

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

August 2012

On August 1 an ObamaCare regulation takes effect that requires all health insurance carriers to provide free “contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures, and patient education and counseling for all women with reproductive capacity.” (The requirement is the result of a study conducted by the Institute of Medicine for the Department of Health and Human Services that stated, “The elimination of cost sharing for contraception ...could greatly increase its use, including the use of the more effective long-acting methods [that is, sterilization], especially among poor and low-income women more at risk for unintended pregnancy.” In other words, the government is eager to sterilize young poor women. ObamaCare does not call for free sterilization procedures for men.) Employers that refuse to provide free contraceptive, abortifacient, and sterilization coverage can be fined up to \$100 per employee per day—enough to put them out of business if they choose not to violate their religious principles. If businesses cancel employee insurance, they will be fined \$2,000 per employee per year. According to DailyCaller.com, the regulations also “require all insurance companies to cover well-woman visits, gestational diabetes screenings, domestic and interpersonal violence counseling, FDA-approved contraception, breastfeeding supplies, HPV DNA testing, sexually transmitted infection counseling, and HIV testing without additional co-pays. The rules take effect at the following insurance renewal date on or after Wednesday.” (All those “free” benefits will of course be paid for through higher premiums.) [34237, 34924, 34927, 34946, 34951, 34967, 34968]

In praising the ObamaCare rules, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen “no fetus left alive” Sebelius states, “...Obama is moving our country forward by giving women control over their health care. This law puts women and their doctors, not insurance companies or the government, in charge of health care decisions.” Laughably, HHS states, “The Obama administration will continue to work with all employers to give them the flexibility and resources they need to implement the health care law in a way that protects women’s health while making common-sense accommodations for values like religious liberty.” [34237, 34924, 34927]

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) justifies the ObamaCare rules and their infringement on religious freedom, saying, “I think we also have to keep in mind, a lot of times we talk about birth control or contraception, many times for many young women of child bearing age, it’s not just to prevent a birth, or prevent a pregnancy. There are many women who take birth control pills, for example, because they have terrible menstrual cramps once a month, some of them almost incapacitated, can’t work. I know of young women myself who, because of this, aren’t able to work and be productive, and it’s prescribed by their doctor.” Harkin claims, “...I do believe that we have carved out, the Obama administration carved out, a viable exception for religious organizations, churches.”

(Harkin is incorrect. The exception is merely a one-year waiver of the rule for churches and some organizations. After one year they must comply with the rule. Additionally, the waiver applies only if *everyone* involved in the group warrants the temporary religious exemption. For example, a Catholic charity is not eligible for the exemption *unless every poor person it serves is also Catholic*. In other words, the exemption will apply to almost no organization.) [34945]

Congressman Billy Long (R-MO) responds to the implementation of the ObamaCare regulations with the comment, “We’re still home of the brave, but we’re not the land of the free anymore. And we need to get that straight. When you’re not free to practice religious freedom in this country, what in the world have we come to? Seriously, goodness gracious.” Congressman Alan Nunnelee (R-MS) says, “It’s outrageous that this administration believes it’s within their power to force people to violate their right of religion if it interferes with this administration’s agenda. It should disturb people of all faiths, or for that matter people of no faith at all, that ...Obama has such a low opinion of the First Amendment that he would trample on these rights.” [35013]

According to the Media Research Center, “CBS didn’t file one report or news brief on the controversial federal abortifacient/contraception mandate going into effect. ...ABC’s Diane Sawyer heralded the mandate taking effect as ‘an important day for women’s health’ on Wednesday’s *World News*, and forwarded the White House’s talking points on the regulation: ‘Religious employers, like Catholic charities and hospitals, do not have to directly include free birth control under their health plans.’ On *NBC Nightly News*, Brian Williams lamented that ‘simply by taking effect, it started up the health care fight all over again.’” (Sawyer is incorrect. Religious employers will have to comply with the regulations effective August 1, 2013. They received a one-year waiver, not a permanent exemption from the requirements.) [35028]

NationalJournal.com reports that “...Obama holds significant leads over Mitt Romney in three crucial battleground states, hitting the critical 50 percent threshold in each, according to new Quinnipiac University/CBS News/New York Times polls released early Wednesday that show [Obama] performing virtually equally among the key groups that will determine his prospects for earning a second term. Obama leads Romney by 6 percentage points in both Florida and Ohio, while in Pennsylvania, traditionally a more Democratic-leaning state, he leads by a robust 11 points.” HotAir.com casts doubt on the results of the polls, noting that they over-sampled Democrats. The Florida poll’s D/R/I weighting is 36/27/32, giving the Democrats a +9 tilt even though exit polls in 2008 and 2010 reflected only 2 and 3-point Democrat advantages. (That is, Obama has a 6-point lead in Florida only because the poll surveyed 9 percent more Democrats than Republicans.) Ohio’s sample has an 8-point Democrat advantage, even though 2010 exit polls showed Republicans with a 1-point advantage. in turnout. “Pennsylvania’s numbers (D+6) come closest to a rational predictive model, somewhere between 2008’s D+7 and 2010’s D+3, but still [appear] mighty optimistic for Democratic turnout [in November 2012]. In other words, these polls are entirely predictive if one believes that Democrats will outperform their turnout models from the 2008 election in Florida and Ohio. That would require a huge boost in Democratic enthusiasm and a sharp drop-off in Republican

enthusiasm—which is exactly the opposite that Gallup found last week.” (Radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt later interviews Quinnipiac assistant director Peter Brown, and asks him to explain why they gave a 9-point edge to Obama in Florida in the survey. Brown’s answer leaves Hewitt—and probably most of his audience—unimpressed.) [34914, 34915, 34916, 34961, 34962, 35067, 35087]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, polls are no more accurate than their weighting. If, for example, a poll samples Americans across the nation it may find only a small percentage who enjoy watching hockey games. But if the poll is conducted *at a hockey game* the results would certainly reflect a much higher percentage of hockey fans. Roughly 30 percent of Americans consider themselves to be Democrats and about 30 percent consider themselves to be Republicans. It is therefore absurd to assume that Democrats will outnumber Republicans by 9 points on election day—*especially* when polls show that GOP voters are far more enthusiastic about voting Obama out of office than Democrat voters are about keeping him in the White House. According to a July 16–26 Pew Research Center poll, Obama leads Romney by an astounding 10 points, 51–41. But the survey uses an even more astounding D/R/I weighting of 43.5/24.5/32. *That is, Pew surveyed 19 percent more Democrats than Republicans in order to get the 10 percent advantage for Obama.* There is no possible way election day turnout will favor Democrats by 19 percent. Even in 2008, when Obama was riding his “hope and change” wave, the Democrat turnout advantage was only 7 points. Veteran pollster Douglas Schoen, a Democrat, calls the Pew poll “ridiculous. There’s systemic bias in the Pew poll.” (Some might suspect that polls are being rigged to make it appear as though Obama is ahead so that after the election, if Romney wins, the Obama administration can claim there was massive voter fraud in Romney’s favor. That would spark race riots and give Obama an excuse to declare martial law and stay in power while the claims of fraud are “investigated” by Attorney General Eric Holder.) [35068, 35069, 35087]

Across the nation, Chick-fil-A restaurants see a massive surge in business from customers expressing support in response to threats from the mayors of Boston and Chicago (former Obama chief of staff Rahm Emanuel) to deny operating licenses simply because the corporation’s owner happens to oppose gay marriage. Several locations run out of food and the company sets sales records. HotAir.com comments, “Somewhere, a Burger King ad man’s toying with the idea of having ‘The King’ declare himself ‘100% pro-life.’” (Rush Limbaugh quips, “I’ll tell you what’s gonna happen on November 6th, Obama’s gonna get Chick-fil-A’d himself.”) Gay rights activists plan to “protest” by engaging in a “Same-sex kiss day” at the restaurants on August 3. (The “kiss-in” turns out to be a monumental failure, but the mainstream media covers it more than the restaurant chain’s record-setting customer appreciation day.) [34918, 34957, 34958, 34960, 34972, 34981, 34982, 34985, 34986, 34990, 35005, 35095]

NYTimes.com notes the desperation of the Obama campaign for cash, writing, “Each plea for money from ...Obama and his allies has become more urgent and desperate than the last. His campaign’s chief operating officer said on Monday that ‘we’ve gotten our behinds handed to us.’ Vice President Joe Biden warned on the same day that ...Obama would lose if ‘the other side spends us into oblivion.’ Michele Obama worried aloud

about waking up on election day ‘wondering if I could have done more.’ And Al Gore, the former vice president, said victories by the ‘extremist fringe’ would ‘spell disaster’ for the country. The answer, according to all of them? A donation of \$3 (or more) by midnight on Tuesday. (The e-mails don’t say ‘Pretty please!’—yet.) ...The dire hand-wringing is partly tactical for a campaign that is likely to have more than enough money to execute its strategy. By appearing desperate, ...Obama’s campaign hopes it can persuade more of its supporters to donate now, rather than later.” [34929]

On Fox News Sarah Palin comments on the decision to have Elizabeth Warren, the U.S. Senate candidate from Massachusetts, deliver an address at the Democrat National Convention in September: “It’s cracking me up watching what the Democrats... this idiotic strategy of theirs to have Elizabeth Warren, who has almost confessed to her Marxist views... these views that replicate failed European countries about redistribution of wealth, you know, and all these failed policies, and she is going to be the face of that message in the convention. I think it’s very risky of the Democrats because there are a lot of good Reagan Democrats, a lot of blue-collar, hard working, working-class Democrats, ‘blue dogs,’ who do not want to see that type of message being reflective of their entire platform because it’s a ridiculous and failed plank in a platform, these Marxist views.” [34943]

In the House of Representatives, legislation extending the Bush tax rates through 2013 passes by a vote of 256–171. Nineteen Democrats voted in favor of the bill; one Republican voted against passage. The Democrat-controlled Senate is unlikely to pass the legislation.) [34970, 34995]

FoxNews.com reports, “Employees at the obscure General Services Administration are quietly gobbling up 10 percent of the entire federal government’s bonus checks, a top Republican lawmaker revealed Wednesday, with the tab reaching a stunning \$44 million last year. The \$44 million amount is far more than was previously reported. As House lawmakers convened a hearing Wednesday digging deep into alleged mismanagement and waste at the embattled agency, Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) called the latest revelations ‘absolutely outrageous.’ Disclosing the results of what he described as a preliminary investigation, Mica said bonuses totaled \$44 million, with many bonuses worth \$50,000 apiece and some going to workers now under investigation. One employee, he said, received a \$79,000 bonus, adding up to nearly \$260,000 in total compensation.” (Most Americans would probably be surprised to hear that federal employees are entitled to bonus payments of any size, let alone \$50,000.) [34975]

On the floor of the Senate John McCain (R-AZ) addresses the issue of White House security leaks. McCain refers to *Confront and Conceal*, a book by *New York Times* reporter David Sanger, and says, “According to ...Sanger, ‘a senior official in the National Security Council’ tapped him on the shoulder and brought him to the presidential suite in the Pittsburgh hotel where ...Obama was staying, and where ‘most of the rest of the national security staff was present.’ There, the journalist was apparently allowed to review satellite images and other ‘evidence’ that confirmed the existence of a secret nuclear site in Iran. I wonder how many people have the key to the presidential

suite in a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania hotel. You might want to start there [to find the leaker].” (According to Politico, Sanger’s eager helper was Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough. In March 2011 McDonough addressed the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Interfaith/Government Summit at a mosque in Sterling, Virginia. The executive director of ADAMS is Mohammad Majid. He is also president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the largest Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas support entity in North America. McDonough thanked the members of ADAMS for their “unequivocal stand against terrorism.” He also made the absurd statements, “The bottom line is this: When it comes to preventing violent extremism and terrorism in the United States, Muslim Americans are not part of the problem; you’re part of the solution,” and, “You’ve sent a message that those who perpetrate such horrific attacks do not represent you or your faith, and that they will not succeed in pitting believers of different faiths against one another.” McDonough called the mosque a “typically American place” and told the audience it reminds him of his childhood Catholic church in Minnesota.) [18318, 18324, 18325, 18334, 18355, 18372, 18435, 34956]

Obama’s anti-capitalist “You didn’t build that” remark prompts reactions from business owners across the nation, and more than a few erect signs expressing their anger. In Savannah, Georgia Ray Gaston, owner of Gaster Lumber & Hardware, hangs a banner that reads, “I built this business without gov’t help. Obama can Kiss my ass. I’m Ray Gaster and I approve this message.” Gaster tells Fox News, “I started on my own. The government wasn’t there. We work long, hard hours and what [Obama] said is an insult to any businessman. ... When I heard what he said, I said ‘I’m going to give him an answer in Chicago language—something he’s used to. ... We need to stand up to the criticism coming from our own government. If this economy is to get better, it will be driven by small and independent businesses. We are part of the solution, not the problem. I want to use this sign to urge other businesspeople to stand up and say, ‘Mr. [Obama], you’re wrong. I built my business. I represent the majority of business owners in my belief.’” (Local Democrats predictably call the sign “racist.”) [34974, 34992]

According to TheHill.com, House Democrats have “called on the Obama administration ... to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples when considering deportations.” The lawmakers, led by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) “want the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to state explicitly that LGBT ‘family ties’ will be deemed ‘a positive factor’ discouraging deportation as DHS agents gauge whether to pursue cases.” (Few will be surprised if 12–20 million illegal immigrants suddenly declare themselves to be LGBT.) [34976]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The chairman of the Republican National Committee said Wednesday there should be an investigation to determine whether Obama administration officials are breaking the law by intentionally holding meetings outside the White House to keep them off visitor logs. ‘We need to have a full-scale investigation so that we can in fact determine whether or not, under the facts and circumstances, that we have a crime,’ RNC chairman Reince Priebus said in an afternoon conference call with reporters.’ Priebus made the comments in response to a report released Tuesday by the House

Energy and Commerce Committee that included records showing administration officials taking official meetings to a nearby coffee house. ‘They’ve been using the Caribou Coffee shop across the street from the White House as an executive branch annex to hold secretive meetings with lobbyists and political cronies,’ Priebus said. Added the chairman: ‘These newly covered emails showed one White House staffer explicitly asking an industry insider to meet him at Caribou so that he wouldn’t have to appear on the White House visitor logs.’ Priebus also said officials may have broken the law by using a personal email account to conduct business. ‘We also have records showing that former deputy chef of staff Jim Messina, who by the way is obviously the campaign manager for ...Obama, was using his personal email account to conduct official government business during the Obamacare negotiations,’ Priebus said.” [34991]

Reuters reports that Obama “has signed a secret order authorizing U.S. support for rebels seeking to depose Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his government, sources familiar with the matter said. Obama’s order, approved earlier this year and known as an intelligence ‘finding,’ broadly permits the CIA and other U.S. agencies to provide support that could help the rebels oust Assad.” (The leak is no doubt intended to counteract Mitt Romney’s successful visit to Israel and show that Obama is “strong” on Middle East issues, after criticism from Romney and others that the administration was not doing anything about Syria.) One major problem is that the Obama administration does not know much about the rebel groups, which are likely influenced, if not controlled, by al-Qaeda or Muslim Brotherhood militants. As bad as the Assad regime may be, what replaces it may be worse for both the United States and Israel—and especially for Syria’s two million Christians. (More than a few sources state that the Syrian rebels are, in fact, targeting Christians. By supporting the rebels, Obama is — intentionally or not—supporting the killing of Christians to advance the Muslim Brotherhood. Among the atrocities of the rebels is the hanging of a child. According to AhlulBayt News Agency, “[A]rmed rebel groups attacked the house of a Shiite Iraqi family in the Seyede Zainab neighborhood in the capital city of Damascus, killed all members of the family and hanged the last one, a little child.”) At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes that the “support to the jihadist opposition in Syria” is “in keeping with Obama’s consistent anti-freedom, pro-jihad foreign policy.” [34993, 35006, 35007, 35035, 35036, 35089, 35128, 35129, 35130, 35131, 35238, 35239]

Obama campaigns in Mansfield, Ohio, apparently unaware that his own budget proposal calls for the Air National Guard base there to be closed and its C-27J aircraft program to be shut down. The *Mansfield News Journal* writes, “Our first question to [Obama] would be: What about the C-27J program at Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport? ...Beyond the threat to national security, Mansfield stands to lose nearly 1,000 jobs if [Obama] gets his way. So, ...please explain to the people of Mansfield why the U.S. government wants to eliminate such a worthwhile part of our community and nation.” The *Journal* is also “looking for any insight you might have regarding the sale of the former General Motors plant in Ontario. The once-vital part of our community provided several thousand jobs. When the plant was idled, the jobs vanished, but the workers remained in our community, ready for whatever might take GM’s place. To date, nothing has. The federally managed

trust overseeing the sale of the plant continues to say a sale is close.” [35008, 35009, 35010, 35067]

Obama criticizes Mitt Romney’s economic plan, saying, “Pay attention here. Folks making more than \$3 million a year—the top one-tenth of 1 percent—they would get a tax cut under Mr. Romney’s plan that is worth almost a quarter of a million dollars. Hold on, it gets worse. My opponent says he’s going to pay for this \$5 trillion plan. But under this plan, guess who gets the bill for these \$250,000 tax cuts? You do. And you do not have to take my word for it. Just today, an independent, non-partisan organization ran all the numbers on Governor Romney’s plan. This wasn’t my staff. This wasn’t something we did. [An] Independent group ran the numbers.” (HotAir.com points out that the analysis to which Obama is referring was performed by Adam Looney of the Brookings Institution. Before joining Brookings, Looney was “senior economist for public finance and tax policy with the President’s Council of Economic Advisers” between 2009 and 2010—where he worked on Obama’s stimulus legislation. Looney can hardly be called “independent” or impartial. Additionally, the study to which Obama refers states—in the first paragraph—“We do not score Governor Romney’s plan directly, as certain components of his plan are not specified in sufficient detail, nor do we make assumptions regarding what those components might be.” In general, Romney calls for tax reductions at all levels—not just for the wealthy—with some of the lost revenue offset by eliminating some tax deductions. the changes would simplify the tax code and give individuals and businesses an incentive to work and create wealth, rather than an incentive to seek loopholes. But because Romney has not specified which loopholes and deductions he would eliminate, no one can be certain how the plan would impact anyone in particular. Obama’s claims are therefore based only on assumptions, not facts.) [35001, 35002, 35003, 35004, 35039]

At Forbes.com Louis Woodhall writes, “If mismanaging an economic recovery were an Olympic event, ...Obama would be standing on the middle platform right now, accepting the gold medal. Deep recessions are supposed to be followed by strong recoveries, but, under Obama, the worst recession since the 1930s has been followed by the slowest economic recovery in the history of the republic. In a very real sense, there has been no recovery at all—things are still getting worse. ...For those not familiar with the sport, the Olympic ‘Worst First Three Years of Economic Recovery’ event is a pentathlon—it’s composed of five individual trials. The trials making up this pentathlon are as follows: 1) total employment growth [just 1.72 percent over 36 months]; 2) unemployment rate reduction [a mere 1.3 percent]; 3) per capita GDP growth [only 4.34 percent over three years]; 4) change in the Real Dow [*down* by 11.6 percent in real, inflation-adjusted terms]; and 5) change in real produced assets [*down* 1.41 percent in 2010].” [35017]

On August 2 Stanley Kurtz’s *Spreading the Wealth: How Obama is Robbing the Suburbs to Pay for the Cities* is published. At PJMedia.com Ron Radosh states that the book “is nothing less than the complete exposure of ...Obama’s secret plans for his second term in office—plans that in reality amount to an assault on the values, well-being, and quality of life of the very middle-class voters he claims to represent. ...The essence of all the [Obama] programs, described in detail by Kurtz, is to distribute money from the wealthy

suburbs to the urban poor, a fulfillment of his long dream to destroy the suburbs, areas he thought of as a bastion of racism and individualism. ...Obama, Kurtz shows, is running an active Alinskyite program in the present, not simply in the 1980s. It is a radicalism of a hidden, regionalist agenda, carefully kept below the radar, something that its exponents actually brag about. The programs waiting to be implemented actually are ‘nothing less,’ Kurtz writes, ‘than a direct attack on large sections of his own middle-class supporters.’ Building One America (an Orwellian name if there ever was one) is actually a movement to create forced equality of income, with the end result that everyone’s standard of living will fall. But it will promote ‘social justice,’ of course, and real equality. It is, in essence, the dream of a left-wing social democracy in America, a new variant of the cradle-to-grave welfare state so adoringly favored by the inner group of Obama’s activist advisors. ...By exposing Obama’s hidden radical programs, carried out under the radar and developed by hard-left ideologues, Kurtz has in fact given serious analysts of his programs the evidence needed to reveal that the goal is forced income equality. America, in other words, could become the First World’s very first model of a backwards looking Third World nation, such as Communist Cuba. By uncovering the reality of the White House’s secret program to destroy the suburbs—as crazy as that sounds—Kurtz has written a book that will throw a virtual monkey-wrench into Obama’s plans.” [34833, 35019, 35020]

In an article NationalReview.com adapted from *Spreading the Wealth*, Kurtz writes that Obama “is not a fan of America’s suburbs. Indeed, he intends to abolish them. With suburban voters set to be the swing constituency of the 2012 election, the administration’s plans for this segment of the electorate deserve scrutiny. Obama is a longtime supporter of ‘regionalism,’ the idea that the suburbs should be folded into the cities, merging schools, housing, transportation, and above all taxation. To this end, the president has already put programs in place designed to push the country toward a sweeping social transformation in a possible second term. The goal: income equalization via a massive redistribution of suburban tax money to the cities. ...One approach is to force suburban residents into densely packed cities by blocking development on the outskirts of metropolitan areas, and by discouraging driving with a blizzard of taxes, fees, and regulations. Step two is to move the poor out of cities by imposing low-income-housing quotas on development in middle-class suburbs. Step three is 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 Obama administration, stocked with ‘regionalist’ appointees, has been advancing this ambitious plan quietly for the past four years. Efforts to discourage driving and to press development into densely packed cities are justified by reference to fears of global warming. Leaders of the crusade against ‘sprawl’ very consciously use environmental concerns as a cover for their redistributive schemes.” (The plan could be thought of as a “Berlin Wall” of sorts, with taxes and regulations, rather than a cement wall, used to keep people in the cities and to discourage “white flight” into the suburbs. Those who flee anyway would be punished with high taxes that go back into the city.) [35020]

From the Oval office, Obama telephones Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. An official White House photo shows Obama holding a baseball bat during their conversation. CNN.com notes, “The photo is getting quite a bit of attention in overseas publications wondering about ‘hidden messages’ or the ‘symbolic meaning’ of the president holding the baseball bat. The White House released a short readout of Monday’s call, which focused on Turkey’s neighbor Syria, saying the ‘two leaders shared their growing concerns about the Syrian regime’s ruthless attacks against its own people, most recently in Aleppo.’” [35034, 35085]

While the Obama administration fights state laws requiring photo ID for voting, claiming it discriminates against minorities and the elderly, DailyCaller.com reports, “Criminal justice data shows that blacks and poor people are the most common victims of voter fraud and are the greatest beneficiaries of voter identification rules, according to a new study. The courtroom evidence ‘completely contradicts the [progressive claim] that blacks, seniors, college students and other disadvantages groups are being victimized,’ said Horace Cooper, an adjunct fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research. ‘The truth is ...the criminals—more often than not—are Democrats violating the rights of people who tend to be black or senior.’” (According to a *Washington Post* poll, 74 percent of American adults are in favor of photo ID requirements for voting. Breitbart.com notes, “Keep in mind, the *Post* tried to game the results by framing the question as to whether you would support the requirement of an ‘official, government-issued’ ID to vote. The intent of that questioning was to make the requirement seem like some special, extraordinary measure that would make voting harder. The American public isn’t buying it.”) [34987, 35525, 35526]

An October 2009 email obtained by the Republican National Committee from Chris Gronet, the CEO of the now-bankrupt solar company Solyndra, declares, “The Bank of Washington continues to help us!” (That is, the company is getting federal money from the Obama administration.) In an August 10, 2020 email from Tom Baruch, founder of Solyndra investor CEMA Capital, wrote, “Getting business from Uncle Sam is a principal element of Solyndra’s channel strategy.” The Heritage Foundation observes that Solyndra “...wasn’t ever supposed to be an independent business. It was built to rely on the taxpayers. ...Getting federal money was integral to Solyndra’s business model. But even with government backing, Solyndra failed—just one of a growing list of companies in the Green Graveyard that took taxpayer money and went bankrupt. The emails released between Solyndra stakeholders and Obama Administration officials show that Solyndra’s investors knew the company was a bad bet for taxpayers, but the Administration wanted the energy loan guarantee program to be perceived as successful. Meanwhile, the Government Accountability Office was finding that the Department of Energy played favorites with the program, and high-level advisers including Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner were raising red flags. When it became clear that the company wasn’t going to make it, White House communications director Dan Pfeiffer wrote to White House insiders Stephanie Cutter and David Plouffe: ‘This is going to be a real pain, Solyndra is about to go under apparently.’” The Solyndra bankruptcy cost the taxpayers more than \$500 million. [34988, 35146]

According to the Heritage Foundation, “A new Government Accountability Office report reveals that in more than 40 states a growing number of households are able to collect food-stamp benefits simply by receiving a government-issued brochure or accessing a toll-free number. For example, in states like Alabama, Hawaii and Montana, a brochure automatically triggers eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). In California, Kentucky, Maine and Nebraska, state-issued pamphlets or ‘resource guides’ convey the same eligibility. Other states use a variety of other methods, including notices on the program’s application and a variety of other printed materials.” An estimated \$460 million in benefits has been paid to about 473,000 households that were not eligible “because their incomes were over the federal SNAL eligibility limits.” [34994]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “New orders for manufactured goods in June, down three of the last four months, decreased \$2.1 billion or 0.5 percent to \$465.8 billion... This followed a 0.5 percent May increase. Excluding transportation, new orders decreased 1.8 percent. Shipments, down two of the last three months, decreased \$5.3 billion or 1.1 percent to \$469.9 billion. This followed a 0.3 percent May increase.” Reuters writes, “The trend in U.S. manufacturing has appeared softer and has added to concerns the economic recovery is losing steam. The decline in new orders in June likely means softer output down the road, which could weigh on economic growth. Thursday’s report showed broad weakness across industries making everything from machinery and appliances to cars and electronics. New machinery orders dropped 2.1 percent and orders for motor vehicles and parts gave up 0.7. The overall decline was tempered by a 14.2-percent increase in new orders for civilian aircraft. Outside transportation, orders were down 1.8 percent.” (The news is bad for Obama, who will not have an improving economy to help him win reelection.) Reuters reports, “The number of Americans filing new claims for jobless benefits rose last week and manufacturers suffered an unexpected drop in orders in June, suggesting the economy is struggling to break out of a soft patch. ...Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted 365,000.” (Reuters almost always describes bad economic news as “unexpected.” After more than four years of such news some might argue that it is time for reporters to start expecting it.) [34998, 34999, 35000, 35018, 35046]

Asked to substantiate his claim that Mitt Romney has not paid income tax for 10 years, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tells reporters, “I am not basing this on some figment of my imagination. I have had a number of people tell me that..” Asked to identify his source, Reid replies, “No, that’s the best you’re going to get from me. I don’t think the burden should be on me. The burden should be on him. He’s the one I’ve alleged has not paid any taxes. Why didn’t he release his tax returns?” Romney spokesman Mason Harrison responds, “This is further proof that [Obama’s] campaign is willing to say whatever it takes to distract from his economic record, no matter how baseless, unfounded or demonstrably false their attacks are. ...Obama condemned these kinds of negative attacks in 2008, but like many of the promises he made back then, they have turned out to be just more words.” HotAir.com comments, “Really? Is that how it works in the US? A government official accuses someone of a felony, and the burden of proof falls on the accused? Funny, I missed that in my civics class. Note too that the

number of sources has magically grown from one person—supposedly an ‘insider’ in Bain [Capital], who would have had no access to Romney’s personal tax information in the first place—to ‘a number of people.’ Who were these people, Senator? What was the ‘number’ of sources you have for this accusation? And how, pray tell, did they have access to Romney’s private tax information? The answers to these questions, I suspect, will come from the same source that Reid used in the first place—his own rear end.” [34995, 34996, 34997]

Reid then repeats his scurrilous charge on the floor of the Senate: “He’s refused to release his tax returns, as we know. If a person coming before this body wanted to be a cabinet officer, he couldn’t be if he ...did the same refusal [sic] Mitt Romney does about tax returns. So the word’s out that he hasn’t paid any taxes for ten years. Let him prove that he has paid taxes, because he hasn’t. We already know from one partial tax return that he gave us, he has money hidden in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, and a Swiss bank account. Not making that up, that’s in the partial year that he gave us. Mitt Romney makes more money in a single day than the average middle-class family makes in two years—or more.” (Reid has never released any of his tax returns. Nor has House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).) HotAir.com: “I know that the term ‘Senate ethics’ is often an oxymoron, but doesn’t accusing a political opponent from the Senate floor of a felony without offering a shred of proof violate some kind of ethics rule? ‘The word’s out’ refers only to Harry Reid and Harry Reid alone. Not only is this despicable and grossly irresponsible, it should be actionable in court.” (That Reid has continued attacking Romney on the issue indicates he has the blessings of the Obama campaign, which could have told him to stop after his first accusation. Additionally, it is a felony to illegally access and reveal information from another person’s tax returns. Reid is aiding and abetting criminal activity if he does not reveal the identity of the person who provided him with the information. Of course, Reid likely has no such information. He is merely playing a game, with the cooperation of the media, to force Romney to release his tax returns. Reid also has the protection of the floor of the Senate—which shields him from libel charges. Senators can make outrageous, scurrilous, unfounded claims of any sort from within the chamber and not be prosecuted. They can be condemned by other Senators—but Reid controls the Senate. Obama campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt states, “Reflecting the growing number of questions Americans have about Mitt Romney’s finances, Senator Reid rightfully pointed out that Governor Romney has something to hide.” In other words, Reid’s attacks have the blessings of Obama and were properly written by campaign strategist David Axelrod.) [34996, 34997, 35015, 35016, 35055, 35096, 35097, 35115]

Rush Limbaugh reacts to Harry Reid’s unfounded charge that Mitt Romney did not pay income taxes for 10 years. Mocking Reid, Limbaugh tells his radio audience. “I got on the phone with somebody who said they went to school with Barack Obama at Harvard. And the guy told me that Obama got the lowest grades that any Harvard graduate ever got and that a bunch of professors gave him B’s and C’s when he didn’t even show up to class. And then he hung up. Now, this guy from Harvard said that Obama had the lowest grades anybody ever got at Harvard, had professors that covered for him and he wasn’t even there. I said, ‘Can you show me any proof of this?’ ‘No, no, no,’ hung up the phone.

It took all of a minute. I'm corroborating it now. I'm telling you now. So I am calling on Barack Obama to release his Harvard transcripts, based on this call. I got a call from a guy at Harvard who claimed that Obama's got the lowest grades out of anybody who went there and didn't even go to class sometimes, and the professors covered for him. It's up to Obama to prove it. The allegation's out there. It's up to Obama to prove it. I got this call from Harvard, and the guy—he sounded smart—said he went to Harvard. He knew enough to call a phone number that would get to me. This guy found a way to get to me. He said, 'Rush, this guy got the lowest grades that anybody ever got at Harvard. And he didn't even go to class a lot of times, and he got B's and C's. So the allegation's out there. ...What do you mean the burden is on me to prove it? I don't have to prove anything here. Look, the burden is on Obama. He's the one that I've alleged got the worst grades in the history of Harvard. It's up to Obama to prove this. It's up to Obama. So we need the transcripts, and while we're at it, I wonder if I could get a call from somebody at Occidental and maybe I'll get a call from somebody at Columbia, and maybe I'll get a call from somebody that attended an Obama lecture on the Constitution at the University of Chicago who will tell me that he never even taught the Constitution. What he taught was subverting it and overthrowing it according to the way Saul Alinsky said to do it. But there it is. Lowest grades ever in Harvard, never went to class. Well, a lot of times got covered for by the prof. I got a call.' [35014]

On Sean Hannity's radio program, Mitt Romney says, "It's time for Harry [Reid] to put up or shut up. Harry's gonna have to describe who it is he spoke with because of course [his charges of non-payment of taxes are] totally and completely wrong. It's untrue, dishonest and inaccurate. It's wrong. So I'm looking forward to have Harry reveal his sources and we'll probably find out that it's the White House." On CNN's *The Situation Room* Romney campaign advisor Eric Fehrnstrom calls Reid's attacks "shameful, pathetic, baseless and untrue. ...Four years ago Barack Obama said he was going to come to Washington and change the politics. Instead the Obama campaign has turned into a bottomless pit. Every day they reach a new low." (HotAir.com observes, "Reid, who also refuses to release his own tax returns, isn't just a hypocrite and a slanderer. He's also a political idiot. Until these attacks, Romney was on the defensive over his tax returns. Now Romney can paint his decision to keep them private as a principled stand against unscrupulous opponents. Reid has handed the high ground to Romney in this fight with his scurrilous lies. Reid has all but ruined Obama's strategy of making Romney look secretive and weird." During the 2008 primary campaign Obama demanded that Hillary Clinton release her tax returns. She did not, although, like Romney, she released financial statements.) [35021, 35022, 35050, 35062, 35116, 35720]

It is worth noting that Romney turned over more than two decades of tax returns to the John McCain campaign in 2008 when he was being considered for his Vice Presidential running mate. At The Transom, Ben Domenech quotes a McCain source: "Mitt's taxes were complex, but clean. He overpaid his taxes. ...To be clear, there's stuff in the tax returns the dishonest or ignorant can snark at, though it pretty much comes down to criticizing Romney for being rich. There's nothing indefensible, but as with a lot of the attacks on Bain, Romney isn't defending. As a game theory matter, people are going to assume the worst. But presidential general election politics seems to be about something

other than dealing directly and straightforwardly with issues, so maybe this strategy is focus-grouping better with disengaged independents.” (Romney’s federal financial disclosure statements, dating back to 2002, are posted on his campaign web site.) [35116, 35140]

Although the mainstream media has shown interest in learning about the details of Obama’s past that are kept under lock and key, reporters manager to obtain Mitt Romney’s 1961 9th grade report card from Cranbrook School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. His grades: English 3: B+; Elementary Algebra: B; Biology: B; French 1: C; Art 3: B+. [35029, 35050, 35031, 35057]

Campaigning in Orlando, Florida Obama repeats his call for tax increases, saying, “All I’m asking is that we go back to the rates that were paid by wealthy individuals under Bill Clinton. And if you remember, that’s when our economy created nearly 23 million new jobs. We created the biggest budget surplus in history. And here’s the kicker: it was good for everybody.” (There are several problem with Obama’s statement. First, there are thousands of things that impact an economy, and taxes are only one of them. To argue, “Well the economy was good when taxes were X percent so if we again have that same X percent rate all will be well again” is absurd. Secondly, federal spending was much lower when Clinton was in the White House, both in dollar levels and as a percentage of gross domestic product, or GDP. If Obama wants to return to Clinton-era tax levels, he should also agree to slash federal spending from 24 percent of GDP to 18 or 19 percent. Third, the economy did not improve in the 1990s after income tax rates were increased; it improved after the capital gains taxes was decreased and welfare reform pushed people off welfare and back to work. Lastly, the nation was in the middle of the “dot com” boom in the 1990s, and businesses were learning how to be more productive through the use of small computers. That had far more to do with economic growth than tax rates.) Obama continues, “We’ve tried our plan and it worked,. That’s the difference. That’s the choice in this election. That’s why I’m running for a second term.” (By using the words “our plan” Obama is trying to take credit for Clinton’s successes. Obama had nothing to do with the federal government during the 1990s; he was nothing more than a water-carrier for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley in the Illinois state senate. Of course, Obama has no choice but to attach himself to Clinton; because he cannot stand on his own record, he has made a decision to run on Clinton’s.) [35023]

In time for Obama’s Orlando visit, the Romney campaign erected 13 different “I built my business” billboards. [35025, 35026]

FederalNewsRadio.com reports, “The Transportation Security Administration [TSA] and the union representing the nation's 45,000 transportation security officers reached a deal early Thursday for the employees’ first-ever labor contract. The agreement will be submitted to the officers for ratification in the coming weeks, according to a statement from the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents the security officers.” The Heritage Foundation warns, “First, TSA employees perform a vital function. What happens if they strike? The Obama Administration has prohibited screener strikes, but government unions often strike illegally. Consider the illegal Detroit

teachers or New York City transit strikes. Even if they do not formally strike, unions can engage in work slowdowns, as in Toronto [during the 2006 Thanksgiving weekend]. A labor dispute at a national security agency like the TSA could cost lives. Second, though collective bargaining at the TSA is currently limited, it could be expanded in the future to the detriment of passenger safety. Government rarely fails to expand its influence and bureaucracy when given the opportunity. Currently the TSA has the flexibility to assign agents where they are most needed. If future negotiations extend to staffing and scheduling decisions—as they do at Customs and Border Protection—that could change, making it hard for the TSA to rapidly adapt to new threats. Third, collective bargaining contracts usually sharply limit performance pay. Right now, the TSA provides merit pay to its top performers. Historically, unions have opposed merit pay, even when their members could dramatically benefit. Limiting performance bonuses would make it much harder to reward and motivate diligent employees. The law does not require the Administration to collectively bargain with security screeners. [Obama] voluntarily decided to do so.” [35060, 35061, 35209]

Debka.com reports, “On July 27, just before Friday prayers, Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei summoned top Iranian military chiefs for what he called ‘their last war council.’ ‘We’ll be at war within weeks,’ he told the gathering, DEBKAFile’s exclusive Iranian and intelligence sources disclose. ...Each of the participants was tapped to report on the readiness of his branch or sector for shouldering its contingency mission. [Although] retaliation had been exhaustively drilled in regular military exercises in the past year, Khamenei ordered the biggest fortification project in Iran’s history to save its nuclear program from even the mightiest of America’s super-weapons. Rocks are being gathered from afar, piled on key nuclear installations, covered with many tons of poured concrete and finally plated with steel. That same Friday, the US Air force unveiled its new Massive Ordnance Penetrators. Each bunker buster weighs 30,000 pounds and is able to penetrate 60 feet of reinforced concrete. Turning to retaliation, the war council endorsed a battery of paybacks for potential US and/or Israeli pre-emptive strikes against its nuclear program. They would start by announcing enhanced uranium enrichment up to 60 percent—that is close to weapons grade. Oft-tested ballistic missiles, Shehab-3, would be loosed against Israel, Saudi Arabia and American Middle East and Gulf military installations. Hizballah in Lebanon and Hamas and Jihad Islami in Gaza stand ready to pitch in against Israel with attacks from the north and the southwest. Saudi oil export terminals would be blown up and mines sown in the Strait of Hormuz to impede the export of one-fifth of the world’s oil. Khamenei put before his war council a timeline of weeks for the coming conflict—September or October.” (Iran may be anticipating an Israeli strike on its nuclear facilities before the November 6 election, knowing that if Obama is reelected Israel will no longer be able to rely on his administration for support. Obama will support an Israeli attack if it means preserving the votes of Jewish-Americans, but after November 6 he will no longer have any use for them. Israel knows that and Iran knows that—but many Americans refuse to see that.) [35032, 35033]

FoxNews.com reports, “The upcoming presidential campaigns are eager to get their hands on the treasure trove of voter data that 900 million users have voluntarily posted on Facebook. Enter Social Organizing, a new tool developed by Democratic activist group

NGP VAN. Using it, your friends can log in to Facebook and tell the service about you. You can then be added to a caller database, pinged for ads and harassed during the entire election. ...Obama tapped this company, which describes itself as ‘the leading technology provider to Democratic and progressive campaigns and organizations’ and only works with the Democratic Party, to gather voter data in 2008.” [35024]

James Pethokoukis, Money & Politics columnist-blogger for the American Enterprise Institute, reports that political scientist Douglas Hibbs has predicted that Mitt Romney will defeat Obama 52.5–47.5 percent with his “bread and peace” model. “Hibbs,” writes Pethokoukis, “looks at two factors when forecasting presidential elections: a) per capita real disposable personal income over the incumbent president’s term, and b) cumulative U.S. military fatalities in overseas conflicts.” [35058, 35059]

Obama’s Department of Energy announces it is handing out \$43 million for 19 projects to develop better batteries for electric vehicles and electric grids. (Some might ask why the automobile manufacturers and utility companies aren’t using their own money for those projects.) [35047]

The Ulsterman Report meets again with the White House insider, who says, “Now you’re seein’ it. Romney got inside his head—Obama is rattled. The entire campaign is rattled. And Obama goes out and says what? You go ahead and tell me for a change. What does Obama say not two weeks after the Romney team slips that internal polling data over to them?” Ulsterman responds, “You didn’t build that.” The insider continues, “And that’s how you play smashmouth politics son. A mental castration of a sitting president. And the Romney team just did it as good as I’ve EVER seen it done right there. And the decision to make sure that polling data made its way back to Obama—that had to come from Mitt Romney himself. And when he did that... he balled up his fist and smacked Obama right up in his face. Right into that fake ass toothy fool grin of his. He let him know this ain’t gonna be 2008. This is gonna be a war. Barack Obama... Valerie Jarrett... [David] Plouffe... [David] Axelrod... they all got their asses kicked on this one. ...[Obama] meant it [“You didn’t build that”]. Every bit of it. What I mean there is that he slipped up... the subject was burnin’ that little pea brain of his... so he slipped up. He allowed what he really feels to come right out into the open. He’s done that before... here and there. But this was... this time it was really out in the open—he was shouting it. The deal is... with Obama... like I’ve said—[the] guy hates America. Really does. Thinks it needs... thinks there needs to be a reset button. Thinks the free market is evil. Thinks that only liberal government, Big Government, socialized government... whatever you wanna call it—he thinks that is the only real solution to how to reshape the country into his own image.” [35094]

The insider observes, “...Obama ain’t no Democrat. Never was. Never has been. He controls the party... people who think like him... people who placed him in power... they control the party... but they represent something far different than what the party was 20 odd years ago...” Ulsterman notes that Attorney General Eric Holder served in the Clinton administration. The insider responds, “You know how I feel about Eric f-cking Holder. ...Yeah, he’s still there. For now. Let’s see if that stays the same this fall.

Ok? We got the vote [to hold him in contempt of Congress], right? Not many would have thought that possible six months ago. Certainly not a year ago. I've done all I can on that—and then some. And then some. I got... I done every bit of what I could possibly do there—you know that. You know what—you seen the results of that work. Me and a few others... we got our asses hanging way out there on this. ...What['s] now is this—either the Republicans succeed in getting the special counsel... prosecutor... whatever the hell they callin' it these days—or they don't. The vote... God bless them there... that was not an easy call. People watching from the outside... they might think it's an easy thing... but the media... they can turn that into a weapon against them if it ain't handled right. Somethin' like that... you gotta roll it out real careful... real deliberate like. We ain't finished with Holder—not by a long shot. There's some more about to break on him... got a few loose ends... a few feet still draggin'—but that's about to change. ...[But] You don't know how... how difficult this kinda thing can be. This administration... these people around Obama—they got no fear on this stuff. Cold blooded. During the Clinton years... hell... things were done. Yeah... things that leave me wondering... we all got blood on our hands. Some more than others. How'd I put that to you before—you don't ever wanna do the things I've done?" [35094]

The insider continues, “But these Obama people... they are different. A whole other level. Never seen anything like it. There's stuff I won't ever tell you. Never. You don't want that kinda knowledge son. You throw out a question like how many people been killed under Eric Holder? Sh-t... you don't even know what you're askin'. You got no f-cking idea how far these people will go to keep pushin' this agenda of theirs. Everything I told you was coming—now it's here. The dismantling of the American system. The drones, the race riots, the promises to other countries, the open borders, the destruction of our domestic energy productions, the Obama government at war with the Catholic Church, the massive inflation that is just perched above us waiting to fall down on all our heads... so much sh-t they got ready to fire at us. That second term... that's their moment. ObamaCare, the deficit, cities going under, military cutbacks... I can't keep track of it all it's going on so damn fast now. This election coming up—people better know... they ain't messing around now. This is the real f-cking deal right here. Right now. Let me tell you somethin' the Old Man [possibly the Wall Street insider] told me... it was months back. Before all that sh-t that nearly put him in the ground. The stress of all this ain't good for him... taking its toll. Can't be good—he won't share that with you... not all of it any ways. So I'm asking him for help on about a thousand different fires I'm trying to put out—got Obama people everywhere. And I mean everywhere—and the Old Man... he's brushing that all aside. ‘Just politics’ he says. He don't give a sh-t about that stuff. We are little people, right? And he don't mean to demean us when he says that—that's just his world. That's his way—and he's right. He's godd—mn right. We are just cockroaches—it's a sick business what we do. But it's also a necessary one and that's where I come in, so f-ck it. It's who I am. But the Old Man... he's telling me... the words he used... the phrase was, ‘the entire system is terminal and I can't save the patient.’ Now he's talking about the global economy here—that the entire system has been compromised to the point of collapse and he... and people like him who want to save it... they can't do it alone. They might be able to... between them... maybe they got access to a couple trillion to move around here and there to try and stabilize things.” [35094]

“...[H]e ain’t worth near that personally. But he’s got—and there’s others—they got access to that amount. In that neighborhood... he told me that some time ago. But that would be an all or nothin’ scenario for them... and... now I don’t understand how all that sh-t works... markets... he talks about capitalization... last summer he went on for about an hour about how out of whack the capitalization of something and somethin’ was... I don’t know. Just that it’s real bad. And I mean real bad and these Obama people—they are in on it big time. It ain’t that they are just ignorant or incompetent—it’s purposeful what they are doing. And when they got rid of that IMF [International Monetary Fund] fella—the French guy [Dominique Strauss-Kahn]—I never seen the Old Man so worried. He’s told the both of us... let us know how dangerous that woman [Christine Lagarde] at the IMF is... but he won’t say much about it—but it’s got him damn worried.” [35094]

Ulsterman asks the White House insider why people in the military have not come out against Obama. The insider replies, “If they came out against [Obama]... something like that—an openly public and deliberate move against [him]—that would be a crisis. A domestic crisis of epic f-cking proportions. That’s now how these kinda things go down, kid. That’s Hollywood bullsh-t stuff—that’s not reality. The Joint Chiefs [of Staff]... those guys are politicians as much as Obama. And the ones right under them—they want that next step up, right? And the administration, they play that card to the hilt. Same thing with Congress. I know for a fact there are Senators—Democrats—who are appalled at what the administration is doing. Appalled at what they are hearing about the character and motivations of this so-called president. But to come right out against him... [Majority Leader Harry] Reid won’t have it. I don’t know what kinda deal was struck between those two devils—Reid and Obama—but Reid has the Senate on lockdown. And he’s got most of those Democrats in the Senate too damn afraid to say anything—while the rest of them are happy to support the administration because they are cut from that same idiotic socialist progressive cloth as he is—and they think they will get a seat at the big table when all of this shakes out. Why do you think I am doing it this way? Same damn thing. It’s easy to point the finger and tell somebody to risk everything—not just them but risk their family... everything they got... real easy to sit back and tell somebody they should stand up and do what’s right and go ahead and risk it. Right? Real easy? Unless it’s YOU that’s at risk. Then it’s a different f-cking story ain’t it? So I’m doin’ what I’m doin’. The Old Man is doin’ what he’s doin’. And you do what you do. And we hope it’s enough [to stop Obama].” [35094]

The insider acknowledges that defeating Obama will take “What it has always taken when the country is at risk—the American people. We need them. We always have. And God’s grace. If He still gives a sh-t about this country. If He still thinks we are worth the trouble. And I ain’t so sure we are—if we deserve to have another chance. You’re askin’ what it will take to defeat Obama? Defeat the ones around him? [Valerie] Jarrett? Holder? All of them? It’s gonna take the American people to wake the f-ck up NOW. It’s getting to be go time here. August is when the real race is run... all the way to end. But Romney... he can’t do it alone. People out there who say they ain’t so sure about Romney... this ain’t the time to be talking that perfection sh-t. This ain’t the time to be talking 3rd party candidate bullsh-t. This ain’t the time to be sittin’ this one out. This IS

the time to pay attention... tell everyone you know...everyone you care about... vote out Obama. Vote the son-of-a-bitch out. We got one last chance here to make it right. That's what I'm doin' this for. I gotta try and make it right—2008 was—I can't leave it like this. I can't have that be it for me. Just can't do it. So 2012... hell it's just a few months away now... we gotta do this together. All of us. Every last one of us. I need your readers help. I need them to speak out to everyone they know. Every last person they know. For the love of God get people motivated to do what's right this election. None of us can afford to sit this one out. None of us." [35094]

"I'll promise you this.... if Obama is defeated this election... if the American people send him on his way... there is gonna be a whole sh-t pile of information coming out on what was really going on inside that White House of his and Jarrett's. People will have the guts to speak out—openly. And they won't be alone. They will be able to do it without the fear that hangs over them now—all of us... how scary sh-t is right now. And when all that truth starts to come out... people... the ones willing to listen and understand... they are gonna realize just how close the country... how close we were to the darkness. The future that was gonna be ripped away from their kids and grandkids. And how their votes against Obama saved America. How they saved that future. In the end... like I told you... in the end when the country is in real crisis—it always comes down to the American people to save it. Godd—mit then, let's get to it. Let's save America." [35094]

Author Ann Coulter appears on *Hannity* and ridicules Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's "Romney paid no taxes for 10 years" charge, saying, "I have an unnamed source in Kenya who says that Obama was born in Kenya. ...They want the tax records, because this is how Obama wins all of his elections ...it's always by default. He takes out his opponent by going into secret, sealed divorce files..." Coulter relates how Obama won his first Illinois state senate race in 1996 by making an issue of opponent Alice Palmer's breast cancer and challenging her petition signatures; how he won the 2004 Democrat primary for the U.S. Senate through political operative David Axelrod's efforts to get the divorce records of opponent Blair Hull unsealed; and how Obama got Republican opponent Jack Ryan to withdraw from the race by Axelrod's tawdry dealings to make public the child custody documents from Ryan's divorce. Sean Hannity asks if the Obama campaign attacks on Romney will work. Coulter responds, "Not with so many people unemployed. The Obama campaign message is, 'You can vote for the guy who put millions of people out of work, quadrupled the deficit, wrecked American health care, or you can vote for that really mean guy whose wife owns a horse.'" Coulter also asks, "Why didn't we get the 10 years of tax filings by Teresa Heinz Kerry? I mean, they say, 'Oh, well, she's the wife of the candidate [Senator John Kerry].' Well, she was supporting the candidate. He was a gigolo. His tax returns are no more interesting than Seamus the dog's [Romney's dog's] tax returns. Yeah, [John Kerry] was always supported by women, including this multi-millionaire wife. I'm stating facts. He was supported by his wife." (Kerry, perhaps the wealthiest U.S. Senator, married into his money—twice.) [35027, 35048, 35120]

At Loudon County High School in Leesburg, Virginia, Obama tells an audience, “Look, nobody is satisfied with our pace of growth. Nobody is satisfied. Even with all the jobs we’ve created, we’ve got to create more. But if you look at our history, if you look at the facts, every time we’ve grown, it hasn’t been by the top down. It’s been from the middle out. It’s been from the bottom up. When middle-class families are doing well, lo and behold, everybody does well. If that construction worker has got a little extra money in his pocket, he goes and spends it maybe on a new car. When we’ve got new teachers doing great work with our kids, then you know what, they go to a restaurant and spend that money. And so suddenly businesses are doing well, the economy is doing well, and we get into a virtuous cycle. And we go up.” [35162]

On August 3 the government estimates that the economy created 163,000 jobs in July—not enough to even keep up with population growth, let alone put 13 million unemployed Americans back to work. The unemployment rate increases from 8.2 to 8.3 percent. Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson notes, “We have now witnessed 42 consecutive months of eight percent-plus unemployment in America, despite [Obama’s] promise that his \$825 Billion ‘stimulus’ program would prevent that statistic from eclipsing the eight percent mark. The White House projected that unemployment would now be at 5.6 percent, thanks to the stimulus.” According to CNBC, “The report showed that the actual amount of Americans working dropped by 195,000, with the net job gain resulting primarily from seasonal adjustments.” (There were 142,415,000 Americans working in June. In July, the number dropped to 142,220,000. Although some new jobs were created, they were offset by jobs that were lost and people dropping out of the work force. The Obama administration, of course, focuses on the number of jobs created.) Additionally, if one counts the unemployed and the “underemployed” (those working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment) the unemployment rate is 15 percent. (The 8.3 and 15 percent rates rate would both be higher but those who drop out of the work force to go on welfare or who simply “fall off the radar screen” are no longer counted in the official statistics.) [35037, 35066, 35071, 35072, 35080, 35081, 35082]

ZeroHedge.com adds, “[I]n July the number of part-time jobs added was 31K, bringing the total to 27,925, just shy of the all time record of 28,038. Full time jobs? Down 228,000 to 114,345, lower than the February full-time jobs print of 114,408. Once again, more and more Americans are relinquishing any and all benefits associated with Full Time Jobs benefits, and instead are agreeing on a job. Any job. Even if it means working just 1 hour a week. For the BLS [Bureau of Labor Statistics] it doesn’t matter—1 hour of work a week still qualifies you as a Part-Time worker.” [35038]

