, “You can’t bring peace to the Middle East without justice and human rights for the Palestinians. When my prayers are answered and we have peace in that Holy Land then the Israelis and all their neighbors will be blessed to live in peace and prosperity. ...We are all Americans in a system that allows basic human rights: peace, justice and the ability to treat each other as equals. ...I hope all of you will use the principals of Allah to bring peace and justice to all. ...The principles of Allah will benefit the whole world.” He also says, “We need to close Guantanamo and restore America to its previous status of respecting everyone.” (Robert Spencer writes at JihadWatch.org, “It’s scandalous enough that this aged clown addressed a Hamas-linked Muslim Brotherhood group, but even worse is that the mainstream media has no problem with it all—it’s indicative of how mainstream Islamic supremacism has become. Meanwhile, Carter showed his ignorance with fulsome references to the Qur’an and Islamic doctrine that show that he has no idea what they really say.”) [63710, 64339]

The Telegraph reports, “A radical foreign cleric was last night accused of using a British based Internet TV channel to encourage Islamist fighters trying to overthrow the government in Libya. Grand mufti Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ghariani, Libya’s highest spiritual leader, is alleged to be using the UK as a base from which to help orchestrate the takeover of his home country by extremist militias with ideological links to the brutal Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq. ...Mr Al-Ghariani, who is understood to have travelled to London on a tourist visa ‘several months ago,’ could be excluded from Britain on national security grounds and on grounds of ‘unacceptable behaviour,’ including extremist speech, according to officials.” (It is astounding that Great Britain allows people like al-Ghariani into the country to advocate jihad, while Pamela Geller, Robert Spencer, and others are denied visas to speak about the dangers of jihad and radical Islam. Geller notes, “Here again we see why the UK is in such deep, deep trouble. They have made it easy for jihadists to spread their poison and recruit British Muslims to jihad...”) [63750, 63751]

On August 31 Obama works on his ISIS strategy while playing four hours of golf at Fort Belvoir. [63665]

In El Paso, Texas, Fort Bliss increases security measures based on warnings of increased “terrorist chatter.” [63668, 63669]

The Associated Press reports that an “Islamist militia group says it has ‘secured’ a US Embassy compound in Libya’s capital.” (U.S. personnel evacuated the facility on July 26 because of security concerns.) [63666, 63709]

While the U.S. embassy compound in Tripoli is taken over by Islamists—and fully-clothed jihadists take turns jumping off a balcony into its swimming pool—Obama’s weekend radio/Internet address is about raising the minimum wage. He says, “In America, no one who works full-time should ever have to raise a family in poverty.” (Only about three percent of American workers earn the minimum wage—and a large percentage of them are teen-agers who still live at home with their parents. Granted, someone in his 30s or 40s would have a difficult time raising a family with a minimum wage job, but someone who is still earning such a low wage at that age likely has only himself to blame.) [63667, 63678, 63709, 63716, 63719]

Derek Hunter writes at Townhall.com, “When ISIS beheaded American journalists James Foley and posted the video on the Internet, the media remembered the [“JayVee team”] quote and asked about it. Earnest went on to claim [Obama] wasn’t talking about ISIS, just other groups, and that the White House always has taken the ISIS threat seriously. That claim, on its face, would be insignificant, perhaps even believable, were it not for [Obama’s] statement Thursday. If, as the White House now insists, it always has taken the threat seriously, how can it have no strategy for dealing with ISIS in Syria, or anywhere, 8 months later? Perhaps the political advisors in the White House have yet to calculate how to use this threat to influence the November elections or to at the very least blame Congress for it. But we already know [Obama] has a phone—right next to his pen—and that the Pentagon has phones, too. If he has taken the threat of ISIS seriously for eight months, why has he not used his phone to call the Pentagon and ask the military to formulate some possible strategies for any number of scenarios? It’s clear the White House has not been interested in the threat posed by ISIS, either abroad or here in the homeland, or else we wouldn’t still be without a plan.” [63660]

“Which brings us to the ‘clarification’ on Friday,” continues Hunter. “Josh Earnest, appearing on Morning Joe, said, ‘We don’t have plans in place right now for what we want to do and what we could do militarily in Syria. But when it comes to confronting ISIL, [Obama] has made very clear we do have a comprehensive strategy for confronting that threat that is posed by ISIL. That begins with supporting Iraq’s political leaders as they form the kind of inclusive government that can unite the country to confront the threat that their country faces right now.’ First, there they go again using ISIL—Islamic State in the Levant—as opposed to ISIS, the Islamic State in Syria. This is to sow confusion and distract from the administration’s record in dealing with this crisis. Second, so our strategy is dependent upon Iraqi Shia, Sunni and Kurds coming together, putting aside centuries of hatred, forming a drum circle and singing ‘Kumbaya?’ Hmmm... why didn’t we think of that before?” [63660]