At the White House, Obama responds to the unemployment report by spinning the numbers as good: “This morning we learned that our businesses created 172,000 [the report claimed 163,000] new jobs in the month of July. That means that we’ve now created 4.5 million over the last 29 months and 1.1 million new jobs so far this year.” (Investors.com writes, “But ‘we’ haven’t in fact created any jobs. As a matter of fact, since Obama has entered office, some 1.1 million payroll jobs have disappeared. This year, businesses have created 151,000 new jobs a month on average—way below the 300,000-plus per month job creation in a typical recovery-expansion. ... The 163,000

figure becomes even more suspect when you consider that 150,000 people left the workforce in July—something that almost never happens when the economy is expanding and creating new jobs. In short, the 163,000 ‘new’ jobs is a mirage due mostly to seasonal adjustments—not real jobs.”) [35108]

Obama repeats his usual “we’re making progress but it’s not good enough” comment: “Those are our neighbors, family members finding work and the security that comes with work. But let’s acknowledge we’ve still got too many folks out there who are looking for work. We’ve got more work to do on their behalf, not only to reclaim all the jobs that were lost during the recession but also to reclaim the kind of financial security that too many Americans have felt was slipping away from them for too long.” Obama says he knew fixing the economy was “going to take some time.” (That contradicts his 2009 promise that his stimulus legislation would dramatically reduce the unemployment rate.) He also states, “Instead of the middle class paying more, we should ask the wealthiest Americans to pay a little more, a modest amount, so that we can reduce our deficit and still make investments in things like education that help our economy grow. You know, here’s the thing—there are a lot of well-to-do Americans, patriotic Americans, who understand this and are willing to do the right thing.” (Obama engages in yet another straw man argument. Mitt Romney and other key Republicans have not called for middle class Americans to pay higher taxes. Additionally, raising taxes in the wealthy, as Obama wants to do, will not reduce the deficit—because his proposed budget plan calls for increased spending that will consume the revenue collected from those higher taxes. Lastly, Obama is implying that wealthy Americans in general, and Romney in particular, are unpatriotic if they do not support his demand for higher taxes.) [35091, 35100]

Gallup writes, “Despite the unexpectedly large increase of 163,000 jobs in July according to the establishment survey, Gallup and BLS household survey data show that the U.S. unemployment situation continues to deteriorate. In this regard, it seems like Gallup’s finding of an increasing unadjusted unemployment rate and a shrinking workforce have a lot of face-validity given the slowing U.S. economy. On an unadjusted basis, the BLS [Bureau of Labor Statistics] reports the number of employed Americans decreased by 76,000, while the unemployed increased by 216,000. As a result, the government’s unadjusted unemployment rate increased to 8.6% in July from 8.4% in June—the same size increase shown in Gallup’s July unemployment results. ... After the government applied its seasonal adjustments, the decrease in the number of employed Americans is 195,000, while the increase in the unemployed is 45,000. As a result, the BLS reported an increase in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to 8.3%. It is noteworthy that the government’s seasonal adjustments seem to add to, rather than diminish, confusion regarding the jobs picture. At the same time, the BLS reported no change in the unadjusted participation rate at 64.3% and a drop in the seasonally adjusted participation rate to 63.7% in July from 63.8% in June. Gallup’s survey finding is that the workforce declined much more sharply on an unadjusted basis, and therefore also on an adjusted basis. Regardless of whether this difference in participation rates between Gallup and the BLS is a lagged effect associated with survey differences, any decline in the participation rate adds further support to the idea that the U.S. jobs situation is getting worse, not better.” 35105]

The Wall Street Journal writes, “The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 8.3% in July and a broader measure ticked up to 15%, even as the economy added 163,000 jobs. Why the increase? The key reason is because the two numbers come from separate reports. The number of jobs added—the 163,000 figure—comes from a survey of business, while the unemployment rate comes from a survey of U.S. households. The two reports often move in tandem, but can move in opposite directions, especially in months such as July where there are big seasonal issues at play. This month, the household survey was telling a darker tale than the poll of establishments. ... A further worrying sign came in the count of persons counted as employed, which fell by 195,000 last month.” (Few Americans likely understand that the unemployment figures are based on surveys and estimates and are not “real” counts. They here a television news anchor gush that “163,000 new jobs were created,” and hear Obama say things like, “We’re making progress but we still have along way to go,” and they think the economy is improving—when it may not be. The creation of 163,000 jobs per month for 12 months would barely cover the number of students graduating from college in a typical year, let alone help the 13 million unemployed Americans find jobs. In other words, even if 163,000 jobs were created each month forever, the economy would never recover. [35106]

The 163,000 figure is, in truth, absolute nonsense; it is merely an estimate based on government calculations and “seasonal adjustments.” DollarVigilante.com’s Jim Karger later writes, “Looking at the Bureau of Labor Statistics own tables reveals the following startling fact: The U.S. actually lost 1,204,000 jobs in the month of July, 2012. ... During July, 2012, the private sector added a net 27,000 jobs which represented an added 76,000 goods-producing jobs less 49,000 jobs lost in the service sector. The other million plus were lost in the public sector. The 163,000 represents a number that has nothing to do with reality, but rather represents a model that supposedly takes into account the seasonality of certain jobs. In short, the BLS report showing 163,000 added jobs is statistical wizardry by bureaucrats with calculators following the demands of liars who want the numbers spun. If you give it some thought, it makes no sense that employment is expanding.” As an indication, tax receipts are falling. If more people were working, tax receipts would, of course, be increasing. Another indication of a failing economy is a reduction in railcar loads of waste and scrap materials. Karger warns, “[I]f garbage is the benchmark, the US economy is now contracting faster than it has at any one point in the past 3 years and is on pace to recreate the economic collapse last seen after the Lehman bankruptcy.” Additionally, the total employment-to-population rate is a mere 58.4 percent; that rate has steadily declined over the last four years and is now at 1982 levels. If new jobs were being created, that ratio would be increasing. [35379]

At WND.com author Michael Master (*Save America Now!* and *Rules for Conservatives*) notes, “Even though there are 11 million more people in America than when Obama took office, there are 2 million fewer people who are working. The Labor Department, which reports to the White House, has systematically taken off the rolls people available for work to artificially hold down the U-3 unemployment rate. If the same number of people available for work was held constant to January 2009, with the additional 11 million in population, then the unemployment rate would be over 11 percent.” (The unemployment

rate averaged 5.2 percent under the eight years of the George W. Bush administration and 5.1 percent under Bill Clinton's.) [35107]

Mitt Romney campaign responds to the unemployment numbers with the statement, "Today's increase in the unemployment rate is a hammer blow to struggling middle-class families. Yesterday I launched my Plan for a Stronger Middle Class that will bring more jobs and more take home pay. My plan will turn things around and bring the economy roaring back, with twelve million new jobs created by the end of my first term. ...Obama doesn't have a plan and believes that the private sector is 'doing fine.' Obviously, that is not the case. We've now gone 42 consecutive months with the unemployment rate above eight percent. Middle class Americans deserve better, and I believe America can do better." [35037]

The White House blog does it best to spin the terrible unemployment news. Alan Kruger, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, writes, "The household survey showed that the unemployment rate ticked up to 8.3% in July (or, more precisely, the rate rose from 8.217% in June to 8.254% in July). Acting BLS Commissioner John Galvin noted in his statement that the unemployment rate was 'essentially unchanged' from June to July." (The Romney campaign would be foolish not to jump on Kruger's "more precisely" comment. At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, "So, at the same time the White House is arguing people shouldn't read [much] into one monthly report, they're making sure people know exactly, to the 1/1000th of a percent, what the unemployment rate is. Not to mention, by saying 'as the Administration stresses every month,' that unemployment figures 'can be volatile,' they're essentially saying, 'just ignore every unemployment report we've had since ...Obama took office.')" [35040, 35041, 35075, 35161]

Ridiculing Krueger's 8.254 percent statement, Republican National Committee spokesman Tim Miller sends an email wishing Obama a "Happy 50.99726th" birthday. (Obama's birthday is allegedly August 4.) RNC chairman Reince Priebus states, "23 million people struggling for work isn't a rounding error. And the White House's attempts to argue show just how out of touch they are." [35044]

The Republican National Committee quickly releases an ad showing a graph of the actual unemployment rate versus the unemployment rate Obama's stimulus legislation was supposed to yield, with the words, "August 2012 Obama economy still not working," "12,800,000 Americans still out of work," "8.3 % unemployment rate," and "It's time to change direction." Over the ad's somber music, various male and female voices repeat, "It's been four years." [35084]

The White House announces that "regulatory czar" Cass Sunstein will leave the Obama administration at the end of the month and return to a position at Harvard Law School. (Some suspect that Sunstein was asked to leave to prevent the Romney campaign from using him as an example of the extremists in the Obama administration. Sunstein is a socialist who believes all hunting and meat eating should be banned. He has argued that animals should be permitted to file lawsuits, with human beings as their representatives in

court. Sunstein, who is married to Obama's anti-Israel foreign policy advisor Samantha Power, wrote in his book, *Radicals in Robes*, that "...almost all gun control legislation is constitutionally fine" and "...fundamentalism does not justify the view that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to bear arms." Sunstein is believed by some to be a closet homosexual. In a 2008 book called *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, Sunstein argued, "The major obstacle to increasing [organ] donations is the need to get the consent of surviving family members." To rectify that "problem," Sunstein suggested that the deceased would always be *assumed* to be a donor—unless there was a signed statement from the deceased asking that his organs not be removed. Sunstein has also advocated an Internet "civility check" to warn a person that the email they are about to send is angry. The computer would caution, "Warning: this appears to be an uncivil e-mail. Do you really and truly want to send it?" Sunstein also wants the Internet to *automatically* post links to opposing opinions; an article that disputes man-caused global warming could, for example, be *required* to display links to sites that promote the "Al Gore doctrine.") [819, 1311, 2550, 2618, 3150, 3179, 3180, 3182, 3200, 3564, 3738, 3894, 4057, 4568, 4591, 10177, 10178, 10364, 10683, 35051, 35077, 35083]

Sunstein will be replaced by Boris Bershteyn. (The White House announcement listing Bershteyn's history omits his work at the consulting firm Bain & Co.—where Romney worked before Bain Capital was established.) [35844, 35845]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, announces that a civil lawsuit will be filed against Attorney General Eric Holder during the August Congressional recess, in an attempt to force the release of documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. Issa tells reporters, "We'll be filing a civil case during the break. We will expect a day in court before a federal judge, which we have a 100 percent chance that the judge will hold that these documents should be delivered. The idea that you would withhold based on some executive privilege the documents related to a cover up of a crime is absurd, but that's the claim that the attorney general is hiding behind. We're seeking a remedy and the remedy is an order to compel. Nixon didn't respond to Congress, he responded to federal judges, ultimately the Supreme Court, ordering that he had no such privilege to cover up the tapes [White House recordings]. And these are no different than the Nixon tapes, we're asking for documents related to a cover up of lying to Congress." [35042, 35043]

A Federal District Judge in San Francisco refuses to dismiss a \$1 billion lawsuit against the state of California and several of its Attorney Generals and Deputies, including Obama pal Kamala Harris, the state's current attorney general. According to TransWorldNews.com, a group of homeowners "filed the lawsuit after Kamala Harris allegedly stole their attorney client privileged files and destroyed them, right in the middle of their litigation against Bank of America and at Bank of America's request. Homeowners from all over the Country have joined the lawsuit. ...The lawsuit was filed by Spire Law Group, LLP—the law firm known for fighting corruption—and alleges that Kamala Harris acted with approval from the Obama Administration (and, in the past, from Harris' brother-in-law, Tony West, of Obama's Department of Justice) to 'hurt

homeowners while helping banks, however it can be done.” Attorney James N. Fiedler, the lead litigator for the homeowners, says, “The public is not stupid. Kamala Harris literally stole the litigation files of thousands of American homeowners trying to save their homes. In virtually every prior Administration I can remember—going back well prior to Ronald Reagan—the Civil Rights division of the United States Department of Justice would have intervened to protect Americans’ Civil Rights. Do not expect Mr. Obama to protect the Civil Rights of American homeowners. As Americans have come to realize, Mr. Obama is not the friend of the American homeowner when it comes to the banks.” A press conference is scheduled for September 3 “to recount additional acts of governmental corruption of these two officials [Obama and Harris] that will ‘be the final eye-opener’ to Americans on how Mr. Obama, and their ‘friendly’ Attorneys General have stolen another \$3 trillion from taxpayers in order to protect American corporations.” [35608]

It is worth recalling a February 21, 2012 DailyCaller.com report that a \$25 billion Obama administration “mortgage deal” with five banks provided a \$1.1 billion “slush fund” for Democrat attorneys general “...that can be distributed to housing groups and community organizers in the months prior to the 2012 election.” A reported \$430.2 million was set aside for California Secretary of State Kamala Harris to distribute, and leftist groups quickly got in line to get a cut. Rosa Cabrera Aqeel, a community activist with California for People Improving Communities through Organizing, said, “In the last conversations we had with [Harris’s office] ...they were still trying to decide how that money will be best used. It is our understanding that we will be working cooperatively about how those funds are spent.” Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, called the deal a government “shake down” of banks and their shareholders. Fitton stated, “The left is very adept at using the offices of the federal government to keep itself funded, and Republicans are generally oblivious to this. Tax dollars shouldn’t be going to interest groups on the left—or the right.” The House Judiciary Committee also questioned a “...\$335 million deal with Bank of America that would direct some of the funds to progressive groups.” [29386]

The implication of the “slush fund” story was that the administration negotiated deals with the banks that reduced the total damages they would pay for alleged mishandling of mortgage documentation, but which set aside some of the billions paid by the banks to go to state attorneys general—*rather than to affected homeowners*. That money would then be distributed to various state agencies or non-governmental “community” organizations (like ACORN’s Affordable Housing Centers of America) to be used for housing-related programs of one form or another—*with virtually no one watching to see whether that money was spent properly*. Lisa Madigan, the Democrat Attorney General for the state of Illinois, was given \$110.8 million to distribute but bristled at questions from DailyCaller.com about accountability, saying they were “getting to a point where it is insulting” because “there will be effective checks and balances in place.” (Madigan apparently believes the taxpayers are not allowed to know what those checks and balances will be.) [29386]

Kamala Harris's brother-in-law, Tony West, represented the "American Taliban," John Walker Lindh, and various terrorists held at Guantanamo. Obama rewarded West for his defense of terrorists—and his 2008 California fundraising activities—by appointing him assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's Civil Division. West was the lead attorney in the Obama administration's lawsuit against Arizona's legislation against illegal immigrants. In 2010 Harris was opposed in the Democrat primary by Rocky Delgadillo, whose campaign was led by Kam Kuwata. Harris was called "the darling of the Obama activist base of the party" by the leftist California Progress Report. Kuwata gained political enemies by working against Harris, who was Obama's "candidate of choice." Kuwata may also have been the source of a behind-the-scenes eyewitness report from the 2008 Democrat National Convention that alleged Obama was high on drugs before his acceptance speech at a Denver stadium. Kuwata, age 57, was found dead and no autopsy was performed—despite the fact that he was not known to have health problems. (Whether Harris and West called off an investigation into the death of Kuwata is not known, but they certainly had the power to do so. Some suspect that Kuwata was "taken care of" because he had revealed to others the story of Obama's drug use and perhaps because he had knowledge of the significant level of campaign donation fraud and money laundering in the 2008 campaign.) At one point there were rumors that Harris was on Obama's "short list" of Supreme Court nominees, and that West would be moved up to the top Attorney General spot if Eric Holder was forced to resign because of Operation Fast and Furious. [9276, 9297, 28420, 28481, 28482, 28483, 28424, 28425, 28426, 28427, 28428, 28429, 28481, 28482, 28483, 28484, 29249, 29371]

At Townhall.com John Ransom writes, "General Motors, the auto company that vice president Joe Biden likes to claim Obama saved singled-handedly during the virgin birth after which the One was swaddled in a manger, is facing a class action lawsuit for making 'materially false and misleading' claims in the prospectus for the new issue of stock it offered as it moved out of bankruptcy in late fall 2010. A statement issued by the law firm representing the class 'alleges that the defendants misrepresented and/or failed to disclose that: (1) GM was predicting revenue based on production rather than actual sales; (2) the Company falsely assured investors that it was actively managing its production by monitoring its dealer inventory levels; and (3) the Company assured investors that its inventory management would improve in 2011, which would improve average transaction price.' GM stock has been in trouble since it was issued, drifting downward from \$33 in November of 2010 to a close of near \$19 today. ...In addition, the company also received \$52 billion from the U.S. Treasury, \$9.5 billion from the Canadians and \$12 billion in tax losses carried forward from the pre-bankruptcy days—which for the rest of us regular Joes would be illegal. Oh, then there was that little issue of not paying taxes on the loan that Obama decided to turn into a gift—which again would be illegal for the rest of us. ...Here's more of that famous Obama math for you junior progressive economists... \$22 billion [in stock bought by the taxpayers] + \$52 billion + \$9.5 billion [in U.S. bailout money] + \$12 billion [in Canadian bailout money] = \$95.5 billion in new money from investors, governments and tax credits that the company has turned into \$29 billion in mere months." (In other words, the company is worth only about \$29 billion after receiving \$95.5 billion from various sources. Unless the stock

price soars, the taxpayers—who own about 60 percent of GM’s stock—will be out a fortune from “saving” the company.) [35044]

It is worth noting that Mitt Romney was crucified for daring to suggest that the government sell its GM stock, when the per-share price was about \$25–\$26. In February 2012 Romney told the *Detroit News*, “The Obama administration needs to act now to divest itself of its ownership position in GM.. The shares need to be sold in a responsible fashion and the proceeds turned over to the nation’s taxpayers.” CNN’s Charles Riley wrote, “If the government moved now to dump the 500 million GM shares that it still owns, as Romney suggests, taxpayers would be guaranteed to take a loss. GM shares currently sit at \$25.40, far below the \$51 per share price necessary for taxpayers to break even. Selling the shares would recoup about \$12.7 billion, but leave taxpayers with only about half of the \$25.5 billion they have yet to get back from the \$49.5 billion bailout of GM in 2009.” Six months later, GM’s stock price hovers around \$19 per share—and company profits plummeted 41 percent in the second quarter. [35044, 35045]

The Republican national Committee sends an Obama birthday cake to the Democrat National Committee. The message on the cake reads “You didn’t bake this.” [35052]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 47–43 in Rasmussen’s daily Presidential Tracking Poll of likely voters. [35054]

At Spectator.org Paul Kengor, author of *The Communist, Frank Marshall Davis: The Untold Story of Barack Obama’s Mentor*, writes, “Frank Marshall Davis was a literal—and I mean literal—card-carrying member of Communist Party USA. I publish Davis’s Communist Party number (47544) on the cover of the book, and fill an appendix with declassified FBI documents and Soviet archival material. Those documents reveal a Davis so suspicious that he was placed on the federal government’s Security Index, which meant he could be immediately arrested if war broke out between the United States and [the] USSR. With that sort of pro-Soviet influence throughout his adolescence (1970–79), Barack Obama would have trouble getting a security clearance for an entry-level government job, let alone sit in the Oval Office. Nonetheless, Obama sits in that Oval Office today thanks to four factors: the American voter, a scandalously biased media, a skillful election strategy charted by David Axelrod, and the careful nurturing of Valerie Jarrett. And most remarkable, Axelrod’s and Jarrett’s backgrounds and mentors connect to Obama’s background and mentor in a most intriguing way.” Kengor notes that Davis was involved in the American Peace Mobilization, a “notorious and blatantly communist” front organization. Also connected to the organization was Davis’s fellow Chicagoan, Robert Taylor. “Taylor was the grandfather of [close Obama advisor] Valerie Jarrett. ... Vernon Jarrett and Frank Marshall Davis worked together on the small publicity team of the communist-controlled Packinghouse Workers Union, which Frank Marshall Davis publicly called for nationalizing. Vernon Jarrett would one day become Valerie Jarrett’s father-in-law.” [35056, 35141, 36105]

It is worth noting that Chicago’s infamous public housing project, the Robert Taylor Homes, was named after Taylor, a member of the Chicago Housing Authority board. The

28 16-story buildings, meant to accommodate 11,000 residents, ended up housing about 27,000. By the end of 2005 all residents had been removed from the drug, violence, and pest-infected facilities, and over the following two years all the buildings were demolished. Valerie Jarrett, Taylor's granddaughter, had her own associations with slums—not as a resident, but as an overseer. Jarrett was the CEO of Habitat Company, the company that grossly mismanaged Grove Parc Plaza, a 504-unit housing project in Chicago. The project's appalling living conditions included as collapsed roofs, un-repaired fire damage, rodent infestations, and backed up sewage. (Another even larger of Chicago's subsidized housing complexes managed by Jarrett's company was seized by the federal government in 2006 after widespread problems were identified.) While Jarrett was CEO of Habitat, she also served as Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's planning commissioner. Daley named Michelle LaVaughan Robinson (Obama) to the Chicago Landmark Commission. [478, 479, 480, 545, 664, 832, 1660, 35177]

Paul Kengor points out that Obama's key political strategist and hatchet-man, David Axelrod, "was mentored by the Canter family, namely David Canter. The Canter family's Soviet/communist roots were deep. David and his family had lived in Moscow just before Chicago. His father, Harry Canter, worked there as an official translator of Lenin's writings. Harry, who had been secretary of the Boston Communist Party and ran for governor of Massachusetts on the Communist Party ticket, did this as a literal employee of Stalin's government. After that service to the Soviets, the Canter crew headed to Chicago, a hot-bed for American communists. They worked with Frank Marshall Davis in writing communist propaganda for the Packinghouse Workers Union, in teaching at the communist Abraham Lincoln School, in marching in Chicago's May Day parades, and in the pages of the *Chicago Star*. In fact, when Davis and his comrades sold the *Chicago Star* to something called the Progressive Publishing Company in September 1948, Harry Canter was one of the small group of board members doing the purchase. ...Frank Marshall Davis mentored Barack Obama. The Canter family mentored David Axelrod, who got Obama elected [to the U.S. Senate and into the White House]. Vernon Jarrett's daughter-in-law is Valerie Jarrett, and Robert Taylor was Valerie Jarrett's grandfather. Jarrett is Obama's top presidential adviser. In other words, Obama's political ancestor worked with the political ancestors of Axelrod and Jarrett." [35056, 35141]

Kengor's book contains a treasure trove of information about Frank Marshall Davis. A reader of *The Communist* would find it difficult not to believe that Davis was a strong influence on Obama—who seems to hate the same things Davis hated: Winston Churchill, colonialism, General Motors, oil companies, profits, and capitalism, and who supports the same things Davis supported: a more powerful federal government, stimulus spending, redistribution of wealth, government health care, and the nationalization of industries. It is clear that Davis hoped the United States could be "fundamentally changed"—and Obama set about doing just that. Like Obama, Davis was concerned about "finite quantities of coal, oil" and "other disappearing resources," as well as "population explosion." (One difference may be that Davis may have actually believed that the nation's energy supplies would be exhausted, while Obama is using fear of that possibility to help drive his socialist agenda.) Kengor gleaned much from Davis's columns at the *Chicago Star* and the *Honolulu Record*, which clearly present his pro-

Soviet, pro-Stalin, anti-Truman, and anti-American sentiments. Although the University of Hawaii has copies of all issues of the *Honolulu Record*, the Library of Congress informed both Kengor and *The Obama Timeline* that it did not have copies of the *Chicago Star*—after first stating that it did. (How and why those reels of microfiche disappeared is not known, although it is clear that if the voting public had been made aware of Davis’s pro-Soviet columns and his influence on Obama in early 2008, the current President of the United States might be John McCain or Hillary Clinton.) Kengor and his intrepid researchers found copies of every issue of Davis’s *Chicago Star* at New York University’s Tamiment Library—which also has the archives of the Communist Party USA. [35056, 35141, 36105]

In *The Communist* Kengor writes that Frank Marshall Davis’s “fellow columnist at the *Chicago Star*, Senator Claude Pepper, with the help of his chief of staff, Charles Kramer—who we now know was a literal Soviet agent—authorized the first major legislation seeking to socialize American medicine.” (Pepper, who served as U.S. Senator from Florida between 1936 and 1951 and then as a member of the House of Representatives from 1963 until his death in 1989 at age 88, was known as “Red” Pepper for his pro-Soviet views. Pepper was the first known communist to serve in the U.S. Congress.) That Obama supports the nationalization of the health care industry is not surprising, considering his mentor Davis held the same views. [35056, 35041, 36105]

At ABCNews.com Jonathan Karl reports that Solyndra emails released on August 2 include one that suggests “concerns about Solyndra’s viability were shared all the way up to then-White House Chief of Staff Bill Daley a full six months before the company went bust.” The timing indicates that the White House knew Solyndra was facing significant problems but approved a restructuring of federal loans to the company anyway. The restructured loan failed to protect the taxpayers against default by illegally subordinating them to other company creditors. HotAir.com writes, “This is the first time Obama’s inner circle has been tied to the restructuring and its illegal subordination of those taxpayer loans. If Daley was briefed on the details of that restructuring before it got put in place and it still went forward, one can infer that Daley didn’t raise any objections to it. It’s hard to imagine that Daley would have gone out on that limb without getting approval from the man to whom he directly reported—Barack Obama. Even without the illegality in subordinating taxpayers, this is still very bad news for Obama. The decision to move forward cost taxpayers an addition \$380 million. Did Obama give the personal OK to put that much more at risk on an already-failing company? Again, it’s very difficult to imagine that Daley was making those kinds of calls without checking in with the boss.” [35063, 35064, 35065]

In *The Wall Street Journal* Peggy Noonan writes, “From a friend watching the Olympics: ‘How about that Michael Phelps? But let’s remember he didn’t win all those medals, someone else did. After all, he and I swam in public pools, built by state employees using tax dollars. He got training from the USOC, and ate food grown by the Department of Agriculture. He should play fair and share his medals with people like me, who can barely keep my head above water, let alone swim.’ ...And as the games progress, we’ll be hearing a lot more of this kind of thing, because ...Obama’s comment—‘You didn’t

build that’—is the political gift that keeps on giving. They are now the most famous words he has said... And oh, how he wishes they weren’t.” [35078]

In Nevada, Mitt Romney calls for the current income tax rates to be extended for one year: “I would like to see [Obama] and Congress come together and say we’re going to put a year’s runway from where we are now ...and give me or the next president the ability to reform the tax system. Let’s have a year of runway or at least 6 months of runway after the new president is elected.” [35101]

WLS-AM reporter Bill Cameron gets brushed off by Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel when he asks about the government’s ill-advised loan to the now-bankrupt Solyndra—which had Emanuel’s enthusiastic support when he was Obama’s chief of staff. Emanuel tells Cameron, “You know, Bill, I’m opening schools, I’m cutting the deficit in half, the city of Chicago is leading in job creation in the country—I’ll leave Solyndra to you, I’m going to focus on the children of Chicago.” Pressed further on Solyndra, Emanuel responds, “It’s simple, you just talk to the White House counsel. They are answering all the questions and they will answer any questions you have on the matter.” (At WashingtonExaminer.com, Joel Gehrke notes a House report on the Solyndra bankruptcy that “indicates that Emanuel’s interest played a role in the White House supporting the loan guarantee, based in part on a 2009 email that Heather Zichal, Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Policy, wrote to another White House staffer. ‘In addition, Ms. Zichal stated that ‘folks in the financing community’ had also raised concerns about the Solyndra loan guarantee, ‘[b]ut if Rahm wants it, we’ll make it happen,’ the report says of the email.”) [35111, 35112]

The Telegraph reports, “The Muslim Brotherhood has established its own militia inside Syria as the country’s rebels fracture between radical Islamists and their rivals... Calling itself the ‘Armed Men of the Muslim Brotherhood,’ the militia has a presence in Damascus as well as opposition hot spots like Homs and Idlib. One of their organisers, who called himself Abu Hamza, said that he started the movement along with a member of the Syrian National Council (SNC), the opposition alliance.” (The radical Muslim Brotherhood no doubt senses that the end may be near for Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, and is attempting to place itself in a position where it can grab power—a move that will be supported by Obama.) [35113, 35114]

Legendary actor Clint Eastwood endorses Mitt Romney, saying it’s “Because I think the country needs a boost somewhere.” (FoxNews.com notes, “The staunch Republican created a bit of confusion after Chrysler’s ‘Halftime in America’ ad that aired during the Superbowl. Many saw it an endorsement of ...Obama, forcing Eastwood to state ...that he was ‘certainly not affiliated with Mr. Obama.’”) [35086]

ABCNews.com reports, “The Obama administration will formally begin granting some young undocumented immigrants legal status and work permits later this month under a controversial new policy first announced by ...Obama in June. The Department of Homeland Security today announced details of the application and approval process for the DREAM Act-like program, outlining specific eligibility requirements and a \$465 fee.

It will begin Aug. 15. Illegal immigrants younger than 30 who came to the United States before age 16, have lived here for at least five years continuously, attend or have graduated from high school or college, and have no criminal convictions are eligible to submit requests for so-called deferred action (legalese for an official exemption from deportation).” (Under the policy, illegal immigrants can literally “buy protection” for \$465—far less than it costs legal immigrants to obtain the right to remain in the United States.) [35125]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the Wall Street insider, who states, “I have recently received confirmation of [Federal Reserve Board chairman] Ben Bernanke’s intent to initiate a sizeable QE3 [Quantitative Easing phase 3] just prior to the November election. Whispers of this have been circulating for a number of weeks. It is now confirmed. Bernanke now appears quite motivated to do just that though there will be a fight among some within the FED. Bernanke has the votes though, so his intent will most likely be met with success unless we can counter this intent via other means that I cannot share with you at this time. I am at war with the fiscal beast herself and she is proving a very worthy opponent. Watch for it. Watch for confirmation of this plan. A QE3 announcement just prior to November could give the man calling himself Obama just enough of a bump to win a closely contested election. It will also further decimate the longer term fiscal health of the nation and the world. Clearly those who surround Obama deem the former to be far more important than the latter.” [35093]

“Barack Obama and Ben Bernanke are now working in unison in an attempt to purchase a second term. There will be those who will argue it will not impact the election. Not so. Those surrounding Obama hope to have QE3 as a tool to buy back support from Wall Street in the final weeks leading to the election. Sadly, there may be some who will cooperate with this ‘buy back.’ Shame on them for doing so. God will make an accounting of their betrayal when they are held in final judgment. There remains [sic] those of us who will do all we can to run Bernanke off the proverbial tracks and as I indicated, there are those within the FED who will assist. The challenge is difficult, but we are willing to take it up. At the very least we hope to delay a QE3 announcement until after the election. Such a delay would be a victory, at least in the short term. I wish to share this information with both you and your fine readers in a timely fashion.” (With “QE3” the Federal Reserve would essentially create money out of thin air to pump into the stock market in an effort to artificially boost the economy prior to the election. The long-range result is higher prices and a lower standard of living for all Americans— inflation. The short-term result may be some votes for Obama.) [35093]

On August 4, purportedly his 51st birthday, Obama plays golf. [35091, 35099]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports, “A popular Connecticut park and its 234 acres of wetlands, woodlands and beach on Long Island Sound will be shut down all day Monday [August 6] so that ...Obama can use the location as a base for fundraising nearby. The Sherwood Island State Park in Westport, Connecticut will have to turn away thousands of bathers so that Obama can get to and from his events, including a \$35,800 per head bash

at the 9,000-square-foot, \$8.3-million waterfront estate of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, according to *The Connecticut Post*.” [35092, 35176]

Obama threatens yet another thug-like Executive Order as a result of Congress not giving him what he wants. TheHill.com reports, “Senate Republicans recently blocked cybersecurity legislation, but the issue might not be dead after all. The White House hasn’t ruled out issuing an executive order to strengthen the nation’s defenses against cyber attacks if Congress refuses to act.” White House press secretary Jay Carney states, “In the wake of Congressional inaction and Republican stall tactics, unfortunately, we will continue to be hamstrung by outdated and inadequate statutory authorities that the legislation would have fixed. Moving forward, [Obama] is determined to do absolutely everything we can to better protect our nation against today’s cyber threats and we will do that.” (Obama has not yet suggested eliminating Congress altogether, allowing him to rule by executive fiat. That may wait until after November 6.) [35098, 35138]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 46–44 in Rasmussen’s daily tracking poll. Only 22 percent of those polled “strongly approve” of Obama’s performance; 44 percent “strongly disapprove.” His total approval/disapproval rating is 45/53. [35103, 35104]

According to *The New York Times*, Obama “has spent more campaign cash more quickly than any incumbent in recent history, betting that heavy early investments in personnel, field offices and a high-tech campaign infrastructure will propel him to victory in November. Since the beginning of last year, ...Obama and the Democrats have burned through millions of dollars to find and register voters. They have spent almost \$50 million subsidizing Democratic state parties to hire workers, pay for cellphones [sic] and update voter lists. They have spent tens of millions of dollars on polling, online advertising and software development to turn ...Obama’s fallow volunteers corps into a grass-roots army. The price tag: about \$400 million from the beginning of last year to June 30 this year, according to a New York Times analysis of Federal Election Commission records, including \$86 million on advertising.” Obama’s spending has made some supporters nervous. One fundraiser tells the *Times*, “There is a lot of worry that Romney’s folks are raising so much more. I just don’t think there’s a lot of high-dollar money left on the table.” [35118, 35145]

On August 5 Rasmussen reports that Mitt Romney leads Obama 51–35 percent in a July 31–August 1 poll of likely voters in Indiana. (In 2008 Obama defeated John McCain in that state by less than one percent. Although most observers have assumed that Romney will win Indiana handily in 2012, they will no doubt be surprised to see a whopping 16-point spread—especially with large numbers of black voters in Indianapolis and Gary.) [35109, 35110]

A gunman opens fire at worshippers at a Sikh Temple in a suburb of Milwaukee, killing seven. Wade Michael Page then shot himself in the head, ending the ordeal. (It is unclear whether more gunmen were involved.) According to CNSNews.com, Page was reportedly “a 40-year-old Army veteran and former leader of a white supremacist heavy metal band.” CSMonitor.com states that Page “was a decorated Army veteran

psychological warfare specialist and white supremacist who has been watched with concern by anti-hate groups for more than 10 years.” (The shootings are immediately labeled “an act of domestic terrorism,” even though the November 2009 Fort Hood terrorist attacks by Nidal Hasan Malik were called “workplace violence.” Why Malik was not on a “watch list” has not been adequately explained by the Obama administration.) [35160, 35165, 35172, 35175, 35189, 36240, 35275]

On ABC’s *This Week*, Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus calls Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) a “dirty liar” for claiming that Mitt Romney did not pay taxes for 10 years. Priebus says, “As far as Harry Reid is concerned, listen, I know you might want to go down that road, I’m not going to respond to a dirty liar who hasn’t filed [released] a single page of tax returns himself, [who] complains about people with money but lives in the Ritz Carlton here down the street. So if that’s on the agenda, I’m not going to go there. This is just a made-up issue. And the fact that we’re going to spend any time talking about it is ridiculous.” George Will says, “Harry Reid’s source, if we’re to assume he actually has one, is identified by Harry Reid as an investor in Bain. That’s as though I own some Microsoft stock, which I do, and I said, ‘As an investor in Microsoft, I now have opinions on Bill Gates’ tax returns.’ Look, in 1950, [Wisconsin Senator] Joe McCarthy went to West Virginia, didn’t know what to tell the women’s Republican Club of Wheeling, West Virginia, so he said, ‘I have in my hand a list of 205 communists in the State Department.’ He didn’t have a list. Harry Reid doesn’t have any evidence either. This is McCarthyism from the desert.” (Will is incorrect. McCarthy proffered a list of 57 names, not 205, and he did have evidence of communist infiltration of the State Department—evidence that was later supported by documents released after the collapse of the Soviet Union, such as the “Venona papers.”) On CNN’s *State of the Union* Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says Reid is “making things up to divert the campaign away from the real issues.” [35117, 35121, 35122, 35123, 35124, 35137, 35273]

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), head of the Democrat National Committee, also appears on *This Week*, where she demands that Romney release 23 years of tax returns. She is also asked if Obama will be able to “shake” his “You didn’t build that” remark. She replies, “I think that it would be great if Republicans would make sure that they weren’t supporting cuts in investment like education, like infrastructure, like all the things that we know help businesses thrive. ...Obama has always been committed to making sure that small businesses have an opportunity to thrive, large businesses. That’s why he pushed through 18 different tax breaks for small business owners. But I know ...Obama has also backed up that support with action by supporting investments in infrastructure, education, the Internet and the economy, so that businesses have more of an opportunity to thrive, while Republicans support slashing, and Mitt Romney supports major cuts in those kinds of programs, which would harm businesses’ ability to thrive. That’s the choice we have got in this election. Do we want to continue moving in the direction that ...Obama has taken? Twenty-nine straight months of job growth in the private sector, a [person] who wants a balanced approach to deficit reduction. Asked folks to pay a little bit more who can, so that we can make sure we can make those investments in education and the economy. We’re all in this together. This election

should not be about defeating Barack Obama. It should be about getting the economy turned around, and that's what Barack Obama is committed to." (Like Obama, Wasserman Schultz sets up a straw man argument to knock down. Romney and the Republicans have not proposed cuts to education—which is a local, not a federal, issue. Nor are they opposed to repairing roads and bridges; they are opposed to massive deficit-spending and borrowing money from China to pay for new roads and bridges. Based on Wasserman Schultz's remarks, it is clear that the latest DNC talking points emphasize the word "thrive." That word will likely be used frequently by Democrats and the media—until the next talking points are released.) [35119]

The Washington Post engages in what Rush Limbaugh calls a "random act of journalism" by reporting the truth about the government's latest job numbers: *the economy did not actually create 163,000 jobs in July*. Ezra Klein writes, "The U.S. economy lost 1.2 million jobs between June and July. But that's not how it got reported. When the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its jobs figures for July, it said the economy *gained* 163,000 jobs. So what gives? BLS isn't hiding anything. The discrepancy just has to do with what's known as 'seasonal adjustments.' The U.S. economy follows certain predictable patterns in hiring and layoffs every year. School districts always let workers go for the summer and hire in the fall. Retailers always staff up for the Christmas holidays and lay people off afterwards. Students always flood the labor market in June. So if we want to know how well the economy is doing, we want to know how many jobs were added after taking these predictable fluctuations into account. Some seasonal adjustments are necessary before the data can tell us anything useful. And this is exactly what BLS does in its monthly jobs reports. As Jacob Goldstein of Planet Money points out, the U.S. economy had 1.2 million fewer jobs in July than it did in June. But, according to the bureau, the economy still had 163,000 more jobs than one would've expected, given seasonal trends. ...So BLS reported it as a 163,000 gain in jobs." [35166]

On Aaron Klein's radio program, veteran comedian Jackie Mason, noting that Obama pledges to visit Israel during his second term, comments, "What I would like to know is this: Why does it take five years to find out that Israel is there? Did he just buy a map a week ago? He didn't know that Israel exists until two hours ago? Can someone answer this question? The Jews gave him 78 percent of their vote. They went everywhere to help him but he can't go across the street to help them? He is in Egypt and in Lebanon and every country around there within a block and a half of Israel. And he couldn't cross the street to say hello to them?" Obama's message is, "They don't deserve [a visit] unless they send him another 78 million dollars and give him another 78 percent of the vote." [35126, 35198]

Despite the hammering Obama is taking for his "You didn't build that [business]" comment, his campaign sends a Twitter message to his supporters that reads, "If you or someone you know owns a small business, share how ...Obama's policies are helping it succeed..." (Obama is obviously seeking stories he can use in campaign ads.) [35156]

HotAir.com reports, "Just when you thought the Obama campaign couldn't get any weirder, along comes its latest high-tech gift. Meet the Obama for America app for

iPhone, a tool that allows you to spy on your neighbors to determine which of them are naughty (read: not Obama supporters) and which are nice. What you do with that information is entirely up to you. The website ProPublica explains how the app works. The end-user types in his current location. The app returns a Google map of the area that flags households with one or more registered Democrats. Clicking on one of the blue flags reveals the first name, last initial, age, and gender of Democratic voters who live there. Not creepy at all.” (The Obama application page on Apple’s web site states, “We’re building this campaign from the ground up, and the Obama 2012 app has all the tools you need to join the fight to move the country forward.”) [35157, 35168, 35169]

WND.com suggests that the upcoming meeting of the United Nations General Assembly may be a “potential minefield” for Obama, occurring just weeks before the November election. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will be in New York City September 24–28. “The visit will come at a time when the U.N. is being pressured by the White House to increase the political/economic sanctions on Iran and its nuclear ‘research’ program which Washington insists is a cover for a nuclear bomb project. The failure to contain Iran has been a glaring problem for Obama, and Ahmadinejad’s New York visit is intended to graphically high-light it just weeks before election day. Another problem for Obama is Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who intends to pursue his quest for statehood when he speaks on September 29.” (Both Ahmadinejad and Abbas have the potential to make statements to which the Obama administration will be forced to respond, and a response that will please all voters—particularly Jewish voters—may be difficult to craft.) [35132]

On August 6, Donald Trump tells *Fox & Friends* he believes Mitt Romney has paid his taxes “I think that he probably shouldn’t at this point give [the media and the Democrats] his returns because they’ll look at one return from five years ago, see a little statement, then they’ll make a big deal out of it, and I have said it, and I’ve said it a lot, that if Obama opened up his records maybe Mitt should give his returns, and that would be a great trade. I guarantee it would be a really wonderful trade. ...I’d like to see his college records. I’d like to see his college applications. I’d like to see something about his past, which many people know nothing about. I’d like to see his passport records, which are sealed. You know, Obama spent over \$4 million in legal fees to keep these things quiet, and then he stands up and says ‘I want to see his tax returns.’ He’s given tax returns. And if they give more—and I understand what Mitt’s saying, they’re very, very complex and 100 percent straight, 100 percent legal—but they look at little nitpicking things, and then you have another month of debate. Now, if Obama gives some of his sealed records where all of this money has been spent to keep them sealed, I would certainly make that trade. I think that’s a great trade. ...I think you would find some things that are very, very interesting and very shocking.” (TheTrenches.us has offered \$20,000 to anyone who will provide Obama’s college transcripts. Another web site has offered \$25 million for Obama’s original long-form birth certificate. Obama has not accepted the offer—which applies to the actual document, not a computer image of a document.) [2525, 35185, 35748, 35749, 35750, 35758]

In his daily video message, political strategist and former Clinton advisor Dick Morris notes new polls of likely voters he has seen which may mean bad news for Obama. Morris is confident that in November 2012 Mitt Romney will win all the states won by John McCain in 2008. Romney is also ahead, according to the unnamed polls, in Indiana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Nevada, North Carolina, and Colorado. Romney trails slightly in Ohio, Florida, and Virginia but is within striking distance, and those three states would give him more than enough electoral votes to defeat Obama if he wins them. Morris suggests that Obama may very well lose the states where he now leads Romney but seems unable to hit the 50 percent barrier in opinion polls: Iowa, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. In those states Obama leads Romney, yet remains under 50 percent. If the undecided voters turn to the challenger—which is typical in most presidential elections—Romney could win in a landslide. Morris suggests that the mainstream media emphasizes the polls where Obama fares better in order to help him continue to raise money before contributors give up on him. (On August 1 Gallup reported that Obama’s approval rating is at or above 50 percent in only 13 states and the District of Columbia: Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, California, Washington, Illinois, Delaware, and Minnesota. If Obama were to win only those states and D.C., he would have only 185 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win reelection. In that Gallup poll, Obama’s approval rating in Ohio matches his rating in Mississippi—a mere 44 percent. In Colorado, supposedly a “toss-up state,” Obama’s approval rating is a dismal 43 percent.) [35127, 35143, 35144, 35147]

According to the *Tampa Bay Times*, speakers at the Republican National Convention will include Florida Governor Rick Scott, Senator John McCain (R-AZ), former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Ohio Governor John Kasich, and New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez. Other speakers, including the keynote speaker, have yet to be announced. (It is later announced that other speakers will be former Congressman Artur Davis (a Democrat-turned-Republican), Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Congressman Connie Mack (R-FL), Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), and Senator Rob Portman (R-OH).) [35133, 35134, 35142, 35152, 35635]

ForeignPolicy.com reports, “Top State Department officials including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have been working behind the scenes to assuage Indian anger following the attack on a Sikh temple in Wisconsin over the weekend by an Army veteran and alleged former white supremacist. Indian government officials and Sikh leaders across India were outraged by the attack that left 6 dead, including 4 Indian nationals, at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee and called on the U.S. to do more to protect Sikhs living in the United States. Clinton called Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna from her stop in South Africa Monday after Krishna criticized the U.S. for failed policies and a growing trend of violent incidents against religious minorities.” [35180]

Townhall.com’s Katie Hicks reports that a new e-book by Politico reporter Glenn Thrush, *Obama’s Last Stand*, “divulges that [Obama’s] personal feelings about past GOP candidates were nothing compared to the hatred he apparently harbors for Mitt Romney.”

Thrush writes, “One factor made the 2012 grind bearable and at times even fun for Obama: he began campaign preparations feeling neutral about Romney, but like the former governor’s GOP opponents in 2008 and 2012, he quickly developed a genuine disdain for the man. That scorn stoked Obama’s competitive fire, got his head in the game, which came as a relief to some Obama aides who had seen his interest flag when he didn’t feel motivated to crush the opposition. Obama, a person close to him told me, didn’t even feel this strongly about conservative, combative House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, the Hill Republican he disliked the most. At least Cantor stood for something, he’d say. When he talked about Romney, aides picked up a level of anger he never had for [Hillary] Clinton or McCain, even after Sarah Palin was picked as his running mate. ‘There was a baseline of respect for John McCain. [Obama] always thought he was an honorable man and a war hero,’ said a longtime Obama adviser. ‘That doesn’t hold true for Romney. He was no g--d----- war hero.’” (Of course, Obama is also not a war hero, and neither Obama nor Romney served in uniform. Obama likely dislikes Romney more than McCain for two other reasons: Romney will be more difficult to defeat; and, far more than McCain, Romney represents and supports the capitalism that Obama hates.) [35135, 35139, 35207]

According to DailyCaller.com, *Obama’s Last Stand* also relates that Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod “is so popular with reporters that one privately admits to avoiding writing tough stories that would upset him. Author Glenn Thrush doesn’t name the reporter... but wrote that ‘Axe’ is ‘so well liked a reporter told me he softened his stories to avoid ‘hurting his feelings.’” [35839]

The Romney campaign and the Republican National Committee report that they raised more than \$101 million in July. Ninety-five percent of the contributions were for \$250 or less. Obama and the Democrats raised about \$75 million. (Neither amount includes money raised by political action committees or labor unions.) [35136, 35148, 35151, 35170]

ChicagoBusiness.com (*Crain’s Chicago Business*) reports, “Scores of Chicago executives who previously backed ...Obama are keeping their wallets closed or opening them only for Mitt Romney this time around. ...Last time [2008], the financial sector put \$42 million into the Obama campaign, \$11 million more than Mr. McCain raised. This time, Mr. Romney is outdoing him \$25.2 million to \$10.9 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. ...Citadel LLC CEO Kenneth Griffin, who declines to comment, is a prime example: In 2008 the hedge-fund billionaire was a ‘bundler’ for the Obama campaign, raising more than \$200,000, including \$152,200 from 75 employees of his Chicago-based hedge fund. (With some overlap, 22 Citadel employees also gave \$80,600 to the McCain campaign.) This year, the Romney campaign has picked up almost \$83,000 from 40 Citadel employees, while only a single \$5,000 contribution has gone to the Obama Victory Fund, a joint fundraising effort by the Obama campaign and the Democratic National Committee, according to campaign finance reports through June. At Kirkland & Ellis LLP, a national fundraising powerhouse, the 2008 Obama campaign pulled in nearly \$187,000 while Mr. McCain got \$25,300; thus far, the Chicago-based law firm has raised \$134,665 for Mr. Romney and \$43,977 for [Obama’s] campaign.”

According to *Crain's*, "...[F]rom CEOs to car dealers, at least 120 large Chicago-area contributors to the 2008 Obama campaign have switched support to his opponent, including many who gave to both candidates four years ago. A much higher number of 2008 Obama contributors from Illinois are still sitting on the sidelines." [35175]

At NYPost.com Josh Margolin reports, "Top aides on ...Obama's re-election team are terrified that there will be scores of empty seats when he makes his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, party insiders said. Obama, once the biggest draw in politics, won't likely attract crowds as large as those at the 2008 convention because voters have gone sour on the poor economy, insiders said. 'It's always a concern about making sure there aren't empty seats, but this is different,' said one Democratic official familiar with the convention plans. 'This is a different time than four years ago. It's a different convention. And [Obama] is viewed differently.' [Obama] will accept the party's nomination on Sept. 6 in a Charlotte, NC, football stadium that holds 80,000. 'They're worried they can't fill the stadium,' the official said." [35200, 35208]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "David Plouffe, a senior White House adviser who was ...Obama's 2008 campaign manager, accepted a \$100,000 speaking fee in 2010 from an affiliate of a company doing business with Iran's government. A subsidiary of MTN Group, a South Africa-based telecommunications company, paid Plouffe for two speeches he made in Nigeria in December 2010, about a month before he joined the White House staff. Since Plouffe's speeches, MTN Group has come under intensified scrutiny from U.S. authorities because of its activities in Iran and Syria, which are under international sanctions intended to limit the countries' access to sensitive technology. At the time of Plouffe's speeches, MTN had been in a widely reported partnership for five years with a state-owned Iranian telecommunications firm." (Few speakers command \$100,000 fees—*especially* when they are not great public speakers. That the mediocre Plouffe would be paid that much suggests he also did significant favors for MTM Group.) According to HotAir.com, "Five years earlier, MTN partnered with Irancell, a state-owned telecom that wanted to expand its operations. One year later, the Bush administration's 'point man on Iran sanction enforcement' told the government of Turkey that Irancell was wholly owned by the Revolutionary Guard. One year *before* Plouffe's big payday, the IRG stormed the streets and strangled the Green Revolution before it could overthrow the mullahcracy—which eventually led the Obama administration to belatedly react by increasing sanctions on Iran and especially the IRG. In other words, Plouffe took the gig long after the US government knew about MTN's partnership with Irancell, years *after* the US had determined that Irancell was owned by the same military that props up the mullahs and is working on nuclear weapons, and after its brutal crackdown. The [*Washington Post*] notes that there is nothing illegal about accepting speaking fees from MTN, but taking money from a company that's partnering with the IRG certainly prompts some hard questions about judgment by Plouffe, and in the White House itself." (Breitbart.com notes that Plouffe made two speeches but reported only one on his financial disclosure forms, and observes, "It's impossible to believe that in December of 2010, someone as savvy, smart, and plugged-in as Plouffe was unaware of the controversies involving MTN Group, especially in the wake of the tech-driven Green Revolution.") [35149, 35150, 35163]

TheHill.com writes, “The White House on Monday distanced ...Obama from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s comments that GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney hasn’t paid taxes in a decade. White House press secretary Jay Carney said on Monday that Reid (D-NV) ‘speaks for himself’ and had spoken on the issue without any guidance from Team Obama. ‘He certainly speaks for himself,’ Carney said, adding that Obama hasn’t expressed an opinion on Reid’s recent comments. But Carney said Reid’s comments speak to a ‘broader question’ about [Obama’s] views on income taxes, saying that a ‘tradition’ which ‘has been in place since 1968 of candidates for the president [sic] releasing multiple years of their tax returns is an important one.’” (HotAir.com observes, “That’s not exactly a denunciation, either. It is a hint that the scorching criticism from the Sunday talk shows, including Bob Schieffer’s comparison [of Reid] to [the late Senator] Joe McCarthy on CBS, might have the West Wing worried.”) [35153, 35154]

Even the leftist *Washington Post* slams Harry Reid, with Richard Cohen writing, “For Reid, this is yet another brazen and tasteless partisan attack. As majority leader, he has managed to sink the public image of the Senate even lower than it would otherwise be. He contributes to bad feelings, gridlock and the sense—nay, the reality—that everything is done for political advantage. Reid is a crass man, the very personification of the gaudy and kitschy Las Vegas Strip. Still, he is not some backbencher, but the Senate majority leader. He is the face of the Democratic Party in the Senate and the ally of ...Obama. Yet, not a single Democrat has had the spine to rebuke Reid. The White House has been given the chance and explicitly ducked its duty. Other members of the Senate have run for cover. They fear Reid and, if truth be told, sort of like what he’s doing—constantly needling Romney, keeping him on the defensive about taxes and his insistence on releasing only two years of his returns. ...When Reid accuses the Republicans of being overly partisan, he now lacks all credibility. For a long time it’s been difficult to believe anything he says. Now, it’s impossible.” [35155]

At TheBlaze.com Wayne Allyn Root, who attended Columbia University at the same time Obama allegedly attended, writes, “...I smell something rotten in Denmark. Obama has a big skeleton in his closet. It’s his college records. Call it ‘gut instinct’ but my gut is almost always right. Obama has a secret hidden at Columbia—and it’s a bad one that threatens to bring down his presidency. ...Obama and his infamous strategist David Axelrod understand how to play political hardball, the best it’s ever been played. Team Obama has decided to distract America’s voters by condemning Mitt Romney for not releasing enough years of his tax returns. ...Then ask followers like Senator Harry Reid to chase the lead. ...This is classic Axelrod. Obama has won several elections in his career by slandering his opponents and leaking sealed documents. Not only do these insinuations and leaks ruin the credibility and reputation of Obama’s opponents, they keep them on the defensive and off Obama’s trail of sealed documents.” Root suggests that Romney “Call Obama’s bluff. Romney should call a press conference and issue a challenge in front of the nation. He should agree to release more of his tax returns, only if Obama unseals his college records. Simple and straight-forward. Mitt should ask ‘What could possibly be so embarrassing in your college records from 29 years ago that you are afraid to let America’s voters see? If it’s THAT bad, maybe it’s something the voters

ought to see.’ Suddenly the tables are turned. Now Obama is on the defensive.” (Root suspects, as does *The Obama Timeline*, that “Obama got a leg up by being admitted to both Occidental [College] and Columbia as a foreign exchange student. He was raised as a young boy in Indonesia. But did his mother ever change him back to a U.S. citizen? When he returned to live with his grandparents in Hawaii or as he neared college-age preparing to apply to schools, did he ever change his citizenship back? I’m betting not.”) [35181, 35230, 35284]

Later in the day Root is interviewed on Joe Pagliarulo’s radio show, where he wonders how Obama was even accepted by Columbia University inasmuch as he himself admitted in his book, *Dream From My Father*, that he did not have very good grades in high school in Honolulu or at Occidental College in California. Root says, “I have a hunch that Obama has a giant scandal at Columbia that could take him down and end his reelection...” Root states, “At four in the morning, today, my phone rings... it’s a reporter, an investigative reporter from Breitbart who is in Jakarta, Indonesia studying Obama’s lie... and he has absolute proof that Obama became an Indonesia citizen. It’s a fact, it’s not a question. He said, ‘I’m looking at it right now. I’ve spoken to his teachers, I’ve spoken to his principal—you cannot go to public school in Indonesia as an American citizen. There is no such thing, and I have located the proof that he was adopted by his mother’s new husband, and became an Indonesian [citizen]. So, Wayne, I think your story’s right, ’cause that’s how he got into Columbia.’ So, there it is. I stumbled onto something, and I think what I stumbled onto with pure gut instinct, Joe, has the potential to take down [Obama].” [35227, 35233]

As noted in Part I of *The Obama Timeline*, in 1966 or 1967 Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, married Indonesian Muslim Lolo Soetoro Mangunharjo (1936–1987), who she had met at the University of Hawaii. By birth, Soetoro was Malaysian, but he lived in Indonesia most of his life. Soetoro likely then adopted Obama, whose name was changed to Barry Soetoro. Elementary school records in Indonesia list Obama’s name as Barry Soetoro, his religion as Islam, and his citizenship as Indonesian. While in Jakarta, Obama attends Franciscus Primary School (1967–1969) and Besuki State Elementary School Menteng 01 (1969–1971). If Obama was adopted by Lolo Soetoro and became an Indonesian citizen, he cannot legally serve as president. (Nor could he have legally served as U.S. Senator from Illinois.) Upon returning to Hawaii in 1971 Obama could conceivably have denounced his Indonesian citizenship and gone through the naturalization process to become a U.S. citizen, but *The Obama Timeline* suspects that he did *not* do so. If Obama became a naturalized U.S. citizen he could have served in the U.S. Senate, but arguably could not have served as president. In any event, if Breitbart.com produces evidence of Indonesian citizenship, Obama is in a bind. If he cannot disprove the evidence, he cannot legally serve as president and must be removed from office. But if he produces naturalization documents from 1971 (or later), then he is admitting that he has been lying to the American people about his past. [6, 14, 172, 289, 324, 329, 801, 2270, 35227]

WhiteHouseDossier.com notes that Obama “has not taken a serious question from the White House press corps in nearly seven weeks, a remarkable string that points to a

campaign-style White House operation that is seeking to insulate the candidate from tough cross examination. The last substantive question Obama took from a White House reporter was during a June 20 press conference following the G20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico. Obama allowed only six questions during the event, which was nearly guaranteed to keep him out of political hot water as the focus was on foreign policy. Since then, Obama has held no press conferences, given no interviews to White House reporters, and taken no questions at the White House events he has held where reporters have been present.” [35167, 35294]

LATimes.com reports that Obama’s Department of Justice “is investigating whether Las Vegas Sands Corp., owned by high-profile Republican donor Sheldon Adelson, broke federal law by failing to report millions of dollars of potentially laundered money transferred to its casinos by two high-rolling Las Vegas gamblers, according to the Wall Street Journal. ...The Journal said there were no indications that the investigation included actions by Adelson, Sands’ chief executive and a major political donor for the Republican Party. Adelson has pledged to spend as much as \$100 million to help Republican candidates in this election cycle.” (The activities reportedly occurred “in the middle of the last decade.” Whether the Department of Justice’s sudden interest in the matter is related to Adelson’s support of Mitt Romney is not clear, but no one will be surprised if Obama surrogates call for Romney and other Republicans to refuse to accept any campaign assistance from the casino magnate.) [35171, 35184, 35311]

Although many Democrats complain that the economy is not doing as well as it should because Obama did not spend enough with his \$787+ billion stimulus legislation, the Cato Institute’s Tom Firey tells DailyCaller.com the federal government has actually “dumped at least \$2.5 trillion of fiscal stimulus into the economy since 2008. ...Firey tracked fifteen pieces of legislation that were passed since 2008, including the 2009 stimulus bill, unemployment insurance extensions and the payroll tax cuts. Some of the bills tracked by Firey were measures explicitly aimed at stimulating the economy, like the 2009 stimulus bill, by borrowing money to spend now, while paying it back down the road. Other bills, like the bills extending unemployment insurance, were not explicitly intended to be stimulus measures, but Firey argues that they were in effect stimulus measures because they borrowed and spent money now, rather than redirecting money the government already has. ...Art Laffer, economist and former economics adviser to President Ronald Reagan, also puts the true amount of stimulus spending much higher than \$819 billion—at more than \$4 trillion.” In *The Wall Street Journal* Laffer writes, “Federal government spending as a share of GDP rose to a high of 27.3% in 2009 from 21.4% in late 2007. This increase is virtually all stimulus spending, including add-ons to the agricultural and housing bills in 2007, the \$600 per capita tax rebate in 2008, the TARP and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bailouts, ‘cash for clunkers,’ additional mortgage relief subsidies and, of course, ...Obama’s \$860 billion stimulus plan that promised to deliver unemployment rates below 6% by now. Stimulus spending over the past five years totaled more than \$4 trillion.” [35199]

Bill Donahue, president of the Catholic League, tells *Newsmax* he is disappointed that Mitt Romney has avoided the Chick-fil-A controversy: “This is the most disheartened

that certainly I've felt looking at this entire race." (On August 3 Romney told reporters, "those are not things that are part of my campaign"—as wimpy a response that probably surprised quite a few conservatives.) Donahue continues, "Social conservatives have to make up their mind whether they should just simply stay at home, or go out there and vote for Romney. I'm astonished that he couldn't even come to grips with the question—leaving gays out of it—do we want the chief executives, the mayors of large cities trying to intimidate, using the power of government against private enterprises whose politics they disagree with? I think it's a pretty simple issue." (Most gays will vote for Obama, and Romney's non-response will not change that. Donahue is correct. Romney should at least have stated, "The mayors of Boston and Chicago have no right to tell the owner of a business that his views on marriage will result in the denial of an operating license.") [35183]

DenverPost.com reports that Georgetown University student and leftist activist Sandra "I demand free birth control" Fluke will introduce Obama at a campaign stop in Denver, Colorado on August 8. [35202, 35203, 35204]

MyWay.com reports that Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke "said Monday that gauging happiness can be as important for measuring economic progress as determining whether inflation is low or unemployment high. Economics isn't just about money and material benefits, Bernanke said. It is also about understanding and promoting 'the enhancement of well-being.'" Bernanke calls for a "happiness index" that can measure happiness apart from economic well-being. (Whether Bernanke believes such an index would boost the chances of Obama's reelection is not clear. Why the Federal Reserve should be wasting time and money on such pursuits is also unclear.) [35214]

Responding to the previous day's mass killings in Wisconsin, Obama says, "It is important to reaffirm that regardless of what we look like or where we come from or where we worship, we are all one people and we look after one another in this country." He also tells reporters he would "examine additional ways to reduce violence." [35174]

At HomelandSecurityUS.com investigative journalist Douglas J. Hagmann comments on the shootings at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin: "Despite denials, you can be assured that yesterday's shooting will be used to advance the agenda of 'gun control.' It will begin with demands for 'reasonable' controls over all new sales of semi-automatic weapons, bulk gun purchases, or magazines with a capacity greater than an arbitrary number determined by gun control advocates inside of the beltway. It will enjoy bipartisan support, and be advanced by an accommodating and complicit media. In the wake of the temporarily stalled United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, the fact that the killings took place at a Sikh Temple will not be lost as well. From there, the tenuous grasp Americans have on our Second Amendment rights will be within reach by those intent to disarm us." [35187]

At ThePostEmail.com Sher Zieve interviews Hagmann, who has sources within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Hagmann states, "First, it seems that people have an over-simplistic view of how things are being planned by the people who are most

influential to Obama, or by those who are in the position to help Obama stay in office. Their playbook is full of asymmetrical attacks, but [they are] suitably transparent if one understands what's at stake. According to my source, it is the very existence of our country and way of life that is at stake. Many people who are currently in positions of power, whether elected or appointed, have the same ideological goals of ...Obama. They believe that under Obama, they finally have the perfect opportunity to implement the socialism-to-communism agenda in America. They hate, and I mean hate, the democratic system of government and loathe capitalism. They are the "red diaper babies" of the 1960s who have gained power through the very process they seek to destroy. They feel that they have lived their entire lives for this time in history, when they can change America on every level." [35188, 35217]

Hagmann continues, "On the day of the shooting at the Sikh Temple, however, my source stated that there were many meetings and contacts between Obama's people, especially from Valerie Jarrett, that involved [DHS Secretary] Janet Napolitano and the FBI director. According to my source, Jarrett and others within Obama's inner circle were actually coordinating how the information about the shooting was to be handled. ...'There was a sickening sense of perverted excitement by Obama's closest advisors, based on what I heard at my level,' said my source. 'That twist[ed] approach to a terrible event, it actually p-ssed some [higher ranking DHS officials] off,' he said to me. He also said that he heard one high ranking source within DHS tell someone else that "we can't let this one get away from us,' a reference to the shooting. So, they obviously prefer to exploit situations like the shooting in Wisconsin to attack our freedoms granted under the Constitution, but have no moral objection to creating their own crises, if necessary, to further their objectives." [35188, 35217]

In Connecticut, two of the state's most popular beaches are closed to the public to allow Obama a chance to mingle with wealthy guests at a \$35,800-per-plate fundraiser hosted by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein. FoxNews.com reports, "The 238-acre Sherwood Island State Park was closed so [Obama's] helicopter could land and then take off after a day-long trip that began in Stamford. The other beach, the roughly two-acre Burying Hill Beach, is adjacent to Weinstein's mansion and is owned by the town of Westport. Both [public] beaches border the Long Island Sound. DailyCaller.com writes, "At yet another pricey Hollywood fundraiser Monday night, ...Obama and his wealthy donors took turns blowing smoke up each other's rear ends, according to pool reports." (Before the Weinstein event, Obama attends a fundraiser at the Stamford Marriott Hotel.) [35176, 35186, 35250]

At the fundraiser Obama says of Mitt Romney's tax plan, "It's like Robin Hood in reverse. It's Romney Hood." (Romney's plan would reduce all income tax rates, not just those of the wealthy, which certainly is not "stealing from the poor to give to the rich." Additionally, in the tale of Robin Hood, it was not wealthy businessmen or entrepreneurs from whom the outlaw stole, it was the corrupt government. Interestingly, the legendary Robin Hood hid from the corrupt Sheriff of Nottingham in Sherwood Forest, and Obama and his wealthy supporters close the Sherwood Island State park to accommodate their festivities. Some might argue that closing a state park for the benefit of wealthy donors is

“robbing from the poor to give to the rich.” It may be Obama who is the “reverse Robin Hood.”) [35179, 35206, 35220, 35250]

At NationalReview.com Jim Geraghty notes that, according to a July 23–29 Gallup poll, 86 percent of Americans who voted for Obama in 2008 are supporting him again in 2012, but nine percent support Mitt Romney; 92 percent of those who voted for John McCain in 2008 will vote for Mitt Romney in November 2012, and five percent of McCain’s voters now support Obama. (That four-point shift away from Obama, if it continues, may cost him the election.) [35182, 35211]

While many Democrats continue to argue that photo ID for voting is discriminatory and unnecessary “because there is almost no vote fraud,” Byron York reports at WashingtonExaminer.com that “a conservative group called Minnesota Majority” looked into alleged voter fraud in the 2008 election. “Comparing criminal records with voting rolls, the group identified 1,099 felons—all ineligible to vote—who had voted in the [Al Franken-[Norm] Coleman race” for U.S. Senator. So far, 177 of the 1,099 have been convicted of voter fraud. (Franken won the election by a mere 312 votes. Had Coleman won, the Democrats would not have had their filibuster-proof majority in the Senate and ObamaCare may never have become law.) York notes, “And that’s just the question of voting by felons. Minnesota Majority also found all sorts of other irregularities that cast further doubt on the Senate results.” (At NationalReview.com John Fund later writes, “Last month, City Commissioner Al Schmidt, a Republican, issued a 27-page report on irregularities he found in a sample of Philadelphia precincts during this year’s primary. The report, which looked at only 1 percent of the city’s 1,687 districts, found cases of double voting, voter impersonation, and voting by non-citizens, as well as 23 people who were not registered to vote but nonetheless voted. Schmidt also found reports of people who were counted as voting in the wrong party’s primary. ...In a new Washington Post poll, a majority in all but one of 37 demographic groups responded in the affirmative to the following question: ‘In your view, should voters in the United States be required to show official, government-issued photo identification—such as a driver’s license—when they cast ballots on election day, or shouldn’t they have to do this?’ The sole exception among demographic groups was liberal Democrats, who gave the idea 48 percent support. Among all adults, 74 percent supported photo ID, as did 76 percent of independents and even 60 percent of Democrats. Sixty-five percent of blacks and 64 percent of Hispanics backed requiring ID at the polls. Those who lack a high-school degree—the demographic whose members are probably the most likely not to be able to afford an ID—registered 76 percent support.”) [35253, 35492, 35724, 35812]

ElPasoTimes.com reports that a gun “seized in Tijuana in connection with a drug cartel’s conspiracy to kill the police chief of Tijuana, Baja California, who later became the Juarez police chief” came from Operation Fast and Furious. [35245, 35246]

MyFoxChicago.com reports that appellate briefs have yet to be filed by the attorneys of convicted former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich, eight months after his sentencing. “But FOX Chicago News learned that since then, that first key step toward an appeal—getting the 16,000 pages of transcripts—has not yet been accomplished.” The court

reporter “had taken a leave of absence for five and half months and has been swamped with work since her return. She has now promised to have the transcripts done by late September, with any appellate review not likely for months after then.” (In other words, if Blagojevich’s appeal discloses or emphasizes any wrongdoing by Obama in the alleged sale of his U.S. Senate seat, it will not be reported until after the November election.) [35231]

On August 7 the Romney campaign releases an ad criticizing Obama for eliminating the work-for-welfare requirement agreed to by Bill Clinton and a bi-partisan Congress in 1996. The ad notes that “...on July 12, ...Obama quietly announced a plan to gut welfare reform by dropping work requirements. Under Obama’s plan, you wouldn’t have to work and wouldn’t have to train for a job. They’d just send you your welfare check. And welfare-to-work goes back to being plain old welfare. Mitt Romney will restore the work requirement, because it works.” (The ad will most certainly result in charges of racism from Obama supporters in and out of the media, but it is arguably effective because it links Romney’s agenda with an image of Bill Clinton—a still-popular figure. Few Americans consider the 1996 welfare reform bill a failure, and emphasizing that Obama—illegally in the view of many experts—chose to reverse its main principles portrays him as the anti-Clinton. In 1997 Obama said, “I probably would not have supported the [1996] federal legislation, because I think it had some problems.” Before the end of the day the Obama campaigns states, “Romney’s welfare message: ‘False, contradictory and fraught with racial undertones.’”) [35190, 35191, 35192, 35205, 35221, 35244, 35248, 35255, 35309]

In an interview on CNBC Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, noting the weak economy, says, “I would advocate for a more accommodative monetary policy. ...I think it needs to be substantial enough that it offsets some of the shock that we’re getting from abroad and some of the concerns that people have with how... weak the world economy's been. So we’re in a global slowdown. So that would argue for a quantitative easing program and one of sufficient magnitude that it has an impact. ...Exact magnitude, roughly the magnitude that we saw for the first two quantitative easing programs I think would be appropriate. ...But what I would argue for, actually, is to have it open ended. ...I would focus on the mortgage-backed securities.” (In other words, Rosengren is calling for an unlimited expansion of the money supply—printing money and buying bad debts from the banks until the economy “recovers,” despite the fact that hyperinflation will be the result. It is worth noting that Jamie Dimon, chairman, president, and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, is a member of the board of directors of the New York Federal Reserve. Thus, the bankers are calling for the inflation of the money supply, with the new cash used to buy more “troubled assets” from their own banks. At LewRockwell.com Michael S. Rozeff writes, “The results of Rosengren’s recommendations are **bubble prices** in asset markets, **low returns** to savers, increased **uncertainty**, **low investment** in capital goods, and **stagnant** economic activity. The result is economic activity too heavily focused on housing and not enough on technical and industrial growth. The result is a movement away from investment in securities and into assets that hold their value against the inroads of inflation. The result is a slower recovery. The result is to hinder price changes and movements of people to new lines of

work. His is a program that thwarts a healthy, natural and broad-based economic recovery from the recent real estate and financial intermediary fiasco.”) [35774, 35775]

In *The New York Times*, Maureen Dowd comments on Obama’s aloof nature and inability to show gratitude, writing that he “does not think people should expect too much in return for paying \$35,800 for an hour of his time” at a fundraiser. ...Stories abound of big donors who stopped giving as much or working as hard because Obama never reached out, either with a Clinton-esque warm bath of attention or Romney-esque weekend love fests and Israeli-style jaunts; of celebrities who gave concerts for his campaigns and never received thank-you notes or even his full attention during the performance; of public servants upset because they knocked themselves out at the president’s request and never got a pat on the back; of V.I.P.’s disappointed to get pictures of themselves with [Obama] with the customary signature withheld; of politicians disaffected by [his] penchant for not letting members of Congress or local pols stand on stage with him when he’s speaking in their state (they often watch from the audience and sometimes have to lobby just to get a shout-out); of power brokers, local and national, who felt that [Obama] insulted them by never seeking their advice or asking them to come to the White House or ride along in the limo for a schmooze. Care and feeding has been outsourced to Joe Biden, who loves it, but it doesn’t build the same kind of loyalty as when [Obama] does it.” [35372]

Speaking at a Chicago-area manufacturing plant, Mitt Romney emphasize the message in his new ad, saying that the 1996 welfare legislation agreed to by Bill Clinton and a Republican Congress “reformed welfare to encourage people to work. They did not want a culture of dependency to continue to grow in our country.” But Romney notes that Obama “has tried to reverse that accomplishment by taking the work requirement out of welfare. That is wrong, and If I’m president, I’ll put work back in welfare. ...We will end a culture of dependency and restore a culture of good, hard work.” [35254]

Meanwhile, a pro-Obama political action committee, Priorities USA, releases an ad blaming Mitt Romney for the death of the wife of a steel company worker who lost his job when his employer, GST Steel, went out of business. The workers states, “I do not think Mitt Romney realizes what he’s done to anyone. And I, furthermore, do not think Mitt Romney is concerned.” (Starting in 1993, Romney’s Bain Capital sunk \$170 million into the steel company in an effort to turn it around. But the company eventually failed—as did scores of steel companies during that era of competition with Japanese imports of steel. According to the ad, when the worker’s wife sought treatment for pneumonia in 2006 it was learned she had cancer. She died 22 days later. The ad suggests the woman’s death was Romney’s fault. Unstated, of course, is the fact that the worker would have lost his job—and his insurance—several years earlier had Bain Capital not bought the company. The worker turned down a buy-out offered by Bain—money he could have used to extend his health insurance as required by existing COBRA legislation. GST Steel filed for bankruptcy in 2001, after Romney had left Bain Capital. Its new managing director, Jonathan Lavine, later became a key Obama campaign contribution bundler. Additionally, the stricken woman died in 2006, according to WashingtonPost.com, and sporadically had health insurance through her own employment. If nothing else, the ad

demonstrates that the Obama campaign is not very imaginative: the worker in the ad, Joe Soptic, was also featured in a May 2012 anti-Romney ad.) The pro-Obama Priorities USA PAC is run by Bill Burton, former White House deputy press secretary. [31593, 35194, 35195, 35218, 35219, 35221, 35222, 35234, 35242, 35256, 35259, 35301, 35302, 35373, 35374]

Romney spokesperson Amanda Henneberg states, "...Obama's allies continue to use discredited and dishonest attacks in a contemptible effort to conceal the administration's deplorable economic record." Another Romney spokesperson, Andrea Saul, takes the Obama bait, essentially accepting the premise of the ad, and says the laid-off worker's wife would have had insurance had they lived in Massachusetts and been covered by "RomneyCare." [35244, 35295]

Commenting on the ad, Rush Limbaugh asks, "How would Obama have helped this unemployed guy, Mr. Soptic, who didn't have insurance? He would have been fined! Under ObamaCare, Mr. Soptic here would be fined for not having health insurance. That's the law of the land according to ObamaCare. I wonder if anybody's told Mr. Soptic, 'You know, if Obama is president, and Bain closes down your steel plant, and you don't have health insurance, guess what? You get fined. You either pay a fine, pay a penalty, or you go get health insurance on your own. Somehow, some way.' That's what Obama would have done for the guy. What are we to assume, that Obama would have saved his wife? Does Obama cure stage 4 cancer? Does Obama prevent stage 4 cancer? Is that what the issue is? ...Is that what we're supposed to believe from this stupid, insulting ad? The truth of the matter is that Mr. Soptic loses his health care in these exact circumstances under ObamaCare, and the IRS is gonna track him down and levy upon him a fine." [35219, 35221]

The Washington Post writes, "Lay aside the question of whether Romney left active management of Bain in 1999 or 2001. The fact that Soptic's wife died five years after the closure of the plant—and that she had had her own health insurance for a period after he lost his job—makes her passing largely irrelevant to Romney's involvement in this transaction. Yes, people without health insurance are less likely to survive cancer. Yes, Soptic lost his health insurance when the plant closed. Yes, Romney was involved in the deal at the beginning. But still... it kind of reminds us of the so-called 'butterfly effect'—that a storm starts with the flapping of a butterfly's wings. As we noted, a case could be made that Bain's involvement extended the life of a dying steel plant, in which case Soptic kept his insurance longer than he might have expected. Soptic is welcome to his opinion on possible reasons for his wife's death, but that does not mean Obama supporters should exploit it. On just every level, this ad stretches the bounds of common sense and decency." (The *Post* is correct... but that won't stop the ad from being broadcast.) [35401]

Even CNN slams the anti-Romney ad. Wolf Blitzer calls the ad "outrageous" during a segment in which the ad's falsehoods are described. (Among other things, the steel worker's wife had health insurance from her own employment for several years after he lost his job.) Obama's deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says, "I don't know

the facts about when Mr. Soptic's wife got sick or the facts about his health insurance." Politico notes, "But Cutter hosted an Obama campaign conference call in May in which Soptic told reporters the very story featured in the Priorities spot." (In other words, Cutter is lying. Soptic even joined Cutter on a May 14, 2012 Organizing for America press call. Soptic's story was also used by the Obama team in an official campaign "slideshow" on its web site in January. Additionally, in both the Priorities USA Pac ad and the Organizing for America ads Septic is filmed wearing the same shirt, suggesting they were created at the same time. Yet Cutter claims the Obama campaign team had nothing to do with the PAC ad. It is illegal for the Obama campaign to coordinate activities with an allegedly "independent" PAC—something Obama's team clearly did.) [35241, 35260, 35262, 35265, 35276, 35293, 35296, 35347, 35348]

HotAir.com writes, "Question: Knowing what we know now about the timeline of all this [in the "Romney killed Mrs. Soptic" ad], what's left of the accusation in the original smear ad? What is it, precisely, that Bain is being faulted for doing or not doing? They shouldn't have closed down the plant because ... It was unfair to expect the workers who were laid off to ever find new jobs with insurance? It was negligent not to predict that some workers' wives might get laid off too and wouldn't find a new job for years before they became ill? There appears to be no actual policy or business critique here. It's just a string of events spread over five whole years, with certain key data omitted, and you're supposed to infer causation without really being told why or how. This is what the Unicorn Prince has come to after promising four years ago to heal America or whatever. Perfect." [35260]

Former White House press secretary Joe Gibbs is hammered on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* for his refusal to criticize the Soptic campaign ad. Joe Scarborough calls it a "nasty, nasty" and "outrageous" ad. *Time* magazine's Mark Halperin comments, "This is about as low as either side has gone and I think that the people who made it are probably privately remorseless and are publicly remorseless, to be sure, but it's a despicable ad... I'm just stunned that they would make that ad." Townhall.com's Guy Benson writes, "The Obama campaign has likely decreed that there will be absolutely no daylight between themselves and their SuperPAC—even as they repeat the 'no coordination' line *ad nauseam*. So forced grins and unresponsive answers will continue to rule the day." A "senior Romney campaign adviser" says, "They have determined that no matter what anyone says, they will not apologize. I'm aware of the technical legal issues, but they know what's going on here. They have the power to stop it, but they won't.." [35277]

At the daily press briefing a reporter asks White House press secretary Jay Carney about the anti-Romney ad: "The [Priorities USA] super PAC has an ad out today, Jay, that features a man who used to work in a steel plant and it closed in 2001. This was after it was acquired by Bain Capital. The implication is that Mitt Romney bears responsibility for the death of this man's wife because he lost his insurance when the plant closed, and then in 2001, and then in 2006—five years later, Jay—his wife, who was uninsured at the time, died of cancer. I'm wondering if [Obama] believes that Mitt Romney shares responsibility in her death." Carney responds, "You know, I have not seen the ad, and I would refer you to the campaign or to the organization." Pressed further, Carney says, "I

can't. ...I can't comment on an ad I haven't seen. ...I'm simply saying that I have not seen this, so, uh, how could I probably, uh, assess it without [seeing it]" [35221]

Carney also denies a story at DrudgeReport.com that Obama told guests at a fundraiser that he believes Mitt Romney will choose General David Petraeus, the current director of the CIA, as his running mate. Carney states, "I can say with absolute confidence that such an assertion has never been uttered by [Obama]." (According to Drudge, "Romney is believed to have secretly met with the four-star general in New Hampshire" and the "pick could be a shrewd Romney choice." At TheAtlantic.com liberal columnist David A. Graham suggests Romney should pick former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty because he is, "Not too exciting and not too boring, not too conservative and not too moderate." In other words, Graham thinks a Pawlenty pick will make it easier for Obama to win reelection. (No Democrat is going to suggest a strong opponent.) [35225, 35226, 35243, 35249, 35367]

Islamist gunmen storm a church in Nigeria and murder at least 19 Christians. (Continuing attacks against Christians in Nigeria have drawn no comment from the Obama administration. At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "I am not holding my breath waiting for a condemnation of this relentless jihad against non-Muslims from Muslim Brotherhood groups in the US like CAIR, ICNA, ISNA, et al. This is daily, the bloodshed is unimaginable ...and the silence is sanction.") [35236, 35237]

Fool Me Twice: Obama's Shocking Plans for the Next Four Years Exposed, by Aaron Klein and Brenda Elliott, is published. WND.com lists some of the second-term Obama plans from the book: "Government-funded, neighborhood-based programs to better integrate the newly amnestied immigrants into society, including education centers and health care centers. A 'federal solution' to ensure that the amnestied immigrants are treated 'equitably' across the United States." "The re-creation of a 21st century version of FDR's Works Progress Administration program within the Department of Labor that would oversee a massive new bureaucracy and millions of new federal jobs." "Specific plans for a National Infrastructure Bank. This entity would 'evaluate and finance infrastructure projects of substantial regional and national importance' and would finance 'transportation infrastructure, housing, energy, telecommunications, drinking water, wastewater, and other infrastructures.'" "Wresting control of the military budget from Congress by attempting to place an 'independent panel' in charge of military spending while slashing the defense budget in shocking ways." "The vastly reduced resources of the U.S. Armed Forces will be spread even thinner by using them to combat 'global warming,' fight global poverty, remedy 'injustice,' bolster the United Nations and step up use of 'peacekeeping' deployments." "A new 'green' stimulus program and the founding of a federal 'green' bank or 'Energy Independence Trust,' which would borrow from the federal treasury to provide low-cost financing to private-sector investments in 'clean energy.'" and "Detailed plans to enact single-payer health care legislation controlled by the federal government." [34735, 35287, 35288]

Emails obtained by DailyCaller.com "show that the U.S. Treasury Department, led by Timothy Geithner, was the driving force behind terminating the pensions of 20,000

salaried retirees at the Delphi auto parts manufacturing company. The move, made in 2009 while the Obama administration implemented its auto bailout plan, appears to have been made solely because those retirees were not members of labor unions. The internal government emails contradict sworn testimony, in federal court and before Congress, given by several Obama administration figures. They also indicate that the administration misled lawmakers and the courts about the sequence of events surrounding the termination of those non-union pensions, and that administration figures violated federal law. Delphi, a General Motors company, is one of the world's largest automotive parts manufacturers. Twenty thousand of its workers lost nearly their entire pensions when the government bailed out GM. At the same time, Delphi employees who were members of the United Auto Workers union saw their pensions topped off and made whole." [35196, 35201]

Almost four years after the financial collapse, the Obama administration has yet to file charges against any Wall Street executives—despite Obama's heated rhetoric against them in 2008 and promises that they would be "held accountable." According to DailyCaller.com, "A new report from the conservative Government Accountability Institute (GAI) finds that ...Obama's and Attorney General Eric Holder's failure to criminally charge any top Wall Street bankers is likely a result of cronyism inside the Department of Justice and political donations made to Obama's campaign. ...GAI argues that the Obama administration's decision to not go after Big Finance is due to senior DOJ leadership—Holder, Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli, Associate Attorney General Tony West, Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer, Deputy Attorney General James Cole and Deputy Associate Attorney General Karol Mason—who 'all came to the DOJ from prestigious white-collar defense firms where they represented the very financial institutions the DOJ is supposed to investigate.' ...Holder and Breuer both came to the DOJ from Covington & Burling, a 'top-tier Washington law firm' with a client list that includes financial firms like Wells Fargo, J.P. Morgan Chase, Bank of America, CitiBank, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, ING, Morgan Stanley, UBS and Wilmington Trust." The Obama administration has also not filed charges against anyone at MF Global, which illegally used customer funds to cover losses on ill-advised European investments. The disgraced head of the company, Jon Corzine, is a former U.S. Senator, governor of New Jersey, and top Obama campaign contribution bundler. Reid Weingarten, the attorney for MF Global's treasurer, is a close friend of Eric Holder. According to the GAI report, "No other modern administration has staffed the DOJ with big money fundraisers," GAI wrote. "Holder bundled \$50,000 for Obama's 2008 campaign, while Perrelli, West, and Mason all bundled \$500,000 for the campaign. West also helped Obama raise an estimated \$65 million in California." (The Obama administration is not about to prosecute anyone on Wall Street for their crimes, partly because key members of his administration are campaign bundlers who came from the big banks and law firms, and partly because they want to go back to those jobs after they leave the administration.) [35197, 35871]

ThePostEmail.com reports that an Indiana court claims it has "not received" a Petition for Writ of Mandamus from attorney Orly Taitz—just one day before the August 8 hearing. Taitz has a certified mail receipt showing it was received. "Taitz said that while her

motion was reported to be missing, the opposition brief from a Deputy Attorney General of Indiana [who is defending Obama in the ballot challenge] ‘was right there.’ She asked, ‘How can there be an opposition with no motion? There was also a motion from somebody who wanted to be an intervenor [a non-party wishing to join the litigation], and that is not there. There are a lot of problems,’ Taitz told us.” Taitz was not even provided with a copy of the opposition brief. She says, “They’re pulling out all the stops to keep me from doing anything.” [35232]

Proving it has yet to run out of fundraising gimmicks, the Obama campaign offers a new contest—a chance to “shoot hoops” with “Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing, Sheryl Swoopes, Carmelo Anthony, and many, many more basketball greats” who “are all stepping up to support ...Obama. You and a guest will meet [Obama]—and shoot hoops with some of the best basketball players alive.” [35212, 35251]

Proving it has yet to scrape the bottom of the barrel of dirty campaigning, Obama for America in Florida sends an email to supporters asking that they “dig up dirt” on Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), who some suggest may be Mitt Romney’s pick for his running mate. The email reads, “Share what you think the rest of the country should know about what Rubio’s really done in Florida, the good, bad and ugly. And why he’d be a disaster as our next vice president. ...We know Marco Rubio all the way from his time in the Florida House of Representatives to his election to the U.S. Senate. But most Americans don’t know him or the extreme, tried-and-failed policies he’d bring with him to a Romney administration. As Floridians, it’s our job to share what we know about Marco Rubio with the rest of Americans. Your feedback will help hold Rubio accountable, if and when Romney chooses him.” (According to FoxNews.com, “The Obama campaign also reportedly sent out a similar letter in Ohio regarding [Senator Rob] Portman.”) [35215, 35224, 35281]

According to CBS, Michelle Obama will appear—again—on NBC’s *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, on August 13 “...to talk about the London Olympics and life with ...Barack Obama and their children at the White House.” [35213, 35223]

With 13 million unemployed Americans who would likely be happy to take their jobs, 20,000 members of the Communications Workers of America have begun a strike against AT&T in Nevada, California, and Connecticut. (AT&T workers in other states accepted a new three-year contract that provides annual wage increases and a slight boost in retirement benefits.) [35216]

Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett refuses to answer questions from *Washington Post* reporter Kerry Picket about the administration’s involvement in the decision to protect the pension of union workers at General Motor’s Delphi division and terminate the pensions of 20,000 salaried workers. Jarrett also dodges a question about the need for her to have Secret Service protection. According to DailyCaller.com, “Jarrett’s Secret Service detail cut Picket off, and blocked her from entering the room, saying she could contact the White House Press Office if she had a question. The Press Office has not responded to numerous requests for comment from The Daily Caller.” (It is worth noting that in March

2012 Obama signed into law H.R. 347, the clearly unconstitutional “Federal Restricted Buildings and Grounds Improvement Act,” which gives the Secret Service power to designate “no free speech” zones and arrest and bring *felony charges* against anyone who simply protests within those areas. Jarrett has Secret Service protection, ordered by Obama, despite the fact that she is merely an advisor and is not an elected official of high rank. Jarrett also has a taxpayer-funded limousine and personal driver. Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan states, “We don’t discuss the scope or nature of protection for any Secret Service protectee due to operational security concerns.” Judge Andrew Napolitano calls the law “a slow, creeping destruction of some of our basic liberties, and [Obama] signed it in secret.” [11132, 11133, 11179, 11180, 35247, 35320, 35321]

The Citizen Wells blog posts a link to an April 19, 2010 article in the Greensboro (NC) *News-Record* about Bill Snider, a classmate of Obama at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Snider relates, “We were both scholarship students. We came a great distance to Occidental. Neither of us had a father. My father died when I was 6. We were both broke.” (Snider’s other comments about Obama are not significant, but the fact that he states that Obama was a “scholarship student” may be. Obama admitted in his book, *Dreams From My Father*, that he did not have good grades at Punahou School in Hawaii because of his drug use. That indicates he did not receive a merit scholarship. He may have received a scholarship based on being half-black, or perhaps he received a scholarship based on his presenting himself as a foreign student with Indonesian citizenship.) [35228, 35229]

Obama is interviewed by *Black Enterprise* magazine and is asked, “Black unemployment still stands at nearly 14%. How do you communicate that the economy is headed in the right direction?” Obama replies, “Most economists will tell you that there is no doubt the economy has gotten stronger, but we are digging ourselves out [of] a deep hole.” (Obama does not explain how one gets out of a deep hole with more digging.) “There are a lot more things we could be doing. To get them done, we need cooperation of Congress. We got the payroll tax portion of [my American Jobs Act] done, but what we didn’t get done is the assistance I was proposing to the states to help them hire back teachers, firefighters, and first responders, because one of the weakest parts of this recovery has been state and local government hiring.” (Laughably, Obama believes the private economy can be helped by putting more people to work in the public sector. He apparently does not understand that it is taxes taken from the private sector that pay for public sector jobs. Additionally, the average unemployed black teenager or young adult would not be helped if more teachers, firefighters, or paramedics are hired, as they do not have the training or education for those jobs.) Obama is also asked, “How do you respond to criticism that your administration hasn’t done enough to support black businesses?” He responds, “My general view has been consistent throughout, which is that I want all businesses to succeed. I want all Americans to have opportunity. I’m not the president of black America. I’m the president of the United States of America, but the programs that we have put in place have been directed at those folks who are least able to get financing through conventional means, who have been in the past locked out of opportunities that were available to everybody. So, I’ll put my track record up against anybody in terms of us putting in place broad-based programs that ultimately had a huge benefit for African

American businesses.” (His track record is, as noted, a 14 percent unemployment rate for blacks.) [35274, 36697]

On August 8 a judge in Indiana rules in favor of three of four causes of action in an Obama ballot challenge brought by attorney Orly Taitz. (Indiana law requires that the name on the candidate’s filing documents must match the name on his birth certificate.. Obama filed under the name Barack Obama, while his purported birth certificate lists his name as Barack Hussein Obama II.) [35235, 35252]

New Quinnipiac/CBS/NYT polls show Mitt Romney leading Obama in Colorado, 50–45. In Virginia, Obama leads Romney 49–45 percent. Obama also leads in Wisconsin, 51–45. (HotAir.com observes, “Overall, this shows Romney competing in states Obama can’t afford to lose—after getting bombarded by an avalanche of negative advertising. If Romney is this close in Wisconsin, Virginia, and Colorado, he will be well positioned to answer Obama with his own deluge of messaging when the convention unlocks the general-election funds he’s raised over the summer.”) [35257, 35258]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tells a crowd that Obama “has divided us against each other *deliberately*, because it’s the only way he thinks he can win. It’s gone from “hope and change” to “divide and conquer.” And it’s wrong. And it’s tragic in this case, because I can’t think of a figure in modern American history who had more good will when he was elected than this one. And he’s walked away from all of it. And today he’s just another politician in Washington, D.C., with the same old divisive class warfare politics of the past. Here’s their second strategy: The personal destruction of Mitt Romney. They don’t want to debate the issues. [Obama] doesn’t want to talk about free enterprise versus more government. He doesn’t want to talk about what he’s done the last four years. He wants to destroy Mitt Romney the person. ... This is not a choice between two bad people. This is not a choice between one bad guy and one good guy. This is a choice between one guy who has no idea what he is doing, and a guy that does.” [35261]

Left-wing activist Sandra “Obama’s Julia” Fluke introduces Obama at a campaign event in Denver, Colorado. Obama says, “There is one person who should make decisions on your health care and that person is you. I don’t think a college student ... should have to choose between textbooks or the preventive care she needs.” (At Townhall.com Charlotte Hays later writes, “Okay, but if she HAS to choose, should she go for the textbooks or the contraception? Homer’s Trojans or the other Trojans available at the convenience store?”) Obama tells the crowd, “Today is the three year anniversary of Sonia Sotomayor taking her seat on the Supreme Court. Yesterday was the two-year anniversary of Elena Kagan taking her seat on the Supreme Court. So, let’s be very clear, the next president could tip the balance of the court in a way that turns back the clock for women and families for decades to come.” (The possibility of Obama naming one or two more Supreme Court Justices may lead more than a few Americans to vote against him.) Obama also says that if Mitt Romney is elected he will take women “back to the 1950s,” and whines that he faces an opponent who will spend money to defeat him: “Now, I have to tell you that we have less than three months left in the election. Less than three months. Time’s flying. and over the next three months, you will see more negative ads,

more money spent than you have ever seen in your life. I mean, these super PACs, and these guys are writing \$10 million checks and giving them to Mr. Romney's supporters, and, basically, they have all the same argument. They all say the same thing. They say that the economy is bad and it is Obama's fault. now, let me tell you something. every ad is the same argument." (Obama, of course, also has supporters writing enormous checks for his political action committees, like Priorities USA, and Obama has spent four years saying the economy is the fault of George W. Bush.) [35263, 35264, 35298, 35303, 35305, 35310, 35498]

In Pueblo, Colorado Obama tells an audience, "I believe in American workers, I believe in this American industry, and now the American auto industry has come roaring back. Now I want to do the same thing with manufacturing jobs, not just in the auto industry, but in *every* industry." (*With his proposal, Obama is essentially admitting he is a socialist: he wants to nationalize other American industries.* The U.S. auto industry has, of course, not come "roaring back," and the taxpayers lost tens of billions on the General Motors and Chrysler bailouts. In fact, thanks to Obama, Chrysler is no longer even a U.S. auto company; it is now majority-owned by Italian automaker Fiat. Additionally, the auto industry had about 187,000 workers in December 2007; it now has about 142,000 workers—and Fiat gets the profit when Chrysler sells a minivan.) [35044, 35045, 35318, 35358, 35365, 35449]

Obama also discusses equal pay for equal work for women—which has been the law since the mid-1960s, although he attempts to make it seem as though he has done something significant about the issue beyond extend the deadline for filing a discrimination claim. He remarks, "I want to make sure that when [Michelle is] working she's getting paid the same as men. I gotta say that First Ladies right now don't [get paid], even though that's a tough job!" [35370, 35642]

Campaigning in Des Moines, Iowa Mitt Romney says, "President Clinton and the Republicans who were in Congress at the time came together on a bipartisan basis and said, welfare in the future is going to require work. People who receive payments from government are gonna be required to work, not as a punitive measure, but as a gift. Work is enhancing. Work is elevating. And there were some who said, oh, this will be terrible. There will be poor on the streets. You know what happened? As a result of putting work together with welfare, the number of people on welfare was cut in half, poverty was reduced. Five straight years the level of poverty in this country came down. It was an extraordinary success. Back at that time, then-Senator Obama was opposed to putting work together with welfare. Now he's [in the White House] and just a few days ago he put that original intent in place. With a very careful executive action he removed the requirement of work from welfare. It is wrong to make any change that would make America more of a nation of government dependency. We must restore, and I will restore, work into welfare." (Romney is wise to stress the issue for several reason: it puts in voters mind an image of Romney in agreement with a popular president, Bill Clinton; it tells voters that Obama opposes Clinton's policies; and it reinforces a belief that most voters already have: welfare checks should not be passed out without some effort by the

recipient to attempt to look for work or accept job training.) [35266, 35267, 35270, 35271]

John Schnatter, founder of the Papa John pizza chain, states that the cost of ObamaCare will be passed on to customers through higher prices. LATimes.com writes, “Schnatter estimates that the legislation will cost Papa John’s about 11 cents to 14 cents per pizza, which equates to 15 cents to 20 cents per order. ... The National Restaurant Assn. has criticized the healthcare legislation for having a chilling effect on expansion and hiring in the industry, which tends to be labor-intensive and burdened with thin margins. Chains such as White Castle and Burger King have predicted surging costs due to the new regulations, which require businesses with 50 or more full-time employees to offer healthcare to such workers and their dependents.” Leftists immediately denounce Schnatter’s comments, with some saying they will simply take their business elsewhere. (Why they do not realize that every pizza chain will also be hit with ObamaCare’s expenses and regulations is not clear.) Because ObamaCare requires that insurance be provided by any company with 50 or more full-time employees, many businesses—including restaurants—will simply make sure that they never exceed 50 full-time employees. That will result in many full-time workers having their hours reduced so they fall into the part-time category. Andy Puzder, CEO of CKE Restaurants, states, “The money to comply with the [Affordable Care Act] must come from somewhere. We use our revenue to pay our bills and expenses, to pay down our debt, and we reinvest what’s left in our business. That’s how we create jobs. There’s no corporate pot of gold we can go to, to cover increased health care costs. New unit construction will cease if we have to allocate moneys for that construction to the ACA. And building new restaurants is how we create jobs.” [35268, 35338, 35339]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration told law enforcement authorities to go easy on Occupy Wall Street protesters, even though they were violating local laws, according to documents obtained by watchdog group Judicial Watch. Emails from the General Services Administration show that the federal agency, acting on orders from the White House, told federal law enforcement authorities in Portland, Ore., not to enforce curfews on protesters camped out on federal property. JudicialWatch.org obtained the emails through a Freedom of Information Act request lodged last year.” (Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com: “More proof of the hate that the destroyer in chief has for this great nation. The OWS movement was rife with rape, murder, anti-semitism and violence against law-abiding citizens and businesses, and this abject lawlessness was sanctioned and advanced by the White House—the threats, the killings, the thousands of arrests, the defecation, rapes, sexual assaults, attacks and stabbings on police, the vicious Jew-hatred. America, wake up! It’s after midnight.”) [35269, 35285]

At Nationalreview.com Veronique de Rugy reviews data from the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) which show, “Since ... Obama took office, fewer jobs were created than were lost. Actually, some 300,000 fewer Americans are employed ... That’s mainly because a large number of jobs were lost during 2009 and the so-called recovery is the slowest one of all time, with very meek monthly job creation and weak economic growth.” [35272]

At Spectator.org David Catron notes that after being sworn into office in 2009 he received a complete physical examination that included “a CT colonography (CTC), commonly known as a virtual colonoscopy, to screen him for colorectal cancer.” Later in the year “the government’s health care bureaucrats decided, ‘The evidence is inadequate to conclude that CT colonography is an appropriate colorectal cancer screening test.’ Somehow, though, the evidence was convincing enough for [Obama’s] doctors to recommend it. ...So, if [the test is] good enough for the leader of the free world, why isn’t it good enough for Medicare patients? Well, one reason involved a concern ‘that costs would increase...’ Take a moment to consider that. [Obama], a public servant paid by the taxpayers, followed the advice of his taxpayer-paid doctors that he should have a taxpayer-paid CTC. Yet his health care commissars, also paid by taxpayers, have decreed that that it is too expensive to provide this very test to actual taxpayers when they retire and sign up for the Medicare program for which they have been paying all their working lives. This perverse system, it should be remembered, is not merely presided over but taken advantage of by a man who incessantly lectures these very taxpayers about ‘fairness.’” [35300]

CNSNews.com reports, “A new Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report says that under the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare, 30 million non-elderly Americans will remain without health insurance in 2022.” (An estimated 53 million people currently do not have health insurance. ObamaCare will allegedly provide insurance for 23 million of them, at an estimated taxpayer cost of \$2.6 trillion over 10 years. That comes to \$113,000 per newly-covered individual, or \$11,300 per person per year.) [35279, 35280]

Breitbart.com reports that A123, a near-bankrupt manufacturer of batteries for electric vehicles that has received \$390 million in government loan guarantees, has “entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a Chinese industrial group, Wanxiang, that will give the Chinese control of the company.” [22810, 22812, 22813, 22848, 26946, 26952, 26991, 27102, 28976, 29234, 29575, 35282]

Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee release a report stating that almost 110 million people in the United States receive some form of federal welfare—not counting those who benefit only from Medicare or Social Security. WeeklyStandard.com reports, “Food stamps and Medicaid make up a large—and growing—chunk of the more than 100 million recipients.” Medicaid covered 34 million people in 2000 and covered 54 million in 2011. In the same period food stamp use has grown from 17 million to 45 million recipients. (The figures include payments to non-citizens, both legal and illegal immigrants. According to a study conducted by the Center for Immigration Studies, 36 percent of immigrant families received benefits from at least one welfare program in 2010; the percentage is 43 for families in the United States at least 20 years. Immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic were the most likely to collect welfare benefits. Immigrants from, Great Britain, Germany, and Canada were the least likely to go “on the dole.”) [35283, 35289, 35291]

WND.com posts photographs of Mark Davis and Lynn Davis, the children of Obama's communist mentor in Hawaii, Frank Marshall Davis. The photographs show some resemblance to Obama, who some believe is the son of Davis, rather than Kenyan Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. (Filmmaker Joel Gilbert makes that claim in his DVD, *Dreams From My Real Father*. Davis's wife, the mother of Mark and Lynn Davis, was Helen Canfield, a white woman. Gilbert asks, "Could ...Obama be a half-sibling to the known children of Frank Marshall Davis?") [35286]

The White House announces that Obama's former "body man" Reggie Love, will be one of the dignitaries representing him at the closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games in London. Joining Love will be Susan Rice (Obama's rabidly anti-Israel ambassador to the United Nations), Louis B. Susman (Obama's pro-Muslim U.S. ambassador to England, who refused to attend an event honoring the 100th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth and who got his job by raising a fortune for the Obama campaign in 2008—earning himself the nickname "the vacuum cleaner" for his ability to suck up mounds of cash); Benjamin Rhodes (Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communication and Speechwriting); Michelle Kwan (Member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, U.S. Public Diplomacy Envoy, and Olympic figure skater); and Curtis Pride (Member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, former Major League Baseball player and Gallaudet University Head Baseball Coach). (Some believe that Love is one of Obama's secret homosexual partners, along with Larry Sinclair, Artur Davis, Deval Patrick, actor Kal Penn—aka Kalpen Suresh Modi—and two members of Obama's Chicago church who were murdered in late 2008, Donald Young and Larry Bland.) [2966, 3270, 4039, 6329, 10867, 16292, 16293, 22065, 22066, 22071, 26111, 26114, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 35306]

Bloomberg.com notes that although the national debt hovers near \$16 trillion, in the course of the last year "the U.S. government's fiscal gap—the true measure of the nation's indebtedness—rose by \$11 trillion. The fiscal gap is the present value difference between projected future spending and revenue. It captures all government liabilities, whether they are official obligations to service Treasury bonds or unofficial commitments, such as paying for food stamps or buying drones. ...The U.S. fiscal gap, calculated [by Bloomberg] using the Congressional Budget Office's realistic long-term budget forecast—the Alternative Fiscal Scenario—is now \$222 trillion. Last year, it was \$211 trillion. The \$11 trillion difference—this year's true federal deficit—is 10 times larger than the official deficit and roughly as large as the entire stock of official debt in public hands." (Much of that \$222 trillion represents Social Security and Medicare benefits that will eventually have to be paid to 78 million "baby boomers" as they retire. As the years go by and more Americans retire, there is simply no way taxes can be raised to cover all the obligations of the federal government.. As virtually all governments have done, the U.S. government will respond to the crisis by inflating the money supply—by printing money. Retirees will therefore receive their Social Security payments—but a loaf of bread may cost \$50. Author Gary North notes that the Social Security system has run a deficit since 2010, paying out more in benefits than it collects in FICA taxes. In 2012 that shortage will likely exceed \$50 billion. The government has to borrow money to cover that deficit. At the same time it is also obligated to pay \$100 billion or more in annual

interest on the money it has previously borrowed/stolen from Social Security's so-called "trust fund." Thus, every year the federal government must borrow at least \$150 billion solely because of Social Security. North observes, "We can see where this is headed: deeper into the red-ink lake.") [35322, 35542, 35726]

EgyptIndependent.com reports that Egypt's state-owned newspaper and news agency editors-in-chief have been replaced with new editors chosen by the radical Muslim Brotherhood. "Privately owned daily Youm7 states that the Brotherhood is following in the footsteps of the dissolved National Democratic Party by seeking to control state media's editorial policies. A number of editors and journalists issued a statement Wednesday calling on columnists to publish blank opinion articles on Thursday in protest against appointing the group's loyalists to key media positions, Youm7 adds. While almost all the column spaces for independent papers Youm7, Al-Watan, and Al-Tahrir were left unwritten, but signed 'in protest of the Brotherhood's attempts to control press and media,' unsurprisingly, state-owned columnists did not respond to the call." (Pamela Geller comments at AtlasShrugs.com: "The Muslim Brotherhood takes over the press in Egypt. Oh, yes, I told ya so. The scorn and derision heaped upon me for calling it a Muslim Brotherhood revolution so reveals the agenda of these shameless shills and Islamic apologists in the West. These leftist clowns at mainstream media publications (print and online) will be replaced, too, one day. It is only a matter of time before these destroyers get what they are wishing for and what they are working for. Check out the latest rancid and poisonous fruit of Obama's anti-freedom, pro-sharia foreign policy agenda. He envies them this.") [35325, 35326]

Jose Parra, a top aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), provides detail of the person who allegedly told Reid that Mitt Romney has paid no income taxes for 10 years: "This person is an investor in Bain Capital, a Republican also, and somebody who has been dealing with Romney's company for a long, long time and he has direct knowledge of this." (Parra later backtracks, saying, "I do not know the party affiliation of the source, how long he invested with Bain, or his relationship to Romney beyond the fact that he was an investor with Bain Capital, as Senator Reid has previously stated.") [35328, 35329, 35346]

A WTOP Beltway Poll of voters in northern Virginia shows Obama leading Mitt Romney 48–46 percent. (Although Obama won Virginia by 6 points in 2008, he had a 20-point edge in the northern portion of the state that more than offset his losses in the rest of the state. If Obama's northern edge is only two points on November 6, he will lose the state.) [35343, 35344]