Muslim cleric Anjem Choudary appears on CNN’s *Reliable Sources*. According to RawStory.com, during the pre-interview sound check, Choudary is asked to count to 10 to set microphone levels. Instead, he says, “1, 2, 3, 9/11, 7/7, 3/11.” During the interview,

host Brian Stelter asks about the incident: “Is this all some sort of joke to you? Choudary replies, “You know, if you had a sense of humor, you would have laughed at that. It was just a sound check. You shouldn’t take any of these things that seriously. If you want to make it a big deal, then do so, but it makes you look much more shallow, really.” Choudary also claims, “There is no such thing as a radical or moderate form of Islam. You know, a woman is either pregnant or not pregnant. If you abide by Islam, and you follow what is in the Koran and the traditions of the prophet, then, quite frankly, you’d never find anything that I say which does not have Islamic basis. ...I’ve been propagating Islam, and I’ve met most of the leaders of the Muslim community, so I know what’s out there. If you go to Muslims who are actually practicing Islam... you’ll find that they say the exact same thing as me. Because I’m not calling for leadership for individuals, I’m calling for leadership for Islam.” (Choudary’s sound check references are, of course, to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States, the London bombings of July 7, 2005, and the Madrid train bombings of March 11, 2004. It is worth noting that former London rapper Abdel Majed Abdel Bary, who is suspected of being the executioner in the video of the beheading of journalist James Foley, was reportedly radicalized by Choudary’s followers.) [63120, 63151, 63162, 63180, 63220, 63235, 63244, 63245, 63259, 63714, 63715, 63749, 63985]

Why CNN or any other network would grant terrorism-inciter Choudary a televised interview is a mystery—especially on a program called “Reliable Sources.” He once planned a Washington, D.C. protest and said he would call on American Muslims to stage a revolution and demand the implementation of Shari’ah law. He stated, “I do believe that the only way for [Obama] to save himself in this life and in the hereafter is to embrace Islam. Islam will eradicate all his sins; he will be like the day his mother gave birth to him. Otherwise, when we do implement the Shariah, obviously he will face the consequences of a trial under the Shariah court.” While Obama was considering ways to oust Libya’s Moammar Gaddafi, Choudary said al-Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood had assets on the ground ready to take control. (On that claim he was a “reliable source.”) At a protest in London, Choudary said, “There will be one million Osamas [Osama bin Ladens]. Muslims will remember Osama as a great man who stood up against Satan. Many will want to emulate his acts. In Britain we have other options—like political action, but in other countries if your land is attacked or your family are put at risk you must defend yourself. We believe in the covenant of security that we must attack those we live with, but many do not.” Choudary is a vile, despicable human being who practices “taqiyya,” the process of engaging in lies and deceit if it further the cause of Islam. But he does not always lie; he is often quite blunt and has stated: “terrorizing the enemy is in fact part of Islam. I mean this is something that we must embrace and understand as far as the jurisprudence of Islam is concerned.” [18125, 18270, 18916, 18918, 18919, 18927, 18937, 20425, 20441, 20483, 63985]

On *Meet the Press*, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) is asked by Andrea Mitchell why Obama does not have strategy for dealing with ISIS, and whether that “projects weakness from the White House.” Feinstein responds, “Well, uh, I mean I know what you want me to say, uh, but, I’m, I’m not gonna say it in that sense. I think I’ve learned one thing about [Obama], and that is he’s very cautious. Maybe in this instance, too

cautious. Uh, I do know that the military, I know that the State Department, I know that others have been putting plans together, and so hopefully those plans will coalesce, uh, into a strategy, that can encourage that coalition from Arab nations, uh, you know, uh, Jordan's in jeopardy, Lebanon's in jeopardy, uh, the UAA and other countries [sic; UAE, United Arab Emirates] are in jeopardy, uh, so, there is good reason to come together now and begin to approach this as the very real threat that it is." Asked about Obama's description of ISIS as "JV," Feinstein says, "I think it's wrong too. I think it's a major varsity team, if you want to use those kinds of monikers. But I see nothing that compares with its viciousness. I've been on the Intelligence Committee now since before 9/11, and I've watched this, uh, evolution of non-state actors into world terror[ist organizations] very carefully and closely. And this is really the first group that has the wherewithal in terms of financing, the fighting machines in terms of a structure, a heavy equipment, heavy explosives, the ability to move quickly—I mean, they crossed the border into Iraq before we even knew it happened. So this is a group of people who are extraordinarily dangerous. And they'll kill with abandon. ...They have announced that they don't intend to stop. They have announced that they will come after us if they can, that they will, quote, 'spill our blood.'" (HotAir.com comments, "This was a pretty heavy volley of shot across the White House's bow. No one in the West Wing is happy with DiFi [Feinstein] this morning, but she is only one name on [Obama's] mounting list of critics.") [63664, 63684, 63687, 63794]