On *Hannity*, author and columnist Ann Coulter responds to Obama's remark that if he is elected Mitt Romney would "send women back to the 1950s." Coulter says, "[Obama] is trying to get the stupid single women voters, which is the Democratic Party base. ... If ObamaCare goes through [is not repealed] and Obama is reelected, you're talking about the total destruction of wealth in America. It is the end of America as we know it. There will be no innovation. There will be no growth. Great, you'll get free contraception. You

won't have to pay a \$10 co-pay. But it will be the end of America! Think about that. ...Their [the Democrat/Obama political] base is not women. It is divorced, separated, single women. It's women who are looking [for] the government to be their husbands. That is the base of the Democratic Party. 'Please pay for my child care, my contraception, my housing, my food.' It's women who don't have a man to provide for them so they turn to the government. That's the Democratic Party's base. Congratulations, Democrats." [35303, 35304]

Coulter also reacts to Romney spokesperson Andrea Saul's pathetic response to the "Romney is a killer" ad: "Her response was not that [the ad] was despicable, not that Bain... that Romney had left Bain five years earlier or the woman died five years after the plant closed and didn't even get her insurance from her husband, her response was, 'Well, if she had lived in Massachusetts with Mitt Romney's health care plan, she would have had health insurance.' Anyone who donates to Mitt Romney, and I mean the big donors, ought to say if Andrea Saul isn't fired and off the campaign tomorrow, they are not giving another dime, because it is not worth fighting for this man if this is the kind of spokesman he has... There's no point in going to the convention and pushing for this man if he's employing morons like this. This ad is the turning point and she has nearly snatched victory from the jaws of defeat! She should be off the campaign.") [35244, 35295]

In a stunning interview on CNN, Bill Burton, former White House deputy press secretary and head of the Priorities USA political action committee (PAC), attempts to defend his "Mitt Romney killed my wife" attack ad. Program host Anderson Cooper asks, "How can you imply that Mitt Romney and Bain are somehow to blame for that poor woman dying of cancer?" Burton replies, "My goodness. We... we... we don't and we would not. ...The point of the ad is to tell the story of the impact that Mitt Romney had on the lives of thousands of people. When he came to town they lost their jobs, they lost their health care, they lost their pension benefits. And that impact is felt still today in those communities. There are thousands of stories that happened as a result of... of Mitt Romney and his time at Bain. And some of them are really tragic. But just because they're really sad or tragic doesn't mean they should be off limits. We think it's important to tell the stories of these folks and how they were impacted by Mitt Romney. He put his business experience front and center." Cooper: "A woman dying... How is a woman dying... But, I mean, she had health insurance from her job after this man lost his job. And then she got an injury years later and then lost her insurance." Burton: "Right. To say that presupposes that we're trying to link Mitt Romney with her tragedy." Cooper: "You are!" Burton: "N-n-n-no, no. The truth is—" Cooper: "You've made a commercial about Mitt Romney and it's all about this woman's tragedy. If you're not trying to link it, why are you even talking about it?" Burton: "What we're saying is that at a moment of true, uh, concern and anxiety in a family—when Joe Soptic really needed health insurance for his family—he didn't have it. And that's the point, here. He was promised health care benefits and he lost them..." Cooper [laughing]: "You've made a—" Burton "...at a moment of true anxiety." Cooper: "You've made a thirty-second spot about this. [laughing] When you say, 'How can you imply that?' it's totally disingenuous, Bill. Come on! You know that." Burton: "No. I just don't think that's true. I think Mitt

Romney had an affect on these people's lives. When people look at it, when they hear the stories of these folks, they say, 'I don't want that guy to be the president of the United States.'" Burton brags to HuffingtonPost.com that the ad has been "wildly successful." (Former Clinton advisor Paul Begala may have been involved in the production of the ad.) [35302, 35350]

On August 9 Mitt Romney appears on Bill Bennett's *Morning in America* program and comments on the Obama PAC campaign ad blaming him for the cancer death of a laid-off steel worker's wife: "I am seeing some of the ads out there. I don't know whatever happened to a campaign of hope and change. I thought he was a new kind of politician. But instead, his campaign and the people working with him have focused almost exclusively on personal attacks. ...It's really disappointing. ...You know, in the past when somebody pointed out that something was inaccurate campaigns either pulled the ad...they were embarrassed. Today, they just blast ahead." [35278, 35308, 35315]

The attack ad was produced by the Priorities USA PAC which, according to FreeBeacon.com, has received more than \$12 million in funding from Jeffrey Katzenberg (CEO of Dreamworks), Irwin Mark Jacobs (founder of Qualcomm), Fred Eychaner (gay rights activist), Barbara Stiefel (liberal philanthropist), Amy Goldman (an heir of real estate magnate Sol Goldman), Steve Mostyn (trial lawyer), Kareem Ahmed (CEO of Landmark Medical Management), Bill Maher (foul-mouthed HBO comedian), Franklin Haney (real estate developer), and Morgan Freeman (actor). [35399]

DailyCaller.com reports that "...Obama's decision not to deport some arrested illegal immigrants has enabled a crime wave—but no American or immigrant victims have been publicly identified, and GOP politicians have mostly remained mute. Illegal aliens who have been released from custody between 2008 and mid-2011 have been charged with 16,226 subsequent crimes, including 19 murders, 142 sex crimes and thousands of drunk-driving offenses, drug-crimes and felonies, according to a new report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service." Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, states, "Rather than protect the American people he was elected to serve, ...Obama has imposed a policy that allows thousands of illegal immigrants to be released into our communities." [35290]

NationalJournal.com reports, "After giving then-Senator Barack Obama a full-throttled endorsement in the 2008 presidential election, the United Mine Workers of America has decided not to endorse either Obama or the presumptive Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, in 2012." Mike Caputo, a UMWA official and a Democrat in the West Virginia House of Delegates, says, "As of right now, we've elected to stay out of this election. Our members right now have indicated to stay out of this race, and that's why we've done that... I don't think quite frankly that coalfield folks are crazy about either candidate." [35292]

Bloomberg.com reports, "Four years ago, employees of New York-based Goldman gave three-fourths of their campaign donations to Democratic candidates and committees, including presidential nominee Barack Obama. This time, they're showering 70 percent

of their contributions on Republicans. That's the biggest switch among the 25 companies whose employees have given the most to candidates and parties since 1989, according to data through June 30 compiled by Bloomberg from the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington-based research group that tracks campaign donations. Goldman isn't alone; 13 of the companies' employees are now giving more to Republicans after backing Democrats four years ago. ...Employees of General Electric Co. (GE) are giving 63 percent of their contributions to Republicans this year, almost a mirror image of their distribution in 2008 when Democrats received 66 percent of their donations." Rogan Kersh, provost at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, observes, "A switch in party preference of this magnitude is virtually unheard of among major companies with an established presence in Washington." [35297]

Newsmax.com reports, "Donald Trump has declined an offer to deliver a prime-time speech at the Republican National Convention, sources with knowledge of convention plans tell Newsmax. But Newsmax has learned that the billionaire businessman has been asked to give a big 'surprise' at the convention in Tampa, Fla., which begins on Aug. 27." (More than a few people believe the story is false and that Trump would not have been offered a speaking slot. The "surprise" may perhaps be a videotaped "You're fired!" message from Trump, directed at Obama.) [35307, 35336, 35802, 35992]

In at least one poll, weeks of anti-Romney attack ads and slanted media coverage of Romney's overseas trip may have done as they intended: Obama leads his opponent 49–40 in an August 5–7 Fox News poll, up from 45–41 in the previous month's survey. But Rasmussen's daily poll shows Romney leading 47–43. A CNN-ORC poll gives Obama a 52–45 percent lead over Romney. Obama leads Romney 49–42 in a Reuters-Ipsos poll. (It is worth noting that the Fox poll gives Democrats an unrealistic 9-point edge over Republicans in its D/R/I weighting; the poll surveyed 9 percent more Democrats than Republicans. Additionally, the Fox poll surveyed registered voters, rather than likely voters. That tends to give an additional one or two point advantage to the Democrat candidate—points he will likely not get on election day.) [35312, 35313, 35314, 35317]

In Massachusetts, Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) criticizes his state for sending letters to almost 500,000 welfare recipients—at a cost of \$275,000—urging them to register to vote. Brown states, "I want every legal vote to count, but it's outrageous to use taxpayer dollars to register welfare recipients as part of a special effort to boost one political party over another. This effort to sign up welfare recipients is being aided by Elizabeth Warren's daughter—and it's clearly designed to benefit her mother's political campaign." (According to FoxNews.com, the mailing is the result of a lawsuit filed by a far-left think tank called Demos, whose chairman is Amelia Warren Tyagi—the daughter of Elizabeth Warren—Brown's Democrat opponent in the November 6 election. BostonHerald.com points out that Demos is represented in the lawsuit by the firm Ropes & Gray—one of whose partners is the wife of Deval Patrick, who just happens to be governor of Massachusetts and who just happened to agree to quickly resolve the lawsuit with the mass mailing. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Demos has partnered with ACORN and Project Vote on several projects, and Demos was one of ACORN's defenders when it was accused of rampant voter fraud in 2008. According to the Demos web site, Obama

was part of a “talented working group” that helped create the organization. Demos, which advocates Marxist principles such as wealth redistribution, was founded by Obama and Robert Kuttner in 1999. In 1996 Kuttner was a featured speaker at University of Chicago forum organized by the Democratic Socialists of America. Obama was a panel member at the event. That same year Kuttner, along with radical Tom Hayden, Frances Fox Piven (of “Cloward-Piven Strategy” fame), the SEIU’s Andy Stern, the AFL-CIO’s Richard Trumka, and others helped found the leftist Campaign for America’s Future, which in turn spawned the socialist New Party, of which Obama was a member.) Obama’s former “green jobs czar,” Van Jones, has been a Demos advisor. Obama, of course, also has strong links to ACORN and Project Vote.) [4315, 4360, 4361, 4362, 13199, 13223, 29500, 29758, 13199, 13223, 35316, 35319, 35337, 35428, 35651]

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) demands that Mitt Romney explain why he dares to meet with retired Lieutenant General William G. ‘Jerry’ Boykin. (Boykin is outspoken in his opposition to the implementation of Shari’ah law in the United States.) [35323, 35324]

On Air Force One, Obama campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki tells reporters, “No one is denying he [Joe Soptic] was in one of our campaign ads. He was on a conference call telling his story.” (Two days earlier Psaki told reporters, “We don’t have any knowledge of the story of the [Soptic] family.” Romney spokesperson Amana Henneberg states, ...Obama’s campaign has been caught lying about its knowledge concerning a vicious smear run by his Super PAC. And now, they have doubled down with another dishonorable and dishonest attack. In 2008, candidate Obama said ‘you make a big election about small things’ when you don’t have a record to run on. Since ...Obama can’t run on record unemployment, falling incomes, and massive debt, he has decided to run a dirty campaign that is an affront to everything he claims to stand for.” At Townhall.com Guy Benson writes, “Republicans aren’t the only ones galled by Obamaworld’s vicious and cynical about-face,” and notes a statement from Lanny Davis, a former top adviser to Bill Clinton: “I’m pretty sad for our country that we have presidential candidates engaging in sophomoric—and that’s a compliment—sophomoric name calling. [Obama PAC head] Bill Burton needs to go back to ethics school. He knows perfectly well that the ad is misleading and disgusting and he needs to apologize for it.” [35327, 35333, 35381]

At Breitbart.com Dana Loesch reports that “Obama’s embattled deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, was scheduled to appear on ABC’s ‘This Week’ yet seems to now have changed her mind as calls for her firing intensify. Cutter took to the press this week to claim that she and the campaign were unfamiliar with Joe Soptic and his story. This turned out to be false: not only was the Obama campaign familiar with Soptic, they hosted him on an OFA [Obama for America] conference call and previously used him for a campaign ad. ...ABC had Tweeted that Cutter was to appear, but plans have changed and the Tweet disappeared...” [35330, 35331]

Paul Kengor, author of *The Communist*, tells DailyCaller.com, “Obama’s mentor [Frank Marshall Davis] was considered so radical, and such a potential pro-Soviet threat, that the

federal government placed him on the Security Index. That meant that if a war broke out between the United States and the Soviet Union, Frank Marshall Davis could be placed under immediate arrest. Think about that. Obama had that sort of influence. And *The Washington Post* will focus on whether Mitt Romney was bullying in high school? With the kind of influence that Obama had, Obama would have trouble getting a security clearance for an entry-level government job.” (In *Dreams From My Father*, Obama referred to Davis only as Frank because “...he rightly saw his adolescent association with Davis—a literal card-carrying communist—as a greater political liability than [his admitting to] cocaine use.” It is noteworthy that the portions of *Dreams From My Father* that relate to Frank Marshall Davis are *missing* from the audio version of the book. In those recordings, Obama skips over the Davis references when reading—no doubt to prevent anyone from using his own words against him in a political ad.) [35334, 36105]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Twelve lawmakers wrote to House oversight committee Chairman Rep. Darrell Issa and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Joe Lieberman asking that they expand current probes into a Department of Treasury scandal that left 20,000 non-union Delphi retirees without their pensions after the 2009 General Motors bailout.” (Obama’s bailout of General Motors saw to it that the pensions of members of the United Auto Workers union were protected, while salaried workers lost their health benefits and some or all of their retirement benefits.) Emails show that “the Treasury Department, led by Secretary Timothy Geithner, was the driving force behind terminating those pensions—a move made in 2009 while the Obama administration implemented its auto bailout plan. The emails contradict sworn testimony in which several Obama administration figures have consistently said that the decision to terminate the pensions came from the PBGC [Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation]. The PBGC is a federal government agency that handles private-sector pension benefits issues. Its charter calls for independent representation of pension beneficiaries’ interests.” Under federal law, “the PBGC is the only government entity that is legally empowered to initiate termination of a pension or make any official movements toward doing so.” Obama and Geithner therefore acted illegally in terminating the benefits of Delphi employees, but claimed that PBGC was responsible. Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH) states, “[The emails] show that the administration has been misrepresenting this process. They have previously said that the pension decisions were made by General Motors and they said they were by PBGC. The emails that are now surfacing clearly show that this was run by Treasury in back door deals with the Auto Task Force, the PBGC and, of course, General Motors—[which was] acquired by the taxpayers through the Treasury. [It was] all being coordinated through the Treasury Department, resulting in what we believe may be illegal activity—but is definitely improper activity.” [35335, 35633]

New data shows that the unemployment rate in Greece reached 23.1 percent in May. The rate is more than 50 percent for the aged 15–24. In Spain the unemployment rate is 24.6 percent. [35340]

Campaigning in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Michelle Obama tells an audience, “And that’s why we have launched this wonderful effort that we’re calling It Takes One. It’s

simple. It is as simple as it sounds. Every time you take action to move this campaign forward, we're asking you to inspire just one more person to step up and do their part as well. So if you're making calls, knocking on doors, bring that friend, that little lazy friend, bring them. Bring them. If you're coming to an event, bring a neighbor who has never been involved, may be undecided. Bring them with you. When you're voting early or on Election Day, find that person in your life; help them get to the polls. Find that one friend, that one colleague, that one person in your family." [35359]

On MSNBC, former *Newsweek* columnist Jonathan Alter claims "a lot of people will die" if Mitt Romney is elected and ObamaCare is repealed. "[T]he consequences ... are death. Repeal equals death. People will die in the United States if ObamaCare is repealed. That is not an exaggeration. That is not crying fire. It's a simple fact." [35341]

The Media Research Center reports, "All three evening newscasts on Wednesday continued to ignore a super PAC ad by top Obama supporters that accuses Mitt Romney of, essentially, killing a woman. At the same time, CBS and NBC amplified the Obama administration's 'war on women' talking point, playing up attacks from Sandra Fluke, who previously tangled with Rush Limbaugh over contraception. ... NBC and CBS uncritically parroted a vicious new campaign quote from [Obama]: 'They [Republicans] want to take us back to the policies more suited to the 1950s than the 21st century.'" [35342]

TheHill.com reports, "The Democratic National Committee plans to stalk Mitt Romney around the country on his upcoming bus tour, and are starting Thursday by blocking the view for the Republican National Committee. A bus that reads 'Romney Economics: Outsourcing, Offshoring, Out of Touch' was parked in front of the Republican National Committee building all day on Thursday. The DNC later announced the bus would hit the road, following the presumptive GOP presidential nominee around the country on a four-day tour starting Friday, according to CNN." With the bus blocking a food truck, RNC press secretary Kirsten Kukowski states, "This is just more Democrats literally standing in the way of small business as food trucks work hard to make a living." (At the very least, Obama can add one bus driver to his "number of jobs saved or created.") [35345]

HotAir.com notes that the Democrats are still refusing to call the Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina by its correct name—because it is the location for Obama's acceptance speech at the Democrat National Convention in September and they are trying to avoid linking him with the big-bank TARP bailouts he supported in 2008. [35349]

Attorney Mario Apuzzo reports that his Obama ballot challenge in New Jersey now rests with the state's Supreme Court, where at least three justices must grant his Petition for Certification for the issue to be decided on its merits. [35352]

CNSNews.com reports that the Obama administration "has requested over half-a-billion dollars for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that provide housing assistance to homeless or HIV-positive people in drug treatment. For the

Fiscal Year 2013 National Drug Control budget, Obama has requested \$25.6 billion, including \$542.4 million to fund HUD programs that provide housing to individuals in drug treatment, according to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), which is charged with developing that budget.” [35356]

Former New Hampshire governor John Sununu tells Newsmax.TV the Obama campaign’s “Romney is a killer” ad “...is a perfect sign of how desperate [Obama] is to avoid talking about issues. Actually, the new low was reached in denying that they knew anything about this ad—and then getting caught having had a discussion of exactly the same topic, with exactly the same individual that’s in the ad, in a telephone news conference with the press last May. They got caught lying. They got caught with their pants down. They got caught with a despicable ad. They got caught fulfilling the strategy they enunciated a year ago: That all they were going to do in this campaign is to try and destroy Mitt Romney. The public should begin to understand that there’s nothing that comes out of this campaign, or this Obama White House, that they can believe. It truly is all misrepresentation and deception.” Sununu predicts that New Hampshire, which Obama won in 2008 by nine points, will be won by Romney in 2012 “...by two and a half-to-three and a half points.” [35354]

TheHill.com reports, “Despite administration warnings that notices related to sequestration were unnecessary, Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney are continuing their preparations. Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney are going forward with plans to issue layoff notices to thousands of employees due to looming defense cuts under sequestration, despite administration claims that such warnings are unnecessary. U.S. defense companies planned to start handing out pink slips in November under federal mandates outlined in the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, due to the anticipated \$500 billion automatic cut to defense coffers are set to go in place in January.” (Obama’s Department of Labor has told employers to ignore the law and not mail the notices because Congress might resolve the budget issues before \$500 billion in defense cuts are imposed. Obama does not want lay-off notices being received by tens of thousands of defense workers just days before the election—especially in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida.) [35363, 35364]

The New York Times notes the smaller crowds for Obama in 2012, compared to 2008, and quotes campaign spokeswoman Jan Psaki: “We have plenty of time for big rallies. Our focus right now is on exciting our supporters and winning over undecided voters and the smaller and medium-size events are the best venue to accomplish that because [Obama] can closely engage with the crowd.” (Rush Limbaugh comments, “But the bottom line is the Obama fad is over. All of this ‘Hope and Change,’ and all of this messianic stuff, all of this that attached itself to Obama in ’08 is over. It’s done with. And they are in trouble.”) [35808, 35809, 35858, 35859]

On *Hannity*, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani tells Sean Hannity that Obama should fire deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter for lying about what the campaign knew about Joe Sopic in the “Romney killed my wife” ad. Giuliani states, “She’s a liar. You have to go after them as liars. We can’t prove [Obama] is lying. I think

it's a very serious charge to say [he] is lying. But to say that [Obama] is surrounded by liars is a pretty accurate charge. Who wants to be surrounded by liars? What is Obama going to do about her?" Giuliani also says his "gut instinct" tells him that Romney will select Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) as his running mate. [35371]

Former Alaska governor Sarah Palin also appears on *Hannity*, criticizes the mainstream media with regard to the Obama PAC attack ad accusing Mitt Romney of being responsible for the cancer death of former steel worker Joe Soptic's wife. Palin comments, "Some of these reporters who know the truth about this situation because they were in the room, in the press conference, or teleconference room listening to this—I think you said it was back in May—and now they're watching this ad play out from the super PAC, they know what happened, and I don't know how they can sleep at night." (Palin is referring to a May conference call with reporters in which Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter introduced Soptic and shared his experience. Three months later she claimed she knew nothing about his story.) Plain says the reporters are "basically prostituting themselves for a job, for [an] interview, for access to the Obama administration and the campaign. And they're letting this go on, and it is illegal. It violates the PAC laws [for the Obama campaign to coordinate activities with a PAC]. What I would like to see happen is for just one reporter in the mainstream media who knows the truth about this to stand up and do the worthy and ethical thing and let Americans know that there was collaboration and also that this is a far-fetched, despicable ad that misrepresents Governor Romney's position." Palin adds, "I hope [Obama's] daughters never have to go through what he allows, and I believe, helps perpetuate, what other women go through. He [is] ... as the leader of these attackers, and these attackers try to invalidate and discredit somebody's record and reputation and what they stand for. ... I hope his family members don't have to go through that. You don't wish that on your worst enemy. ... I think it's disgusting. And at this point, you know, with all due respect to the office of the presidency, when I hear ... Obama speak at this point, especially when he lectures about ethics and civility, it's nauseating to me." [35398]

On August 10 Gallup reports that Obama's favorable/unfavorable rating stands at 43/51. (Obama's attacks ads may be hurting Mitt Romney, but they may also be hurting his own image.) [35351]

An Ohio court schedules a hearing for September 4 in the case *Susan Daniels v. Ohio Secretary of State*. (The lawsuit was filed by private investigator Susan Daniels to demand that Secretary of State Jon Husted prohibit the inclusion of Obama's name on the November ballot because he cannot prove his Social Security Number is valid. Obama's current Social Security number, 042-68-4425, was issued in Connecticut, where Obama never worked or lived. Over the years Obama has used several Social Security numbers.) [34020, 34021, 35472]

Michelle Obama tells radio host Tom Joyner, "All of us know that one person in our lives—that one knucklehead nephew that's [sic] not registered to vote. That one neighbor who's not really paying attention. That one co-worker who's confused about how

Barack's tax plan will benefit that individual. Those are going to be the conversations that make the difference. And in this election, we're gonna be making a choice about how we want our democracy run. You know, do we want our [next] president selected by people rolling their sleeves up, knocking on doors, or are we gonna hand it over to a couple of people who write big checks?" [35387]

A new Romney ad asks, "What does it say about a president's character when his campaign tries to use the tragedy of a woman's death for political gain? What does it say about a president's character when he had his campaign raise money for the ad, then stood by as his top aides were caught lying? about it? Doesn't America deserve better than a president who will say or do anything to stay in power? As the narrator speaks, the ad shows headlines from various media outlets criticizing Obama's Joe Soptic ad as "Scraping Bottom," "Disgusting," and "Unfair Attack," and stating, "Obama Campaign Admits Knowing." [35351, 35375]

NYPost.com reports, "A veteran US law-enforcement official has filed a blockbuster discrimination lawsuit against Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, charging she pushed him aside to make way for a less-qualified woman who's 'enjoyed a long-standing relationship' with the anti-terror chief. [It is widely believed that Napolitano is a lesbian.] The lawsuit, which was first reported yesterday by blogger Debbie Schlusel, identifies the woman as Dora Schriro, who was later appointed by Mayor Bloomberg as commissioner of the city Department of Correction, a post she still holds. The court papers also allege that Suzanne Barr, Napolitano's chief of staff at Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has engaged in 'numerous' acts of 'sexually offensive behavior' intended to 'humiliate and intimidate male employees.' Barr's alleged acts include calling one man 'in his hotel room and screaming at him that she wanted his 'c--k in the back of [her] throat.' The suit was filed by James T. Hayes Jr., special agent in charge of New York City investigations for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...Hayes says he was demoted following ...Obama's election and the appointment of Napolitano, a former Arizona governor, to head the Department of Homeland Security. ...[Hayes] charges that in April and May 2009, ICE chief of staff Barr 'removed the entire contents of the offices of three male employees, including nameplates, computers and telephones, to the men's bathroom at ICE headquarters' [and] '...also created a frat-house type atmosphere that is targeted to humiliate and intimidate male employees.'" On *Fox & Friends*, Geraldo Rivera asks the program hosts, "I have a question for you. Is the subtext of the Department of Homeland Security scandal that there is some kind of lesbian cabal? That there is some kind of same sex takeover of this agency? ...It just seems like everyone is talking around it. "Is that really what people are saying? That men are disadvantaged and that women, specifically lesbians, are ruling the roost there?" (On September 1 FoxNews.com reports, "ICE Chief of Staff Suzanne Barr submitted her resignation in a letter, obtained by FoxNews.com, to ICE Director John Morton. She rejected the allegations against her as 'unfounded' but said she didn't want to distract from the agency's mission.") [35353, 35376, 35377, 35605, 35674, 35694, 35695, 35725, 36391]

Newt Gingrich, who served as Speaker of the House when welfare reform legislation was passed in 1996—and Bill Clinton finally signed it into law after vetoing it twice—

debunks claims by Obama surrogates and the media that his recent executive order did not gut the work requirement in the legislation: “Section 407 is the key. It says no one, not the president, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the governors, no one can waive the work requirement. And we wrote it that strongly because we so deeply distrusted the liberals who run many of the social welfare programs and thought they would in fact absolutely be in favor of waiving the requirements.” Gingrich agrees with the Heritage Foundation that it is illegal for Obama to waive the work requirement. “It’s a clear violation of the law and many people who are more expert than I am on the legality side would generally agree he does not have the kind of authority that they’re exercising here.” [35355]

Former Senator Rick Santorum, one of the chief architects of the 1996 welfare reform legislation, says Obama’s waivers are “against the law. This is something that is an abuse of presidential power, number one, and number two, it is clear that when you look at the fact that [Obama] waived work requirements on food stamps in 2009 and has, again, to increase the amount of government dependency, to increase the amount of government paying people, all over this country, and the number of people [on welfare] continuing to go up to astronomical levels, the highest levels in the history of this country of the percentage of people who are on some sort of government program. You’re seeing a pattern here, and this pattern is now made whole in one of the cruelest ways. ...I know people say ‘well all he [Obama] did is provide a waiver. We specifically said in that law that no waivers would be allowed. You want to talk about legislative history? If the president wants to look at the legislative history on this, it is full of ‘we do not want waivers to this. This is something we will require.’” [35360]

The Iraqi government appears ready to release Ali Musa Daqduq, a senior Hezbollah terrorist who was responsible for the brutal murder of five U.S. soldiers in Karbala in 2007. Daqduq reported to Iran and trained Iraqi terrorists to assassinate U.S. troops. (Congressional Republicans repeatedly asked Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta to keep Daqduq under American control or transferred to the detainee camp at Guantanamo. Instead, the Obama administration turned him over to the Iraqis in December 2011.) Daqduq is a Lebanese citizen. Iraq will likely release him to Lebanon and, from there, he will undoubtedly make his way to Iran for new orders. CNSNews.com reports that Daqduq “was a key link between Hezbollah, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Qods Force, and violent Shi’ite ‘special groups’ held responsible by the Pentagon for numerous deadly attacks targeting American troops. Counterterrorism specialist Matthew Levitt of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy described Daqduq this week as ‘one of the most senior and dangerous Hezbollah commanders ever apprehended.’” (If the Iraqis release Daqduq, the Romney campaign may be wise to recreate 1988’s “Willie Horton” to attack Obama.) [27360, 27430, 27510, 32372, 35357, 40415]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson reports that Obama bureaucrats at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon “require all consumers to buy at least four gallons of gasoline from certain gas pumps after the new E15 ethanol-gasoline blend is introduced into the market.” (E15 fuel contains 15 percent ethanol and 85 percent gasoline. Its use

voids many vehicle warranties.) According to *The New York Times*, “The reason for the minimum purchase is to protect the engine of the next customer’s vehicle, as the fueling hose retains roughly a third of a gallon from the previous customer’s fill-up.” If a driver purchases a small amount of gasoline—for his car, motorcycle, lawnmower, or other engine—the E15 fuel left in the system could create a mixture with enough ethanol to cause damage to his engine. (In other words, the EPA is forcing customers to follow a new rule that would not even be necessary if it did not force service stations to carry E15 fuel.) Meanwhile, droughts in portions of the United States have decimated the corn crop. Corn is used to make ethanol—but it is primarily a food source for humans and animals. With food prices rising because of reduced crop yields, many would argue it is absurd to force refineries to sell E15 fuel. Obama’s Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, argues against reducing the ethanol mandate because of the jobs that industry has created. (Vilsack apparently believes that a few thousand jobs warrant skyrocketing fuel and food prices for 310 million Americans.) It is worth noting that the drought has significantly lowered the water level of the Mississippi River, which is used to ship enormous quantities of grain, oil, steel, ore, and coal. The Economic Collapse blog writes, “It has been estimated that if all Mississippi River traffic was stopped that it would cost the U.S. economy 300 million dollars a day. ...If the Mississippi River continues drying up to the point where commercial travel is no longer possible, it would be an absolutely devastating blow to the U.S. economy.” (Without the river, shipments would be redirected to trucks. That increases the cost dramatically, and those increase will be reflected in rising consumer prices.) [35361, 35362, 35386, 35670, 35671, 35924, 37655]

Those Americans who believed Obama and the Democrats protected them from future bank failures and bailouts with the Dodd-Frank legislation may be alarmed to learn that, according to Reuters, “U.S. regulators directed five of the country’s biggest banks, including Bank of America Corp and Goldman Sachs Group Inc., to develop plans for staving off collapse if they faced serious problems, emphasizing that the banks could not count on government help. The two-year-old program, which has been largely secret until now, is in addition to the ‘living wills’ [or resolution plans] the banks crafted to help regulators dismantle them if they actually do fail. It shows how hard regulators are working to ensure that banks have plans for worst-case scenarios and can act rationally in times of distress.” Additionally, the New York Federal Reserve Bank recently issued “A Proposal to Mitigate the Systemic Risks Posed by Money Market Funds”—essentially a guideline for restricting withdrawals from money market funds. ZeroHedge.com warns, “But the real definition of what the Fed is suggesting is: capital controls. Once this proposal is implemented, the Fed, or some other regulator, will effectively have full control over how much money market cash is withdrawable from the system at any given moment. At \$2.7 trillion in total, one can see why the Fed is suddenly concerned about this critical liquidity and capital buffer.” ZeroHedge asks, “Why now? What does the Fed know about market liquidity conditions that it does not want to share, and more importantly, is the Fed seeing a rapid deterioration in liquidity conditions in the future, that may and/or will prompt retail investors to pull their money in another Lehman-like bank run repeat?” Also of note is the fact that in the second quarter of 2012 Obama’s billionaire buddy George Soros sold his financial holdings in Goldman Sachs, Citigroup,

JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Regions Financial, and Fifth Third Bank. [35366, 35484, 35485, 35486, 35532, 35533]

Politico obtains (or is readily given) some of the Democrat National Convention plans, that include seeking to “expose Mitt Romney as someone who doesn’t understand middle class challenges. ... Each night of the convention will include a star turn for what planners call ‘real people’—for instance, an auto worker whose job was saved, a student who benefited from college loans and an entrepreneur fueled by federal research-and-development funds.” (In other words, the Democrats will highlight people who were not able to succeed on their own, without government assistance.) “...But the plans show organizers intent on steering clear of controversy as well. For the gay marriage social contrast, for instance, the documents state the participants should be ‘not a gay couple’—but a ‘parent and gay son or daughter.’” (That is, the Democrats are not about to have two men kissing each other onstage.) According to Politico, Michelle Obama will speak at the convention to argue that her husband reflects “middle class values” and “how he makes tough decisions, what his north star is.” The Democrats also plan to trout out a Republican-turned-Democrat or a “RINO” [Republican in name only] to suggest that conservatives are extreme. (*The Obama Timeline* will not be surprised if the Democrats persuade Colin Powell—“RINO extraordinaire”—to speak.) [35368]

The Obama campaign release an ad charging that Mitt Romney has paid no income taxes. The narrator says, “Did Romney pay 10 percent in taxes? Five percent? Zero? We don’t know.” (The Romney campaign could just as easily produce an ad that asks, “Has Obama raped 10 women? Five women? Zero? We don’t know.”) [35369]

The American Crossroads political action committee releases an ad calling on Obama to repudiate the “Romney killed my wife” ad. The ad shows Obama saying in 2008 that he would “put an end to politics that would divide the nation just to win an election” and that he would “walk the walk.” That is followed by harsh media criticism of the anti-Romney ad, and Obama deputy campaign advisor Stephanie Cutter disingenuously claiming the Obama team had nothing to do with the ad. [35388]

CNSNews.com reports, “Thanks to an Obamacare regulation that took effect on Aug. 1, health care plans in Oregon will now be required to provide free sterilizations to 15-year-old girls even if the parents of those girls do not consent to the procedure. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius finalized the regulation earlier this year.” (The ObamaCare regulations requires that plans provide contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization to *all* women “with reproductive capacity” or “from the time of menarche [first menstrual cycle] to menopause.” Insurance companies must therefore provide free contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization to young girls. Depending on state law, there may not be a requirement to inform the parents. In Oregon, “The parents or guardians of a minor girl—between 15 and 18—can neither grant nor deny consent for a sterilization.”) [35413, 35647]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich tells DailyCaller.com, “I think every Obama request for transparency should be met with ‘do we get to see your senior paper at

Columbia [University]?’ I think the movement ought to be beating him up every morning.” [35434]

Obama hosts a White House dinner for Muslims to celebrate their holy month of Ramadan. Guests include Huma Abedin, the top aide to Hillary Clinton whose mother and brother have long-time connections to the radical Muslim Brotherhood—as did her late father. (Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy, notes that Abedin “was listed for twelve years on the masthead of the IMMA’s [Institute for Muslim Minority Affairs] journal as an associate editor. For at least seven of those years, Omar Naseef [an officially designated al Qaeda financier] was also listed as a member of the editorial advisory board.”) Obama states that Abedin is “an American patriot and an example of what we need in this country.” Also in attendance is Mohamed Magid, the president of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA). The ISNA was founded by and receives financial support from the jihad-promoting Muslim Brotherhood, has ties to the terrorist organization Hamas, and was an un-indicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism funding trial. Magid has asked the Obama Justice Department—specifically Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez—to make criticism of Islam a “hate crime.” Magid has also demanded that the FBI “de-link” Islam from terrorism. (Obama was the first Oval Office occupant to not celebrate the National Day of Prayer—but he finds time to preside over an Iftar dinner.) As he has done in the past, Obama repeats the lie that Thomas Jefferson hosted the first Iftar dinner at the White House: “As I’ve noted before, Thomas Jefferson once held a sunset dinner here with an envoy from Tunisia—perhaps the first Iftar at the White House, more than 200 years ago. And some of you, as you arrived tonight, may have seen our special display, courtesy of our friends at the Library of Congress—the Koran that belonged to Thomas Jefferson. And that’s a reminder, along with the generations of patriotic Muslims in America, that Islam—like so many faiths—is part of our national story.” [716, 805, 827, 23443, 23444, 23445, 23532, 23837, 23840, 25674, 25675, 25678, 25709, 35407, 35487, 35488, 35489, 35497, 37231]

The claim, previously made by Obama, that Jefferson hosted an Iftar dinner is without any factual basis. In his upcoming book, *The Muslim Discovery of America*, Frederick William Dame writes with irrefutable documentation, “Jefferson was interested in talking to the ambassador over the piracy being conducted against American merchant ships by Tunisia, but otherwise could not have cared less about Islam. It was the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan and the temporary envoy said that he could not come to dinner during the day. Jefferson was polite and delayed the dinner a few hours to sunset. There was no special menu. President Jefferson changed the time of the dinner from the usual 3:30 pm to sunset.” It is correct that the Tunisian envoy visited the White House, but he was not feted with an Iftar dinner celebrating Ramadan. Jefferson’s interest was not accommodating Muslims; it was putting an end to their acts of vicious piracy—arguably the first Islamic terrorist attacks on the United States. Jefferson ultimately ordered a military response, and the United States enjoyed a decisive victory at Tripoli in the Battle of Derna in the First Barbary War. (The Marine Corps Hymn lyrics “...to the shores of Tripoli” honor that victory.) At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Gellar notes, “Jihad in America goes back to our origins. That wasn’t Jefferson’s prayer book, Jefferson had a copy of the Quran so that he might understand the enemy. Jefferson, in defense of America, was

studying the enemy's war plan, their 'Art of War.'" [2747, 4642, 4643, 13721, 13771, 13773, 13835, 18318, 18324, 18325, 18334, 18355, 18372, 18435, 35407, 35487, 35488, 37231]

At the Iftar dinner Obama states, "Of all the freedoms we cherish as Americans, of all the rights that we hold sacred, foremost among them is freedom of religion, the right to worship as we choose." (Some might argue that is one of the least appropriate things to say to a room full of people who religion/ideology is among the least tolerant on the planet. In fact, converting from Islam to another religion is considered a crime punishable by death in many places. As Obama speaks, Christians and Jews are being persecuted by Muslims around the world, in places like Nigeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, and Syria. The Obama administration has been largely silent about the persecution of Jews and Christians around the world.) [35518, 35544]

On August 11, in Norfolk, Virginia, Mitt Romney introduces Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. (Ryan, one of the most intelligent and principled members of Congress, is the author of the GOP budget. The Obama campaign will waste no time attacking Ryan as someone who would kick old people off Medicare and Social Security in order to finance tax cuts for the wealthy—even though his budget does no such thing. Obama, meanwhile proposed a budget that received zero votes in the Senate, which has not proposed a budget of its own in over three years—even though it is required by law to do so. The Obama campaign quickly sends an email claiming, "With Mitt Romney's support, Ryan would end Medicare as we know it and slash the investments we need to keep our economy growing—all while cutting taxes for those at the very top." The email, of course, also asks for campaign donations.) Romney says that Ryan "doesn't demonize his opponents. He understands that honorable people can have honest differences and he appeals to the better angels of our nature. He's never been content to just curse the darkness. He'd rather light candles." [35378, 35389, 35390, 35397]

Among the statements in Ryan's speech: "Mitt Romney is a leader with the skills, the background and the character that our country needs at a crucial time in its history. Following four years of failed leadership, the hopes of our country, which have inspired the world, are growing dim; and they need someone to revive them. Governor Romney is the man for this moment; and he and I share one commitment: we will restore the dreams and greatness of this country. ...Let me say a word about the man Mitt Romney will replace. No one disputes ...Obama inherited a difficult situation. And, in his first two years, with his party in complete control of Washington, he passed nearly every item on his agenda. But that didn't make things better. In fact, we find ourselves in a nation facing debt, doubt and despair. This is the worst economic recovery in 70 years. Unemployment has been above 8 percent for more than three years, the longest run since the Great Depression. Families are hurting. We have the largest deficits and the biggest federal government since WWII. Nearly 1 out of 6 Americans are in poverty—the worst rate in a generation. Moms and dads are struggling to make ends meet. Household incomes have dropped by more than \$4,000 over the past four years. Whatever the explanations, whatever the excuses, this is a record of failure. ...Obama, and too many like him in Washington, have refused to make difficult decisions because they are more

worried about their next election than they are about the next generation. We might have been able to get away with that before, but not now. We're in a different, and dangerous, moment. We're running out of time—and we can't afford 4 more years of this. Politicians from both parties have made empty promises which will soon become broken promises—with painful consequences—if we fail to act now. ...I hear some people say that this is just 'the new normal.' High unemployment, declining incomes and crushing debt is not a new normal. It's the result of misguided policies. And next January, our economy will begin a comeback with the Romney Plan for a Stronger Middle Class that will lead to more jobs and more take home pay for working Americans.” [35385, 35395]

Ryan continues, “...We Americans look at one another's success with pride, not resentment, because we know, as more Americans work hard, take risks, and succeed, more people will prosper, our communities will benefit, and individual lives will be improved and uplifted. But America is more than just a place... it's an idea. It's the only country founded on an idea. Our rights come from nature and God, not government. We promise equal opportunity, not equal outcomes. This idea is founded on the principles of liberty, freedom, free enterprise, self-determination and government by consent of the governed. This idea is under assault. So, we have a critical decision to make as a nation. We are on an unsustainable path that is robbing America of our freedom and security. It doesn't have to be this way. The commitment Mitt Romney and I make to you is this: We won't duck the tough issues... we will lead! We won't blame others... we will take responsibility! We won't replace our founding principles... we will reapply them! We will honor you, our fellow citizens, by giving you the right and opportunity to make the choice: What kind of country do we want to have? What kind of people do we want to be? We can turn this thing around. Real solutions can be delivered. But, it will take leadership. And the courage to tell you the truth. Mitt Romney is this kind of leader. I'm excited for what lies ahead and I'm thrilled to be a part of America's Comeback Team. And together, we will unite America and get this done. Thank you.” [35385, 35395]

On MSNBC, lispng leftist Melissa Harris-Perry—who happens to be black—eagerly introduces race into the selection of Paul Ryan by criticizing him for quoting the Declaration of Independence in his speech. She tells *Hardball* host Chris Matthews, “The thing I really have against him is actually how he and Governor Romney have misused the Declaration of Independence today. I am deeply irritated by their notion that the ‘pursuit of happiness’ means ...money for the richest and that we extricate the capacity of ordinary people to pursue happiness.” (Neither Ryan nor Romney said any such thing, of course.) An angry Harris-Perry continues, “When they say ‘God and nature give us our rights, not government,’ that is a lovely thing to say as a wealthy white man. But when you sit in a body like mine as an African-American woman, you know that God and nature may have in fact made us inalienable, you know, rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but we could not have them until there was a Civil War that allowed the federal government to impose that those nature and God-given rights would actually be respected by our government. And I think that they cannot continue to go down this line on the Declaration of Independence.” (Harris-Perry's point is not entirely clear, unless she means that because slavery existed at the time of the founding of the United States no white man should be allowed to quote the Declaration of Independence. Ryan's

point was that men and women have rights by the very nature of their existence, and that those rights are *not* “given” to them by any government. The government is supposed to *protect* natural rights—not dispense them as favors in return for votes. That the rights of blacks were not protected does not change the principle that they had them.) [35437, 35522]

Also appearing on *Hardball* is Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), who is asked by Chris Matthews, “You sit next to this guy [Paul Ryan] with a totally different philosophy. What does he say when you whisper to him, when he comes out with his budget that basically gives a great break to the richest people in the country, and really screws the people who desperately need Medicare and programs like that? What do you ask him? How can you do this? How can you reward rich people who already have all these breaks in this country? And hurt the people that have no breaks? What does he say? What’s his answer?” Matthews later charges that Ryan is “screwing the people he doesn’t expect to vote for him. The people he doesn’t expect to vote for him, he’s screwing.” (Matthews considers himself and MSNBC “objective.”) [35456]

Another black woman plays the race card, as Donna Christensen, a non-voting delegate in Congress from the U.S. Virgin Islands, “tweets,” “Wait a minute! Are there black people in Va? Guess just not w[ith] Romney Ryan! At least not seeing us. We know who’s got our back & we have his .” (Needless to say, had Romney selected former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as his running mate Christensen would have done her best to condemn that choice as well. Nor would she have been without criticism had black businessman Herman Cain defeated Romney in the primaries. At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson predicts, “Expect the Ryan selection in the next few days to spawn a new flurry of ‘wealthy white man’ invective in a manner that two Clinton-Gore tickets, a Gore-Lieberman ticket, and a Kerry-Edwards ticket never did.”) [35454, 35522]

Ryan, a conservative Catholic from Janesville, Wisconsin, will not only help Romney win votes in that state but also Ohio and Pennsylvania—where blue-collar Catholics and “Reagan Democrats” might otherwise have some misgivings about Romney, who is a Mormon. (Ryan graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1992. A mere six years later he was elected to Congress.) Regardless of any “electoral assistance” Romney may gain from Ryan, however, that is not why he was chosen. Romney selected Ryan because he will help him govern well and solve problems. [35433, 35446, 35463]

At NewYorker.com Ryan Lizza complains that Paul Ryan “has no significant private-sector experience.” (This is the same Ryan Lizza who doesn’t mind that Obama has no private sector business experience and who complains that Mitt Romney has too much.) Lizza notes that Ryan has “never been in charge of a large organization, and he has little experience with foreign policy.” (Obama also never ran a large organization and had no foreign policy experience before entering the White House.) [35455, 35491]

Radio talk show host Michael Savage calls the Ryan pick “too little, too late.” He states, “This is the end of the Romney campaign. As good a man as he is, Ryan will be

portrayed by the Marxists as another rich white male who wants to ruin the environment, destroy Medicaid and Social Security and give tax breaks to the very rich. It's all over. The Romney schmucks are so out of touch with reality they do not see how they are being portrayed and perceived both by the servile press and the ignorant masses. The Romney insiders detest conservatives and are trying to appease this core base with Ryan. Too little, too late." (Of course, regardless of who Romney selected the Obama campaign and the media will continue to portray the Republicans as evil capitalists who want to dirty the air and water, put orphans on the street, and evict the elderly from nursing homes and hospitals.) Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) says, "Governor Romney showed today that he is determined to confront a host of growing crises that ...Obama has ignored. Where [Obama] has simply refused to act, Governor Romney has now pledged to lead. Paul Ryan is an excellent choice." [35380]

Although Paul Ryan is more conservative than Mitt Romney and will help "fire up the base," Ryan's voting record shows he is no Ron Paul. Ryan voted for the TARP bailout in 2008, as well as that year's "Stimulus" legislation (HR 5140), the GM/Chrysler bailout, and the extension of unemployment benefits from 39 to 59 weeks. In 2001 Ryan voted for the No Child Left Behind legislation; in 2003 he voted for the Medicare prescription drug benefit; in 2005 he voted for the Patriot Act; in 2006 he voted for \$70 million for Section 8 Housing vouchers and to allow electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens without a warrant; in 2007 he voted for the Head Start Act. Additionally, the Ryan budget that the Democrats so love to hate does not balance the federal budget for decades. Although he would spend far less than Obama and his comrades, Ryan still supports a government without a balanced budget. (Some might hope, of course, that if the Republicans capture the White House and the Senate, while retaining control of the House, they might implement spending cuts they dare not mention on the campaign trail.) [35426]

Within four hours of Mitt Romney's announcement of Paul Ryan as his running mate, their campaign raises \$1.2 million. (Ryan, who is far more conservative than Romney, will mobilize Tea Party supporters.) [35382]

Romney-Ryan supporters quickly call on them to "open a used czar lot" on January 20, 2013.

Author and columnist Ann Coulter tells Larry Kudlow on WABC radio, "There's a lot that's attractive about [Paul] Ryan. ...He is young and Catholic and Midwest. I really think the big thing with the Ryan pick is that it turns it into a 1980 Reagan election about ideas. Democrats can't escape it. They're going to have to scream about their socialist policies and we just have to, as [socialist Vermont Senator] Bernie Sanders says, raise taxes on the rich as high as they need to be and not touch the program that was ordained by the saint FDR. And, you know, they talk about fundamentalism and their beliefs and their inability to reconsider things. No, liberals will not reconsider Social Security. FDR gave it to us. It is set in stone. It was passed down by Moses. And we may not consider making any changes to it, no matter that it's bankrupting the country. And because Democrats tend to be people that have never held jobs in the private sector, it doesn't

occur to them that if you try to fund Social Security as the retiring population becomes larger than the working population by just taxing the rich, the rich aren't going to work that hard. In order to become rich, you have to work very, very hard and there's no point to working very, very hard if 60 percent of it is going to the government." [35436]

On CNN, Democrat strategist James Carville criticizes Paul Ryan for not wearing a necktie while appearing with Romney. (Obama routinely appears at events without a tie.) [35383]

At HotAir.com Mary Katherine Hamm writes, "With the Ryan pick, Romney signaled he welcomes a showdown on the biggest issues of our time even when discussing them can be politically daunting. ...Obama's latest, dippy, face-to-the-camera ad in Virginia says the choice between his leadership and Romney's couldn't be bigger, and Romney has now gamely agreed with [Obama], showing he believes the contrast works in his favor. The man who walked into the sun in Norfolk, Virginia today is not the one Obama expected to face. ...The political press and ...Obama alike claim they want a campaign about big ideas, an adult debate about policy differences. Now they've got it in spite of, not because of, Barack Obama. With Ryan on the ticket, the debate should no longer be about contraception and the deferred cancer-causing capabilities of Bain investments. It will be about the budget and the \$16 trillion debt, the unsustainable trajectory of the federal government and the promises it's already breaking to generations to come. It will be about Simpson-Bowles [deficit reduction proposal] and a federal government that hasn't even bothered to pass a budget since before the iPad existed. It will be about how four years of grossly increased spending has stimulated us into the worst recovery in American history, unless you happen to be an Obama donor or crony. It will be about how creating new entitlement programs cannot possibly fix the ones that are already broken. And, it will be about whether we value an ever more dependent society or an ever more successful one. ...It is not without risk. [The Romney-Ryan] bet is that the wisdom of the American people is still one of the best bets you can make. I hope they're right. The thing about taking this risk is the choice is clear. If you lose, you go down fighting. If you win, you *really* win." [35438]

The Obama campaign immediately releases an ad attacking Paul Ryan and his budget proposal. Set to somber, frightening music, the ad concludes: "Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan: Back to the failed top-down policies that crashed our economy." "Progressive Americans for Tax Fairness" states, "A Romney-Ryan White House would be Robin Hood in reverse, and that's not the kind of America we want to live in. Both of their budget plans would lavish the richest 1 percent of Americans who make over \$1 million with yearly tax breaks of at least \$250,000, while raising taxes on 95 percent of Americans who make less than \$200,000. Politicians stacking the deck in favor of their wealthy campaign contributors and sticking the rest of us with the tab is not right." (The statement is incorrect. Romney proposes cutting income taxes at *all* income levels by 20 percent.) [35384]

Ryan's budget proposal calls for \$5 trillion less spending, over 10 years, than Obama's proposal. The plan does *not* change Medicare for existing recipients. Over time, however,

the plan would give future retirees the *option* of declining Medicare and accepting, in its place, a voucher to be used to buy a health insurance policy in the private market. (As increasing numbers of physicians refuse to accept new Medicare patients, that option may appeal to a majority of retirees.) Medicaid would be overhauled by turning it into a block grant system for states. (That is, the federal government would give the cash to the states and let them do what they believe is best for their uninsured poor people.) The corporate tax rate would be cut from its present 35 percent rate—the highest in the world—to 25 percent, as an incentive to keep businesses from relocating overseas. There would be only two individual income tax brackets: 10 and 25 percent. Ryan’s proposal hopes to reduce government expenditures to no more than 20 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product. (For decades, federal spending amounted to about 18–19 percent of GDP: Obama pushed it to an alarming—and unsustainable—25 percent.) [35391]

The Ulsterman Reports hears from the White House insider, who comments on Mitt Romney’s selection of Congressman Paul Ryan as his running mate: “Obama just sh*t himself. They are picking diamonds out his ass about now. Great choice. Absolutely great choice. Critics said M.R. [Mitt Romney] was going to run from the fiscal conservatism message behind the Ryan Plan. Not so. He is embracing it. That is undeniable proof M.R. gets it. Country’s fiscal situation is in full-on crisis. Big boys know it. Remember when the Old Man [the Wall Street insider] warned about the muni[cipal] bonds going down and out? That was months ago right? Now it’s happening. There is so much happening behind the scenes on that stuff. I get bits and pieces from the Old Man and a couple others on it but they are all saying the same thing: HOLD ON and be ready for disaster because if it comes it is going to hit very fast. Got a lot of real powerful people trying to avoid that disaster but the real players around Obama are purposely pushing us off that cliff. I am absolutely 100% convinced now that everything they have done is on purpose. It’s not just incompetence, laziness, or stupidity. They want American chopped the f-ck down. Period.” [35392]

“Back to the Ryan pick. I am loving it. And don’t buy into all the BS about how the Romney campaign is having a bad week or how it needs to fight back against Obama. These guys are playing this just about right. Except for [Romney campaign spokesperson Andrea] Saul. That lady should go. She is certainly done with speaking on behalf of the campaign. But other than that little hiccup, the Romney team is hitting its stride. And now with Ryan on board, we got the Tea Party momentum at our sails also. And that is a good thing because Romney needs the Tea Party. Absolutely needs their enthusiasm, energy, support. The emotion behind that Tea Party stuff can sink Obama. And they know that. One more thing on that. The Ryan pick just increased the race card roll out about 100% now. That will be Obama’s play against the Tea Party. Media is already preparing for that too. Some of them. Maybe it’s the Zimmerman situation. They got that whole thing on stand-by. Maybe it’s something new we haven’t seen yet. But the Ryan pick now pushes that scenario to the top of the agenda at this point so watch for it. I’m praying it don’t get as bad as it could but my gut says it will. And how [do] you like that FnF [Operation Fast and Furious] news? More to come. There is some scandal scenarios circling this election big time.” [35392]

Although the Obama campaign will certainly attack Ryan with vicious attack ads, the White House insider is likely correct that Romney's choice will give Obama fits. Obama knows that Ryan will not "roll over and play dead" when faced with attacks, as did John McCain in 2008. He also knows that Ryan will respond with facts and self-control—which will make Obama look like a typical, lying politician. Ryan has already demonstrated that he knows the nation's fiscal problems better than almost anyone, and that he is not afraid to confront Obama with criticisms of his policies in general and ObamaCare in particular. Ryan will also deal well with the media. He will likely challenge reporters when they ask questions that are not based on facts. (He will very likely often respond, "I don't accept the premise of your question.") The media will do its best to unsettle him and lie about his budget proposals, but Ryan will be able to adequately defend himself. (He is certainly not the buffoon he will face in his October 11 debate with Vice President Joe Biden.)

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, in February 2009 Obama hosted a 7-hour bipartisan health care summit to push ObamaCare. Among those in attendance was Ryan. Obama was clearly annoyed when Ryan talked about the massive burden of debt the health care legislation would impose on taxpayers, their children, and their grandchildren—and the accounting gimmicks used by the Democrats to enable them to make the ludicrous claim that ObamaCare saves money. (After about 5 minutes of listening, Obama rested his head on his hand, childishly and purposefully "giving Ryan the finger" in the process—something Obama had done to both Hillary Clinton and John McCain during the 2008 campaign.) Ultimately Obama cut off Ryan and changed the subject, saying, "We have some strong disagreements on the numbers, but I don't want to get too bogged down." (In other words, "How dare you challenge my scheme by stating the facts!") Neither Obama nor anyone else effectively countered Ryan's numbers and arguments—because they could not. Ryan pointed out that the Democrat legislation is "full of gimmicks and smoke and mirrors," with 10 years of tax increases and Medicare cuts to pay for only 6 years of spending, ignoring costs that will catch up to and exceed the revenue as time goes on. The Democrat accounting, said Ryan, also "...takes \$52 billion in higher Social Security tax revenues and counts them as offsets. But that's really reserved for Social Security. So either we're double-counting them or we don't intend on paying those Social Security benefits." [9151, 9158, 9159, 9160, 9172, 9195, 35393]

Ryan emphasized that the bill "...treats Medicare like a piggy bank. It raids a half a trillion dollars out of Medicare, not to shore up Medicare solvency, but to spend on this new government program." Ryan states, "You can't say that you're using this money to either extend Medicare solvency and also offset the cost of this new program. That's double counting." The net result, according to Ryan, is that "...when you strip out the double-counting and what I would call these gimmicks, the full 10-year cost of the bill has a \$460 billion deficit. The second 10-year cost of this bill has a \$1.4 trillion deficit." Ryan's strongest criticism is for the purported \$371 billion that will be saved by cutting Medicare payments to physicians—when everyone knows those cuts will not be made. [9151, 9158, 9159, 9160, 9172, 9195, 35393]

Michael Reagan tells *Newsmax* that the selection of Paul Ryan "...shows that Mitt Romney's willing to go outside the box of the normal and reach out and grab someone who really gets and understands what's going on with the economy and how to fix it. ... We all knew that he had to figure out a way to reach out to conservatives. What he did with this was show that he wants a vice president [who] can be an active vice president ... not just a vice president who's going to have lunch with him once a week, visit other countries, go to funerals, and sit in the Senate. [Romney] wants a work mate [who] understands that there is a lot of work to be done and it has to be a team that he puts together to be able to do it a la Ronald Reagan with the Kitchen Cabinet, putting together a team of people that were successful who knew what the problems were, and how to solve the problems." [35422]

It is worth noting that Paul Ryan is a natural born citizen, born on U.S. soil to two U.S.-citizen parents. That enables Mitt Romney to avoid the distraction of lawsuits that would have been filed had he selected Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) or Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal as his running mate. (Although Rubio and Jindal were born in the United States, their parents were *not* U.S. citizens when Marco and Bobby were born. Had either of them been selected by Romney there is *no doubt* that a legal challenge contesting eligibility to serve as Vice President would be filed.)

Despite the Obama campaign's brutal attack ads, Mitt Romney still holds the lead over Obama, 46–44, in an August 8–10 nationwide Rasmussen poll. [35394]

According to TheHill.com, many Democrat strategists are "gleeful" over Romney's selection of Paul Ryan, believing they can hammer him as favoring the wealthy. Obama campaign manager Jim Messina states that Romney and Ryan share "commitment to the flawed theory that new budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthy, while placing greater burdens on the middle class, will somehow deliver a stronger economy." "One top Democrat working for an outside group that is helping to reelect Obama" comments, "I haven't been this happy waking up since I was 12 and got a BMX for Christmas. The Romney-Ryan plan is a complete crystallization of the two visions for this country. The Republicans: tax cuts for millionaires and ending Medicare as we know it; and the Democrats: growing a strong middle class." "A former senior administration official" states, "I think we're all licking our chops this morning. [Obama] has spent the last several months attacking the Republican budget and who better to be the VP pick than Ryan? [He] Fits into our narrative in the best possible way." (The "narrative," of course, is to engage in class warfare and portray Republicans as caring about no one but the wealthy.) Romney arguably did Obama a favor by selecting Ryan, because Obama prefers an election about "choices" to a referendum on his own failed record. Obama wants the election to be "takers versus makers" or "parasites versus producers" because he believes the takers and parasites are in the majority and will follow him wherever he wants to lead them. (He may be correct.) [35415, 35469]

The New York Times reports that for millions of Americans, health care will not be "affordable" under the "Affordable Care Act" known as ObamaCare. "Low- and middle-income people can get tax credits and other subsidies to help pay their premiums, unless

they have access to affordable coverage from an employer. The law specifies that employer-sponsored insurance is not affordable if a worker's share of the premium is more than 9.5 percent of the worker's household income. The I.R.S. says this calculation should be based solely on the cost of individual coverage for the employee, what the worker would pay for 'self-only coverage.'" (That is, even if the employee has a large family that boosts the cost of his coverage, it would be considered "affordable" if the employee-only cost falls under the 9.5 percent threshold.) If the worker's insurance is "affordable" under the guidelines, he would be ineligible for federal subsidies. As a result, the wealthy would continue to have insurance they can afford and the poor will get free coverage under Medicaid or federal subsidies to buy insurance, while many middle class workers will not receive subsidies—and have to pay premiums that continue to rise caused by ObamaCare's insurance company mandates. (Because the rules do not go into effect until 2014, most voters will not be aware of the negative impact on their wallets until after the 2012 election.) [35423, 35424]

On August 12 Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), chairwoman of the Democrat National Committee, appears on *Fox News Sunday*. She is asked, "Should the Democrats be releasing an ad that accuses a presidential candidate, through inference, of being responsible for a woman's death?" Wasserman Schultz responds, "That... That... first of all, that's a Priorities USA... it's not a Democratic ad... it's a Priorities USA super-PAC ad, which, we had nothing to do with it." Asked, "Do you deny that they're Democrats?" she says, "I... I... have no idea of the political affilil [sic]... affiliation of the folks who are associated with that SuperPAC. ...That is a super-PAC ad that is not affiliated with our campaign or with the [Democrat] party..." (Wasserman Schultz expects viewers to believe she has no idea whether the ad attacking Romney was created by Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Whigs, or members of the "No Nothing" Party—even though the PAC is headed by Bill Burton, former White House deputy press secretary under Obama.) [35400, 35451]

HotAir.com points out, "With the now official selection of Paul Ryan as the running mate to Mitt Romney, ...we have the final pairings of the four men running for the highest offices in the land. And for the first time since 1944, not one of them has ever served in the uniform of our country. Barack Obama graduated from high school in 1979, well after the draft had ended. While he claimed in at least one interview that he did 'entertain the idea of joining the service' after high school, he added that, 'it's not an option that I ever decided to pursue.' ...[Romney] was eligible and available for the draft for one year—in 1970—but drew a very high number in the lottery when the highest number called that year was 195. Joe Biden received a total of five student deferments before taking a physical and receiving a draft classification of 1-Y due to having asthma, essentially removing him from consideration. Paul Ryan, the youngest of the four by nearly a decade, was obviously never subject to the draft." [35453]

Newsmax.com reports, "The number of Americans on Medicaid, now 60 million, will increase by as many as 16 million in 2014 due to the requirements of Obamacare. But already nearly one-third of U.S. doctors refuse to accept new patients in the federal and state health insurance program for lower-income Americans, largely because of low

Medicaid payments to physicians. ...New Jersey has the nation's lowest percentage of office-based doctors accepting new Medicaid patients, 40 percent..." [35402]

Anti-Obama sentiment grows and his record encourages ridicule. As an example, Western music singer Dan Roberts posts his recording of *Mr. Scam Man* on YouTube.com—sung to the tune of *Mr. Sand Man*. The clever lyrics:

Mr. Scam Man
Where is your dream?
I thought my life'd be all peaches 'n cream.
Now I don't have a job and I'm outta money,
And movin' forward things don't look too sunny.

Scam Man,
I'm so alone
Don't have a mortgage to call my own.
So much for the roses and the clover,
I'm using food stamps to feed old Rover.

Mr. Scam Man,
We need a cure,
And not a world-wide apology tour.
You're tearin' down our country's good reputation.
By tryin' to make us an ObamaNation.

Scam man,
Hey don't touch a thing.
Take more vacation time and work on your swing.
We need a president a little wiser,
Than a community organizer.

Scam Man.
We can't forget,
You promised you'd reduce the national debt.
That's what so many millions gave you their vote for,
A change of your address is all we hope for.

Scam man,
Hey you're breakin' our backs.
Is it a penalty or is it a tax?
Only half of us are paying our share—that's fair?
He don't seem to even ObamaCare.
We all say no, no, NobamaCare.
[35770, 35771]

Meanwhile, legendary singer Ray Stevens' music video, *Obama Nation*, garners hundreds of thousands of views on YouTube.com. [35827, 35828]

Yard signs and the level of ridicule are often indicative of the way an election will turn out. In 2008 Obama yard signs (and bumper stickers) appeared across the nation, and many of John McCain's supporters were reluctant to display their own because they felt vastly outnumbered and were afraid of being labeled racists—as well as being afraid of having their automobiles “keyed.” If Romney-Ryan signs appear in large numbers in October 2012 that will be an indication that Obama's Oval Office days may be numbered. Ridicule is a particularly strong indication of trends. In 1976 President Gerald Ford was mocked as a stumbling buffoon (despite his college athleticism). In 1980 people poked fun at President Jimmy Carter for his sweater-wearing call for Americans to turn down their thermostats to “conserve energy.” In 1988 candidate Michael Dukakis was laughed at for his “Snoopy hat” while riding in a tank. In 1992 George H.W. Bush was repeatedly scorned for his broken “Read my lips; no new taxes” pledge. In 2000 the slow, boring Al Gore was mocked for being slow and boring. In 2004 John Kerry was portrayed as an elitist who married into money and a coward who obtained his Vietnam medals in a less-than-valorous manner. In 2008 John McCain was vilely shown as an out-of-touch old man who could not even send emails. (In fact, his prisoner of war injuries prevented him from typing; his wife helps him with email.) In 2012 Obama is being presented as an egotistical, arrogant, self-absorbed, Chicago-trained political thug who will say anything and promise anything to get elected. His “Hope and Change” theme from 2008 is repeatedly laughed at. The more Obama is ridiculed, the more likely he will be a loser on election day.

Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) holds a town hall meeting and calls on author and former congressional candidate Miki Booth during the question and answer period. Booth refers to a letter she received from Coburn responding to her inquiry about Obama's ineligibility to serve as president. She notes that his information is inaccurate. Coburn confirms that he relied on information from the Congressional Research Service, Snopes.com, and FactCheck.com to dispute her claim that Obama is ineligible. Booth asks Coburn to contact Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio to obtain information from his investigation into Obama's birth certificate. Coburn responds that he will do so. (WesternJournalism.com later reports that Oklahoma's public television station, OETA, censored the video of the town hall meeting to delete the questions from Booth and other Obama skeptics. When it was aired the evening of the meeting it was missing the references to Obama's ineligibility. It is worth noting that Coburn, despite being a Republican, is a good friend of Obama.) [35746]

The Romney campaign raises \$3.5 million in online donations during the first 24 hours after his announcement of Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) as his running mate. The donations are from 41,000 donors, averaging \$85 each. HotAir.com reports, “The campaign saw an interesting phenomenon after the Ryan announcement. Over 30% of the visits came from mobile devices, something the source tells me the campaign has never seen before in this cycle. It shows that the selection of Ryan may have some significant

upside among younger voters who may relate more to Ryan than to Obama, Joe Biden, and the administration that has cratered job prospects for this demographic over the last three years.” (The total reaches \$7.4 million after 72 hours.) [35403, 35452, 35512]

FoxNews.com reports, “Egypt’s Islamist president [Mohamed Morsi] ordered his defense minister and chief of staff to retire on Sunday and canceled the military-declared constitutional amendments that gave top generals wide powers. It was not immediately clear whether the decision had the military’s blessing. Morsi has been in a power struggle with the military since he came to power on June 30. Shortly before he was announced the winner of elections, the ruling military council that took power after Hosni Mubarak’s ouster stripped the presidency of many of its key powers. Morsi also appointed a senior judge, Mahmoud Mekki, as vice president. All decisions are effective immediately.” (Morsi is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. If he is successful in limiting the powers of the military, Egypt may be on a path to follow radical Islam—which will not be good news for those who believed the “Arab Spring” would bring greater freedoms and democracy to the country. It will be especially worrisome news for the nation’s already persecuted Christians.) Columnist Caroline Glick writes, “So Muslim Brotherhood President of Egypt Mohamed Morsi just sacked the leaders of the military junta General Hussein Tantawi and the Egyptian Army’s Chief of Staff General Sami Enan. Morsi has also cancelled the constitutional protections that the Egyptian military has enjoyed and overturned their edicts circumscribing his control over foreign and military policy. That is, as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has declared, today Morsi completed the Egyptian revolution. Egypt is now an Islamic state. Its leaders drink from the same well as al Qaeda, Hamas and all the rest. Egypt, with its US-armed military, has reemerged after 30 years as the greatest military threat that Israel has ever faced.” (There is no reason to believe that Obama is concerned.) [35404, 36427, 35439, 35513, 35759]

On CNN’s *State of the Union*, host Candy Crowley points out to Obama campaign strategist that Congressman Paul Ryan’s Medicare plan was co-authored by Senator Ron Wyden—a liberal Democrat from Oregon. Axelrod claims that “Medicare would be in a death spiral” if the Ryan-Wyden plan is followed. (Of course, Medicare is *already* in a death spiral, but the Obama administration has offered no solutions to reform or preserve it.) [35429]

On *Face the Nation*, Obama’s deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter says, “You know, I heard Mitt Romney deride the \$700 billion cut in Medicare that [Obama] achieved through health care reform.” (Responding to criticism that he and Paul Ryan would gut Medicare, Mitt Romney has noted that Obama “paid for” Obamacare with tax increases and enormous cuts to Medicare. Cutter inadvertently admits that is what Obama did.) Cutter explains that Obama’s plan to restore the economy consists of raising taxes on families that earn \$250,000 or more (which will hardly put a dent in the federal deficit and may actually result in reduced tax revenues as people act to shelter their income from taxes); cut government waste (which he has not done in his first three-plus years in office); and “reform Medicare”—but Cutter does not provide any details of what that reform would entail. (On *CBS This Morning* the next day, Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod claims it is a “lie” that Obama cut \$700 billion from Medicare. Cutter

brags about the cuts; Axelrod claims there were no such cuts. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the health care legislation shifts \$716 billion from Medicare to ObamaCare.) [35408, 35429, 35520, 35529]

On *Meet the Press*, Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus responds to host David Gregory's criticism of Paul Ryan's proposals to change Medicare: "David, if we do nothing and if we go down the road that [Obama] wants to go down and these Democrats, Medicare will be changed forever as we know it. It'll be bankrupt by 2024. Medicare is going broke. Every person in America watching this now knows that that's true. [Obama] *stole*—he didn't cut Medicare—he *stole* \$700 billion from Medicare to fund ObamaCare. If any person in this entire debate has blood on their hands in regard to Medicare, it's Barack Obama. He's the one that's destroying Medicare. We are the ones that are offering solutions as to how to, number one, preserve Medicare for seniors that are at or near retirement, and, number two, figure out a way the make sure that for future generations—we're talking about if you're 54 or younger—how to save Medicare and Social Security. ...[Obama] ...does a lot of talking, he loves the sound of his own voice, but he not only offers nothing, he makes everything worse." (In December 2011 Politifact called Democrat charges that the Republicans are trying to end Medicare the "Lie of the Year." NBC's Gregory apparently missed that story.) [35411, 35412]

Sarah Palin—who will not speak at the Republican National Convention—states, "Everything I said at the 2008 convention about then-candidate Obama still stands today, and in fact the predictions made about the very unqualified and inexperienced community organizer's plans to 'fundamentally transform' our country are unfortunately coming true. This year is a good opportunity for other voices to speak at the convention and I'm excited to hear them. As I've repeatedly said, I support Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in their efforts to replace ...Obama at the ballot box, and I intend to focus on grassroots efforts to rally Independents and the GOP base to elect Senate and House members so a wise Congress is ready to work with our new President to get our country back on the right path. This is imperative. As President Clinton said in 2008 while candidate Obama and lapdogs in the media were thrashing his wife's record and reputation, this is '...the biggest fairy tale.' For the sake of America's solvency and sovereignty we must close this nonsensical book in November..." [35409]

Obama attends a \$51-per-person (minimum entry price) fundraiser in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood. (According to *New York Times* reporter Jodi Kantor, the room is half-empty, even though the Obama campaign claims a sell-out.) Obama attends several other fundraisers over the weekend, including a \$40,000-per-person event in the yard of his Chicago home, a downtown hotel reception, a reception at the home of Obama advisor Valerie "slum lord" Jarrett's mother, Barbara Bowman, and a fundraiser at the home of close friend Martin Nesbitt. (Nesbitt, Bowman, and Nation of Islam's vile, anti-Semitic leader Louis Farrakhan all live very close to Obama—as do friends and former fugitives from the FBI William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn. Nesbitt was Obama's 2008 campaign treasurer, and chairman of the Chicago Housing Authority. His wife is Michelle Obama's obstetrician. Nesbitt was involved in a shady Chicago real estate deal in which the highest bidder, Thomas Bennett, lost to a company that offered

\$1.3 million less—but had made a \$28,500 contribution to the Obama Victory Fund.) Meanwhile, Michelle Obama attends a fundraiser at the Beverly Hills home of entertainer Gwen Stefani. She tells the guests, “Barack can’t do it alone. He’s not Spiderman. He’s not a superhero. He’s a human, so we need your help. I am not just talking to the adults here today. I am talking to the young people here as well. All of our young people—you might not be old enough to vote. You vote at school, I know—I met several young people who are going to be voting for my husband, who are 10 and under—we accept those votes. But you can play an important role in this election, too. I want you all to feel empowered.” [353, 664, 1185, 5101, 5144, 5146, 8322, 9130, 9131, 11655, 35410, 35414, 35425, 35457, 35511]

At one (or perhaps more) of the Chicago fundraisers, Obama says, “Too many folks still don’t have a sense that tomorrow will be better than today. And so, the question in this election is which way do we go? Do we go forward towards a new vision of an America in which prosperity is shared? Or do we go backward to the same policies that got us in the mess in the first place? I believe we have to go forward. I believe we have to keep working to create an America where no matter who you are, no matter what you look like, no matter where you come from, no matter what your last name is, no matter who you love, you can make it here if you try. That’s what’s at stake in November. That’s what is why I am running for a second term...” (It is worth noting that Obama does not talk about an America where prosperity is *earned*, but where it is *shared*. His statement reveals his Marxist ideology and demonstrates his class warfare campaign strategy. In Obama’s worldview, if one person has more wealth than someone else he must *share* it; he cannot show others how to create their own wealth. Obama sees himself as the nation’s economic dictator, whose job is to divide a fixed economic pie in a way he believes to be fair. It does not occur to him that the pie can be made bigger through productivity, creativity, and efficiency.) [35458]

TheHill.com reports, “House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Darrell Issa plans to sue Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday for refusing to provide documents related to the ‘[Operation] Fast and Furious’ gun-smuggling operation. ‘The committee expects to file the civil contempt suit against the attorney general Monday,’ a Republican source said. The suit will be filed in the federal district court for the District of Columbia.” (If the court follows the law, Holder will lose and be forced to turn over the requested documents.) [35416]

To overflow crowds, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan campaign at the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, North Carolina. The *Hickory Daily Record* reports that they were “greeted by thousands.” A Romney campaign official tells DailyCaller.com that about 4,700 people were present: 1,700 people inside the event and 3,000 outside. Romney and Ryan then head to High Point, North Carolina, for an appearance at a furniture manufacturing company. One attendee comments, “I have never been to a rally, but the picture in my head did not include a line [of cars] to get off the [highway] exit, a half mile walk to the line [of people] and then a multiple block line. Consider me heartened.” DailyCaller.com reports, “The campaign estimates that 1,200 people were inside the venue while another 10,000 were outside.”) [35419, 35420, 35435]

A crowd estimated at between 10,000 and 13,000 greets Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan in Waukesha, Wisconsin. After Ryan speaks, Romney tells the enthusiastic crowd, “There’s no question that if you follow the campaign of Barack Obama, he’s going to do everything in his power to make this the lowest, meanest negative campaign in history. We’re not going to let that happen. This is going to be a campaign about ideas, about the future of America... this is a campaign about greatness, about America’s future for your children, for the world. Mr. [Obama], take your campaign out of the gutter; let’s talk about the real issues that America faces.” [35417, 35418, 35421, 35431, 35432]

At the Waukesha rally, MSNBC’s sour Andrea Mitchell declares that Ryan “is not a pick for suburban moms; this is not a pick for women.” Mitchell offers no evidence for her statement, and there are no doubt many “suburban moms” and “women” among the 10,000-plus people behind her. (Erika Johnsen later writes at HotAir.com, “In the name of all that is holy—stop presuming to speak for me. Please, please, please, liberal women, quit boxing me in to your stupid self-stereotypes. It never fails to mystify me as to why women could possibly be so eager to reduce the scope of their interests to such small-minded identifications. ...According to progressives these days, it appears that the depth of my political sentience amounts to assuring free contraception and guaranteeing my right to get an abortion (because, duh, ‘we don’t want the government in our bedrooms’ and whatever).” The Media Research Center’s Rich Noyes comments that Mitchell has “wholeheartedly jumped into this war-on-women meme that the Obama people have put out.”) [35430, 35450, 35471, 35479, 35483, 35629]

Israel National News reports that U.N. General-Secretary Ban Ki-moon has invited Obama to join him, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when they arrive in New York for the U.N. General Assembly meeting in September. (It is assumed that Obama will not join them—although he may tell them he will be “more flexible” after the November 6 election.) [35490, 36320]

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are interviewed by CBS veteran—and 75-year-old—Bob Schieffer, who asks, “A lot of people think corporations and rich people are getting all these breaks and they’re getting stuck with paying the bills. They see some of the wealthiest paying the lowest tax rates. How are you going to fix that?” Romney says, “Well, fairness dictates that the highest income people should pay the greatest share of taxes, and they do. And the commitment that I’ve made is we will not have the top income earners in this country pay a smaller share of the tax burden. The highest income people will continue to pay the largest share of the tax burden and middle-income taxpayers, under my plan, get a break. Their taxes come down. So, we’re not going to reduce taxes for high-income people, and we are going to reduce taxes for middle-income people.” Leftist Schieffer presses, “You say that of course the wealthiest people pay the largest share, but don’t they also pay at a lower rate when you figure in capital gains and all of that?” (The premise of Schieffer’s question is invalid. Although it is true that deductions and exemptions allow most taxpayers to end up with an effective tax rate that is lower than the actual tax rate, Americans in *all* tax brackets take advantage of those deductions and exemptions. According to the Tax Foundation, the average effective tax

rate for Americans who earn \$1 million or more is 25 percent; the rate is 24 percent for those in the \$500,000–\$1 million range; 19 percent for \$200,000–\$499,999; 12 percent for \$100,000–\$199,999; 8 percent for \$75,000–\$99,999; 7 percent for \$50,000–\$74,999. For all tax returns, the average effective tax rate is 11 percent. Schieffer is simply incorrect when he claims that the wealthy pay taxes at a lower rate than the non-wealthy.) [35440, 35461]

The Schieffer interview of Romney and Ryan is aired on *60 Minutes*. Before air time, CBS *removes* a portion of the interview in which Romney and Ryan defend a need to reform Medicare. Viewers do not get to hear Romney say, “There’s only one president that I know of in history that robbed Medicare [of] \$716 billion to pay for a new risky program of his own that we call ObamaCare. What Paul Ryan and I have talked about is saving Medicare, is providing people greater choice in Medicare, making sure it’s there for current seniors. No changes, by the way, for current seniors, or those nearing retirement. But looking for young people down the road and saying, ‘We’re going to give you a bigger choice.’ In America, the nature of this country has been giving people more freedom, more choices. That’s how we make Medicare work down the road.” Nor do they get to hear Ryan say, “My mom is a Medicare senior in Florida. Our point is we need to preserve their benefits, because government made promises to them that they’ve organized their retirements around. In order to make sure we can do that, you must reform it for those of us who are younger. And we think these reforms are good reforms. That have bipartisan origins. They started from the Clinton commission in the late ’90s.” (CBS apparently believes those comments are not important—or at least not as important as the answer to Schieffer’s questions to Ryan, “Are you going to be the attack dog?” and “Do you think [Romney has been] too defensive about Bain Capital... and his role as governor of Massachusetts.”) [35460, 35461, 35470, 35475]

On August 13 Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod appears on *CBS This Morning* and says that although Paul Ryan is, like Sarah Palin, popular with Tea Party supporters he is “not going to be a plus for Mr. Romney.” (Axelrod is trying to portray Ryan as both unqualified and radical.) Axelrod calls Ryan “a certifiable right-wing ideologue,” but adds he is “a genial fellow” whose “views are quite harsh,” and that “these Republicans don’t like Medicare.” Host Bob Schieffer quotes Congressman David Obey, a Wisconsin Democrat: “I just can’t imagine why a guy that nice [Ryan] could have the views that he has.” (Axelrod, Schieffer, and Obey here reveal the Democrat attack strategy. They know that, like Mitt Romney, Ryan has a “squeaky clean” image. Accordingly, Obey calls him “nice” while implying his policies are mean-spirited. Axelrod calls Ryan “genial” while also attacking him, and labels him a “right-wing ideologue” who hates Medicare—criticisms that will likely continue to election day. The theme is, “Ryan is a nice guy but he will let your grandmother die in the gutter.” It is absolutely clear that “the memo went out” to Democrat politicians and the media: “*Excoriate Ryan—but first say something nice about him.*”) [35462, 35482]

Newark, New Jersey Mayor Cory Booker, a Democrat, tells *The Wall Street Journal* he regrets making the “hostage video” in which he attempts to backtrack earlier comments he made defending Bain Capital from political attack ads he called “nauseating.”

According to the *Journal*, “Mr. Booker received a call from an Obama campaign staffer whom he wouldn’t name asking him to clarify his remarks and underscore the campaign’s message on Bain, Mr. Booker said. ‘It was in no way telling me to do things,’ Mr. Booker said. ‘It was more like, ‘Help us understand what you were trying to say.’” Mr. Booker released a nearly four-minute video on May 21 saying Mr. Romney’s business record deserved scrutiny. It only helped fan the flames. ‘I made the dumb decision to do the hostage video,’ said Mr. Booker, using the nickname he calls it because he looks like he is doing it against his will. ‘The whole thing became more myth than fact.’” [35666, 35667]

At NationalReview.com Jim Geraghty writes, “In the national media narrative... every Republican figure is reduced to one of three things: Old, stupid, or evil. George H.W. Bush: Old. Dan Quayle: Stupid. Newt Gingrich: Evil. Pat Buchanan: Evil. Bob Dole: Old. George W. Bush: Stupid. Dick Cheney: Old and evil. John McCain: Old. Sarah Palin: Stupid. ...Because Paul Ryan isn’t old, we will see an effort to paint him as either stupid or evil. You and I know that painting Paul Ryan as stupid is like trying to paint Bill Clinton as chaste. But we have also witnessed the rapid definition of an unknown Republican figure four years ago, and we know that right now, every Democratic official, commentator, talking head, and more than a few reporters awaken this morning with a new mission in life: *define Paul Ryan* [as evil]. ...The portrait coming from the Left may take hold, or it may not. But one thing that is clear is that it is *predictable*. It is predictable because it is not based upon some revealing truth or the genuine character or ideas of Ryan; it is based upon the needs of the Democratic Party at this moment.” (As David Axelrod’s appearance on *CBS This Morning* suggests, the Democrats have already distilled the definition of Paul Ryan as: “Genial, but nevertheless evil.”) [35514]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee files a 41-page civil lawsuit in federal court to enforce the contempt of Congress vote against Attorney General Eric Holder and force him to release documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. The lawsuit states, “The principal legal issue presented here is whether the Attorney General may withhold that limited subset on the basis of ‘Executive privilege’ where there has been no suggestion that the documents at issue implicate or otherwise involve any advice to the President, and where the Department’s actions do not involve core constitutional functions of the President. No Court has ever held that ‘Executive privilege’ extends anywhere near as far as the Attorney General here contends that it does. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the Attorney General’s conception of the reach of ‘Executive privilege,’ were it to be accepted, would cripple congressional oversight of Executive branch agencies, to the very great detriment of the Nation and our constitutional structure. Accordingly, the Committee asks this Court to reject the Attorney General’s assertion of ‘Executive privilege’ and order him forthwith to comply with the Committee’s subpoena.” [35441, 35474, 35516, 35656]

In Boone, Iowa Obama says, “My opponent and I disagree when it comes to homegrown energy like wind. Wind power is creating new jobs all across Iowa. But Governor Romney says he wants to end the tax credit for wind energy producers. America generates more than twice as much electricity from wind than when I took office. That’s

right. The wind industry supports about 7,000 jobs right here in Iowa. Without these wind energy tax credits, those jobs are at risk, 37,000 jobs across the country would be at risk.” (Obama is essentially admitting that no reasonable person would invest in wind energy and that those jobs exist only because they are subsidized by the taxpayers. Romney does not oppose wind power or solar power; he opposes taxpayer-funded federal grants and loans to support businesses. If a wind-power company is a good risk, it will attract private investors. If it is not, it should not be allowed to place tax dollars at risk. The simple truth is that most wind farms cannot make a profit without government subsidies—and even with them they often charge several times more per kilowatt-hour than consumers would normally pay for power from coal-fire or nuclear plants. The Heritage Foundation’s Nicolas Loris argues that tax credits for wind energy tax make as much sense as a VHS production tax credit. He quips, “We can’t afford to lose our VHS tape manufacturing plants. They provide valuable jobs. Americans need a variety of ways to watch recorded entertainment.” He writes, “Wasting taxpayer dollars on different but similar programs—claiming that these subsidies really are necessary to create jobs or prevent layoffs—simply creates a ‘subsidies for me but not for thee’ mentality in Washington. ...Renewable energy production tax credits have received support from Democrats, Republicans, and industry groups, but that doesn’t make it good policy. ...A business that cannot survive without taxpayers paying 50 percent of the costs does not help the economy. Instead, it eats up more value than it produces.”) [35574, 35575, 35634, 35640]

HotAir.com posts a video clip of Erskine Bowles praising Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI). Bowles, a Democrat, was chief of staff for Bill Clinton and co-chaired the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform—aka “the Simpson-Bowles Commission—with former Senator Alan Simpson. Obama ignored the commission’s recommendations. In one clip Bowles states, “Have any of you met Paul Ryan? We should get him to come to the university. I’m telling you this guy is amazing. I always thought that I was OK with arithmetic, but this guy can run circles around me. And, he is honest, he is straightforward, he is sincere. And, the budget that he came forward with is just like Paul Ryan. It is a sensible, straightforward, serious budget and it cut the budget deficit by \$4 trillion... just like we did [in Simpson-Bowles], by \$4 trillion. [Obama] came out with his own plan and [Obama] came out, as you will remember, with a budget and I don’t think anyone took that budget very seriously. The Senate voted against it 97 to nothing. He, therefore, after a lot of pressure from folks like me, [Obama] came out with a new budget framework and, in the new budget framework, he cut the budget deficit by \$4 trillion over 12 years. And, to be candid, this \$4 trillion cut was very heavily back-end loaded. So, if you looked at it on a 10 year basis and compared apples-to-apples, it was about a \$2.5 trillion cut.” (Bowles does not endorse the Ryan budget in full, but “it’s clear that Bowles has a great deal more respect for Ryan’s efforts than he does for Barack Obama’s.”) [35448, 35519, 35744]

Bowles later tells DailyCaller.com he stands by his statements about Paul Ryan: “I like him. I think he’s smart. I think he’s intellectually curious. I think he is honest, straightforward and sincere. And I think he does have a serious budget out there—it doesn’t mean I agree with it by any stretch of the imagination. But I’m not going to act like I don’t like him or that I don’t have some real respect for him. You know, there’s a

reason he didn't vote for our budget, and there's a reason that, I know, that I have some disagreements with his budget. But it doesn't mean we couldn't find a way to, you know, have principled compromise that would, you know, that would address this horrendous problem that we face with these deficits." [35554]

The Romney campaign releases another ad demonstrating Obama's opposition to a work-for-welfare requirement. The ad includes a June 9, 1998 video clip of Obama stating, "I was not a huge supporter of the federal plan that was signed [by Bill Clinton] in 1996." According to CNN, "the new spot began running Monday morning in television markets in Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, West Palm Beach and Fort Myers, Florida; Manchester, New Hampshire; Raleigh, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and Washington, D.C. (which covers much of northern Virginia)." [35442, 35443]

Politico reports that "PBS's Jim Lehrer will host the first presidential debate on Oct. 3 in Denver, Colo. CNN's Candy Crowley will host the second, town-hall debate on October 16 in Hempstead, N.Y. CBS's Bob Schieffer will host the third debate on Oct. 22 in Boca Raton, Fla. ABC's Martha Raddatz will host the vice presidential debate on Oct. 11 in Danville, Ky." (HotAir.com comments, "Crowley's the first woman moderator of a presidential debate in 20 years, an odd lapse given the prominence of Barbara Walters, Diane Sawyer, and Katie Couric. (Walters moderated the first Reagan/Mondale debate in '84, in fact.) If you're wondering why no Brit Hume or Megyn Kelly instead, bear in mind that the debate commission needs both campaigns to agree to the moderators. The One's simply not going to accept a Foxie [Fox News anchor]—not even Bret Baier—unless Romney agrees to an overtly liberal moderator at another debate, and there's simply no one in the MSNBC afternoon/evening line-up who'd be as remotely as evenhanded as Hume, Kelly, or Baier would be. Even if there was, what incentive does either candidate have to roll the dice on a risky pick? Come October, every syllable out of their mouths will be tightly scripted for maximum impact. The last thing they want is an X factor asking questions." Nevertheless, all four of the moderators lean to the political left, with Schieffer possibly being the most "in the tank" for Obama. The political leanings of Raddatz should be obvious: she once worked at National Public Radio and was married to Federal Communications Commission chairman Julius Genachowski, an Obama appointee. According to DailyCaller.com, "Genachowski and classmate Barack Obama worked together on the Harvard Law Review, Genachowski as notes editor and Obama as the publication's president. They graduated in the same class." ABC declines to comment. Additionally, DailyCaller.com notes that Obama's closest advisor, Valerie Jarrett, served on the board of the Joyce Foundation with Michael Brewer, whose wife, Janet Brown, is executive director of the Commission on Presidential Debates. Columnist Michelle Malkin writes, "Can we stop calling the hosts of the presidential debates 'moderators?' They're left-erators.") [35444, 35445, 35506, 35515, 35882, 35927, 35930, 37865]

Commission on Presidential Debates co-chair Mike McCurry makes the absurd claim, "We selected the moderators based on their reputations for integrity and journalistic impartiality among other things." Members of the commission, also according to

DailyCaller.com, are: “Antonia Hernandez, a former president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and a member of the progressive American Constitutional Society, and Howard Buffett, the son of billionaire Obama-booster Warren Buffett. The group also includes Richard Parsons, a former chief of Citigroup and a long-standing friend of Obama, and John Jenkins, the president of Notre Dame who invited Obama to speak at the university in 2009 despite a firestorm of criticism from orthodox Catholics. The commission’s members also include Dorothy Ridings, president of the progressive-leaning Council on Foundations, and Newton Minow, the progressive-leaning former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. The two most prominent Republican members of the board are both social liberals—former Sens. John C. Danforth and Alan K. Simpson. The executive director is Janet H. Brown, a former White House official. The two co-chairs are Michael D. McCurry, the former spokesman for President Bill Clinton, and Frank J. Fahrenkopf, the current president of the casino trade group, the American Gaming Association. Fahrenkopf was chairman of the Republican National Committee a quarter of a century ago, from 1983 to 1989.” [35930]

It is worth noting that the rules of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) state: “2012 NONPARTISAN SELECTION CRITERIA. The CPD’s nonpartisan criteria for selecting candidates to participate in the 2012 general election presidential debates are: 1. EVIDENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY. The CPD’s first criterion requires satisfaction of the eligibility requirements of Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution. The requirements are satisfied if the candidate: a. is at least 35 years of age; b. is a Natural Born Citizen of the United States and a resident of the United States for fourteen years; and c. is otherwise eligible under the Constitution.” The same guidelines were in place in 2008. The CPD did not then and has not in 2012 established that both the Democrat and Republican candidates are natural born citizens eligible to serve a President of the United States. [36015, 36016]

HotAir.com notes a new Politico/GWU poll (taken just before Romney picked Paul Ryan as his running mate) that shows Obama in the lead, 48–47, and asks “how exactly can this race be [essentially] tied when Romney leads [independents in the same poll] by 10 points? Obama won in 2008’s Democratic wave election (D+7) by seven points, and Obama won independents by eight points, 52–44, according to the 2008 exit poll. Obama also won women by 13 points, 56–43. How can he still be [in] a virtual tie with Romney if he’s only gained two points among women but lost 18 points in the gap among independents? The answer is exactly where you’d think it was—in the sample. The Politico/GWU poll has a D/R/I of 36/29/34 for another D+7 election model. If one thinks that the 2012 election will be similar to the 2008 model, that makes sense—but no one outside of DNC headquarters and MSNBC think that will be the case. Even more odd, a follow-up question asks whether respondents vote strictly or mainly along party lines, or more evenly split it. That presents a functional D/R/I of 39/36/20 [see update], which makes me wonder exactly where GWU surveyed for its poll. If Romney goes into the election with a ten-point advantage among independents, this election won’t be close.” (The addition of Paul Ryan to the Romney ticket may very well lead to an even greater Romney lead over Obama among independents.) [35447, 35464]

Vice President Joe Biden campaigns in Durham, North Carolina, where he draws a crowd of 660 supporters—somewhat less than the 10,000+ that turned out for Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan the day before (in the smaller city of High Point). [35465]

While Biden has trouble attracting crowds in North Carolina, Romney supporters are turned away at a campaign event in St. Augustine, Florida—a state which some political pundits argue Romney cannot win with Ryan as his running mate. (Because Florida has a huge population of senior citizens, many believe that Obama can use “Mediscare” tactics to win their votes.) [35467]

Rush Limbaugh comments on the Romney-Ryan ticket: “This pick told me that Romney is not just serious about winning, but governing. That’s what it told me. ...[W]e’re gonna face this head on. I was praying—you know, you’ve been listening—I was praying that at some point this campaign becomes one of ideology, one of ideas, one of principles, not just policy analysis, not just Electoral College analysis, but principles and ideas. I think they work. I think they have the ability, properly articulated, to be persuasive. And we have perhaps the best Republican to do that in Paul Ryan. I think the pick signals that the decision was made somewhere that we’re going to go head first up against. We’re not gonna skirt it with a traditional campaign. We’re gonna take it straight to them and we’re gonna win or we’re gonna lose articulating exactly who we are and exactly what we believe and exactly what our vision for America is. Ryan can do that, and I don’t know how much you paid attention over the weekend, but the presence of Paul Ryan on a stage with Romney has elevated Romney. It has energized Romney.” (*The Obama Timeline* agrees with Limbaugh that conservatives should run as conservatives and not as “liberal-lite” candidates. If the principles of limited government and low taxes are adequately presented, the conservative candidate should win. If the culture of the nation descends to the point where the parasites indeed outnumber the producers, conservatives should at least go down fighting for the principles in which they believe.) [35466, 35468]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the Wall Street insider (not to be confused with the White House insider). The insider states, “As to Mr. Romney’s choice of the incredibly bright and energetic Paul Ryan I gladly admit to being very, very pleased. Congressman Ryan has time and again proven himself truly capable of both content and messaging, a talent few of his contemporaries share, including the Man Calling Himself Obama. It was a sound choice which once again speaks to the measured, thoughtful character that has been the hallmark of Mr. Romney’s successful life. I am told the two men genuinely appreciate and respect one another, something which apparently does not exist between [Obama] and [Joe Biden]. I have spent some time pouring over the media reports and made note of the Democratic Party operatives attempting to play the ‘Mediscare’ card against both Governor Romney and Congressman Ryan. To that I am quite certain the pro-Romney PACs are well prepared. In fact, I will proceed to inform you they are indeed quite prepared for this attempt by the Obama campaign to spin what is an outright lie and indefensible insult to the intelligence of the American voter.” [35473]

The Wall Street insider continues, “It is the Man Calling Himself Obama who has of course stolen from Medicare in order to fund his disastrous ObamaCare. That fact, which

remains shockingly unknown to far too many, will be placed front and center of the national discussion within the coming days and weeks. That is to say, if certain parties wish to continue to enjoy the significant financial support of those of us who have made the defeat of this pathetic boy emperor with no clothes the most pressing concern of our near-term existence. What the Obama White House did was the most shockingly large scale theft of taxpayer dollars in the history of the nation. Over \$700 billion dollars taken from the Medicare fund for ObamaCare. It is Barack Obama who intends to destroy Medicare. This same Obama White House is certain the ignorance of the public, most notably the older generations, will ensure this fact remains largely ignored. I have far more faith in the American voter at this critical time in what is by far the most important election in a generation... The truth will become more widely known, and it is that truth that will be the undoing and eventual defeat of this Obama madness.” [35473]

“Ah, but not only has the Man Calling Himself Obama stolen \$700 billion from the Medicare fund, a fund paid for by taxpayers on the promise they would receive benefits when old enough to qualify, we must not forget how this Obama also took from both Social Security and Medicare when he initiated his temporary payroll tax reductions. So in whole, the Obama administration has taken roughly one trillion dollars from Medicare and Social Security. A trillion dollars! I can think of no other time in American history when an American president has stolen so much from so many and received so little justified rebuke for having done so. I have reviewed much of the Ryan economic plan. While imperfect, it is largely based upon sound principle and a clearly honest attempt at saving the United States from its current and ongoing state of fiscal disaster. And, unlike Obama, the Ryan Plan intends to save the promise of Medicare and Social Security for those currently and about to receive those benefits, while providing much needed alternative choices for those younger Americans who are now facing the very real possibility of having paid into a system that will not longer exist for them when they reach the age of qualified benefits—and that is a situation that has been created purposely by the Man Calling Himself Obama. These young people need to understand they are being forced to pay into a system that the Obama administration is clearly destroying.” [35473]

“This false president has already stolen trillions from the American people. He has and continues, to engage in the kind of fiscal policy warfare that cannot be anything less than the planned and purposeful destruction of our free market economy and the enslavement of millions under the yoke of Big Government tyranny. Our mutual friend [the White House insider] is quite correct when [he] indicate[s] Barack Obama is neither Democrat nor Republican, but something far different, far more destructive, and most certainly, far more dangerous. So to this administration, and those who unwisely support its destructive endeavors, I now relate both a simple and clear message from one who ignored that danger for far too long: You will not win this war.” [35473]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is interviewed by The Daily Caller (DailyCaller.com). He says, “I think what Republicans don’t get yet is the Obama team is not running the 2004 campaign, they’re not trying to turn Romney into John Kerry. They’re running the [Jennifer] Granholm campaign against Dick DeVos [for governor of

Michigan]. They've decided this is a class warfare election, that they are going to divide the country as viciously and as deeply as they need to and that they are going to crowd Romney into being the defender of the rich while they defend everybody else. This is the major challenge that the Romney campaign is going to have to overcome. This is a message which is very dangerous because it is something that resonates with a lot, particularly in the Midwest, resonates with a lot of people and Romney's going to have to break through and I think find a trump which knocks it aside and convinces people that it's baloney. ...I think part of it is to go straight at Obama. I think this is only going to come down to somewhere between rage and extraordinary humor. And the reason I say that is, *The Wall Street Journal* has an editorial this morning saying that the real challenge is to find anything the Obama campaign is saying that's truthful. ...This [the Obama campaign] is the most methodically, systematic dishonest team we've ever seen in American politics at the presidential level. I did a recent electronic book called, *No Taxation by Misrepresentation*. I just took the single case of ObamaCare taxes and walk you through how methodically they have lied—and it's really breathtaking. It's a level of brazen deliberate dishonesty we've not seen. So, partly I think partly Romney's got to convince people that most of these things are lies and then second, he's got to convince people that a Romney Republican future is a better future for them, not for him, not for ideology but that you as a working American will have a better job, higher take home pay, lower gasoline costs, more national security under Romney than you will under Obama. If the election is about you, the individual voter, Romney will win. If the election is about a polarization between Romney and Obama, Obama could pull this off." [35501]

A JZ Analytics poll conducted since Mitt Romney selected Paul Ryan as his running mate shows Romney and Obama in a 46–46 percent tie. (The company's previous poll had Obama up by 5 points.) John Zogby states, "Clearly there is a Ryan bump." Among voters in swing states, Romney leads Obama 49–41 percent. [35476]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that the huge crowds drawn by Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have the Obama team worried, to the point of sending an email to supporters that reads: "I just got this disturbing report: Yesterday's Romney-Ryan rally in North Carolina pulled in an overflow crowd of 15,000 people. There's no spinning that number. It's a LOT of people, and the Republican base is energized. And that's not all. Since the VP announcement, Romney's campaign has brought in over 70,000 donations from his Tea Party base. We've got to step up our game and mobilize our supporters—starting right now. Donate \$3 or right now to help us rally our base around ...Obama's agenda. Listen to what one Republican supporter said about Paul Ryan: 'I love him. ...He's going to excite the Tea Party and get them on board....' We can't let the Republicans claim the momentum. Donate \$3 or whatever you can..." [35477]

At the Iowa State Fair Paul Ryan notes that Obama is also campaigning in the state and says, "As you see [Obama] come through on his bus tour, you might ask him the same question that I'm getting asked from people all around America, and that is, 'Where are the jobs...?'" At a beer booth at the fair, Obama offers, "I'll tell you what, except for [the person with] the Romney sign, I'll buy beers for ten people." (The owner of the "Bud Tent" later claims Obama's visit cost him \$25,000 in lost sales because he had to shut

down while the Secret Service screened customers. Mike Cunningham says, “I was [put] in a position to make a campaign donation against my will.” Cunningham also tells the Des Moines Register, “I wouldn’t have voted for him before. I won’t again.” [35478, 35502, 35689, 35690, 35719]

In Council Bluffs, Iowa Obama slams Ryan for not supporting a multi-billion dollar farm bill, and says that Ryan is “one of the leaders of Congress standing in the way.” (In fact, the Republican-controlled House has approved a \$383 million emergency relief bill for farmers. It is the Democrat-controlled Senate that has yet to act; it wants to spend hundreds of billions of dollars in a multi-year farm bill laden with pork of the non-edible kind. Ryan and other Republicans want to trim the farm bill by including tougher food stamp requirements—because it currently provides benefits to many people who are *not* poor.) Obama tells reporters, “Today the Department of Agriculture announced that it will buy up to \$100 million worth of pork products, \$50 million worth of chicken, and \$20 million worth of lamb and farm-raised catfish. Prices are low, farmers and ranchers need help, so it makes sense. It makes sense for farmers who get to sell more of their product, and it makes sense for taxpayers who will save money because we’re getting food we would have bought anyway at a better price.” WashingtonExaminer.com writes, “None of this makes sense. In fact, Obama’s move only harms American consumers while protecting a corrupt federal program. A drought is currently driving down corn production. The shortage of feed is forcing livestock producers to slaughter animals early, putting downward pressure on meat prices in the short run and guaranteeing shortages and higher prices next year. But nature is not the biggest factor in this crisis—the government is. Specifically, the federal government’s ethanol mandate, which requires that 13.2 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol be produced in 2012.” (If Obama were to do nothing, consumer prices for food products would go down, or increase less rapidly, because of the drought—because the short-term supply would exceed the demand. In the long run, food prices will go up because of the shortage caused by the drought. Instead, Obama is making sure that consumers prices rise in *both* the short-term and in the long run. He assumes—probably correctly—that he can use tax dollars to buy votes from Iowa food producers while most voters won’t understand that his actions are hurting them.) [35478, 35502, 35559, 35722]

“Thanks to the ethanol mandate, more than 40 percent of the nation’s corn crop now goes into the production of a useless fuel that hardly anyone would buy if the government didn’t require it. That’s up from just 17 percent in 2005, before the mandate went into effect. Only 36 percent of the corn crop now goes for feed, and 24 percent goes for food. Obama could solve this problem instantly by suspending the federal ethanol mandate—something his EPA actually can do unilaterally and legally. Instead, Obama will buy up meat—a move that meat producers say won’t help them much anyway.” Industry analyst Steve Meyer notes that Obama’s purchase “...doesn’t solve the problem of having enough affordable corn next summer. Without changing the ethanol program, nothing can be done.” [35559]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Lundberg Survey finds the national average for a gallon of gas at \$3.69, an increase of 36 cents since July 1.” The drought has also driven up corn

prices. That, in turn, has driven up the price of ethanol fuels—which have risen by 33 percent since May. [35480, 35559]

Hoping to assist Obama’s reelection bid, the mainstream media eagerly attacks Paul Ryan’s budget proposal—falsely claiming it will cut Medicare spending. (His proposal does not *cut* spending; it calls for a slower rate of *increase*.) The Media Research Center provides some examples: “NBC’s Peter Alexander repeated this fallacy on Monday’s *Today* when he described Paul Ryan as ‘the architect of a politically polarizing budget plan to slash trillions in federal funding, including cuts to Medicare...’” On CBS, Bob Schieffer says, “In choosing young Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, Romney has picked a budget expert whose plan to put the nation on a sound financial footing includes deep cuts in social programs and a reform of Medicare.” ABC’s Bianna Golodryga “relayed the common media canard on Ryan: ‘He’s pushing for sharp cuts in federal spending, including programs like Medicare.’” ABC’s George Stephanopoulos states, “What the Democrats are going to target... is this idea that the deep cuts in entitlement programs, like Medicare and Medicaid, that Romney and Ryan are calling for, along with the deep cuts in the rest of government spending, is going actually [sic] to cripple the American economy.” (To his credit, ABC’s Jake Tapper later correctly points out that “Ryan has proposed slowing the growth of Medicare.” That is, even under Ryan’s budget proposals Medicare—and total government spending—would increase, but at a slower pace than in Obama’s budget proposals.) It is worth noting that Ryan’s budget proposal pegs government spending at about 20 percent of GDP—essentially the post-World War II average of 19.8 percent. Ryan’s proposed spending levels only appear low in comparison to Obama’s monumentally unsustainable level of 25 percent. Ryan’s own projections state the budget will not be balanced for 27 years—hardly an indication of draconian spending “cuts.” [35481, 35482, 35507, 35727]

According to an ABC News/Washington Post poll, Paul Ryan’s favorable/unfavorable rating among senior citizens is 46/28, with 26 percent undecided. (The numbers suggest that Obama and his fellow Democrats may have been unwise to assume that the majority of elderly Americans would automatically oppose Ryan because simply he proposes changes to Medicare. Increasing numbers of Americans may be realizing that the nation’s fiscal problems are at a point where they can no longer be ignored. If that is the case, it is likely bad news for Obama.) [35531]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says, “Well, I think the Ryan pick is high-ceiling and high-trough. If they, the Democrats, succeed in defining him—and you saw what was most impressive in the polls you showed about Ryan, is almost half of Americans have no opinion. So this is a tabula rasa that the two sides are going to try to paint very quickly. And if the Democrats succeed in painting him as a guy who, you know, who’ll throw your grandma in the snow and then he’ll toss her over a cliff, they’re going to lose, particularly, states like Iowa or Florida, which are heavily seniors. And that loses the election [for Romney-Ryan]. I think these charges can be easily refuted, if—assuming that—they are able to counter the charges on Medicare, Ryan is a huge plus. Number one, he makes it a more ideological election. In a center-right country, as we saw in 2010, you make this election about Obama’s hyper-liberalism, the Democrats are

shellacked. Secondly, he changes the subject to ideas and plans, which makes Obama have to discuss his record—which is a bad one—and the plans he has for a second term, which are none. Essentially, ‘I’ll raise four points in taxes on 2 percent of the population.’ And that’s supposed to be a cure for our structural problems? It’s a joke. And lastly, the idea that he is an extremist and they are going to scare people with him—the guy looks like a Boy Scout, like a choirboy. It’s simply not going to work. And I think he brings youth and energy, which is something Obama had in 2008 that he has entirely spent in these four years.” [35503]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich appears on CNN and responds to Piers Morgan’s charge that the Republicans are not “really concerned about jobs, about people’s livelihoods, and all the rest of it if they’re also scratching the backs of their rich and wealthy members, which is clearly, I think, the flaw in the Ryan plan...” Gingrich responds, “I don’t want to sound disrespectful but I do wonder sometimes if you guys [in the media] all get off in a little club and learn a brand new mantra and then all repeat it mindlessly. The fact is, these kind of things were said about Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan’s tax cut... raised more people to middle-class status, took more people out of poverty, created more jobs. ...This is the core thing that liberals don’t get. If you want to have jobs you have to encourage job creators. If you discourage job creators, if you engage in class warfare, if you do what Barack Obama’s been doing you have what we currently have. This is the worst recovery in 75 years. Now, nobody in the media seems to want to come to grips with the fact that the Obama economic policy is a disaster for the poor. Look at the unemployment rate for black teenagers. Look at the unemployment rate for Latino teenagers. At what point do we hold the president accountable for a policy which is crippling the poor in America by crushing the economy under big government?” [35495, 35508]

Gingrich continues, “Ryan and Romney represent a different approach. And I think there’s this mantra you guys almost sound like you’re an extension of the Obama campaign. The Ryan/Romney plan empowers middle class Americans to get a job. When they get a job, their income goes up. They pay more taxes. They are independent. They’re able to live their own lives. Obama worries about student loans. None of those students are going to get any jobs under Obama. Ryan and Romney are worried about getting jobs for those students so they can pay off the Obama loans. I think this is a fundamentally different model, and I know everybody in the media wants to rush down and narrow it down to one point. So I’m going to rush down and narrow it down to one point: how long are we going to tolerate a president who makes the poorest Americans more unemployed, who pushes more poor Americans on to food stamps, and who eliminates hope for minorities? And that’s the Barack Obama record after four years.” [35495, 35508]

Also on CNN, Soledad O’Brien fills in for Anderson Cooper and interviews Barbara Comstock, a Republican member of the Virginia House of Delegates and a Romney campaign advisor. WND.com points out that during the program “O’Brien was seen reading from a printout by the left-leaning Talking Points Memo. Specifically, the piece used for her notes was titled ‘The Myth Of Paul Ryan The Bipartisan Leader,’ posted Monday at 6:08 p.m. just a few hours before O’Brien’s interview.” (Rush Limbaugh later

comments, “CNN, if you want to know why nobody’s watching, here it is. You want the names? Candy Crowley. Soledad O’Brien. What makes you think that people want to watch them? You want to make the claim that you guys are objectively in the middle? Soledad O’Brien is doing McCarthyism—Charlie McCarthyism. She is a puppet. Somebody’s mouthing for her. She doesn’t know what to ask unless she goes to a liberal blog for guidance, has to print it out and use it on the air, and she’s one of their ‘stars.’”) [35499, 35523, 35530]

Michelle Obama appears on NBC’s *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, where she claims that ObamaCare is a victory for young people and criticizes Olympic athlete Gabby Douglas for eating at McDonalds. (For the record, Douglas is considerably thinner, lighter, and healthier than Michelle Obama.) [35517, 35521]

On August 14 Vice President Joe Biden tells an audience in Danville, *Virginia*, “Stand with us. We need us to go out there and make sure, ladies and gentlemen, that with you—and I mean this—with you, we can win North Carolina again. And if we do, we win the election, if we win you.” Worse than getting the state wrong, Biden also says of Mitt Romney—in a fake Southern/black accent—“He said in the first hundred days, he’s going to let the big banks write their own rules... unchain Wall Street. They’re gonna put y’all back in chains.” (The city of Danville is roughly half-black. Whether the audience appreciated Biden talking down to them with a phony accent and suggesting that Republicans would reinstate slavery is not known.) The Romney campaign quickly responds, “After weeks of slanderous and baseless accusations leveled against Governor Romney, the Obama Campaign has reached a new low. The comments made by the Vice President of the United States are not acceptable in our political discourse and demonstrate yet again that the Obama Campaign will say and do anything to win this election. ...Obama should tell the American people whether he agrees with Joe Biden’s comments.” Obama’s deputy campaign managers reacts: “I think he [Obama] probably agrees with Joe Biden’s sentiments. He’s using a metaphor to talk about what’s going to happen. I appreciate the faux outrage from the Romney campaign. If you want to talk about the use of words then take a look at Mitt Romney’s stump speech where he basically calls [Obama] un-American. The bottom line is that we have no problem with those comments.” (The Obama campaign has no problem with slavery metaphors, but resents Romney pointing out that Obama’s attacks on businesses show he does not understand what make America prosperous.) [35493, 35494, 35504, 35527, 35539, 35543, 35550, 35551, 35594]

Biden also tells the audience he learned from his father years ago that “you can judge a man’s priorities by his budget.” (Biden may have forgotten that the Democrat-controlled Senate has not produced a budget for more than three years.)