Also on *Meet the Press*, Richard Engel, NBC News' chief foreign correspondent, says of Obama's lack of a strategy to confront ISIS, "Well, I speak [sic; spoke] to military commanders, to former officials, and they are apoplectic. They think that this is a clear and present danger. They think something needs to be done. One official said that this was a Freudian slip, that it shows how the United States does not have a policy to deal with Syria, even when you have ISIS—which has effectively become a terrorist army, roughly 20,000 strong, about half of them foreign fighters, and incredibly well-armed after two major weapons hauls..." [63685, 63792]

On *State of the Union*, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) says, "We should be providing the Ukrainians with the type of defensive weapons that will impose a cost upon Putin for further aggression. We have to give the Ukrainians the fighting chance to defend themselves." [63794]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, warns that Obama's lack of a strategy to deal with ISIS is "consistent with his past policy and actions on foreign policy. And it shows, and I think exemplifies, that his foreign policy is in absolute free fall. If you look at China, you look at ISIS, you look at Russia, you look at Iran, North Korea, we have a serious host of problems presenting itself [sic; themselves] and our traditional allies are now standing up and saying, 'Maybe America is not the best ones [sic] to lead us through these troubles.' That is an issue we're going to have to deal with. ...The problem is, the clock didn't start with the beheading of American journalist. That was just a symptom of what was a long and growing problem for the United States. ...It's just very, very late in the game. And it presents fewer options." Rogers claims that there were "plans on the table" to oust Syrian

President Bashar al-Assad in 2011, but Obama “just didn’t want to get engaged.” (Had the Syrian rebels been helped then, ISIS may never have formed in Syria. More than a few have charged that the U.S. government was training ISIS at a secret base in Jordan in 2012, in an effort to help them end the Assad regime.) Rogers says he worries about ISIS fighters with U.S. passports: “I’m very concerned because we don’t know [the identity of] every single person that [sic; who] has an American passport that [sic; who] has gone and trained and learned how to fight.” [63683, 63687, 63689, 63690, 63691, 63730]

The Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee sends a laughably desperate fundraising email to supporters, warning that “everything failed... We’re out of people to email you. ...The federal fundraising deadline hits at midnight. And we’re STILL falling short. At this point, we’ll need 21,273 donations in the next 11 hours to catch up.” [63670]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “One of the Islamic State terror group’s key financier[s] was director of a Muslim faith school in Birmingham, it emerged today. Prominent Islamic cleric Dr Nabil al-Awadi, a naturalised Kuwaiti, was partly resident in the UK until last year, living in Brixton, south London. Until February 2013, the Sunni was a director of the independent Al-Birr school in Nechells, Birmingham, which was founded in seven years ago. Now he is president of the Kuwait Scholars’ Union, which has reportedly channelled tens of millions of dollars to the Islamic State and other jihadi groups in Iraq and Syria [sic; Syria]. Earlier this month Dr al-Awadi was stripped of his Kuwaiti citizenship along with nine other Kuwaitis, after the state cited ‘security reasons.’ He has also been accused by other prominent clerics in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia of using donations to fund the Islamic State.” [63694, 63695, 63712]

The *Daily Mail* also reports, “A middle-aged British mother-of-two has joined Islamic State extremists after running away to wage jihad with her toyboy husband. Muslim convert Sally Jones, 45—who has spent a lifetime on state benefits—ranted online about how she wants to behead Christians with a ‘blunt knife.’ The unemployed mother, who was once an aspiring rock musician, claims to have joined bloodthirsty jihadis roaming the lawless border between Syria and Iraq. She is believed to have abandoned her two young sons to marry one of the British suspects in the beheading of US journalist James Foley. Jones, who now calls herself Sakinah Hussain, wears traditional Islamic dress and has swapped her home in Chatham, Kent, for Raqqa, the Syrian stronghold of terror group IS. ...[H]er brother Patrick, 52, who runs his own paving company, said his family are deeply shocked by her conversion to radical Islam. ...Jones is thought to have sneaked into Syria at the end of last year after an online romance with Junaid Hussain, 20. She has posted a series of chilling threats on social networking sites and posed for photos with an AK-47, while dressed in black with her face veiled. Using the pseudonym Umm Hussain al-Britani, she has abused Jews and praised Osama bin Laden.” [63696, 63697, 63698, 63713]