Artur Davis, a Democrat-turned-Republican former Congressman who is black, later comments on Biden’s remark: “Every African American in the room knew full well whom ‘y’all’ referred to, and what chains meant—it’s one of the clearest codes in racial politics in the black community and has been for a while. At worst, the word ‘chains’ signifies a retreat to a society where a person’s skin color amounted to a prison. At the

least, the word bluntly and outrageously equates ordinary conservatism with racial viciousness. Biden brought this rawness to a place the Obama campaign and its allies have spent much time cultivating this year. It is visible in David Axelrod's breathless assertions about a decidedly innocent, non-political moment: a small black child touching Obama's head in an Oval Office photo-op. It is visible in Eric Holder's deployment of the Justice Department to a series of battles over state voter-ID laws, and in the *New York Times*' editorial-page crusade against all manner of alleged race-baiting by Republicans. (Including one writer's remarkable, if side-splitting, assertion that Mitt Romney's blandness is a calculated ploy to invoke memories of a Fifties-era, pre-multicultural America. Who knew?) It is an unmistakable, unapologetic argument that to defeat Obama is to suspend progress on race. Of course, there are different kinds of progress. There is the inconvenient fact that Obama has governed while black unemployment and the level of child hunger in the black community have risen to the highest rates in the modern era, and while educational achievement among African Americans continues to bottom out at appalling levels. This record is one that the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus said last summer would lead blacks to march outside the White House if it had a different occupant. The Obama message, implicitly, is that the conditions on the ground, including in the black community, are small, grudging details when weighed against the epic fact that a black man occupies the Oval Office." [35655]

On MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, Willie Geist declares, "If Paul Ryan, the Republican candidate, said that [what Joe Biden said about chains] to an African-American audience, there would be calls this morning for him to get out of the race, for Mitt Romney to withdraw from the race. There's a double standard." (Some argue that Biden's remark was not a gaffe and was intended to stir controversy and "enthuse" the black voters so they will not stay home on election day. The Obama campaign refuses to apologize for Biden's "chains" remark—because it probably wants black voters to believe that a Republican president would put them back in them.) [35594, 35803]

A vice-presidential visit to the "Crumb and Get It" bakery in Radford, Virginia is thwarted when owner Chris McMurray tells Joe Biden's advance team, "No thanks." WDBJ7.com reports that a Biden campaign worker told McMurray the stop would be good publicity and good for his business. Asked to explain why he declined the offer, McMurray said it was Obama's "You didn't build that" remark. Reporter Orlando Celinas states, "[W]e're told that shortly after Crumb and Get It told Biden's advance people 'no,' the Secret Service walked in and ...bought a whole bunch of cookies and cupcakes." (Some might argue that the bakery owner's decision not to host a Biden photo will actually boost his business.) [35606, 35607, 35641]

In Marshalltown, Iowa, Obama again complains that the Romney campaign is raising more money than his campaign, and he again makes the false claim, "We have been outspent before." (In 2008 Obama outspent Hillary Clinton in the primaries. In the fall campaign he outspent John McCain by a three-to-one ratio. In his 2004 U.S. Senate race in Illinois he readily outspent his Republican opponent, Alan Keyes. prior to 2004, Obama was an Illinois State Senator. As a Democrat running in a South Side

neighborhood that was predominately liberal, he sometimes had no Republican opponent.) [35587]

Obama visits a wind farm in Iowa and criticizes Mitt Romney for not supporting tax credits for the industry. RealClearPolitics.com reports that "...shortly after Obama's caravan departed, Jeff Heil, the owner of the farm, and his son Jarret, let it be known that although [Obama] was 'gracious, personable, and very respectful'—and that Jeff and Obama actually said a quick prayer together at the farm Tuesday, neither man will be voting for him in November. 'It is important to not get caught up in [Obama's] glamorous re-election words and remember [that]...Obama's first term record and rhetoric does not represent Middle America, entrepreneurs, small business owners and farmers,' Jarret Heil said in a statement to the media. ...And at the final stop of Obama's tour in Davenport on Wednesday, the national press corps was surprised to find Ross Murty, the co-owner of the Village Corner Deli, which catered the event, wearing a black T-shirt with big, bold white letters that read, 'Government didn't build my business. I did'—a dig at Obama's now-infamous remark in Virginia last month about small businesses." [35719]

On CNN, Obama-sycophant Soledad O'Brien battles former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu over the issue of massive reductions in Medicare spending to help cover the costs of ObamaCare. Carefully schooled with White House and Democrat National Committee talking points, O'Brien insists there are no such cuts. Sununu says, "Put an Obama bumper sticker on your head when you do this." [35495, 35499]

The Republican National Committee releases an ad using Obama's own words: "We tried our plan and it worked," followed by statistics showing that his plan clearly did not work (23 million unemployed or underemployed, unemployment over 8 percent for 40 months, and a 45 percent increase in the number of people receiving food stamps). The ad concludes, "If ...Obama's plan worked, how come so many Americans aren't working?" [35496]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Documents and a whistle-blower affidavit obtained by The Daily Caller charge that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Illinois Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., and Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., participated in an unethical—and possibly illegal—effort to force 76 employees of an Illinois state agency to engage in political activity on the taxpayers' dime. According to the whistle-blower, Rev. Jackson also encouraged the government employees to load first-generation and low-income college students up with student loan debt—because Democrats in Congress, he allegedly promised, would eventually pass laws to forgive that debt later. '[T]hose people will continue to vote Democratic,' Jackson Sr. said, according to the whistle-blower." [35500, 35583]

Sky News reports, "Two Egyptian journalists are to stand trial accused of 'inciting' against President Mohamed Morsi, in a sign of a growing crackdown against free speech. Tawfiq Okasha, the host of a talk show on a privately owned TV station, is to face a charge of 'incitement to murder' over his vocal opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood leader. The editor-in-chief of the Al Dustour newspaper, Islam Afifi, will also face trial

for ‘publishing false information’ which was considered insulting to the President. The Muslim Brotherhood has been accused by Egypt’s Journalists’ Syndicate of using the same repressive tactics as Hosni Mubarak’s regime to stifle the media and silence dissent.” (This would be the same Muslim Brotherhood that Obama and the mainstream media said would never come to power in Egypt. Author and former prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy observes that “the ‘Arab Spring’ is not about democracy but Islamization, and ...we already know how ‘spring’ will end in the Middle East because it has already happened in Turkey—it’s just that things will deteriorate much faster in places like Egypt. ...More important than this predictably tyrannical use of police powers by the state [in arresting two journalists] is the social climate it creates. The population, teeming with Islamic supremacists, realizes it is safe to take matters into its own hands. The mob is now attacking non-Islamist journalists just like it riots against Coptic Christians. Egypt will go quickly. This is not a ‘democratic’ transformation; the dictator [Hosni Mubarak] has been replaced by the totalitarians [the Muslim Brotherhood].” In the *Jerusalem Post*, Israel’s former ambassador to Egypt, Zvi Mazel, writes that Morsi, “now holds dictatorial powers surpassing by far those of erstwhile president Hosni Mubarak.” Columnist Caroline Glick later adds, “In other words, Morsi’s actions have transformed Egypt from a military dictatorship into an Islamist dictatorship.” Obama is silent on the transformation.) [35649, 35650, 35759]

While Obama states he wants to do for all other industries what he did for the auto industry, the Heritage Foundation reports, “Taxpayers will lose even more on the auto bailout than previously thought, as the Treasury [Department] has just revised its estimate upward to \$25 billion. This may still underestimate the losses to come—yet ...Obama plans to tout the auto bailout as a key accomplishment of his Administration. ...As the losses continue to grow, will [Obama] acknowledge that the only people truly ‘rescued’ were unions? [Obama] could have kept the automakers running without losing money—if he had restricted his Administration’s involvement to only providing bankruptcy financing. Instead, the Obama Administration involved itself heavily in the bankruptcy process, picking winners and losers instead of following normal bankruptcy law. Heritage labor expert James Sherk and co-author Todd Zywicki found that all of the taxpayer losses occurred because the Administration manipulated bankruptcy law to shelter the United Auto Workers’ (UAW) compensation. None of the losses were necessary to preserve jobs, and taxpayers spent billions to prop up the compensation of some of the most highly paid workers in America. They write: ‘We estimate that the Administration redistributed \$26.5 billion more to the UAW than it would have received had it been treated as it usually would in bankruptcy proceedings... Thus, the entire loss to the taxpayers from the auto bailout comes from the funds diverted to the UAW.’ ...More than \$26 billion went out the door and into the UAW’s pockets. That’s bigger than the budget of the entire State Department. It’s bigger than all U.S. foreign aid spending. It’s 50 percent more than NASA’s budget—and the UAW isn’t going to be exploring Mars any time soon.” [35044, 35045, 35318, 35358, 35365, 35449, 35505]

It is announced that New Jersey Governor Chris Christie will deliver the keynote address at the Republican National Convention. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) will deliver the address introducing Mitt Romney to the convention. [35509, 35510, 35524]

WeeklyStandard.com posts a 2009 interview with ABC's Jake Tapper in which Obama readily admits that he is taking billions of dollars out of Medicare to fund ObamaCare. Tapper: "One of the concerns about health care and how you pay for it—one third of the funding comes from cuts to Medicare." Obama: "Right." Tapper: "A lot of times, as you know, what happens in Congress is somebody will do something bold and then Congress, close to election season, will undo it." Obama: "Right." Tapper: "You saw that with the 'doc fix.'" Obama: "Right." Tapper: "Are you willing to pledge that whatever cuts in Medicare are being made to fund health insurance, one third of it, that you will veto anything that tries to undo that?" Obama: "Yes. I actually have said that it is important for us to make sure this thing is deficit neutral, without tricks. I said I wouldn't sign a bill that didn't meet that criteria." (Even though Obama admitted that one-third of the ObamaCare funding would come from cuts to Medicare, now that Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan are pointing out that fact, the Obama defenders—including David Axelrod and Debbie Wasserman Schultz and the leftists in the mainstream media—are denying that to be the case.) [35528, 35589]

A new Romney campaign ad is released in which the narrator states, "You paid into Medicare for years. Every paycheck. Now when you need it, Obama has cut \$716 billion from Medicare. Why? To pay for Obamacare. So now the money you paid for your guaranteed health care is going to a massive new government program that's not for you. The Romney-Ryan plan protects Medicare benefits for today's seniors, and strengthens the plan for the next generation." [35529]

On CNBC former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani comments on Joe Biden's statement—to a largely black audience—that if Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan win the election, "They're gonna put y'all back in chains." Giuliani says, "Well, I think if it came from somebody serious maybe we'd get all excited about it. But the... I think the vice president of the United States has become a laugh line on late night television. I mean, he—I've never seen a vice president that has made as many mistakes, said as many stupid things. I mean, there's a real fear if, God forbid, he ever had to be entrusted with the presidency, whether he really has the mental capacity to handle it. I mean, this guy just isn't bright. He's never been bright. He isn't bright. And people think, 'Well, he just talks a little too much.' Actually he's just not very smart." Asked by host Larry Kudlow about the Obama campaign's fierce attack strategy, Giuliani replies, "It's his only chance of winning... It's his only strategy. He can't run the way Ronald Reagan ran. He can't run the way Bill Clinton ran. He can't go to the American people and say, 'Are you better off now than you were four years ago? Here are the things I promised. Here are the things I delivered.' What he's delivered is our worst economy maybe since the Great Depression—our most anemic recovery ever and policies that make most people in business too frightened to expand, to invest. So if it ever went to the American people and said, 'I made these promises. I did a good job. Are you better off than you were four years ago?' He would lose by 60–40. So, the only way he can win is by making Romney, and now Ryan—try to make them monsters. Well, they're not monsters. They happen to be two very decent guys, two very bright guys, two very successful guys. So, I mean, I don't think it's going to work, but he's going to try it." (HotAir.com notes that Giuliani's

remarks are partial payback for Biden having once said, “There’s [sic] only three things [Giuliani] mentions in a sentence: a noun, a verb, and 9/11.”) [35549, 35555, 35567, 35568]

Mitt Romney tells an Ohio audience, “In 2008, candidate Obama said, ‘if you don’t have any fresh ideas, then you use stale tactics to scare voters.’ He said, ‘if you don’t have a record to run on, then you paint your opponent as someone people should run from.’ And that, he told us, is how, ‘You make a big election about small things.’ That was candidate Obama describing the strategy that is the now the heart of his campaign. His campaign and his surrogates have made wild and reckless accusations that disgrace the office of the Presidency. Another outrageous charge came a few hours ago in Virginia. And the White House sinks a little bit lower. This is what an angry and desperate Presidency looks like. ...Obama knows better, promised better and America deserves better. Over the last four years, [Obama] has pushed Republicans and Democrats as far apart as they can go. And now he and his allies are pushing us all even further apart by dividing us into groups. He demonizes some. He panders to others. His campaign strategy is to smash America apart and then cobble together 51 percent of the pieces. If [he] wins that way, we all lose. ...This is an election in which we should be talking about the path ahead, but you don’t hear any answers coming from ...Obama’s re-election campaign. That’s because he’s intellectually exhausted, out of ideas, and out of energy. And so his campaign has resorted to diversions and distractions, to demagoguing and defaming others. This is an old game in politics; what’s different this year is that [Obama] is taking things to a new low.” Romney says that Obama should “take [his] campaign of division and anger and hate back to Chicago.” [35567]

Romney also hits Obama on Medicare: “There’s another promise [Obama] made. You know that every time you get a paycheck you see there’s a deduction there. It’s going to Medicare. It’s going into a trust account to make sure that when you retire, that there’s a health program there that will care for you. One of the things [Obama] did which I find extraordinary, something he never mentioned when he was running for office. You see, when he ran for office, he said he’d protect Medicare. But did you know that he’s taken \$716 billion out of the Medicare trust fund. He’s raided that trust fund. And you know what he did with it? He’s used it to pay for ObamaCare, a risky, unproven federal government takeover of health care. And if I’m President of the United States, we’re putting the \$716 billion back.” (If elected, Romney and Paul Ryan will certainly have to cut Medicare spending in order to save it—because the system is going bankrupt. But Obama cut Medicare to spend the money elsewhere. Romney and Ryan want to reform the system so that it costs less yet still protects senior citizens. Whether they can rescue the system, is uncertain. But it is certain that Obama actions will destroy it.) [35578]

Romney also challenges Obama on his “You didn’t build that” statement. Romney says, “If a kid makes the honor roll... I know that that kid could only make the honor roll by getting on the bus and going to school, but if they make the honor roll, I say congratulations to the kid. I don’t give the bus driver the credit. Then there’s the other day in Virginia—he [Obama] said, ‘You know, if you have a business, you didn’t build that. Someone else did that.’ My goodness! Oh, and then he says he was taken out of

context, you know. So take a look at the context. It's worse than the quote, alright, because he says, 'Look, if you think you're successful because you worked hard, a lot of people worked hard. If you think you're successful because you're smart, a lot of people are smart.' I couldn't figure out where he was going with this. We celebrate people who work hard and try and do their best in school and get promotions. And so if you have a business, you built it. If you got a promotion, you earned it. If you made the honor roll, you achieved it. In this country, we are driven by free people pursuing their dreams. We celebrate success. We do not attack success. I will never apologize for success here or success of America abroad." [35588]

Politico reports, "Some Democratic lawmakers want to make sure that one question does not get asked at the upcoming first presidential debate—about Simpson-Bowles [debt commission recommendations]. Three Democratic House members objected Tuesday to a request by four senators that ...Obama and Mitt Romney be asked which of the commission's proposals to address the debt they support." (Obama himself established the bi-partisan commission, but ignored all of its debt reduction recommendations.) HotAir.com comments, "Democrats don't want ...Obama to have to answer for his total rejection of the commission he called into existence in the first place. Obama announced his grand plan to find consensus on the deficits after taking a beating on the massive deficits his budgets ran up, a few months before the midterm elections. He wanted to gain traction against the rising Tea Party by taking away one of the key fiscal arguments. When that plan failed, Obama completely ignored the recommendations from Simpson-Bowles even though the panel was a *presidential advisory commission*." Democrats are also worried that the debate moderator may mention that commission co-chair Erskine Bowles, a prominent Democrat and former Clinton chief of staff, has made complimentary public statements about Paul Ryan. [35561, 35562]

The Obama campaign releases an ad noting "DJs for Obama," a group of disc jockeys who support Obama. The DJ in the ad says, "I tell young people and old people and everyone in between to use their talent to help in any way possible. If you're a painter, paint a campaign poster. If you're a sewer, sew a campaign t-shirt. Use what you have to contribute. Four years is great, but eight is what we need." (What Romney will do to try to capture the "sewer" vote is unclear. Whether the Romney campaign will produce a "You didn't mix that" rebuttal ad is also unclear.) [35579]

Paul Ryan addresses a capacity crowd of about 3,000 at a high school gymnasium in Lakewood, Colorado. (HotAir.com quips, "Notably unhorrorified women, young people, and senior citizens cheer Ryan in Colorado.") State senate candidate Lang Sias tells the audience, "Mark your calendars for October 11. No, it's not a [Denver] Broncos game, but you will see a lot of defenses shredded because that day's the [Ryan-Biden] debate." During a pause in Ryan's address, one person yells out, "Look! No teleprompter!" Ryan notes that Obama inherited a bad situation, and says, "But here's the problem..." That prompts someone to shout, "He made it worse!" According to HotAir.com, Ryan's two greatest applause lines are when he says a Romney administration would approve the Keystone pipeline, and when he states, "We've got to stop spending money we don't have!" Ryan points out that Obama "promised to cut the deficit in half in four years." The

audience laughs, and he responds, “I rest my case.” Congressional candidate Joe Coors calls the reception Ryan received “Unbelievable. What I take from this, as a candidate and an American, is they’re ready for someone getting back to the basics of what makes this country great..” (At PJMedia.com Robert Zubrin, who attended the event, writes, “To say the crowd received Ryan with enthusiasm would be an understatement. In fact, his reception became literally thunderous, as many started stamping or pounding on the gym benches, and they repeated this several times when Ryan made strong points. In his talk, Ryan was all substance, avoiding cheap campaign shots yet repeatedly bringing the audience to their feet by making clear, powerful points about energy independence, the need to deregulate, fiscal soundness, the difference between a culture of self-reliance and one of dependence, and the doctrines of Natural Law and the Declaration of Independence. That’s right, he spoke about Natural Law and the origin of rights to a campaign crowd, and they got it. In fact, along with his discussion of energy independence, it was one of the two high points of the event. I can’t remember when I’ve seen a candidate address a mass audience at such a high level and pull it off. But he did. Previously, the support of many Colorado Republicans for Romney had been primarily based on the fact that he wasn’t Obama. With his speech today, Ryan did a lot to change that.”) [35580, 35590]

A Rasmussen poll of likely voters in Ohio shows Paul Ryan with a favorable/unfavorable rating of 51/39 percent. “Forty percent (40%) say they’re now more likely to vote for Mitt Romney [with Ryan as his running mate] and 32% are less likely to do so. Among unaffiliated voters, 42% are now more likely to vote for Romney, and 18% are less likely.” [35581, 35582]

According to a SurveyUSA poll conducted for WFLA-TV, “17% of registered voters in the state of Florida say they will change who they will vote for in the election for President as a result of Mitt Romney’s selection of Paul Ryan as Vice President... Of those who will change their vote, 57% say they are more likely to vote for Romney, 42% say they are less likely to vote for Romney.” HotAir.com analyzes the details of the poll: “Surprisingly, Ryan polled best among seniors—and almost as good with voters under 35. On the key question of whether Ryan made voters more or less likely to vote for Mitt Romney, Ryan was a +15 overall at 57/42 among those whose minds were changed at all. Among seniors, it’s a +28 (64/36), but among those under 35, it’s +28 at 62/36, and this demographic had the highest percentage of mind-changing by far at 30% (14% of seniors changed their mind with the Ryan pick). That’s a direct challenge to Obama’s base of voter enthusiasm. ...Romney’s gamble on Ryan is already paying off, both in polling and in the direction of the debate.” (Traditionally, Democrats have always had the advantage over Republicans on the issues of Medicare and Social Security. The choice was always between making no changes (Democrats) or making changes that might fail (Republicans). Democrats were, as a result, considered the safe bet by those who thought, “Why tinker with success?” But in 2012, the voters may have figured out that “making no changes” may very well mean “the collapse of the entire system into a sea of red ink.” Senior citizens may now recognize that changes are, in fact, necessary, while many younger voters are willing to support changes—because they don’t expect to get any benefits anyway.) [35712]

Reuters reports, “A group of former U.S. intelligence and Special Forces operatives is set to launch a media campaign, including TV ads, that scolds ...Obama for taking credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden and argues that high-level leaks are endangering American lives. Leaders of the group, the Special Operations OPSEC [Operational Security] Education Fund Inc, say it is nonpartisan and unconnected to any political party or presidential campaign. It is registered as a so-called social welfare group, which means its primary purpose is to further the common good and its political activities should be secondary. ...The OPSEC group says it is not political and aims to save American lives. Its first public salvo is a 22-minute film [*Dishonorable Disclosures*] that includes criticism of Obama and his administration.” Eric Boehlert, of the far-left Media Matters, says the Navy SEALs “don’t have guts to admit they’re running a GOP, anti-Obama campaign.” Former Navy SEAL Scott Taylor tells DailyCaller.com, “We’re clearly not gutless. We’re in the public right now, completely out there. Everything’s out there. It’s interesting how the left is trying to frame this as a partisan issue. I don’t care what party people are from within our group. This issue is about national security leaks. ...I wonder how many of this guy’s [Boehlert’s] close friends he’s buried.” An anonymous (that is, gutless) Obama campaign spokesman says, “No one in this group is in a position to speak with any authority on these issues and on what impact these leaks might have.” (Apparently leaks of sensitive military information are acceptable to the Obama campaign as long as their impact is not dramatic or noticed by the general public.) Sonny Bunch, Washington Free Beacon managing editor, comments, “Dear God: All I ask before I die is that you let me witness Eric Boehlert call a Navy SEAL a coward to his face.” [35585, 35591, 35596, 35604, 35609, 35636, 35637, 35638, 35659, 35696, 35731, 35754, 35784, 35829]

Retired CIA operative Fred Rustmann later tells Newsmax.tv that Boehlert is “...either a very brave guy or very stupid guy to call a Navy SEAL gutless. It’s beyond me. ...This is very risky business and when people leak our sources and methods—well, there’s one fellow, a Pakistani doctor, who is now in jail for 33 years [because he provided intelligence to the United States and his identity was leaked]. Everybody from the Pakistani intelligence service through the Taliban and down to al-Qaeda are looking for individuals who were in that area at the time who might have been working for the CIA and were involved in the operation to locate and kill Osama bin Laden. These people are going to die if they’re found.” On Fox News, Democrat strategist Bob “blowhard” Beckel says the SEALs participating in *Dishonorable Disclosures* should “take their benefits and go home.” (That is, they should risk their lives for their country and the U.S. Constitution but not be entitled to their own First Amendment freedoms.) [35585, 35591, 35596, 35604, 35609, 35636, 35637, 35638, 35659, 35696, 35731, 35754, 35755]

On MSNBC’s *Hardball*, Chris Matthews—who some refer to as “the Cliff Clavin of MSNBC—says of Romney’s running mate choice, Paul Ryan, “This guy could be worse than [Dan] Quayle, more trouble than Tom Eagleton.” (Someone should remind Matthews that the Bush-Quayle ticket soundly defeated the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket in 1988, with 426 electoral votes to 111, and 40 states to 10. In 1972 Democrat presidential candidate George McGovern replaced running mate Thomas Eagleton with Sargent

Shriver. McGovern won one state; Richard Nixon won 49. It was not Eagleton or Shriver that cost McGovern the election; it was McGovern himself.) [35571, 35572, 35573]

On August 15, the first day the government accepts applications for Obama's arguably illegal and unconstitutional "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA) amnesty program, illegal immigrants come out in droves to fill out the forms. (In Chicago, 11,000 people fill out forms in an auditorium at Navy Pier.) Newsmax.com notes, "The order grants two-year deportation deferrals, work permits, and other benefits such as a driver's license and Social Security number to illegals brought to the United States as children" and who have not yet reached age 31. Because they are in the United States illegally, there is no way to confirm whether an adult applicant actually did enter the United States as a child. The Obama administration will apparently take the word of the applicant as "proof," as there are essentially no measures in place to prevent fraud. (The Obama administration claims they would be "too expensive," "time consuming," and would "unduly impact" the process.) The amnesty will put more people into the workforce—at a time when 23 million Americans are already unemployed or underemployed. The rules allegedly do not lead to citizenship, but with a drivers license many immigrants will be able to vote illegally in the November election if the state in which they live has loose voter registration standards. The Obama administration claims that 800,000 illegal immigrants will benefit from the policy change; others estimate between 1.4 and 1.7 million. (Obama makes no public statement about the significance of the day for illegal immigrants—which suggests he believes it would hurt his campaign if he brought attention to the implementation of his amnesty policy.) [35540, 35541, 35545, 35593, 35603, 35648, 35761]

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer is not accepting Obama's illegal immigrant amnesty order without a fight. ABC15.com reports that Brewer has "ordered state agencies to deny driver's licenses and other public benefits to young illegal immigrants who obtain work authorizations under a new Obama administration policy. After the order was issued, supporters of the program and the DREAM Act took to the streets of Phoenix in protest. Video from Air15 showed the protesters carrying signs and walking down Central Avenue toward the State Capitol. In an executive order, Brewer said she was reaffirming the intent of current Arizona law denying taxpayer-funded public benefits and state identification to illegal immigrants." Brewer's executive order states, "1. The issuance of Deferred Action or Deferred Action USCIS employment authorization documents to unlawfully present aliens does not confer upon them any lawful or authorized status and does not entitle them to any additional public benefit. 2. State agencies that provide public benefits, as in 8 United States Code 1621 shall conduct a full statutory, rule-making and policy analysis and, to the extent not prohibited by state or federal law, initiate operational, policy, rule and statutory changes necessary to prevent Deferred Action recipients from obtaining eligibility, beyond those available to any person regardless of lawful status for any taxpayer-funded public benefits and state identification, including a driver's license, so that the intent of Arizona voters and lawmakers who enacted laws expressly restricting access to taxpayer funded benefits and state identification are enforced. 3. All state agencies that confer taxpayer-funded public benefits and state issued identification shall undergo emergency rule making to address

this issue if necessary.” Meanwhile, Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reports that “Judicial Watch is suing the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security for records relating to the legal basis of Obama’s new program.” [35617, 35618]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Administration officials confirmed on Tuesday that they have expanded the White House immigration policy for younger illegals to include low-skill immigrants who have not completed middle school or high school. The shift adds roughly 350,000 low-skill immigrants to the Department of Homeland Security policy, which was initially portrayed as including only 800,000 people under the age of 31 when it was announced by ...Obama in a Rose Garden statement on June 15.” Obama then stated, “Imagine you’ve done everything right your entire life—studied hard, worked hard, maybe even graduated at the top of your class—only to suddenly face the threat of deportation.” (Obama’s amnesty policy now includes illegal immigrants as old as age 30 who are high-school drop-outs. The change was made illegally, without the consent or approval of Congress. Obama has no authority to change immigration law on his own.) It is worth noting that many illegal immigrants who are ordered deported are set free if, after six months, their home countries have not agreed to take them back. [35553, 35560]

In a *CBS This Morning* interview, Mitt Romney says that Obama’s campaign “is all about division and attack and hatred; my campaign is about getting America back to work and creating greater unity in this country which of course has always been the source of America’s vitality and strength.” Gail King asks, “Specifically, how is his campaign about hatred? What do you mean exactly about that?” Romney responds, “I think if you look at the ads that have been described and the divisiveness based upon income, age, ethnicity and so forth, it’s designed to bring a sense of enmity and jealous and anger. ...[Obama] seems to be running just to hang on to power. I think he’ll do anything in his power to try and get re-elected. I want to get his country going again; that’s what brought me into the race, and hopefully we can have a debate about issues and about our differences on issues and contrast in that area, but these personal attacks, I think, are demeaning to the office of the White House, and the comments yesterday by the vice president I think just diminish the White House that much more.” King, who is black—and a close friend of Oprah Winfrey—plays the race card herself, asking, “But isn’t the metaphor of unshackling, isn’t that something that Republicans have used, including Paul Ryan?” (King is incorrect. To argue that the economy can grow and create jobs if businesses are “unshackled” from senseless regulations is certainly *not* the same thing as claiming, as Joe Biden did, that one’s opponent is “gonna put y’all back in chains,” and unleashing productivity is *not* putting black voters in chains. Ryan had stated, “We believe a renewed commitment to limited government will unshackle our economy.” King, a strong Obama supporter, is clearly race-baiting.) Romney responds, “I can’t speak for anybody else but I can say that the comments of the vice president, as I heard them, I thought were one more example of a divisive effort to keep from talking about the real issues.” The co-hosts press Romney more on Biden’s remark, but Romney refuses to take their bait and give them a controversial sound bite to use. [35566, 35569, 35570]

The New York Times reports, “A criminal investigation into the collapse of the brokerage firm MF Global and the disappearance of about \$1 billion [\$1.6 billion] in customer

money is now heading into its final stage without charges expected against any top executives. After 10 months of stitching together evidence on the firm's demise, criminal investigators are concluding that chaos and porous risk controls at the firm, rather than fraud, allowed the money to disappear, according to people involved in the case." Jon Corzine, former U.S. Senator from New Jersey and the state's former governor, will apparently escape prosecution—despite the fact that the firm illegally co-mingled investor funds to help cover massive losses from a \$6.3 billion bet on Eurozone debt. "...[F]ederal prosecutors do not expect to file criminal charges against the former New Jersey governor. Mr. Corzine has not yet received assurances that he is free from scrutiny, but two rounds of interviews with former employees and a review of thousands of documents have left prosecutors without a case against him, say the people involved in the investigation who spoke on the condition of anonymity." Corzine has reportedly never even been interviewed by federal authorities—despite a 10-month investigation of MF Global's collapse. (Apparently it has not occurred to the Obama administration that the recently-fired CEO of the company might have some knowledge of its operations.) Breitbart.com reports that prior to its collapse, MF Global was represented by the law firm Covington & Burling—Attorney General Eric Holder's former employer. The company's bankruptcy counsel is Morrison & Foerester—where Associate Attorney General Tony West was employed before joining the Obama administration. Although Corzine, a major campaign cash bundler for Obama, may escape criminal charges, he may be spending a lot of time in court defending himself against civil charges from customers who collectively lost billions of dollars as a result of MF Global's activities: stealing money from customer segregated funds. (From Obama's perspective, Mitt Romney is responsible for what happened at Bain after he left, but Jon Corzine is not responsible for what happened at MF Global while he was still there.) [35678, 35679, 35683, 35715, 35734, 35735, 35778, 35836, 35871]

The collapse of MF Global should arguably have been prevented—or at least thoroughly investigated—by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), an agency of the United States government that is supposed to regulate futures and option markets. Gary S. Gensler is the head of the CFTC; he was appointed to his position by Obama. Gensler was a managing partner at Goldman Sachs, under its former CEO, Jon Corzine, and donated \$10,000 to the New Jersey Democrat Party in 2005 when Corzine ran for governor. Obama once called Corzine "one of the best partners I have at the White House." (Only the incredibly naive would believe that Gensler, Obama, or Eric Holder would act against Corzine—despite the fact that he illegally used \$1.6 billion in MF Global customer funds to cover his highly-leveraged European debt deals.) On CNBC, James Koutoulas, an attorney representing MF Global customers, states "MF Global was routinely using customer funds to fund intra-day operations as far back as August [2011], months before the bankruptcy. That's a violation of the Commodities Exchange Act. Then, once their credit rating was downgraded, they just outright took those funds and wired them to JP Morgan to meet house margin calls; that's also a violation of the Commodities and Exchange Act. It's a felony, and it bears a penalty of 10 years in prison per offense. ...Senior management said, 'Do we go out of business or do we cheat?' And they cheated; they broke the law; and they took these customer funds to meet margin calls." Koutoulas calls Obama's Department of Justice, under Attorney General Eric

Holder, “the biggest enabler of financial crime in U.S. history.” Although Obama and Holder have decided not to charge Corzine with a crime, Koutoulas points out that he can work with the attorneys general of the 50 states to pursue criminal charges. At Townhall.com Jeff Carter writes, “How much you want to bet that Corzine gets a pardon if Obama loses to Romney in November?” [26008, 26009, 26019, 26068, 26077, 26153, 26294, 35776, 35777, 35778, 35836, 35871, 36004]

At Forbes.com Louis Woodhill warns, “General Motors is headed for bankruptcy—again. ... The company is once again losing market share, and it seems unable to develop products that are truly competitive in the U.S. market. Right now, the federal government owns 500,000,000 shares of GM, or about 26% of the company. It would need to get about \$53.00/share for these to break even on the bailout, but the stock closed at only \$20.21/share on Tuesday. This left the government holding \$10.1 billion worth of stock, and sitting on an unrealized loss of \$16.4 billion. Right now, the government’s GM stock is worth about 39% less than it was on November 17, 2010, when the company went public at \$33.00/share. However, during the intervening time, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has risen by almost 20%, so GM shares have lost 49% of their value relative to the Dow. ... GM is unlikely to hit the wall before the election, but, given current trends, the company could easily do so again before the end of a second Obama term. In the 1960s, GM averaged a 48.3% share of the U.S. car and truck market. For the first 7 months of 2012, their market share was 18.0%, down from 20.0% for the same period in 2011. [GM’s market share was 50.7 percent in 1965.] With a loss of market share comes a loss of relative cost-competitiveness. There is only so much market share that GM can lose before it would no longer have the resources to attempt to recover.” [35713, 35714]

Meanwhile, Obama continues to brag that he saved the U.S. auto industry and charge that Mitt Romney would have allowed it to collapse: “When the American auto industry was on the brink of collapse, more than one million jobs at stake, Governor Romney said, ‘let’s let Detroit go bankrupt.’ I said, I believe in American workers, I believe in this American industry, and now the American auto industry has come roaring back. And GM’s number one...” But, arguably, Obama did not save General Motors and Chrysler; he saved the United Auto Workers union. General Motors is, as Forbes suggests, in terrible shape and Chrysler is now majority-owned by Fiat—which got a bargain basement deal from Obama at the expense of U.S. taxpayers. Further, Romney never advocated allowing the auto companies to collapse. He advocated a normal, structured, and *legal* bankruptcy process—a process that would have forced the companies to adapt to market conditions, cut costs, and produce better automobiles. Instead, General Motors is producing an over-priced Chevy Volt that few buyers want and that is subsidized by the taxpayers, and an all-new 2013 Malibu that came in dead last in *Car and Driver’s* March 2012 comparison issue. The company’s U.S. sales are terrible, it is losing a fortune on its European operations, and it remains in business mostly because of profits in China. Were it not for the many vehicles bought by the federal government, General Motors would be in even worse shape. [35713, 35714, 35923]

A gunman opens fire at the Family Research Council (FRC) headquarters in Washington, D.C. Security guard Leo Johnson is shot in the arm but he and others stop the man before

he can do more harm. According to Fox News, the gunman “expressed disagreement with the conservative group’s policy positions,” and “after the guard took away his gun, the suspect said, ‘Don’t shoot me, it was not about you, it was what this place stands for.’” (The FRC promotes “faith, family and freedom in public policy and public opinion.” Leftist web sites refer to the FRC as a “hate group.”) Mitt Romney issues a statement, “I am appalled by the shooting today at the offices of the Family Research Council in our nation’s capital. There is no place for such violence in our society. My prayers go out to the wounded security guard and his family, as well as all the people at the Family Research Council whose sense of security has been shattered by today’s horrific events.” The White House has no initial comment, but press secretary Jay Carney eventually states, “This type of violence has no place in our society.” He does not state which type of violence *does* have a place in our society. (It is later reported that the gunman is Floyd Corkins II, of Herndon, Virginia, a volunteer at a community center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. He was described by the center’s executive director as “kind, gentle and unassuming.” ABC’s Brian Ross restrains himself and does not blame the shooting on the Tea Party. The mainstream media largely ignores the story. According to the Media Research Center, “Over eight hours of broadcast time, Thursday [August 16], the network morning shows devoted a scant two minutes and 57 seconds to Wednesday’s shooting at the conservative Family Research Council (FRC). ...NBC’s *Today* allowed 35 seconds in a program that has a total run time of four hours. ...On Wednesday’s evening newscasts, only ABC offered a full segment (two minutes and 30 seconds). *NBC Nightly News* anchor Brian Williams summarized the story in 17 seconds. *CBS Evening News* host Bob Schieffer rushed through the details in 20 seconds.”) [35536, 35537, 35538, 35546, 35576, 35577, 35610, 35611, 35665]

Daily Caller.com reports on a 1988 essay in Harvard’s Black Law Students Association (BLSA) newsletter that was written in 1988 by Michelle LaVaughan Robinson (Michelle Obama). In the article she argues “that Harvard and its students were perpetuating ‘racist and sexist stereotypes’ by not intentionally hiring minority and female law professors on the basis of their sex or skin color.’ ...The future first lady justified her demands for more black and female law school faculty by attacking the ‘traditional model,’ in which law students were educated through the Socratic method. She also opposed the traditional meritocratic hiring principle, where professors with better legal pedigrees were more often hired, arguing that it limited the success of women and blacks.” (In other words, Michelle Obama advocated affirmative action: hiring based on race and gender.) In the essay, “she praised the teaching of several professors who didn’t use the Socratic method, including the far-left academics Martha Minow and Charles Ogletree. Minow’s father, Newton Minow [former FCC head under John F. Kennedy, who famously called television “a vast wasteland”], later recruited Michelle and Barack Obama to Sidley Austin, the Chicago law firm where the two met. [Also working at Sidley Austin was Bernardine Dohrn, former Weather Underground radical, terrorist bomber, fugitive from the FBI, and wife of fellow radical William Ayers.] Ogletree, who mentored both Michelle and Barack at Harvard, admitted during the 2008 election that he had concealed a videotape of Obama praising “critical race theory” architect Derrick Bell.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Ogletree was the faculty advisor to the Black Law Students Association. Ogletree is also one of the nation’s leading advocate of slavery reparations.

He served as an Obama advisor during the 2008 campaign and is co-chair of the Reparations Movement Coordinating Committee.) [50, 55, 259, 324, 824 pp. 67–68, 91–92, 116, 144; 935, 936, 1085, 1362, 1544, 2271, 35534, 35535]

DailyCaller.com continues, “Michelle also gushed praise for critical race theory itself—the view that law is an instrument of the powerful against the powerless, rather than an effort to seek justice.” (Critical race theory advocates argue that the law should treat people not just as individuals; it should also have different rules for different groups. Because of the injustices of slavery and past discrimination, for example, a black man convicted of dealing crack cocaine should receive a lighter prison sentence than a white drug dealer—to “make up for” the fact that his ancestors might have been slaves owned by whites.) Michelle Robinson wrote, “Now, unlike before, students are being made to see how issues of class, race, and sex [sic] are relevant to questions of law.” (From her perspective it was not enough to observe that someone had robbed a bank. The criminal’s “class, race, and sex [that is, gender]” must be considered.) DailyCaller.com observes, “Her choice of language bore clear similarities to the ‘empathy’ test Barack Obama promised to use when deciding on nominees for the judiciary. If the advances of the critical race movement were stymied, Michelle worried, this ‘new breed of law professors will be systematically excluded’ from Harvard.” (She did not want “old white professors” teaching law; she wanted blacks and women teaching “empathy.”) [842 pp. 67–68; 935, 936, 1085, 1362, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 9084, 9426, 35534, 35535]

“During the final weeks before she received her Harvard law degree, Mrs. Obama participated in a sit-in protest along with about 50 other BLSA members. In what The New York Times called an ‘occupation,’ the future lawyers stormed the office of Dean James Vorenberg on May 10, 1988 with a list of 12 demands. Carrying signs demanding an ‘end to racism,’ they occupied the dean’s office for 24 hours and demanded that Harvard Law School hire 20 female or minority professors in the next four years as tenured, or tenure-track, professors. Seven of those professors, they insisted, must be black—and four of those seven female. They also demanded tenure for Ogletree and a deanship for Bell, and dictated a new plan for curriculum diversity that would include a required course on racial issues.” [35534, 35535]

Timeline readers may recall that Michelle Obama’s 1985 Princeton thesis also focused on race. It was titled, “Princeton-Educated Blacks and the Black Community.” It is full of spelling errors, improper grammar, poorly constructed sentences, and nonsensical arguments. In the introduction to her paper, an angry Michelle Robinson wrote, “I have found that at Princeton no matter how liberal and open-minded some of my White professors and classmates try to be toward me, I sometimes feels like a visitor on campus; as if I really didn’t belong. Regardless of the circumstances underwhich [sic] I interact with Whites at Princeton, it often seems as if, to them, I will always be Black first and a student second.” She then unknowingly proceeded to convince the reader that everyone looks at her as “Black first and a student second” *precisely because that is how she presents herself*. She wrote, “It is possible that Black individuals either chose to or felt pressured to come together with other Blacks on campus because of the belief that Blacks must join in solidarity to combat a White oppressor. ...By actually working with the

Black lower class or within their communities as a result of their ideologies, a separationist may better understand the desparation [sic] of their situation and feel more hopeless about a resolution as opposed to an integrationist who is ignorant to [sic] their plight.” (One critic calls her thesis the “most sophomoric, non-scholarly piece of drivel ever.” Another says it exposes a “lack of academic rigor” at Princeton.”) [352, 597, 842 p. 121; 2589]

Much to the dismay of the Obama administration, a judge refuses to block Pennsylvania’s new law requiring photo ID for voting. Philly.com reports, “...Judge Robert E. Simpson said the plaintiffs did not establish that ‘disenfranchisement was immediate or inevitable.’ Simpson also said plaintiffs did not prove that denying an injunction would cause ‘greater injury,’ and instead noted that halting the process now would interfere with election machinery now in motion to prepare for the Nov. 6 vote. ...In his ruling, Simpson said the plaintiffs’ lawyers ‘did an excellent job of ‘putting a face’ on voters who face burdens because of the new law’s photo ID requirements. ‘At the end of the day, however, I do not have the luxury of deciding this issue based on my sympathy for the witnesses or my esteem for counsel. Rather, I must analyze the law, and apply it,’ he wrote.” (One plaintiff, Viviette Applewhite, said she “has struggled to get the required forms of ID because she lost most of her identification cards several years ago to a purse snatcher.” But the law—which the vast majority of Americans support—allows for the casting of provisional ballots, which are held aside and later counted after the voter provides proof of eligibility to vote, and most would assume that the margin of victory for either Romney or Obama will be far more than the number of purse-snatching victims.) Many Democrats are worried that the new law will help Mitt Romney win Pennsylvania on November 6. (The day after the judge’s decision, Applewhite takes the bus to a Department of Transportation office in Philadelphia, where she presents her Medicare card and is given a free photo ID.) [35547, 35548, 35645, 35765, 35812]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Republican House Ways and Means Committee chairman Dave Camp demanded Wednesday that the U.S. Treasury Department and the Obama administration release records connected to an emerging scandal surrounding autoworker pensions terminated during the auto bailout. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Treasury Department axed pensions in 2009 for 20,000 non-union salaried retirees who worked for Delphi. Those workers’ pension plans lost between 30 and 70 percent of their value, while similar plans covering members of the United Auto Workers and other labor unions were preserved and made whole.” (The Obama administration improperly saw to it that the union members lost nothing in the bailout of General Motors, while slashing benefits of salaried workers at parts-supplier Delphi. A five-year UAW employee was treated better than a 20-year salaried veteran. Legally, neither Obama nor the Treasury Department had any business interfering in the pension process, which was the sole responsibility of the PBGC. The assumption is that Obama was giving special treatment to the union workers because of the massive amounts of campaign contributions and campaign assistance he received from the labor unions in 2008.) [35556]

PersonalLiberty.com reports, “The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is buying bullets and paper targets—and lots of them. It needs, according to solicitation for bids, .40 cal. 180-grain hollow point ammunition and .40 cal. 125-grain ammunition. It’s ordering a total of 42,000 rounds of ammo for delivery at its offices in Ellsworth, Maine; New Bedford, Mass.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; and Wall, N.J. Paper targets go to the Maine, Massachusetts and New Jersey offices.” Additionally, “On the heels of its purchase of 450 million rounds of ammo, now the Department of Homeland Security is purchasing another 750 million rounds. DHS is also in the market for large quantities of high-density ammonium nitrate and A-5 flake RDX [materials that are used for making explosives of the type that were used in the 1995 Oklahoma City federal building bombing]. DHS says the fertilizer and RDX are for training dogs.” (Why the NOAA needs 42,000 rounds of ammunition is not known. It is assumed the agency will not be using it to shoot down weather balloons.) According to InfoWars.com the *Social Security Administration* has ordered “174,000 rounds of ‘.357 Sig 125 grain bonded jacketed hollow point pistol ammunition.’ ...It’s not outlandish to suggest that the Social Security Administration is purchasing the bullets as part of preparations for civil unrest. Social security welfare is estimated to keep around 40 per cent of senior citizens out of poverty. Should the tap run dry in the aftermath of an economic collapse which the Federal Reserve has already told top banks to prepare for, domestic disorder could ensue if people are refused their benefits. Indeed, earlier this year the Department of Homeland Security ran a drill called Operation Shield which included turning the entrance of a Florida Social Security office into a checkpoint manned by Federal Protective Service officers armed with semiautomatic rifles.” (The Social Security Administration states that it has 295 special agents that “have full law enforcement authority, including executing search warrants and making arrests. Our investigators are similar to your State or local police officers. They use traditional investigative techniques, and they are armed when on official duty.” Why they must be armed with hollow-point ammunition—which is prohibited by the Geneva Convention—is not known.) [35557, 35558, 35598, 35599, 35600, 35601, 35602, 35668, 35669, 35717, 35753, 35806, 35822, 36367]

FiveThirtyEight blogger Nate Silver reports, “Romney’s Ryan bounce across 11 polls thus far: +5, +5, +2, +2, +2, 0, 0, 0, -2, -2, -2. So, take your pick. +0.9 on average.” [35563, 35564]

Purple Strategies polls show Mitt Romney leading Obama in Ohio (46–44), Virginia (48–45), and Florida (48–47). Obama leads in Colorado (49–46). Obama and Romney are both “underwater” in their favorable/unfavorable ratings: 47/49 and 45/48, respectively. Obama is not helped by the fact that more people surveyed believe the economy is getting worse (44 percent) than better (29 percent). Obama’s job approval/disapproval rating is 43/51. (The job approval rating is often an indicator of the vote percentage the candidate will get on election day—and an election is not won with 43 percent of the vote.) HotAir.com analyzes the poll results and notes that one question asks, “Who is more likely to protect Medicare?” In Florida, Obama leads Romney by only one point: 45–44. “How come? Is it simply that Florida’s a bit redder than other swing states this year? Or have seniors there been paying closer attention to the Medicare debate all along and find themselves ambivalent between Ryan’s plan and Obama’s \$700 billion raiding

of the program? If it's the latter, that bodes awfully well for Romney's strategy of taking the fight to O [Obama] on this issue." (The \$700 billion in cuts includes a \$156 billion reduction in the Medicare Advantage program. Once senior citizens in that program learn they will lose it, they will be livid—and in support of Romney.) [35564, 35565, 35595, 35723]

CNSNews.com reports, "The average price of ground beef hit a record high in the United States in July, according to data released Wednesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The BLS has been tracking the average price of a pound of 100% ground beef since 1984. In July, it cost \$3.085, up from \$3.007 in June. ... [I]n January 2009, when Obama was inaugurated it was only \$2.357." [35586]

A JZ Analytics poll shows that Obama still leads Mitt Romney among younger votes (ages 19–29), but only by 49–41 percent. (Obama received 66 percent of the "youth vote" in 2008.) Obama leads among voters age 30–49, but Romney leads with the 50+ voters—especially among those age 65 and older. Pollster John Zogby tells Newsmax.TV, "The fly in the ointment for Barack Obama is young people, 18 to 29 years old. He won massively among that group [in 2008]. This is a completely different group this time around. [There has been] three and a half, almost four years of recession for this group, a lot of hopelessness. Watch a battleground play out in the fall, not between Romney and Obama on college campuses but between Obama and Gary Johnson, the libertarian, who I think speaks to a lot of frustration of young people." (Romney will be helped even if many younger voters choose Johnson over Obama. But he will be helped even more if Paul Ryan can attract them—and that may very well happen.) [35592, 35612]