The *Los Angeles Times* coins a new term for illegal immigrant workers: “informal workers.” [63727, 63728]

At PJMedia.com Patrick Poole reports, “A new claim was made on a Syrian rebel Twitter feed this morning saying that an additional three Americans have been killed fighting with ISIS near Ghouta. A video purporting to show the three dead Americans was posted on Youtube.” [63737]

St. Bartholomew’s Catholic Church in Columbus, Indiana is vandalized by Muslims, who write “infidels” and “Qu’ran 3:151” in spray paint. Several other churches in the area were also similarly vandalized. The Qu’ran verse reads, “We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve for what they have associated with Allah of which He had not sent down [any] authority. And their refuge will be the Fire, and wretched is the residence of the wrongdoers.” Nassim Khaled, “a resident of Columbus who volunteers at the Islamic Center,” tells Fox59.com the perpetrators “actually misquoted or misinterpreted the Qu’ran.” (He does not say whether it would be appropriate to deface the churches with a different verse.) It can be assumed that the “hate crimes” team Attorney General Eric Holder dispatched to Ferguson, Missouri will not stop at Columbus, Indiana on its way home.) [63746, 63747, 63748]

Newsmax.com reports, “The State Department has boosted the fee for renunciation of U.S. citizenship by 422 percent to \$2,350 from \$450. The State Department claims the new fee is the actual cost of processing an application to lose citizenship. ...In recent years, the United States has seen a 221 percent surge in Americans renouncing their citizenship, according to Forbes. ‘It isn’t exactly Ellis Island in reverse, but it’s more than a dribble. With global tax reporting and FATCA [the extremely punitive Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act], the list of the individuals who renounced is up,’ Forbes reported. Meanwhile, the Canada Free Press reported that both U.S. citizens and American business want to free the home of the brave because of the double-pronged whammy of ‘high taxes and burdensome tax compliance’ in foreign jurisdictions. ‘Instead of facing the problems directly, the Obama Administration has resorted to punitive measures. The shame and blame tactic of calling out businesses who wish to relocate as ‘unpatriotic’ was undignified. Perhaps realizing that using the same strategy with individuals would be even less well received, they went the more quiet, direct route,’ the CFP’s Alan Joel wrote. The new amount is ‘more than 20 times the average level in other high-income countries,’ according to the Isaac Brock Society, which describes itself as a group of ‘individuals who are concerned about the treatment by the United States government of US persons who live in Canada and abroad.’” (Individuals renounce their U.S. citizenship for the same reason corporations relocate: to avoid punitive taxes. A U.S. citizen working abroad pays income taxes in the country in which he resides *as well as* U.S. income taxes. The double-taxation, not surprisingly, encourages people to relinquish their U.S. citizenship.) [63785, 63786, 63872]

Politico writes, “The biggest parlor game on Wall Street and in corporate boardrooms these days is guessing whether former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will run for president and save the GOP’s old establishment base from its rising populist wing. The second most popular game is guessing what happens if Jeb says no. Two dozen interviews about the 2016 race with unaligned GOP donors, financial executives and their Washington lobbyists turned up a consistent—and unusual—consolation candidate if Bush demurs,

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie doesn't recover politically and no other establishment favorite gets nominated: Hillary Clinton. ...The darkest secret in the big money world of the Republican coastal elite is that the most palatable alternative to a nominee such as Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas or Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky would be Clinton, a familiar face on Wall Street following her tenure as a New York senator with relatively moderate views on taxation and financial regulation. 'If it turns out to be Jeb versus Hillary we would love that and either outcome would be fine,' one top Republican-leaning Wall Street lawyer said over lunch in midtown Manhattan last week. 'We could live with either one. Jeb versus Joe Biden would also be fine. It's Rand Paul or Ted Cruz versus someone like Elizabeth Warren that would be everybody's worst nightmare.'" (In other words, "the fix is in," and regardless of who the American people want in the White House, Wall Street will spend the money needed to make sure its next occupant is "acceptable" to them.) [63795, 63796]