Obama continues campaigning in Iowa, and continues to pound on the issue of wind power. In Dubuque, he says, "Mitt Romney has said he wants to get rid of the tax credit for wind energy, doesn't believe in it. He says these sources of energy are imaginary. Congressman Ryan calls them a fad. He needs to come to Iowa. He'll find out that there's 7,000 jobs in this state that depend on the wind industry. These jobs aren't a fad. They're the future." (Obama is incorrect. Those 7,000 jobs do not depend on the wind industry—they depend on the taxpayers. On March 5 Romney wrote, "In place of real energy, Obama has focused on an imaginary world where government-subsidized windmills and solar panels could power the economy. This vision has failed. His promise of 5 million green jobs vanished as fast as the \$500 million he gave to his campaign donors at now-bankrupt Solyndra. His goal of 1 million electric cars went up in flames alongside the Chevy Volt batteries that prompted a recall of all 8,000 sold so far." Although he used the word 'imaginary,' Romney was not implying that wind power does not exist, but that taxpayers monumental subsidies would miraculously turn wind and solar power into instant successes capable of powering the entire economy.) [35646]

Politico reports, "Stay-at-home nonvoters are more likely to support ... Obama than Mitt Romney, according to a new USA Today/Suffolk University poll out today. Eighty million Americans—40 percent of the possible eligible electorate—won't vote this Election Day. And 59 percent of them say there's no point, since nothing ever gets done and politicians continue to make empty promises, according to the poll." (The results of

the poll show why surveys of “likely voters” are far more meaningful than polls of “registered voters” or “adults.”) [35597, 35613]

James Capretta writes at NationalReview.com, “A fair reading of the facts shows that the Romney-Ryan campaign has every reason to believe that they can put the Obama-Biden ticket on the defensive over Medicare. The most salient fact is that, to pass Obamacare, [Obama] cut Medicare by more than \$700 billion over the coming decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). And these cuts are of the worst kind. They are arbitrary and across the board. They reduce reimbursement rates for all who provide services to Medicare patients, regardless of how well or badly they treat their patients. Among the cuts is a \$156 billion reduction in payments to Medicare Advantage plans over ten years. These cuts will force seniors to pay \$3,700 more for their health care by 2017... The Medicare trustees project that the cuts will drive some 4 million seniors out of Medicare Advantage plans between 2012 and 2018. Further, the Medicare cuts in Obamacare would slash payment rates for hospitals, so much so that the chief actuary of the program has warned repeatedly that the cuts will jeopardize access to care for seniors. He has estimated that if the cuts go into effect, 15 percent of hospitals and nursing homes will have to stop taking Medicare patients to avoid the large financial losses that result from getting paid at Medicare rates. By 2030, some 25 percent of these institutions would need to drop out of the Medicare program. Moreover, as Charles Blahous has pointed out, the Medicare cuts in Obamacare aren’t used exclusively to replenish the trust funds that pay Medicare benefits. Instead, they are used to pay for a massive expansion in entitlement spending. To put it in slightly more political terms, President Obama has raided Medicare for \$700 billion to pay for his government takeover of American health care. The attack ad practically writes itself, and in fact has now already been written.” [35621, 35723]

On CNN, Artur Davis, a former Congressman who recently switched from the Democrat to the Republican party and who happens to be black, slams Vice President Joe Biden for his “gonna put y’all in chains” remark. Davis calls Biden’s comment “a divisive tactic that’s insulting to African Americans; it’s insulting to the American people; it’s an insult to the legacy that he used to build up as an orator who knew how to inspire people instead of strike fear in people’s hearts; and it ought to embarrass ...Obama. ...[The remark] was wrong, and [Obama] ought to be embarrassed by it, and [Obama] ought to say it was wrong.” (Obama calls Biden’s insult “some stray remark,” and argues that “his phrasing is a distraction from what it at stake.”) Davis, who supported Obama in 2008—and even officially seconded his nomination at the Denver convention—is supporting Romney in 2012 and will address the Republican National Convention. (Although the Democrats will round up a few Republican supporters of Obama to feature at their convention, they won’t have anywhere near the stature of Davis.) [35625, 35626, 35627]

Former Virginia governor Doug Wilder, who is a Democrat (and who, like Obama, is half-black), tells Fox Business Channel’s Neil Cavuto “Well, first of all it [Joe Biden’s “chains” remark] is divisive and certainly uncalled for. I don’t think the Obama administration needs that at this time. And, as you know, I have not been the most strong [sic] supporter of Joe Biden. And yet, we all know he’s gaffe-prone. But when you make

a statement that says ‘*They* are going to put *y’all* back in chains’—which means ‘I’m OK... [it’s] not going to happen to me.’ We’ll work through it, but ‘y’all’ would be in chains. [That is, Biden clearly meant that a Republican administration would put black people, including those in the audience, back in the chains of slavery, *not* that banks would put “us” or “everyone” in chains.] Now, slavery is nothing to joke about. And the history of this nation’s involvement with slavery is nothing to pass off in a joke. And so let’s give him the benefit of the doubt by saying, ‘Well, he didn’t mean all of it,’ and his apologists are already out there saying it. But you can’t continue to make gaffe after gaffe after gaffe and believe that it’s going to be supportive of what you and [Obama] are both trying to do. ...[T]he more important thing is don’t divide the country. We are not African Americans. We are Americans. We are not subjects that, who finally understand what the circumstances are. People will measure up and that’s why you need to reach out and talk to people as adults. Speak to them as equals—not ‘they’ are going to put ‘y’all’ back in chains. So that means you are separating yourself from y’all.” (Although Wilder is often referred to as the nation’s “first black governor,” arguably he was not. That distinction belongs to P. B. S. Pinchback of Louisiana, a Republican. Pinchback, who was one-fourth black, served as governor for 35 days in late 1872 and early 1873 while Governor Henry Clay Warmoth stepped aside for an impeachment trial—which he survived.) [35632, 35653, 35654, 35663, 35664, 35687]

At WeeklyStandard.com Daniel Halper points out that “...Obama has slightly more than 22 days to drop Vice Presidential Joe Biden from the 2012 Democratic presidential ticket, according to lawyers familiar with the party nominating process. That is, Democrats have until September 6 to formally nominate their presidential ticket which will then be qualified for the 50 state ballots. And it is still possible for that ticket not to include the current vice president, Joe Biden.” (Although some Democrats would like to see Hillary Clinton replacing Biden, others would argue that would be a risky move for her. On the one hand, the Obama-Clinton ticket could be defeated by Romney-Ryan. On the other hand, a victory means that if the economy is still in bad shape in 2016 she will get some of the blame for problems caused by Obama’s policies. More significantly, a decision by Obama to replace Biden would be an admission that he had made a mistake in choosing him in the first place—and Obama is not known for admitting mistakes of any nature.) [35614]

On August 16 Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod appears on MSNBC and is asked by HuffingtonPost.com’s Sam Stein, “I’m guessing you’re not taking John McCain’s advice to drop him [Joe Biden] and put Hillary Clinton [in as Obama’s running mate]? But a more serious question...” Axelrod responds, “Far be it from me to denigrate Senator McCain’s advice on vice presidential nominees.” But Axelrod does not rule out the possibility that Biden might decide to “spend more time with his family,” saying, “Listen, I have a great affection and respect for Joe Biden. I think he’s been a great vice president. He’s taken on a lot of tough assignments for our administration, from administering the recovery act—and he did it very, very well—through being the point person on the Iraq war and getting our troops home and doing that—the politics of that over there. He’s done a great job for us.” (Biden is scheduled to meet with Obama at

10:15 a.m. and with Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at 10:45 a.m. Both meetings are listed as “closed press.”) [35614, 35615, 35616, 35631]

White House press secretary Jay Carney, asked if former Virginia governor Doug Wilder had a point in his criticism of Joe Biden’s “slavery chains” remark, tells reporters, “He doesn’t have a point, the vice president was talking about Wall Street reform.” Wilder returns to Neil Cavuto’s program and responds, “Sometimes when I say these things it may give someone the impression I am speaking for me. You’d be surprised that the numbers of calls I have gotten since being with your show and on your show from people and e-mails from all over the country. People are saying, ‘Thank God somebody is saying it like it should be said.’ Speak to people as equals, not ‘*they* are going to do this to *y’all*.’ What ‘y’all’ are you speaking about? Now, you can try to say it was Wall Street, but you and I know better. [For Carney] To argue that point really reduces itself to absurdity. ...I don’t think it is too late ever to say ‘I was wrong.’ I don’t think it’s ever too late to say ‘I goofed.’ But you got to remember something we didn’t say or speak about yesterday, one of the first things that Joe Biden did when he came to Danville, Virginia., was to say, ‘And guess what, y’all, we are going to carry North Carolina.’ You are in Virginia, man. Get your act together. And so, you shouldn’t be surprised, you shouldn’t be surprised—but they will pass it off as just another malaprop[ism] by a guy who is known for it. But does this help Obama? I am here to tell you that from what I have heard and from what I think other people have heard, this doesn’t help [Obama]. And so, is it too late for him to do anything about it as you interviewed John McCain and others yesterday? Yes, it’s too late [to replace Biden]. But it is not too late for Joe Biden to clean up his act.” [35688]

Wilder continues, “The unfortunate thing for [Obama], as I said yesterday, he doesn’t need this. You don’t need anybody injecting race into a campaign in which one of the persons running is of a different race and that has been there all these years—it’s the last thing Obama needs. And he knows that. He is not a dumb man. I did read something that shocked me today also that I saw—not shocked me—I shouldn’t have been shocked. Biden said this in 2010. It was in a *Washington Post* piece today. And they were saying how he is getting ready to deal with Paul Ryan. And it said, in 2010, this is what Biden said about Obama: ‘You know, he is smarter than I thought he was.’ What does that mean? If he’s smarter than you thought he was, did you think he was just ordinary? Did you think he was below par? If he is smarter than what you thought he was, what does that mean? Why would you say that two years after the election and the guy that brought you along to a position that you never would have occupied, but for his being there? Did Joe Biden get him elected in 2008? He may have helped, but will he help him this time is the real question. ...But it is too late. [Obama] is stuck. It’s almost like the tar baby, he’s stuck with what he’s got.” (There are conflicting reports about Wilder’s attendance at a Romney fundraiser in Richmond, Virginia.) [35688, 35703, 35705]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) outlines some of the administration’s new regulations that will go into effect in 2013—conveniently for Obama, after the election. Many of the regulations relate to ObamaCare or the Dodd-frank financial legislation, while others come from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). One new rule “would impose a limit on ozone (which creates haze from

emissions from cars, power plants and factories) so strict that up to 85% of U.S. counties monitored by the EPA would be in violation. Susan Dudley, a regulatory economist at George Washington University who served in the previous administration, notes that this rule would force many communities ‘to forego productive investment and hiring decisions in order to spend hundreds of billions of dollars per year in vain attempts to meet unachievable standards.’ The EPA itself says the rule could impose up to \$90 billion in yearly costs on manufacturers and other employers.” Another EPA rule “would cost \$1 for every three cents in benefits.” The government will also require that automobiles be quipped with rear-view cameras and dashboard video displays. The estimated \$2.7 billion cost will, of course, result in higher auto prices. (The camera rule was postponed from 2010 to 2013—after the election.) [35697]

The Republican National Committee runs an ad denouncing ObamaCare’s \$716 billion cuts to Medicare that repeats Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter’s statement on *Face the Nation*: “You know, I heard Mitt Romney deride the \$700 billion cut in Medicare that [Obama] achieved...” Democrat Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) political director Kelly Ward sends a message to supporters: “The Romney campaign is up with a new ad campaign trying to confuse voters into thinking that Republicans are the ones trying to protect Medicare. You and I know that Romney and Paul Ryan are dead set on slashing seniors’ Medicare benefits to pay for more millionaire tax breaks—but we have to get the facts out to voters immediately.” Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson translates Ward’s statement: “We’re in trouble. Republicans are running ads telling voters the truth about Medicare and their policy solutions. Please send money ASAP so we can distort their plan.” [35408, 35429, 35520, 35529, 35619, 35620]

The daily Rasmussen poll gives Mitt Romney a 47–43 lead over Obama. The approval/disapproval ratings are: Obama 47/49, Romney 45/48, Joe Biden 41/48, and Paul Ryan 45/39. (Interestingly, Ryan is the only one of the four in positive territory—despite all the media pundits who have done their best to disparage him from the moment he was selected by Romney as his running mate.) Rasmussen shows Romney with a two-point lead in Florida, 45–43, and a one-point lead in Wisconsin, 48–47. Romney also leads in Ohio (+2) and Virginia (+3), while Obama leads in Colorado (+3). [35622, 35623, 35624]

ABC’s Jake Tapper and Mary Bruce write, “...Obama hasn’t formally taken questions from the White House press corps in more than two months, while on the campaign trail in Iowa yesterday he made time for reporters from *People Magazine* and *Entertainment Tonight*. [Barack “Mr. Class Warfare” Obama laughably tells the latter, “I don’t think you or anybody who’s been watching the campaign would say that in any way we have tried to divide the country. We’ve always tried to bring the country together.”] His last news conference was at the G20 in June, when he answered six questions from three reporters on the European debt crisis, the conflict in Syria, and the notion of politics stopping at the water’s edge. The White House press corps has not formally been given the opportunity to ask questions of [Obama] on U.S. soil since his appearance in the Briefing Room on June 8 (when he said ‘the private sector is doing fine.’) His last formal

White House news conference was on March 6.” (Obama has granted various interviews, but he does not get hard-hitting questions from *People*, *ET*, or Charlie Rose-types; he gets softball questions.) “Asked if [Obama] will be holding a full-blown White House press conference any time soon, Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters Wednesday, ‘I don’t have any scheduling announcements to make about that.’” (While Obama avoids the national press, he welcomes softball interviews from local media. In an interview with KOB FM in New Mexico, Obama is asked if he prefers red or green peppers, his favorite New Mexican food, his favorite song for working out, and, “If you had a super power, what would it be?” The erudite and eloquent Obama responds, “Uh, you know, I think, uh, the whole flying thing is pretty good. You know, uh, yeah, I mean, you, you, you can’t beat this kinda swoopin’ around.”) [35628, 35702, 35764, 35798]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) preemptive assessment of the Pebble Mine in Alaska could have a ‘chilling effect’ on \$220 billion in investments, according to the Brattle Group, an economic and financial consulting firm. In May, the EPA released its watershed assessment of large-scale mining by Pebble LP at Bristol Bay, which could be one of the largest copper and gold mines in the world, and expressed concerns over impact the mine would have on local salmon habitats and surrounding wetlands. ...[T]he watershed assessment did not evaluate any actual plans for the Pebble Mine, as none have been put forward, instead it evaluates a hypothetical mine. Independent scientists have also expressed concerns over this approach and have said the assessment was rushed. ...Dan McGroarty, president of the nonpartisan American Resources Policy Network, states, “It has a chilling effect over all these kinds of investments. Everybody in every project knows that there’s a process, and it’s a challenge, a serious one, to comply with that process. [But] To be stopped before the process begins and subject it to a hypothetical is a new wrinkle, and that can chill capital, that can chill investment, and the jobs, in this particular economy, that we want to see... it’s going to have a very negative effect on the manufacturing process in the U.S. The EPA is flexing its administrative muscle and seeing how far forward it can reach and how far after the fact can it reach. ...Just imagine the reaction of the rest of the industry, that they might be pulled into a process before they’ve put a project in place. These projects commit capital in the hundreds of millions, in the billions, and they do it for years before the first shovel goes into the ground and they can begin to get a return. If we don’t exploit and develop what we have in the United States, which is considerable, we are simply going to underscore our foreign dependence. It’s going to have a very negative effect on the manufacturing process in the U.S. I couldn’t even estimate. \$200 billion of investment, I couldn’t even estimate how many jobs that would be. Honestly, is this going to be something we just accept because an agency defines its role in role in a different way?” (Obama’s “greenies” at the EPA are essentially attempting to block projects before they even begin by evaluating “what if” scenarios.” The result is that investors will simply put their money at risk overseas, rather than in the United States—with the jobs following the money.) [35630]

On MSNBC the attention-seeking Toure Neblitt—who believes he is so unique he uses only his first name—complains about Mitt Romney’s call for Obama to “take [his] campaign of division and anger and hate back to Chicago.” Neblitt says, “That really

bothered me. You notice he said anger twice. [Romney also said, “This is what an angry and desperate presidency looks like.”] He’s really trying to use racial coding and access some really deep stereotypes about the angry black man. This is part of the playbook against Obama, the ‘otherization,’ he’s not like us. I know it’s a heavy thing, I don’t say it lightly, but this is ‘niggerization.’ You are not one of us, you are like the scary black man who we’ve been trained to fear.” (Neblitt, who is the epitome of the “angry black man,” apparently believes a white person cannot use the word anger in reference to a black person. Romney was certainly not referring to race. He was referring to the thug-like politics from Chicago that are being used by Obama and his campaign strategist David Axelrod.) Mediaite.com reports, “Naturally this led to a battle between [Neblitt] and conservative co-host S.E. Cupp. She took particular issue with the fact that [Neblitt] admitted that VP Joe Biden’s ‘chains’ comments were divisive, but is now calling Romney a ‘racist’ for saying the Obama campaign is ‘angry.’ ‘Do you see how dishonest that is?’ she asked. ... ‘Certainly you were implying that Mitt Romney and the base will respond to this dog-whistle, racially-charged coding, and hate Obama, the angry black man?’ ‘Absolutely. ... This is not a revolutionary comment. This is a constituency all-white party that rejects the black vote.’ ‘You have two white guys in Joe Biden and Mitt Romney,’ Cupp clarified. ‘Joe Biden made the overtly racial comment and has a history of making bigoted remarks. Mitt Romney was responding to that comment. Yet he is the one responsible for the whole Republican history of racism in politics?’ ... ‘He’s using the playbook that Republicans have been using for decades now,’ [Neblitt] concluded.” (Neblitt later issues a Dick Durbin-style “non-apology apology.” That is, he apologizes only for using the word “niggerization,” *not* for accusing Mitt Romney of being a racist.) [35639, 35681, 35682, 35706, 35763, 36308]

Campaigning in Ohio, Paul Ryan draws laughs when he says, “It is great to be here in North Canton, or as Joe Biden might say, it’s great to be here in Nevada.” (Earlier in the week Biden had said, while campaigning in Virginia, “With you, we can win North Carolina again. And if we do, we win the election if we win you.”) [35643]

CNSNews.com reports, “As of mid-morning Thursday, ... Obama had not yet commented publicly or released an official statement reacting to Wednesday’s shooting of a security guard at the Family Research Council’s Washington, D.C., office.” [35644]

Mitt Romney tells reporters that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid’s charge that he did not pay income taxes for 10 years is “totally false. I just have to say, given the challenges that America faces—23 million people out of work, Iran about to become nuclear, one out of six Americans in poverty—the fascination with taxes I’ve paid I find to be very small-minded compared to the broad issues that we face. I’m sure waiting for Harry to put up who it was that told him what he says they told him. I don’t believe it for a minute, by the way. ... I did go back and look at my taxes and over the past 10 years I never paid less than 13 percent. I think the most recent year is 13.6 [percent] or something like that. So I paid taxes every single year.” (For all U.S. tax returns the average effective tax rate—after applying deductions, exemptions, and credits—is about 11 percent.) [35440, 35461, 35657, 35661]

According to a Rasmussen poll, 54 percent of Florida residents age 65 or over are more fearful of ObamaCare than Paul Ryan's Medicare reform proposals. [35658, 35662]

At FoxNews.com author Dinesh D'Souza writes, "A few days ago I received a call from a man I recently met named George. He was a bit flustered, and soon informed me that his young son was sick with a chest condition. He pleaded with me to send him \$1,000 to cover the medical bills. Since George was at the hospital I asked him to let me speak to a nurse, and she confirmed that George's son was indeed ill. So I agreed to send George the money through Western Union. He was profusely grateful. But before I hung up I asked George, 'Why are you coming to me?' He said, 'I have no one else to ask.' Then he said something that astounded me, 'Dinesh, you are like a brother to me.'" (George is George Obama, the half-brother of Barack Obama. George lives in a slum in Nairobi. D'Souza met George when he traveled to Kenya to perform research for his film, *2016: Obama's America*.) D'Souza continues, "One of Obama's favorite phrases comes right out of the Bible: 'We are our brother's keeper.' Yet he has not contributed a penny to help his own brother. And evidently George does not believe, even in times of emergency, that he can turn to his brother in the White House for help. So much for spreading the wealth around. Obama's refusal to help George is especially surprising because George doesn't just live in American-style poverty but rather in Third World poverty. He lives in a shanty in the Huruma slum in Nairobi. He gets by on a few dollars a month. Obama also has an aunt named Hawa Auma, his father's sister, who ekes out a living selling coal on the streets of a small village in Kenya. She says she would like to have her teeth fixed, but she cannot afford it. Obama hasn't offered to help her either." (D'Souza is misinterpreting the Bible, which does *not* say, "We are our brother's keeper." PowerLine has corrected Obama for that same mistake: "[T]he moral of the story in Genesis is not that we are, or should be, our brothers' keepers. Rather, the phrase comes from Cain's answer when God asks him the whereabouts of his brother Abel, whom Cain has just killed. Cain denies any knowledge, and adds the self-exculpatory question, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The point of the story is not that Cain was responsible for looking after Abel, like an Old Testament Nancy Pelosi. Cain was condemned not for failing to keep watch over his brother, but for killing him.") [14837, 14838, 35660]

D'Souza notes, "A couple of years ago, George teamed up with a British journalist Damien Lewis and the two of them published George's story in a book called 'Homeland.' Yet according to Lewis, shortly before the book's publication in America, the publisher Simon & Schuster decided to shred the entire print run, more than 20,000 copies. Lewis tried unsuccessfully to get an explanation from Simon & Schuster but to no avail. He now suspects that the White House convinced Simon & Schuster that George's story might prove embarrassing to [Obama]. In 2010, George also applied for a visa to come to the United States and was refused. While George confesses that in his younger years he was a delinquent, he has never been convicted of any crime. Moreover, he has a very good reason to visit the United States: his mother Jael Otieno lives in Atlanta. So why would the U. S. embassy in Nairobi refuse a tourist visa to the brother of [Obama], who just wants to spend time with his mother? ...So what's the real story here? Where's George Obama's 'fair share?' George's tragic situation exposes [Barack] Obama as a hypocrite. Here is a man who demands that others pay higher taxes to help the poor—

even poor people who are not related to them—while Obama himself refuses to help a close relative like George.” (D’Souza speculates that Barack Obama’s “active animus” comes from George’s rejection of “the anti-colonial philosophy that was espoused by Barack Obama Sr. This is the ‘dream from my father’ that ...Obama [Jr.] celebrates in his own autobiography.” *The Obama Timeline* has a different theory: Barack Obama refuses to help George Obama and his other Kenyan “relatives” *because they are not, in fact, blood relatives*. That is, Obama’s father was someone other than Barack Hussein Obama, Sr., and Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, passed him off as the father in order to hide the truth.) [35660, 35673, 36044]

In Pennsylvania, Obama leads Romney by 6 points in a Franklin and Marshall College Poll. (Obama led by 12 points in February. The poll’s D/R/I weighting gives Democrats a 13-point advantage—arguably generous inasmuch as Democrats outnumbered Republicans by only 7 points in the 2008 election in that state.) [35709, 35710]

In a Gallup poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings on the issues of the economy (36/60), jobs (37/58), and the budget deficit (30/64) are underwater by more than 20 points each. According to Gallup, “Obama’s ratings on the economy are significantly worse than all three prior successful presidential incumbents at this same point in their first term. His 36 percent approval rating on the economy is well below George W. Bush’s rating in August 2004 (46 percent), Bill Clinton’s in August 1996 (54 percent), and Ronald Reagan’s in July 1984 (50 percent).” At WashingtonTimes.com Donald Lambro observes, “These aren’t just disastrous job-approval scores, they are among the worst in recent presidencies, including the one Mr. Obama followed in 2009.” [35711, 35743]

CNSNews.com reports, “The money the U.S. government owes to foreign entities rose to a record \$5.2923 trillion in June, according to data released by the U.S. Treasury Wednesday afternoon. ...The U.S. government’s indebtedness to foreign interests has grown by 72.3 percent during ...Obama’s term in office. In January 2009, when Obama was inaugurated, the U.S. government owed \$3.0717 trillion to foreign entities, according to the Treasury Department. That has increased by \$2.2206 trillion—or 72.3 percent—to the record \$5.2923 trillion reported for yesterday.” [35716]

At TheDailyBeast.com Democrat strategist Kirsten Powers examines the support Paul Ryan is getting from young people: “Unfortunately, the future looks ...bleak for today’s young people. No amount of coddling by their well-provided-for [Baby] Boomer parents can save Generation Y and the Millennials from the dire economic conditions they face, including criminal levels of educational debt. Pensions have gone the way of the horse and buggy. You want to retire with health-care benefits, as both my professor parents did? Good luck. As the 1994 movie turned Gen-X mantra has it: Reality Bites. ...While Democrats attack [Ryan’s] Medicare plan as ‘radical’ and portray him as pushing granny off the cliff, young people don’t seem to be buying this caricature. Or maybe ‘radical’ is what they want. A Zogby/JZ Analytics poll Tuesday showed increased support among voters 18–29 for the Romney ticket, which pollster John Zogby attributed to the Ryan pick. ...Obama received just 49 percent of the youth vote, versus Romney’s 41 percent.

(Obama took home 66 percent of the youth vote against McCain in 2008.) For those who think those numbers are an anomaly, take a look at Pew's 2011 polling that found that among 18-29 year olds, 46 percent supported Ryan's proposed Medicare changes with only 28 percent opposing (the rest had no opinion). ... Yes, our expectations for government benefits when we retire have been lowered so much [over the years] that the idea that we would get anything at all [under the Ryan plan] seems like a bonanza. Ryan's plan also seems a lot less scary when you consider that his partner on it is the liberal Oregon Senator Ron Wyden." [35701]

DailyCaller.com points out that Mitt Romney's Bain Capital saved the site of the first date of Obama and Michelle LaVaughan Robinson. "In 2005, Bain and two other private equity firms purchased Dunkin' Brands Incorporated for \$2.425 billion, according to a 2006 company press release. Dunkin' Brands is the parent company of Baskin-Robbins, at whose Hyde Park, Chicago location [Obama] and his future wife Michelle went on their first date—and shared their first lip lock." A "historical marker" now "honors" the location. (Although some might consider the marker "creepy," others might argue that it is preferable to a monument to the first limousine ride shared by Obama and Larry Sinclair. NewsBusted's Jodi Miller quips, "As another tribute to Obama, Baskin-Robbins just changed its slogan to '57 flavors.'") [134, 135, 136, 392, 393, 409, 842 pp. 143, 352–353, 358; 1242, 2278, 2475, 35692, 35693, 36009]

WND.com reports that Denver's city council abruptly reversed its decision to honor Hercules Industries for its 50 years of service to the community because it challenged ObamaCare's demand that it provide its employees with free contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization. Bill Newland, owner of the company, says he was told by Denver Councilwoman Robin Kneich "that proclamations are not meant to be controversial in nature, and because of our stance on freedom of religion, it wasn't going to be presented." (The Denver City Council apparently believes that challenging a constitutionally invalid Obama edict trounces decades of providing jobs, preserving a historic site, and raising funds for victims of wildfires.) [35672, 36120]

To the surprise of no one, race-hustler Al Sharpton defends Vice President Joe Biden for his "gonna out y'all in chains" remark. But Santita Jackson, daughter of Jesse Jackson, calls Biden's comment "profoundly insulting. ... This is very, very close to being contemptuous. These remarks are insulting. Not only does he need to dial them back. He needs to apologize." Fox News political analyst Angela McGlowan (who is black) tells Sean Hannity that Biden is "basically saying, 'Look, black people, the government took you from the Southern plantations to the federal plantation, so if you don't vote for Barack Obama you won't get that free government check.'" [35675, 35676]

Edward Klein, author of *The Amateur*, tells CNBC's Larry Kudlow, "Up until just a couple of weeks ago, the White House was putting out feelers to see if Hillary [Clinton] would accept the vice presidential nod and replace Joe Biden. Bill Clinton was, I'm told, urging his wife to accept the number two slot. He saw this as a great launching pad for her for running in 2016. But then Hillary had lunch in the White House a couple of weeks ago with Valerie Jarrett, Michelle's best friend, senior adviser to both the First Lady and

[Obama]. ...And she told Valerie Jarrett that she would not accept the vice president's spot. The lunch was ostensibly about other matters, but it came up. The vice presidential thing came up. Hillary felt burned out after four years as secretary of state. But I'm told there were more important reasons for her not accepting. ...Number one, she felt that if she were in the ticket with Obama and he lost, she would be tarred as a loser when she tried to run in 2016. On the other, if she was on the ticket and he won, and he continued his far left-wing socialistic policies, she'd have to defend those policies when she ran in 2016." (The offer came from Jarrett, not Obama, so that Obama could distance himself from the issue. He can make the lawyerly claim that *he* never offered Clinton the position and the *he* never said he was dumping Biden. Klein makes the point that if Hillary declined Obama's offer to his face, Bill Clinton would be certain to leak the story in order to embarrass Obama. *The Obama Timeline* believes that Hillary Clinton thinks Obama will lose and that he has caused so much damage to the economy that Romney and Ryan will not have much to brag about in 2016—thus making it easier for her to win in 2016.) Klein also points out that if Paul Ryan had made Biden's "they're gonna put y'all in chains" remark, "Ryan would be off the ticket tomorrow." (Biden is saved by the media's double standard.) [35680, 35685, 35698]

Meanwhile, Joe Biden is reportedly heading to his Delaware home (or its dog house) for a long weekend. He has no public event scheduled for August 17. (His wife Jill, who does not suffer from foot-in-mouth disease, will make an appearance at Guardian Angel Child Care in Wilmington.) [35686, 35698]

On August 17 the American Crossroads PAC releases an ad begging Obama to keep Joe Biden as his running mate (because that would make it easier for Romney-Ryan to win). The ad includes several of Biden's "misstatements" from the campaign trail: "A three-letter word, jobs: J-O-B-S," "They're gonna put y'all back in chains," "You cannot go to a 7-11 or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent," "You're telling me we gotta go spend money to keep from goin' bankrupt? Yes, the answer's yes, I'm tellin' 'ya," and "Murder will continue to rise, rape will continue to rise [if Republicans are elected]." The ad mockingly concludes, "Some people say Joe Biden should be dropped from Obama's ticket. But we say, 'Joe should stay.' Joe Biden. America's greatest Vice President, when *we* need him most." ("*We*" means the Republicans.) [35677]

DailyCaller.com reports, "In late July, John Hynansky—a longtime friend of Vice President Joe Biden, and a major donor to Biden's campaigns as well as ...Obama's—was awarded a \$20 million taxpayer loan to build a foreign-car dealership in Ukraine. According to a public summary document, the loan, from the federal government's Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is for '[u]p to \$20.0 million,' and is designed to 'expand Winner Import Ukraine's automobile business, [and] construct and operate 'Winner Autocity,' which will have two new, state-of-the-art dealership facilities for Porsche and Land Rover/Jaguar automobiles.'" (With 23 million Americans unemployed and underemployed, Obama and Biden instead use U.S. tax dollars to create jobs in Eastern Europe.) [35684]

A Rasmussen poll shows former governor Tommy Thompson, running for the U.S. Senate in Wisconsin, leading his Democrat opponent Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin 54–43 percent. DailyCaller.com observes, “The race to fill retiring Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl’s seat is expected to be one of the most hotly contested of the cycle. It is also one of the races that will determine which party controls the Senate.” [35691]

The Romney campaign notes that since Paul Ryan was announced as Mitt Romney’s running mate one week earlier, 124,800 supporters have donated \$10,157,947; 68 percent of the donors are new donors; campaign web site traffic topped 2 million; there are 510,000 new followers on Facebook; and 45,000+ individuals have signed up to volunteer. [35699, 35700]

The Obama campaign, nervous about ads from military veterans criticizing Obama for taking credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden and for leaking intelligence about the operation, trots out Senator John Kerry (D-MA) to whine about how he was “Swift-boated” in 2004. In the Obama for America email, Kerry states, “You and I learned the hard way eight years ago this August that in the new world we’re living in—one with 24-hour news cycles, the internet, blogs, the echo chamber, and now the new Citizens United-fueled Republican money machine—even completely baseless attacks can stick if people don’t call them out quickly enough. No matter how self-evidently false the attacks are, or how disreputable the people telling them may be, there’s no attack that can’t take hold. Seeing the new outrageous attacks made against ...Obama from a shadowy Republican-allied veterans group called OPSEC, which take issue with the mission to kill Osama bin Laden, remind me all too well of the notorious ‘Swift Boat’ attacks I faced in the 2004 campaign. I honor and appreciate the service of my fellow veterans, but a false attack is a false attack—no matter who’s making it.” (Of course, there was nothing in the Swift Boat ads that was not factual, and it is true that the Obama administration leaked information about the bin Laden operation. Had information not been leaked, no one would know the operation had been conducted by Navy SEAL Team 6.) [35585, 35591, 35596, 35604, 35609, 35636, 35637, 35638, 35659, 35696, 35703, 35728]

The Associated Press reports, “In a surprising turnaround, the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere in the U.S. has fallen dramatically to its lowest level in 20 years, and government officials say the biggest reason is that cheap and plentiful natural gas has led many power plant operators to switch from dirtier-burning coal. Many of the world’s leading climate scientists didn’t see the drop coming, in large part because it happened as a result of market forces rather than direct government action against carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere.” (In other words, the system environmentalists, Obama, and other leftists love to hate—capitalism—is more effective at solving problems than government. At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen astutely observes, “[M]any environmentalists operate under the mistaken impression that prosperity and environmental quality are mutually exclusive, but that assumption couldn’t be more wrong. Not only are wealthy societies the only ones that have the luxury of worrying about their environmental impact, but a robust and thriving economy is the only thing that’s ever going to bring about the efficiency and innovation that will lead to cleaner and better energy and resource usage.”) [35707, 35708]

Orly Taitz, an attorney who has filed several eligibility challenges against Obama, is interviewed by Geraldo Rivera on KABC radio. Taitz reports that she has been working with a former NATO database analyst and they have identified 723,620 invalid voter registrations in California. More than 500,000 others appear suspicious. On her blog Taitz later writes, "I am gathering more information, my legal action is seeking clean up of the voter rolls from all invalid voter registrations. CA elections code 2150, 2152 specifies what information needs to be in the affidavit of an elector in order for him to be registered as a voter. Aside from birth date there has to be a nation of origin. We already see over half a million registrations in LA county alone without a country of origin, those need to be removed from the databases." (Many Democrats—including Obama's Attorney General, Eric Holder—continue to insist that voter fraud is not a problem. They are apparently not bothered that people more than 150 years old are still casting ballots in California.) [35718, 35766]

In Joliet, Illinois, Caterpillar, Inc. machinists vote to approve a new collective bargaining agreement, after having been on strike since May 1. The *Chicago Tribune* reports, "Some workers stampeded out of the union hall Friday morning, cursing out loud at those who approved the six-year contract. 'I wasted four months of my life,' said John Hunt. Workers said they were told not to give an official count of the vote, though they acknowledged it was close. ... The new contract with the manufacturer calls for workers hired after May 2005 to receive a 3 percent wage increase over the six-year contract. Wages would be frozen for workers hired before then. Health care premiums will be doubled and pensions will be eliminated. Seniority rights will be diminished." Despite the fact that 23 million Americans are unemployed or underemployed, workers actually sought cost-of-living increases and *lower* health care premiums. (Those workers who voted against the agreement may not have realized that many of those 23 million Americans would be more than happy to take their jobs.) [35721]

While Caterpillar workers reluctantly accept the reality of a terrible economy after a three-month strike, SunTimes.com reports, "Some 20,000 to 30,000 Chicago Teachers Union strike signs were rolling off the presses at a Bridgeport printer Friday, as CTU officials continued to prepare for a strike. ... More than 90 percent of all members—an all-time record—have already handed CTU officials the power to call a strike if contract talks that have languished since November are not resolved." [35742]

WND.com reports, "The Arab Spring takeover of Egypt by the Muslim Brotherhood has run amok, with reports from several different media agencies that the radical Muslims have begun crucifying opponents of newly installed President Mohammed Morsi—in front of the presidential palace. Middle East media confirm that during a recent rampage, Muslim Brotherhood operatives 'crucified those opposing Egyptian President Muhammad Morsi naked on trees in front of the presidential palace while abusing others.'" (The White House is silent.) Raymond Ibrahim, a fellow with the Middle East Forum and the Investigative Project on Terrorism, says the targets are "anyone who is resisting the new government. In this particular case, the people attacked and crucified were secular protesters upset because of Morsi's hostile campaign against the media,

especially of Tawfik Okasha, who was constantly exposing him on his station, until Morsi shut him down.” Clare Lopez, of the Center for Security Policy, warns, “The Copts [Coptic Christians] must get out of Egypt as soon as possible—for the many millions who will not be able to get out, I expect things will continue to deteriorate—just as they did for Germany’s and Europe’s Jews from the 1930s onward. The warnings were there long before the ghettos and round-ups and one-way train trips to the concentration camps began in the 1940s.” (Egypt has more than 80 million inhabitants; about 10 percent are Coptic Christians. On August 27 jihadists in Yemen crucify a man they believed provided the United States with intelligence information for drone attacks.) [35729, 35730, 35757, 35918, 36246, 36248, 36249]

Bloomberg reports, “The jobless rate climbed in 44 U.S. states in July, showing last month’s increase in unemployment was broad based. Alabama and Alaska registered the worst performance, with joblessness advancing by 0.5 percentage point in each, figures from the Labor Department showed today in Washington. Payrolls grew in 31 states last month, led by California and Michigan. ...North Dakota had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation, even as it rose to 3 percent from 2.9 percent the prior month. ...New Jersey’s jobless rate jumped to a 35-year high of 9.8 percent in July from 9.6 percent in June. The state lost 12,000 positions, including cuts in manufacturing, construction, and professional and business services, according to figures released by New Jersey officials yesterday.” At Townhall.com Mike Shedlock observes, “...[T]hree years into an alleged recovery, the unemployment is still higher than the peaks in 8 of the last 10 recessions.” [35739, 35740]

Investors.com reports that Obama’s “latest ‘offer’ is that Mitt Romney can release five—not ten—years of tax returns, and Obama will drop the subject. Sure, and there’s this bridge in Brooklyn for sale cheap, too. Assisted by a compliant media, the Obama campaign continues to distract voters from 8.3% unemployment, the most tepid ‘recovery’ in U.S. history, debt about to exceed \$16 trillion, and the imposed terminal illness of the greatest health care in the world. You might think the great challenges facing us are things like preventing the impending catastrophe of government entitlements, fixing a tax code that penalizes success and chases companies overseas, and stopping Islamists from taking over Mideast countries. But no, according to Obama, the great issue is what marginal tax rate Mitt paid.” Obama campaign manager Jim Messina states, “If the governor will release five years of returns, I commit in turn that we will not criticize him for not releasing more—neither in ads nor in other public communications or commentary for the rest of the campaign.” (Be “we” Messina can only speak for the Obama campaign. He cannot guarantee that no other Democrat, no Democrat political action committee, and no media pundit will avoid the issue. The “deal” would only be accepted by an idiot. John McCain might accept it, but Romney will not.) Investors.com suggests, “Romney ought to reply: ‘If [Obama] will release five years of his secret educational records from Columbia and Harvard, I commit in turn not to criticize him for the rest of the campaign about wasting a trillion dollars in failed stimulus spending and stealing over \$700 billion from Medicare to pay for ObamaCare.’” [35752, 35811]

Romney running mate Paul Ryan releases two years of tax returns. For 2011 he and his wife paid \$64,764 in federal income taxes, on income of \$323,316. (Ryan's effective tax rate was therefore just over 20 percent, as was Obama's that same year.) Ryan's charitable contributions totaled \$12,991. (By contrast, Vice President Joe Biden is very much a cheapskate when it comes to charity. In 2010 Biden gave \$5,350 to charity; his income that year was \$379,178. In 2011 he donated \$5,540, out of \$379,035. It is believed that Obama has never given any financial assistance to his half-brother George, who lives in a slum in Nairobi, Kenya.) [842 p. 97; 1655, 35756, 35959]

Scott Paulson reviews the film *2016: Obama's America* at NewYork.CBSLocal.com, writing that at first he was "skeptical" of what he was going to see. "Yet, I'm glad I saw the hyped-film because it was more informative than I had thought it would be and included less propaganda than I had predicted. If anything, it was nearly too informative as there was an enormous amount of information condensed into the nearly one-hour-and-a-half documentary. Fact after fact is put forth which shows that ...Obama definitely has many skeletons in the closet that have not been released prior to the nation's trust in him with the Oval Office. To watch this movie and realize—or simply be reminded of—all that is unknown about ...Obama is of concern. Much of the information has been ignored by the American media totally. When appropriately reminded as to what is still unknown about Obama to date, one has to ask: How can any logical-thinking person give a damn about Romney's taxes while not asking any questions regarding [Obama's] past? ...The movie undeniably links Obama to persons of suspicious-interest due to their past actions and statements, such as former radical activist and Chicago educator Bill Ayers. While the media and blinded-liberals cast such facts aside, the movie does not. No, this portion of the movie is not propaganda—it is the display of factual information about relationships between people that cannot be denied. Yet, the 'left' does deny the facts that are right in front of them. ...I left the movie thinking more strongly than I had in the past that the current debt and this economy was part of Obama's plan all along. ...He must be laughing at his blind followers all the way to the 'new America' they're allowing him to create. My belief is that Obama continues to prey on his die-hard followers' stupidity to accomplish his personal goals for America." [35767]

Paulson concludes, "Those who have already decided to vote for Obama will probably not even see the movie. It's sad but they probably don't want to know the truth when it is laid out so clearly for them in this documentary. The independents who are still deciding who they are going to vote for ought to see this film. I'm quite confident that any undecided voter who sees this film will know who to vote for after viewing this documentary. If you know you're not going to support the 'left' in this coming election, see the film out of interest if you like. But, fair warning, it's disturbing—and quite frightening—to say the least." (The next day one blogger reports, "The movie '2016: Obama's America' premiered yesterday. Only showing thru Tuesday is their plan. All theaters sold out yesterday. I was [at the] matinee and only a few front row seats were empty. Even the dumbed down are beginning to panic. What is coming is as plain as the nose on your face. One theater had so many people, that they opened up five more theaters than originally planned. Theater manager said he had never seen anything like this before, where thousands were buying tickets. The movie painted a very clear picture.

Of course the producer did not go into the ‘conspiracy’ stuff. Just the facts, and they were enough, to scare the audience to death.”) [35767, 35769]

At the Iowa State Fair Hank Williams, Jr. performs for a crowd of 8,500. After singing *We Don’t Apologize for America* the audience chants, “USA! USA!” Williams then says, “We’ve got a Muslim president who hates farming, hates the military, hates the US and we hate him!” (The Obama campaign responds, “That type of absurd nonsense doesn’t really deserve a response.”) [35826]

On August 18 Paul Ryan campaigns at The Villages senior citizen housing development in Florida. Ryan introduces his 80-year-old mother, Betty Ryan Douglas, to the crowd and says, “She planned her retirement around this [Medicare] promise. That’s a promise we have to keep. ...[Do] You want to know what Medicare is saying about this [Obama’s Medicare cuts to fund ObamaCare]? From Medicare officials themselves: One out of six of our hospitals and our nursing homes will go out of business as a result of this.” (Townhall.com notes, “That was a far from exact reference to a 2010 analysis by Medicare chief actuary Richard Foster. He said then that roughly 15 percent of hospitals and nursing homes that provide Medicare services could ‘become unprofitable’ over a decade—not necessarily go out of business—thanks to cuts in payments from the government under the health care law.” For most people, of course, “unprofitable” means the same thing as going out of business.) Ryan states that Obama “raided \$716 billion from the Medicare program to pay for the ‘ObamaCare’ program. What’s more, in addition to that he puts a board of 15 unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats in charge of Medicare who are required to cut Medicare in ways that will lead to denied care for current seniors. We will end the raid of Medicare, we will restore the promise of this program. ...Four million seniors are projected to lose their Medicare [Advantage] plans that they chose and enjoy today under this ObamaCare plan. We will end the raid of Medicare, we will restore the promise of this program and we will make sure this board of bureaucrats won’t mess with my mom’s healthcare or your mom’s healthcare. Medicare should not be used as a piggybank for ObamaCare. Medicare should be the promise that is made to our current seniors, period, end of story.” [35736, 35737, 35738, 35741, 35745]

Ryan continues, “We have to champion small businesses. Small business [are] the engine of opportunity, the engine of job creation. We need to re-start that engine. ...[When I was] growing up, my dad worked and my mom stayed at home. ...When my dad died, my mom went back to school. She went back to college, got a new skill, a new trade, and she started a small business. My mom had three or four employees at that small business that she started. We were taking care of my grandma at the time, she [my mom] was going to school, and then she started this small business. [Turning to his mother] And mom [audience cheers], I am proud of you for going out, getting another degree. I’m proud of you for the small business that you created... and mom, [to audience cheers] *you did build that!*” [35736, 35737, 35738, 35741, 35745]

Campaigning in Windham, New Hampshire, Obama says, “You would think they [Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan] would avoid talking about Medicare, given the fact that both of

them have proposed to voucherize [sic] the Medicare system. But I guess they figure the best defense is to try to go on offense. So, New Hampshire, here is what you need to know: Since I have been in office, I have strengthened Medicare.” (Obama has done nothing to “strengthen Medicare.” It is four years closer to bankruptcy than when he took office.) “They’ve been trying to sell this trickle-down snake oil before. It did not work then. It will not work now. It will not reduce the deficit, it will not create jobs. It’s the wrong direction for America.” (Income tax cuts do, in fact, work. The Kennedy, Reagan, and Bush tax cuts resulted in increased tax revenues, millions of new jobs, and increased growth in the nation’s GDP. They did not result in deficit reduction only because Congress spent more than the amount of the increased revenues.) [35736, 35737, 35738]

In his weekly radio/Internet address, Obama again calls on Congress to bail out states with federal cash (\$25 billion) to reduce the number of teacher layoffs. (Education is a local issue. Even if Obama borrows \$25 billion to give to the states to give to school districts, one year later those same states and school districts will be back begging for more taxpayer money. Taxpayers in well-run states are essentially being taxed to provide money for states that are poorly-run and cannot balance their budgets. If a local school district is not adequately funded, it is its responsibility to cut spending or obtain additional local taxpayer funds—usually via increased property taxes. Obama is trying to avoid that reality, robbing Peter to get Paul’s vote.) [35747, 35762, 35810]

Yahoo.com reports, “Two days after Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer declared her state won’t confer driver’s licenses and other state benefits to newly-documented immigrants under Obama’s ‘deferred action’ immigration policy, Nebraska, too, put its foot down. Echoing Gov. Brewer, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman (R) said on Saturday that Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program does not make successful applicants ‘legal citizens,’ meaning they remain ineligible for state benefits like driver’s licenses and other services.” [35773]

On August 19 the Cato Institute’s Michael F. Cannon reports at Townhall.com that the IRS is instituting an ObamaCare rule that is illegal because it conflicts with the legislation’s own guidelines: “Contrary to the clear language of the statute and congressional intent, this [IRS] rule issues tax credits in health insurance ‘exchanges’ established by the federal government. It thus triggers a \$2,000-per-employee tax on employers and appropriates billions of dollars to private health insurance companies in states with a federal Exchange, also contrary to the clear language of the statute and congressional intent. Since those illegal expenditures will exceed the revenues raised by the illegal tax on employers, this rule also increases the federal deficit by potentially hundreds of billions of dollars, again contrary to the clear language of the statute and congressional intent.” (Under ObamaCare, the \$2,000-per-employee tax applies only to employers that do not provide employee health insurance *in states that do not establish health care “exchanges.”* The tax does *not* apply if the state does not set up an exchange or if it is implemented by the federal government. Because a number of states have indicated they will not set up the health care exchanges, the Obama administration has retaliated by simply ignoring the law and ordering the IRS to implement the employee tax credits and employer penalties anyway.) “The rule is therefore illegal. It lacks any

statutory authority. It is contrary to both the clear language of the PPACA [ObamaCare] and congressional intent. It cannot be justified on other legal grounds. On balance, this rule is a large net tax increase. For every \$2 of unauthorized tax reduction, it imposes \$1 of unauthorized taxes on employers, and commits taxpayers to pay for \$8 of unauthorized subsidies to private insurance companies. Because this rule imposes an illegal tax on employers and obligates taxpayers to pay for illegal appropriations, it is quite literally taxation without representation.” (Colorado is one of the states that does plan to create an ObamaCare exchange. According to *The Pueblo Chieftain*, “A subcommittee of the board charged with establishing the exchange is considering a draft budget for its federal grant application that would create 24 positions and pay those employees a total of more than \$3 million annually to manage the health care cooperative. The average annual salary of a health benefits exchange employee would exceed \$125,000 under the plan. The highest salaries would be paid to the CEO (\$200,400) and chiefs of finance, operations and communications would make \$165,000 each—just \$7,200 less than the White House director of communications.”) [35760, 35780, 35785]

On *Fox & Friends* conservative Ann Coulter suggests that Vice President Joe Biden’s continuing gaffes are not necessarily harming Obama: “I think any distraction from the economy, from the jobless rate, from just the haplessness of [Obama] is probably a good distraction [from the Obama campaign’s perspective]. I think the big distraction to watch out for ...is ...probably a foreign policy October surprise—maybe allowing Israel to attack Iran, because I think [Obama] is going to need a Hail Mary pass before the election. ...And the other reason Biden’s gaffes aren’t that damaging to [Obama] is because the media is so playing a part in this campaign. I think this is going to be the worst media bias we have seen since the 1992 election.” 35796]

The newest edition of *Newsweek* magazine proclaims, “HIT THE ROAD, BARACK,” in a cover story by Niall Ferguson titled, “Why We Need a New President.” Ferguson writes, “...[T]he question confronting the country ...is whether the winner has delivered on his promises. And the sad truth is that he has not. In his inaugural address, Obama promised ‘not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.’ He promised to ‘build the roads and bridges, the electric grids, and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together.’ He promised to ‘restore science to its rightful place and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its cost.’ And he promised to ‘transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age.’ Unfortunately [his] scorecard on every single one of those bold pledges is pitiful. ...[T]he total number of private-sector jobs is still 4.3 million below the January 2008 peak. Meanwhile, since 2008, a staggering 3.6 million Americans have been added to Social Security’s disability insurance program. This is one of many ways unemployment is being concealed. ...In his fiscal year 2010 budget—the first he presented—[Obama] envisaged growth of 3.2 percent in 2010, 4.0 percent in 2011, 4.6 percent in 2012. The actual numbers were 2.4 percent in 2010 and 1.8 percent in 2011; few forecasters now expect it to be much above 2.3 percent this year. Unemployment was supposed to be 6 percent by now. It has averaged 8.2 percent this year so far. Meanwhile real median annual household income has dropped more than 5 percent since June 2009.

Nearly 110 million individuals received a welfare benefit in 2011, mostly Medicaid or food stamps.” [35768, 35797, 35841, 35853, 35884]

Ferguson continues, “Welcome to Obama’s America: nearly half the population is not represented on a taxable return—almost exactly the same proportion that lives in a household where at least one member receives some type of government benefit. We are becoming the 50–50 nation—half of us paying the taxes, the other half receiving the benefits. ...Not only did the initial fiscal stimulus fade after the sugar rush of 2009, but [Obama] has done absolutely nothing to close the long-term gap between spending and revenue. ...[Obama] just kept ducking the fiscal issue. Having set up a bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, headed by retired Wyoming Republican senator Alan Simpson and former Clinton chief of staff Erskine Bowles, Obama effectively sidelined its recommendations of approximately \$3 trillion in cuts and \$1 trillion in added revenues over the coming decade. As a result there was no ‘grand bargain’ with the House Republicans—which means that, barring some miracle, the country will hit a fiscal cliff on Jan. 1 as the Bush tax cuts expire and the first of \$1.2 trillion of automatic, across-the-board spending cuts are imposed. The CBO estimates the net effect could be a 4 percent reduction in output. ...For me [Obama’s] greatest failure has been not to think through the implications of these [foreign] challenges to American power. Far from developing a coherent strategy, he believed—perhaps encouraged by the premature award of the Nobel Peace Prize—that all he needed to do was to make touchy-feely speeches around the world explaining to foreigners that he was not George W. Bush. ...In the case of Iran [Obama] did nothing, and the thugs of the Islamic Republic ruthlessly crushed the demonstrations. Ditto Syria. In Libya he was cajoled into intervening. In Egypt he tried to have it both ways, exhorting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to leave, then drawing back and recommending an ‘orderly transition.’ The result was a foreign-policy debacle. Not only were Egypt’s elites appalled by what seemed to them a betrayal, but the victors—the Muslim Brotherhood—had nothing to be grateful for. America’s closest Middle Eastern allies—Israel and the Saudis—looked on in amazement. ‘This is what happens when you get caught by surprise,’ an anonymous American official told *The New York Times* in February 2011. ‘We’ve had endless strategy sessions for the past two years on Mideast peace, on containing Iran. And how many of them factored in the possibility that Egypt moves from stability to turmoil? None.’” [35768, 35884]

“It is a sign of just how completely Barack Obama has ‘lost his narrative’ since getting elected that the best case he has yet made for reelection is that Mitt Romney should not be president. In his notorious ‘you didn’t build that’ speech, Obama listed what he considers the greatest achievements of big government: the Internet, the GI Bill, the Golden Gate Bridge [which Obama does not know was built fully by the private sector, not the federal government], the Hoover Dam, the Apollo moon landing, and even (bizarrely) the creation of the middle class. Sadly, he couldn’t mention anything comparable that his administration has achieved. Now Obama is going head-to-head with his nemesis: a politician who believes more in content than in form, more in reform than in rhetoric. In the past days much has been written about Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, Mitt Romney’s choice of running mate. I know, like, and admire Paul Ryan. For

me, the point about him is simple. He is one of only a handful of politicians in Washington who is truly sincere about addressing this country's fiscal crisis. ... There is literally no one in Washington who understands the challenges of fiscal reform better. ... [O]ne thing is clear. Ryan psychs Obama out. This has been apparent ever since the White House went on the offensive against Ryan in the spring of last year. And the reason he psychs him out is that, unlike Obama, Ryan has a plan—as opposed to a narrative—for this country.” [35768, 35884]

Ferguson concludes, “Mitt Romney is not the best candidate for the presidency I can imagine. But he was clearly the best of the Republican contenders for the nomination. He brings to the presidency precisely the kind of experience—both in the business world and in executive office—that Barack Obama manifestly lacked four years ago. (If only Obama had worked at Bain Capital for a few years, instead of as a community organizer in Chicago, he might understand exactly why the private sector is not ‘doing fine’ right now.) And by picking Ryan as his running mate, Romney has given the first real sign that—unlike Obama—he is a courageous leader who will not duck the challenges America faces. The voters now face a stark choice. They can let Barack Obama’s rambling, solipsistic narrative continue until they find themselves living in some American version of Europe, with low growth, high unemployment, even higher debt—and real geopolitical decline. Or they can opt for real change: the kind of change that will end four years of economic underperformance, stop the terrifying accumulation of debt, and reestablish a secure fiscal foundation for American national security. I’ve said it before: it’s a choice between *les États Unis* and the Republic of the Battle Hymn. I was a good loser four years ago. But this year, fired up by the rise of Ryan, I want badly to win.” [35768, 35884]

On CNN’s *State of the Union*, deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter is asked why Obama has avoided press conferences for two months yet granted interviews to *People* magazine and *Entertainment Tonight*. Cutter replies that the entertainment media is equally important, and claims, “I think that’s where Amer—I think that’s where a lot of Americans get their news, and I think [Obama] is going to continue doing that.” (On *The Five*, co-host Greg Gutfeld later observes, “But the biggest joke in all of this—that the national press thinks it’s different. No guys, you’re not. You’re every bit as shallow and co-opted as the typical entertainment reporter fawning over Ryan Gosling’s chiseled pecs... So Cutter is right, there is no difference between the news press and the entertainment press. They are two industries united by hero worship, protecting [Obama’s] flanks when they should be challenging him. And the public ends up with a presidency that feels like another summer repeat that needs canceling because in the real world, you can’t turn turkey into a blockbuster know matter how many positive reviews you buy.”) [35804, 35840]

On *Meet the Press* Vice President Joe Biden’s gaffes are discussed, and Wall Street Journalist columnist Peggy Noonan comments, “If it had been a Republican vice presidential candidate who had made those gaffes, one after another, so comically, and all on tape, the subject today of the panel would be, ‘How stupid is this person. Can this person possibly govern?’” Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani says Joe Biden “is a

laugh line on Jay Leno; he's not a vice president. He's a joke. You never know what he's going to say." [35772, 35791]

On ABC's *This Week* Stephanie Cutter, Obama's deputy campaign manager, again denies knowledge of the details of the "Romney killed my wife" ad: "I didn't know the facts of when Mr. Soptic's wife got sick, uh, and I only recently learned them through all the hysteria over that ad." (As noted previously, Cutter hosted Soptic on a May 14 conference call with reporters—before the attack ad was aired.) [35783]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Obama toady and former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs responds to Mitt Romney's charge that the Obama campaign is based on "division and hate." Gibbs says, "I'm not going to be lectured by Mitt Romney or anybody on the Romney campaign about the tone of this campaign. This is a guy who's ... auctioning off dinners with the birther in chief, right-wing-nut-job Donald Trump, who still questions whether or not [Obama] was born in the United States of America. I'm happy to listen to charges and countercharges, but the notion that we're going to get lectured by Mitt Romney and his campaign about running a positive campaign, that's a pill far too big to swallow." Trump also appears on the program, and states, "The Obama representatives like Robert Gibbs attack people viciously, but people like me will not be silent and will answer them back. It is a shame that they are so vicious and hateful—and that is why the country is so terribly divided. Obama and his attack dogs have nothing but hate and anger in their hearts and spew it whenever possible. Obama has no solutions. Obama has failed the country and its great citizens, and they don't like it when somebody such as myself speaks the truth about this — it hurts too much. ... Robert Gibbs is nothing more than a mouthpiece for a desperate campaign that once promised us hope and change and has given us nothing but debt and unemployment. Our country is in serious trouble, and something must be done." Romney campaign senior adviser Ed Gillespie says, "The Obama-Biden campaign is going to continue to try to make this about little things and distractions. I think it's a shame that the campaign of hope and change has denigrated to one of fear and smear, but I think the American people want to have the bigger debate." [35772]

WND.com reports, "As five House members continue to call for an investigation of Muslim Brotherhood influence on the federal government, a researcher who has documented numerous ties between Hillary Clinton's top aide and the global Islamic supremacist movement has found another connection. Huma Abedin, Clinton's deputy chief of staff, who is said to advise the secretary of state on Middle East policy, was a member of the executive board of the Muslim Student Association [MSA], according to an archived Web page discovered by researcher Walid Shoebat. The Muslim Student Association, or MSA, was identified as a Muslim Brotherhood front group in a 1991 document introduced into evidence during the terror-financing trial of the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation trial. ... While the MSA, with nearly 600 chapters in the U.S. and Canada, 'has gained legitimacy as a benevolent collegiate faith club,' it was established in 1963 by Muslim Brotherhood leaders to recruit young people into the movement, which is dedicated to 'resurrecting true Islamic governance worldwide' based on Islamic law, or Shariah, according to a dossier by the Investigative Project on Terrorism."

(Abedin's mother, brother, and late father all have links to the radical Muslim Brotherhood—yet she is allowed access to confidential information as Clinton's closest aide. There have also been some suggestions that Abedin has been an “especially” close aide.) [35779]

DailyCaller.com reports, “In a book set for publication Tuesday [*Shadowbosses: Government Unions Control America and Rob Taxpayers Blind*], a politics and government professor at The Citadel claims ...Obama's 2009 health care reform law was, in part, a union-driven effort to organize 21 million health care workers. ...The SEIU [Service Employees International Union] and the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), [author Mallory] Factor writes, later coordinated with other public-sector unions to spend ‘literally hundreds of millions of dollars promoting Obamacare.’” Don Loos, a former federal Office of Labor-Management Standards staffer who is now with the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, states, “It is clear that Big Labor is banking on the probability that all healthcare workers eventually become federal, state, and municipal healthcare employees. Obamacare is an SEIU and AFSCME membership ‘net.’” (Non-union insurance company workers would eventually become government employees—forced to join, and pay billions of dollars in union dues to, AFSCME or SEIU.) [35786, 35835]

At an “Occupy DC Peoples Assembly” in the nation's capitol, former Amalgamated Transit Union local 689 president Mike Golash states, “Progressive labor is a revolutionary communist organization. Its objective is to make revolution in the United States, overthrow the capitalist system, and build communism. ...We're trying to learn something from the historical revolutions of the past: the Russian revolution, the Chinese revolution, the revolutions in Cuba and Eastern Europe. What can we learn from them so we can build a more successful movement to transform capitalist society? ...An organization has to be built which can bring down capitalism.” (The “Occupy” movement has had the support of Obama, House minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and other key “progressive” Democrats.) [35787, 35788]

On August 20 Obama visits the White House briefing room to take (a few seemingly carefully scripted) questions from the White House press corps, which he has been avoiding for two months. Guy Benson, Townhall.com's political editor, writes, “My two biggest take-aways from the presser: (1) This quote: ‘In terms of the economy... [pause, audible sigh].’ He then launched into a rambling answer, littered with straw men. That groan and hesitation will likely make its way into a television ad or two. (2) Barack Obama is 100 percent comfortable with the tone, tenor and focus of his campaign. Pressed on its incessant attacks, Obama denied that the smears have even occurred (‘Nobody accused Mr. Romney of being a felon!’), instructed reporters that only his words matter on this subject (subtext: my surrogates, allies and running mate shouldn't really reflect on me), and whined about the Romney campaign's (!) nastiness. In defending his formally-endorsed SuperPAC, he conjured up Democrats' go-to false equivalency between the group's outrageous ‘cancer’ ad and the Romney campaign's slightly exaggerated but broadly accurate welfare attacks. In shamelessly complaining that Romney is really the one relying on negative and false attacks, [Obama] made this

statement: ‘But, the truth of the matter is, you can’t just make things up. ... And, I feel, uh, very comfortable with the fact that when you look at the campaign we’re runnin’ we are focused on the issues and the differences that matter to working families all across America and that’s exactly the kind of debate that the American people deserve.’ (As Obama leaves the briefing room, ABC’s Jake Tapper calls out, “Don’t be a stranger!”) [35781, 35782, 35792, 35793, 35816, 35819, 35848, 35849, 35857]

Obama tells reporters, “On Syria, obviously this is a very tough issue. I have indicated repeatedly that President al-Assad has lost legitimacy, that he needs to step down. So far, he hasn’t gotten the message, and instead has double downed in violence on his own people. The international community has sent a clear message that rather than drag his country into civil war he should move in the direction of a political transition. But at this point, the likelihood of a soft landing seems pretty distant. ... We have been very clear to the Assad regime, but also to other players on the ground, that a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized. That would change my calculus. That would change my equation.” (To some, that statement may sound like, “As long as Assad kills innocent people with conventional weapons we won’t get involved.”) No reporter thinks to ask Obama how Syria obtained chemical weapons—which allegedly were trucked from Iraq to Syria in early 2003 so that Saddam Hussein would not be caught with “weapons of mass destruction.” (Obama is among those who claim the Bush administration lied when it said Iraq had such weapons. He now apparently believes they are in Syria.) [35842]

Conveniently asked by NBC’s Chuck Todd about Romney’s tax returns, Obama says, “The American people have assumed that if you want to be president of the United States, your life’s an open book when it comes to things like finances. I’m not asking to disclose every detail of his medical records, although we normally do that as well.” (Obama has refused to release his own medical records, yet expects Romney to do so. Breitbart.com comments, “And yet, there stood Obama unchallenged by the lapdog media as he implied he’s an ‘open book’ about those very same medical records. And these records are important and relevant, especially in light of the fact that Obama is a former smoker (so we’re told) and an admitted illegal drug abuser (including cocaine). The fact that one heartbeat away sits a barely-functional moron [Joe Biden] also comes into play.”) [35854]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the White House insider, who writes, “You asked for more real time updates, so thought you might like to know the following. If you haven’t seen it yet, [Obama] staged a surprise visit to the WHpc [White House Press corps] today. WH [White House] handlers had made contact with at least three members of media beforehand. They wanted to ensure [that] a question on the [Todd] Akin rape comments was asked. Prepared notes for response by [Obama] were rehearsed. The moment was [meant] to provide [the] campaign with a ‘soundbite backdrop’ to fire up the war on women tactic they believe provided a bump in the polls [a] couple months back. This kind of thing isn’t new. [It is] Pretty common with administrations to have some media folks they can cherry pick during a p.c. [press conference]. Thing on this though is that WH staff [is] divided on whether or not to run with this one. They are not sure some

guy running for Senator is right to try and make a national campaign issue out of it and they fear the Romney team has a prepared response to create backlash. This shows a couple things. One, Romney and Ryan are totally in the Obama team's head. Got them biting each other up pretty regular now. Second, they are losing confidence in how to run a national campaign big time." (Todd Akin is the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate in Missouri. A reporter asks Obama a softball question about an ill-advised remark by Akin about rape and abortion—a remark that Mitt Romney and other Republicans immediately denounced. Obama is not asked about the sexual harassment scandal in the Department of Health and Human Services.) [35816, 35818, 35856]

The insider continues, "I'm not going to share which side of the argument I think is the right one on this. Don't want to give an assist to the Obama folks. I'll just say that the final decision came down to 'get him out there' and that is what happened. Obama was pushed out onto the stage with some crib notes and instructions to wait for the abortion question. The question came and [Obama] read from his notes. If you find a video of it, you will notice him looking down at those notes. I had to laugh when Obama tries to manufacture outrage when he gets to that word. You can see the little rodent in his head spinning around the wheel telling him to 'act outraged' but the guy just can't pull it off anymore. What Akin said was clumsy but it sure as hell wasn't what the media and Obama are trying to spin it off as. That's the game being played there though, so that is that. They are gonna try and make this a national issue, move some swing state numbers, we'll see about that. Oh, and one other thing. BC [Bill Clinton] is negotiating the content with the Obama team for the convention. They are trying to tell Clinton what he can and cannot talk about. BC told them to go f-ck themselves. That they need him not the other way around. Pretty sure Bill is gonna get his way on this one. Not sure what the payback for him is on this but there has got to be one. More than just the national spotlight. No, he's gonna squeeze Obama for everything he can. A Clinton never forgives. Never." [35816]

"Did you catch that *Newsweek* cover? The Old Man [probably the *Wall Street* insider] must of [sic] added another zero on the check for that one. Almost forgot. There was a big to do over FnF [Operation Fast and Furious] inside the Republican leadership. One of them, I didn't get a name, but one of them threatened either the Speaker [John Boehner] or the Senate minority leader [Mitch McConnell]. The threat was to go public now with information instead of waiting it out. Apparently the leadership is telling him they must roll it out careful[ly], that the timing is good for the election, etc. This guy has had it with that sh-t. He is telling them politics shouldn't have anything to do with it. That it needs to be an all or nothing moment. That tells me some kind of information got out during the investigation. Or somebody told them there is something in those docs that are being covered up when Obama declared Executive Privilege. That's me guessing but nothing else makes sense. This guy has been pretty quiet following the party line lead on all of this for months and now he's extremely pissed off. When that kind of in-house defection happens, look for leaks. They often soon follow. Will follow up if I get specifics on who it was screaming at the leadership. Republicans don't normally carry on like that, so it's got to be something significant." [35816]

On NBC's *Today* program, *Time* magazine's Mark Halperin is asked by Lester Holt, "The Obama folks clearly know they've found some traction on this tax return issue with Romney. And then of course late in the week comes this challenge—'give us a little more and we won't complain anymore.' Has this issue come to the point [that it's jumped the shark?]" Halperin replies, "I think, uh, the press still likes this story a lot; the media is very susceptible to, to doing what the Obama campaign wants, which is to focus on this." [35805]

DailyCaller.com reports, "A poll conducted by Illinois-based pollster and political strategist Michael McKeon found Obama leading Republican Mitt Romney by 49 percent to 37 percent in Cook County, the home of Chicago. That puts him ahead by a far thinner margin than expected in a county he should be winning handsomely. Cook is the most Democratic leaning county in the state. It is also the most populous. Those numbers do not bode well for [Obama]." (Although a 49–37 percent spread seems commanding, Cook County is only one county in Illinois, and Romney will pick up wins in many of them. In 2008 Obama won Cook County by a whopping 76–22 percent, which makes 49–37 appear far less overwhelming. John McCain won a majority of the state's counties in 2008, and there is no reason to believe that Romney-Ryan will not outperform McCain-Palin.) "In the city of Chicago itself, [Obama] retains a 60–29 lead over Romney. But the Republican challenger leads 45–38 in the surrounding areas. Across the county as a whole, Romney leads 43–31 among independent voters, a crucial voting bloc. Romney also holds a 44–38 lead among male voters, and a 53–40 lead among white voters." McKeon observes that Obama "has to come out of Cook County with a big lead or he's gonna have problems downstate. It's not like his policies are very popular downstate. He's viewed as more part of Chicago than he is part of Illinois." (It is worth noting that Pat Quinn, the state's Democrat governor, defeated his Republican challenger in 2010 by less than one percentage point. Although Obama will win big in the areas of Illinois with large welfare populations, Romney may have a strong enough showing in the rest of the state to give Obama some concerns.) IowaHawkBlog quips, "I'll believe a poll of Chicago voters when they sample the graveyards." [35789, 35790, 35837, 35852]

The Romney campaign reports that "Economists for Romney" has the support of 526 signatories, including five Nobel Prize recipients: Gary Becker, Robert Lucas, Robert Mundell, Edward Prescott, and Myron Scholes. [35794]

The group Let Freedom Ring releases an ad criticizing the Obama administration for protecting the pensions of union employees at General Motors' Delphi parts division, while slashing the benefits of salaried workers. Delphi's Tom Rose says in the ad, "The Obama administration decided to terminate my pension." Worker Roy Smith states, "Our pensions were terminated and they were not protected. The union members were. We were not." Mary Miller says, "...I have to ask, 'Why? What is it about my [union] friend and his family that were more important to the Obama administration than my family and me?'" Colin Hanna, president of Let Freedom Ring, asks, "Is it fair for two hard-working Americans to work side by side for years doing the very same job, and for one to wake up one morning and find out they lost their pension because Obama's Administration thought they were less politically valuable and the other to wake up and find out they get

to keep everything because his Administration considered them to be more politically valuable?” DailyCaller.com notes that emails it obtained “show senior White House and Treasury officials were behind the termination of pensions for 20,000 non-union Delphi salaried retirees. Those emails show that the Treasury Department was the driving force behind terminating those pensions, a move made in 2009 while the Obama administration implemented its auto bailout plan. The emails contradict sworn testimony in which several Obama administration figures have consistently claimed that the decision to terminate the pensions came from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The PBGC is a federal government agency that handles private-sector pension benefits.” [35795]

In a new electronic book, *Obama's Last Stand*, author Glenn Thrush reveals that the Obama campaign is not the model of efficiency and smoothness many believe it to be. Politico writes, “Second-guessing about personnel, strategy and tactics has been a dominant theme of the reelection effort, according to numerous current and former Obama advisers who were interviewed [for the book]. The discord, these sources said, has on occasion flowed from Obama himself, who at repeated turns has made vocal his dissatisfaction with decisions made by his campaign team, with its messaging, with Vice President Joe Biden and with what Obama feared was clumsy coordination between his West Wing and reelection headquarters in Chicago. The effort in Chicago, meanwhile, has been bedeviled by some of the drama Obama so deftly dodged in 2008—including, at a critical point earlier this year, a spat that left senior operatives David Axelrod and Stephanie Cutter barely on speaking terms—and growing doubts about the effectiveness of Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.” HotAir.com adds, “Wonder why you haven’t seen Debbie Downer as much as one would expect to see the chair of the Democratic Party in the middle of a presidential election? So did Wasserman Schultz herself, according to Thrush’s book—and Team Obama showed her data from a focus group that placed her dead last among all of the campaign’s surrogates. Of course, DWS is Barack Obama’s selection for party leader, a choice that looks in retrospect a lot like his choice of running mate.” *The Washington Post* relates other tales from the book: “Obama asked a friend of Sen. Marco Rubio’s in February, ‘Is your boy going to go for [vice president]? ... Tell your boy to watch it. He might get his ass kicked.’” [If a Republican dared refer to Obama as “boy” he would be forced to reign and be forced out of the party. Obama uses the same slur and gets away with it.] “VP Joe Biden had advised Obama to tread delicately on the issue of gay marriage, not long before going public with his own support.” “Top campaign aides David Axelrod and Stephanie Cutter got into a weeks-long fight over a morning show appearance.” Thrush states he was “striving for a portrait of [Obama’s] mindset as he embarks on what even those closest to him think is an uphill battle against GOP superPACs, Mitt Romney’s team, and most of all an economy that just won’t cooperate.” (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey: “My favorite line is the Team Obama frustration over ‘an economy that just won’t cooperate.’ Funny, that’s what the economy thinks of the White House.”) [35799, 35800, 35801, 36086]

CNSNews.com reports, “A provision of ... Obama’s health care law imposes a second Medicare tax on investment income for Americans classified as wealthy, effectively

raising taxes on investment income and taxing investors twice. The provision, a little-known part of ObamaCare, levies a 3.8 percent Medicare tax on investment income for couples making more than \$250,000 or individuals making more than \$200,000 a year. The tax is scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2013. Currently, the government levies a 2.9 percent Medicare payroll tax on all wages, with half (1.45%) paid by the individual and half by the employer. Beginning in 2013, couples making more than \$250,000 (or individuals making \$200,000) will have to pay an additional 3.8 percent Medicare tax on any investment income (unearned income) they might have. In other words, beginning in 2013, wealthy Americans who have investment income will be taxed twice to pay for Medicare—once on their regular salary and again on their investment income. This new Medicare tax will be in addition to the taxes investors already pay on their investment returns—known as capital gains taxes—effectively raising capital gains taxes by 3.8 percent. ...The tax effectively raises the total tax on capital gains to 23.8 percent on long-term investments and to 43.4 percent for short-term investment gains, interest, and rental income.” (Raising the capital gains tax typically results in reduced job creation, because investors simply hold on to their investments rather than cash them in, pay exorbitant taxes, and invest what is left over in new businesses.) [35807]

At NationalReview.com Katrina Trinko points out how Republicans in Nevada responded to Democrat “Mediscare” attacks in a special election to fill the Congressional seat of Dean Heller (who was appointed U.S. Senator to replace John Ensign). Trinko writes that “from the beginning” Republican Mark Amodei “anticipated Medicare attacks” from his Democrat opponent, Kate Marshall. After Marshall ran ads claiming Amodei “supports the Ryan plan that ends Medicare as we know it,” the Republican responded with ads that emphasized the \$500 billion in Medicare cuts—now known to be \$716 billion—that were being used to help fund ObamaCare. Amodei’s ad asked, “Why is Democrat Kate Marshall lying about Mark Amodei’s record on Medicare? Because Kate Marshall wants to cover up her support for a \$500 billion Medicare cut.” Trinko writes, “The results were astonishing. Before the ad aired in early August, Amodei was seen favorably by 28 percent of seniors and unfavorably by 19 percent. By the end of that month, he had 51 percent favorable ratings, and 25 percent unfavorable. In early August, 39 percent of voters thought that Marshall ‘would better protect seniors on Medicare,’ while 26 percent thought that of Amodei. At the month’s end, Marshall was down to 33 percent and Amodei was up to 41 percent. Among those who were 56 to 65, the change was even more dramatic. Initially, 46 percent of that age group saw Marshall as more likely to protect Medicare, while 18 percent viewed Amodei that way. At the end, 43 percent thought Amodei was more likely to protect seniors in the program, and 36 percent thought Marshall was. ...When Election Day came, Amodei won in a landslide, with 58 percent to Marshall’s 36 percent.” (The Amodei victory illustrates why the Obama campaign has been shaken to the core by Mitt Romney’s selection of Paul Ryan as his running mate. It is obvious that the Romney-Ryan campaign will not roll over and play dead, as John McCain did in 2008. Not only will the GOP fight Obama in 2012, they will confront him directly on Medicare—where the Democrats always thought they were on safe ground. Congressman Mark Amodei has proven otherwise.) [35814]

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan address a town hall meeting audience of about 3,000 at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. BostonHerald.com reports, “Thrilled local voters crammed onto the lawn to get their first in-person look at the vice presidential pick and ask questions about the national debt, Afghanistan and passing a balanced budget. ‘I’m here for Ryan. He’s an all-American. He’s one of us,’ said Steve Stefanik, 63, a Manchester resident and member of the NRA. ‘I’m not here for Romney, that’s for sure.’ Stefanik said Romney’s choice of Ryan has changed the way he and many others in the National Rifle Association feel about the GOP ticket. ‘We weren’t going to vote. We were going to stay out of it. Now we’re voting for Ryan,’ he said. Kathy Staples, 57, of Biddeford, Maine, brushed off concerns about Medicare. ‘If people listen, they’ll support this ticket,’ she said as she headed onto a grassy field on the college campus. ‘It’s like he says, he’s not going to hurt his mother Betty [who is a senior citizen on Medicare].’” (Although Obama won New Hampshire in 2008, it is not a lock for him in 2012, and even though it has only four electoral votes, he cannot afford to ignore it either. The more states Romney-Ryan make competitive, the more Obama has to travel to them and spend money on ads.) [35815]

FoxNews.com reports, “Part of Alabama’s immigration law that ordered public schools to check the citizenship status of new students was ruled unconstitutional Monday by a federal appeals court that also said police in that state and Georgia can demand papers from criminal suspects they have detained.” [35817]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Surging popularity in the anti-Obama movie ‘2016: Obama’s America’ has dramatically boosted the number of theaters showing it, making the film the second biggest money-maker per-theater behind ‘Expendables 2,’ the nation’s No. 1 flick. Having opened last month in just a single Texas theater and facing complaints from [Obama’s] supporters, ‘2016: Obama’s America’ was shown in 169 theaters last weekend [and] is slated to be in 800 this weekend... Just as shocking: Over the weekend it earned \$7,391 per theater, topping huge hits like ‘The Dark Knight Rises,’ ‘The Bourne Legacy,’ and ‘The Campaign.’ Last weekend, it earned \$1,249,000, a 293 percent one-week surge. ‘Expendables 2’ earned \$8,670 per theater, tops in the country. What’s more: It was the 13th overall money maker last week, following a movie that was showing in over 1,100 theaters.” (More than one thousand theaters will show *2016* the weekend of August 24–26.) [35820, 35886]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, “Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ‘is determined to attack Iran before the US elections,’ Israel’s Channel 10 News claimed on Monday night, and Israel is now ‘closer than ever’ to a strike designed to thwart Iran’s nuclear drive. The TV station’s military reporter Alon Ben-David, who earlier this year was given extensive access to the Israel Air Force as it trained for a possible attack, reported that, since upgraded sanctions against Iran have failed to force a suspension of the Iranian nuclear program in the past two months, ‘from the prime minister’s point of view, the time for action is getting ever closer.’ He said it seemed that Netanyahu was not waiting for a much-discussed possible meeting with ...Obama, after the UN General Assembly gathering in New York late next month—indeed, ‘it’s not clear that there’ll be a meeting.’ In any case, said Ben-David, ‘I doubt Obama could say anything that would

convince Netanyahu to delay a possible attack.’ Asked by the news anchor in the Hebrew-language TV report how close Israel now was to ‘a decision and perhaps an attack,’ Ben-David said: ‘It appears that we are closer than ever.’” (As suggested previously in this *Timeline*, Israel likely assumes that Obama will “throw it under the bus” if he wins reelection, ignoring any calls for help if it is attacked by Iran, Egypt, Syria, or their terrorist disciples Hizballah and Hamas. If Israel attacks Iran’s nuclear facilities before the November 6 election, Obama will be forced to provide assistance in order to keep from losing Jewish-American votes. Israel does not want war, but it would rather stage an attack with U.S. support in September or October than risk being annihilated in a second Obama term.) At WND.com F. Michael Maloof, a former senior security policy analyst with the Department of Defense, writes, “Israelis have not ruled out a Jericho III missile launch to detonate a single electromagnetic pulse warhead at high altitude over central Iran.” (Such a detonation would destroy most of Iran’s power grid and electronic components without causing any direct deaths.) Many argue that Israel is exaggerating the danger of a nuclear-armed Iran, and that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s threats to “wipe Israel off the face of the map” should be ignored—just as they argue that Israel should not retaliate against Hamas rockets lobbed across the border. (Of course, most of the people making those arguments don’t live in Tel Aviv.) [35821, 35825, 35870]

DailyCaller.com reports that Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood “is ‘very proud’ of the Economic Recovery Act of 2009 that put 65,000 people to work with \$48 billion in federal funds for the Department of Transportation, amounting to \$738,461 per job.” [35838]

At WND.com Dr. Jerome Corsi (author of *Where’s the Real Birth Certificate?*) writes, “New research by Joel Gilbert into Communist Party member Frank Marshall Davis’ seedy history in Hawaii has bolstered the filmmaker’s theory that Davis was the biological father of Barack Obama. Gilbert has uncovered handwritten letters by Davis that strongly suggest the acknowledged Obama mentor’s pornographic sex novel ‘Sex Rebel: Black’ was based on Davis’ personal life.” Nude photographs of a young woman who appears to be Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, were supposedly taken by Davis at 2994 Kalihi Street in Honolulu. In a letter to artist Margaret Burroughs, Davis notes that she is called “Flo” in his novel, and states, “I have tried to be honest although I changed names and some descriptions, etc. You will find out things about me sexually you probably never suspected—but in this wider acceptance of sexual attitudes I can be far more frank than was possible 20 years ago.” Gilbert suggests “that the affair Davis describes in ‘Sex Rebel: Black’ involving an underage girl named ‘Anne’ is very suggestive of Stanley Ann Dunham.” [35823, 35824]

At Newsmax.com, Ronald Kessler writes, “Journalists are not idiots. They recognize that Obama, as the Newsweek cover story [“Hit the Road, Barack—Why We Need a New President”] documents, has been a failure. But they are also lemmings who will not depart from their traditional support of Democrats unless given permission by their peers. The cover story in Newsweek, one of the most liberal-leaning publications in the country, does just that. ...Having been a reporter for the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal,

I know how susceptible journalists are to the herd instinct. The Newsweek cover story in effect tells journalists it's OK to begin telling the truth about Obama and expose his presidency as the failure Newsweek says it is. For that reason, it could be a turning point in the election." [35841]

TheRoot.com's Keli Goff notes that Paul Ryan once had a college sweetheart who is black and has a sister-in-law who is black, and asks if it matters. Goff, who is black, writes, "Research has shown that those who hold stereotypes about a particular group of people are unlikely to have those stereotypes altered merely by encountering someone who defies that stereotype. Instead, they are likely to view the individual defying said stereotype as an exception. In other words, it is possible to have a black friend, Asian friend, Hispanic friend or Muslim friend or wife and still exhibit prejudice toward that group. The friend or wife is simply viewed as the exception who is not like the others." After implying Ryan is a racist, Goff adds, "For the record: No, I am not calling Ryan a racist. I am saying, however, that if you want to know where a politician's heart lies when it comes to a particular community, it may be best to look at that person's policies—such as his or her record on civil rights—rather than personal relationships." (Goff does not mention that Obama dated a white woman while in college or suggest that he was racist for doing so.) [35860, 35861, 36073]

In an interview with KSDK in St. Louis, Obama is asked about the film *Dishonorable Discharges*, which excoriates the Obama administration for military intelligence leaks. Obama states, "I won't take this film too seriously, I gather that one of the producers is a birther who still doesn't think I was born in this country. You got, ah, one who was a Republican candidate for office and a proud card carrying member of the Tea Party. So, ah, yeah this is obviously a partisan film. I'd advise that you talk to General McRaven who is in charge of our Special Ops. I think he has a point of view in terms of how deeply I care about what these folks do each and every day to protect our freedom." (The relevant issue is not who produced the film, but who leaked the information—which came from within the Obama administration, not from tea Party activists. Further, McRaven is an *admiral*, not a general. SEALs are members of the Navy, not the Army.) [36108, 36109]

On August 21 MyFoxDetroit.com reports that Mitt Romney leads Obama 48–44 in a Michigan poll of registered voters. (Obama won the state by 16 points in 2008.) [35830, 35831, 35865]

On CBS *This Morning* the panel discusses Obama's evasive, half-hearted criticism of the Democrat PAC ad suggesting Mitt Romney was responsible for the death of a steelworker's wife. Norah O'Donnell comments, "I thought it was noteworthy that [Obama] 'knew that it [the ad] had only aired just once. That's how he knows the level of detail, even though it's not his campaign that is running this ad. Look, this is a question that Obama has to answer for, which is about the tone of the campaign. Many people believe that Obama was about 'hope and change' in 2008 but it is true, he ran a very negative campaign in 2008 as well." (HotAir.com: "*If you've lost CBS...*") [35843, 35848, 35849]

Townhall.com reports that the Obama campaign spent \$10 million more in July than it collected in donations: \$49 million in versus \$59 million out. (To date, Obama has spent \$325 million in his attempt to get reelected. That figure does not count spending by the Democrat National Committee or political action committees.) [35832, 35850, 35851]

RevealingPolitics.com posts a clip of former Clinton Secretary of State Madeline Albright campaigning for Obama in which she relates that she was asked, at a previous event, “How long are you people going to blame the previous administration?” She states she replied, “Forever.” [35833, 35899]

Campaigning in Carnegie, Pennsylvania, Paul Ryan tells a crowd, “I’m a Catholic deer hunter. I am happy to be clinging to my guns and my religion.” (In an April 6, 2008 speech in San Francisco Obama said because of lost jobs the residents of small-town America “...get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren’t like them or (become) anti-immigrant.” [273, 315, 1609, 35834]

A survey by Public Policy Polling shows Mitt Romney leading Obama in Paul Ryan’s home state of Wisconsin, 48–47. (Obama led 50–44 in early July.) Among senior citizens, Romney leads 52–43. [35846, 35847, 35865]

Obama campaigns in Ohio, telling students at Capital University in Columbus, “Higher education has gotten a lot harder to afford. It has gotten more expensive. Over the past two ...decades, tuition and fees at America’s colleges have more than doubled. The average student who borrows to pay for college now graduates with about \$26,000 worth of student loan debt. What? That sounds low to you. I just said the average. For a lot of young people it’s a lot higher. And that kind of debt means pretty tough choices when you’re first starting out. It might mean putting off starting a family or buying a home, or putting off chasing that great idea you’ve got for a small business.” (Since Obama entered the White House, the national debt has increased by about \$5 trillion—about \$16,000 for every Americans.) [35903]

Obama also tells the students, “Now, over the next two and a half months, the other side will spend more money than we have ever seen—ever. I mean, they got folks writing \$10 million checks, \$20 million checks. They should be contributing that to a scholarship fund to send kids to college. But instead, they are going to spend more money than we’ve ever seen on ads, and the ads all say the same thing, which is, the economy is not where it needs to be and it’s all Obama’s fault.” (Obama, of course, has also seen his share of big checks, and he seemed not to mind having a three-to-one cash advantage in 2008. For Obama to suggest that his political opponents should simply give up and forfeit the election to him is absurd, but at least he is consistent: for four years he has expected Republicans in Congress to give him everything he wanted.) [35959]

Moneynews.com reports, “Berkshire Hathaway Inc. terminated a large wager on the municipal-bond market five years early, The Wall Street Journal quoted a person familiar

with the transaction as saying. In a quarterly regulatory disclosure filed this month, the Warren Buffett-owned company terminated credit-default swaps insuring \$8.25 billion of municipal debt. The Journal said the early termination is deepening questions among some investors about the risks of buying debt issued by cities, states and other public entities.” (*The Obama Timeline* and others believe that the bond market is set to collapse. Warren Buffet may be signaling that he agrees.) [35855]

NYPost.com reports, “Hillary Rodham Clinton talked a reluctant ... Obama into killing Osama bin Laden — after [Obama] canceled plans for the mission three times, an explosive new book claims. Obama feared that the daring Navy SEALs operation to raid bin Laden’s hidden Pakistani compound ‘might go tragically wrong’ and he would be blamed for it, author Rich Minter says. His account challenges a key element of Obama’s re-election campaign—that his decision to kill the world’s No. 1 terrorist symbolizes his resolute leadership. The book—‘Leading From Behind: The Reluctant President and the Advisors Who Decide for Him’—describes Obama as being heavily influenced by three women—Clinton; his wife, Michelle; and longtime adviser and confidante Valerie Jarrett. The book cites an unnamed source in the Joint Special Operations Command as saying that [based on Valerie Jarrett’s advice] Obama canceled a mission to kill bin Laden in January 2011, as well as another in February and a third in March.” (The White House denies the claims.) [35862, 35868]

The Republican National Committee quickly releases an ad showing Obama saying, “Nobody accused Mr. Romney of being a felon,” followed by Obama deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter accusing Romney of committing a felony.” The ad concludes that Obama is “Willing to ignore the truth in order to hold on to power.” [35863]

To counter reports that Paul Ryan has a daily workout at 6:00 a.m., the Associated Press (AP) eagerly reports that Michelle Obama “gets up at 4:30 a.m. or 5 a.m. to work out before her kids wake up.” (The AP does not report that Ryan works out at the House gymnasium, while the Obama family’s personal trainer is flown from Chicago to Washington, D.C.—at taxpayer expense no doubt. There are apparently no qualified trainers in the nation’s capitol.) [35864, 35872]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Labor Department paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal stimulus funds to a public relations firm to run more than 100 commercials touting the Obama administration’s ‘green training’ job efforts on two MSNBC cable shows, records show. The commercials ran on MSNBC on shows hosted by Rachel Maddow and Keith Olbermann in 2009, but the contract didn’t report any jobs created, according to records reviewed recently by The Washington Times. Spending reports under the federal Recovery Act show \$495,000 paid to McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations LLC, which the Labor Department hired to raise awareness ‘among employers and influencers about the [Job Corps] program’s existing and new training initiatives in high growth and environmentally friendly career areas’ as well as spreading the word to prospective Job Corps enrollees.” David Williams, president of Taxpayers Protection Alliance, states, “Hiring a PR firm does not create jobs, and this was obviously

meant for selling a particular political agenda. The placement really reeks of a political ad rather than a job ad, and taxpayers see through this. Taxpayers would be a lot happier at the end of the day to see a completed road rather than a bunch of ads on cable television.” [35866]

ABC reporter Jake Tapper tells talk radio host Laura Ingraham, “A lot of people are hurting out there. Unemployment is 8.3 percent. That doesn’t even take into account the underemployed. ... We are spending a lot of time in the last few weeks, those of us in the political world, political journalists and also politicians, talking about things other than the economy. A lot of people are hurting out there. I’d like to see more action taken and more emphasis given to this issue. ... I have said before... [that I] thought the media helped tip the scales [in 2008]. I didn’t think the coverage in 2008 was especially fair to either Hillary Clinton or John McCain. Sometimes I saw with story selection, magazine covers, photos picked, (the) campaign narrative, that it wasn’t always the fairest coverage.” [35867, 35882]

WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler reports, “The White House is doing something with its local TV interviews that it could not easily get away with in encounters with the White House press corps, which ... Obama has been studiously ignoring: choosing the topic about which ... Obama and the reporter will talk. In interviews with three local TV stations Monday, two from states critical to Obama’s reelection effort, Obama held forth on the possibility of ‘sequestration’ if he and Congress fail to reach a budget deal, allowing him to make his favorite political point that Republicans are willing to cause grievous harm to the economy and jobs in order to protect the rich from tax increases. ... The reporters mostly made no effort to hide the arrangement. ‘[Obama] invited me to talk about sequestration,’ NBC 7 San Diego’s reporter told her audience. In the interview, she set Obama up with a perfectly pitched softball [he] couldn’t have been more eager to take a swing at: ‘What do you want individual San Diegans to know about sequestration?’ she asked. Donna Deegan of FCN Jacksonville initially seemed to apologize for not broaching the appointed subject right away. ‘... I know we were asked to talk about sequestration today,’ she said, but then added she wanted to talk about something else first. Finally, she got to it: ‘Let’s talk a little bit about sequestration, because I know that’s why you invited us here,’ she said.” (In other words, Obama agrees to an interview but demands that certain topics be covered. Because the interview time is limited—and Obama gives lengthy responses—the odds of the reporter going “off script” are reduced.) [35883]

FreeBeacon.com reports that Obama’s closest advisor, Valerie Jarrett, has seen the value of her Chicago real estate holdings increase dramatically in a host period of time. “Jarrett currently owns an 11-percent equity interest in Kingsbury Plaza, a 46-story luxury apartment complex developed by Habitat between 2005 and 2007 at a cost of more than \$100 million. She valued the investment at between \$1 million and \$5 million on her 2011 financial disclosure form, up from \$250,001 in 2010. A Jarrett spokesman told the *Washington Times* that the investment was ‘a direct result of her 13 years working for Habitat.’ Cook County records show the Kingsbury property is worth around \$27.2

million, but thanks to a series of legal appeals beginning in 2003, the land and building are assessed at a much lower value for tax purposes. Since 2008, the property has been designated a ‘special commercial structure’ and is taxed at a value of just \$6.8 million, or 25 percent of the actual value. Asked how such a property could enjoy such a low taxable value, an official with the Cook County Assessor’s Office told the Free Beacon that the property’s owners ‘must have good attorneys.’” (Before joining the Obama administration Jarrett was CEO of Habitat. The company maintains subsidized housing for low-income Chicagoans. The Chicago Housing Authority pays Habitat to maintain the properties, which are often left in disrepair. The buildings are then condemned, making way for new Habitat properties for higher-income residents—while the former low-income occupants are left to fend for themselves. Throughout the process, Habitat earns millions—and is never replaced with a more competent company. As an Illinois State Senator, Obama worked to funnel state tax dollars to such schemes, which were implemented by Jarrett, Obama money-man Tony Rezko, and others.) [35869]

The unnamed White House insider tells the Ulsterman Report, “That Biden visit to Tampa [during the Republican National Convention] got my wheels spinning. What the hell are they up to? How far is Biden willing to go to remain relevant? To stay on the ticket? So I put some feelers out to the WH [White House]. Got lots of people willing to talk and share these days. Here’s the deal. Nobody has heard anything on that visit beyond it’s being planned. SS [Secret Service] had protocols in place only as recently as 72 hours ago. So this thing wasn’t planned more than a week ago. At the most. That means the campaign is being damn tight-lipped about it—which is out of the ordinary for them. Now that has me really thinking. Something don’t [sic] sit right here. Why send the #2 right down to the GOP convention? What is the purpose? Leak the trip, but don’t say anything substantial regarding the reason for the trip. Just a publicity stunt? An attempt at poking the eye of the Romney team? That don’t [sic] add up for. Not even close. So I’m asking around some more. And I’m not the only one. Nothing is coming back. Finally get a call into the Old Man [probably the Wall Street insider]. Alert him to my concerns. Within 30 minutes he gets back to me. We got legit Intel from military source. Nothing concrete. Which got our source’s attention. That is a big red alert. This thing is being planned. Staged. Might be a handful of local law enforcement in on it. Apparently a related communication from DHS within the last 24 hrs. Union thugs. Got to be a Jarrett Gerard [Valerie Jarrett and Leo Gerard] initiated plan. Something along those lines.” [35873]

“I’m giving you and your readers a heads up here. False flag. The real deal. They will try and control it but make it look uncontrolled. Dangerous. Make it reflect poorly on the Republicans and their supporters. A dangerous and desperate operation here. Even a dimwit like Biden has to know how dangerous. So have everyone you can reach, all your readers, let them know. Obama operatives are attempting a set up here. Dimes to dollars that’s what is going down. Will update if more becomes available. The Old Man is on it now. Pushing heavy influence to deflect. One or two secure media sources made aware. The Romney people will be alerted, though they might have already been thinking along the same lines. Trying to confirm that now. If this thing is legit, we are going to try and shut it down within the next 48–72 hrs. Won’t say more on that. If they do go operational

on this next week, you and your readers will know what it is and what it isn't. Hoping it don't get that far, but these maniacs are getting so desperate now they are trying to pull it off. As promised, keeping you informed in a more timely manner. I owe you that. Things moving very fast now kid. Hang on. This is gonna be the most terrifying, most interesting, and potentially gratifying time of your life. Or, it all goes to shit???? We lose. They win. Welcome to my world." [35873]

According to TheHill.com, "Vice President Biden will hold a rally with supporters next Monday in Tampa, Fla., on what will be the first day of the Republican convention. ... It would be an unprecedented move for a presidential or vice presidential candidate to crash a rival convention; the parties have traditionally allowed each other to take center stage during their convention week and used the time to raise funds and to rest." (*The Obama Timeline* assumes the White House insider is correct and there will be a planned "event" of some type by the Obama team involving Biden in Tampa. It may be as simple as leftist operatives pretending to be conservatives, carrying antagonistic signs and creating a disruption at a Biden event—conveniently captured for the evening news by sympathetic media. The goal will be to portray Republicans as mean-spirited, nasty racists, with the viewers not realizing the trouble-makers are not, in fact, Republicans. The scheme may be more involved, perhaps with the goal of providing an excuse for Obama to replace Biden with Hillary Clinton as his running mate. Whatever occurs, it will likely not be what it appears on the surface.) In addition to Biden campaigning—or doing something else—in Tampa, Michelle Obama will try to take television viewers away from the Republicans by appearing on *The David Letterman Show* on one night of the convention. [35887, 35894, 35934, 35966]

The Associated Press reports, "Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who is out-fundraising ... Obama by impressive margins, is attracting thousands of donors this summer from traditionally Democratic areas of the United States, collecting millions of dollars in even progressive communities from New York to Los Angeles, according to an analysis ... of new campaign data. Donors from tony neighborhoods of Manhattan to even the famously liberal Castro neighborhood in San Francisco helped Romney and the GOP outraise Obama by more than \$25 million in July, beating him and the Democratic Party in contributions for a third consecutive month, the AP analysis showed. ... Romney and the Republican Party are also making financial inroads in traditionally liberal cities across the nation, including Austin, Texas, and Obama's hometown of Chicago. These include small and large contributions, from \$200 to the maximum \$30,800 allowed under federal law to political parties each year." [35874]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Democratic Party officials say they will not release the names of donors to next month's political convention before the event, despite an earlier pledge that they would regularly disclose the contributors. In its marketing materials, the party promises that the 'people's convention,' set to begin Sept. 3 in Charlotte, will be the 'most open and accessible ever.' But the names of donors, some of whom are giving up to \$100,000, will remain secret until federal disclosure documents are filed Oct. 15, six weeks after the festivities have ended, when public attention will have shifted to Election

Day.” Additionally, Democrats are referring to their convention site as “Panther Stadium,” even though its name is “Bank of Americas Stadium,” so as not to remind voters that Obama’s top donors include many Wall Street bank executives. Meanwhile, DailyCaller.com reports that “Feminist activist Gloria Steinem and several chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW) have condemned the Democratic National Committee for ‘discrimination against mothers with young children’ during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. ...The NOW chapters of Southern California—including Hollywood, Long Beach-South Bay, Pacific Shore and Palm Spring—voiced concern this week that the Democratic National Convention will not offer automatic access for young children on the convention floor, and will not be providing childcare during the event.” Delegate Susie Shannon tells *The Charlotte Observer*, “The Democratic Party shouldn’t put you in a position where you have to choose between your child and participating in a political convention.” (Whether the feminists are also demanding funny hats and American flag clothing for their children is not known.) [35895, 35896, 36064, 36113, 36151]

JihadWatch reports that Colorado’s Democrat governor, John Hickenlooper, rescinded a statewide fireworks ban on July 8—too late for Americans to celebrate the Fourth of July, but just in time for Muslims to celebrate the end of Ramadan. [35875, 35876]

The Heritage Foundation reports, “A major component of the Obama Administration’s regulatory crackdown on fossil fuels was struck down Tuesday by a federal appeals court panel that ruled the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule ‘transgressed statutory boundaries.’ The decision vacates a measure that otherwise jeopardized thousands of jobs and the reliability of the nation’s electricity supply. ...Analysts warned that the requirements, which would necessitate retrofitting some 575 coal- and natural-gas-fired power plants, were unaffordable and unachievable in the allotted timeframe. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation estimated that companies would be compelled to retire 3 GW to 7 GW of electricity generation (the equivalent of powering 2.25 million to 5.25 million homes). In other words, the rule—along with more than a dozen other costly regulations imposed in the past three years—went a long way toward realizing ...Obama’s 2008 campaign declaration that electricity prices would ‘necessarily skyrocket’ under his energy platform.” (The court did not take issue with the rule itself, but ruled that the EPA was abusing its statutory authority.) [35888, 35897, 35904]

PJMedia.com obtains documents from the Department of Justice (DOJ) “detailing efforts to recruit attorneys and staff who are dwarfs or who have ‘psychiatric disabilities’ or ‘severe intellectual disabilities.’ On May 31, 2012, Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez issued a directive to affirmatively recruit people with these ‘targeted disabilities.’ This DOJ policy does not merely involve prohibitions against discrimination, but rather the documents reveal *deliberate recruitment efforts* to hire as attorneys and staff for the Department of Justice people suffering from psychiatric disorders and intellectual disabilities. Moreover, applicants can ‘self-identify’ their disability by means of the ‘Standard Form 256, Self Identification Disability.’ Those with ‘targeted disabilities’ may be hired through a ‘non-competitive’ appointment. That means they don’t have to endure

the regular civil service competition among applicants, but can be plucked from the stack of resumes and hired immediately instead. According to the documents, those with these 'targeted disabilities' may be hired 'before the position is advertised' and even 'before the position's closing date.' Moreover, lawyers with psychiatric disabilities and 'severe intellectual' disabilities receive a waiver from the requirement that a new DOJ employee [has to] have practiced law for one year before being hired." [35906, 35907]

OregonLive.com reports that state officials and blueberry farmers are livid over a move by Obama's Department of Labor to hold their crops hostage until the growers paid fines for allegedly underpaying workers. "In a move Oregon's congressional delegation and the Oregon Farm Bureau say was unprecedented and deeply unfair, the department invoked a 'hot goods' provision of labor law that prohibited shipment of the berries. Labor officials also notified wholesalers that berries from the farms would be subject to the order and should not be processed or shipped. Suddenly, the growers were stuck holding perishable berries worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. The labor department offered a way out: Pay a fine and back wages and sign a consent judgment admitting wrong and agreeing not to contest the order even if subsequent information exonerated the farms. Greg Ditchen, a third-generation Silverton farmer whose B&G Ditchen Farm paid the \$169,816 in back wages and penalties, called the department's action 'extortion.' Half his crop was at risk and there was no time to offer a defense or pursue other legal options. 'They put a hot goods order on our fruit, and after they had the money they said we had to sign a paper saying we were wrong,' Ditchen said. 'We had to make a business decision and sign the paper.' ...Dave Dillon, the Farm Bureau's executive vice president, said labor investigations can be sorted out over time. 'Farmers are not in a business that's going to pack it up in a truck tonight and head to another state,' he said. 'What's the urgency of saying stop your whole business until you admit guilt, pay a fee and have no due process?'" [36412]

The Fox News affiliate in Tampa, Florida reports, "Tampa police say they've confiscated bricks and pipes from a rooftop in Tampa, and discovered what they say is 'anarchist' graffiti. ...Bill Warner is a private investigator who tracks and researches radical groups all over the world. He says the stockpile is a sign of trouble ahead. 'These are tactics terrorists use in the Middle East. They will hide bricks in piles in buildings and so forth. They will move into the area start their little protests. Then they will find their pile of bricks and pipes and start busting out windows,' Warner said. Tampa Police Chief Jane Castor "said what's most important is making sure none of the items is used to harm anyone during the RNC [Republican National Convention]." [35914, 35916]

While leftists prepare to cause trouble at the Republican National Convention, RedState.com reports, "Starting at the end of this month the Democratic National Convention will open with a focus on Islam. 20,000 Muslims are expected to attend according to the Bureau of Indigenous Muslim Affairs (BIMA), the national Muslim American non-profit coordinating the two days of events they claim are non-political. 'Jumah at the DNC' begins August 29 and will start with a Friday afternoon jummah prayer followed by other unnamed programs and events, leading up to the Islamic Regal

Banquet. The following day will be an all day Islamic Cultural and Fun Fest which will include discussions on the topics of Islamophobia, Anti-Shariah, Middle Eastern Crisis, Patriot Act, National Defense Authorization Act and more. The purpose, according to BIMA, is to attract national and international attention to the plight of American Muslims and to hold political parties accountable for issues that affect them.” The event, led by radical Islamists Jibril Hough and Imam Siraj Wahhaj, has the blessings of the Democrat National Committee. The skids were likely greased by Minnesota Congressman Keith Ellison, a Muslim and a member of the socialist Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. (On August 30 the Democrat National Convention removes the jumrah announcement from its web site—but the event will still be held on August 31.) [35917, 36245, 36305]

RedState.com notes that Jibril Hough has defended the terrorist group Hamas and accused the United States and Israel as being the source of the only “real” terrorism. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Siraj Wahhaj, a leader of the Muslim Alliance of North America, was an un-indicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing investigation and is a member of CAIR’s board of advisors. According to WND.com., Wahhaj was a “character witness for Omar Abdel Rahman, the ‘blind sheik’ found guilty of conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government in an investigation stemming from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.” In a November, 2009 address at New York’s Queens College, Wahhaj stated, “If we were united and strong, we’d elect our own emir [in the United States] and give allegiance to him. ...take my word, if 6 to 8 million Muslims unite in America, the country will come to us.” Wahhaj is also reported to have said it is the duty of Muslims in the United States to replace the US Constitution with the Quran. [41, 43, 380, 381, 382, 408, 558, 2668, 2669, 5428, 5430, 5431, 5446, 5447, 5448, 5454, 5480, 5523, 5524, 5646, 6068, 6689, 35917]

Radio host Craig Silverman (of Denver’s *Caplis and Silverman* program), a Democrat who supported Obama in 2008, endorses Mitt Romney. He writes, “I support Mitt Romney for President and Paul Ryan for Vice-President. For most of my life, I have been a Democrat and I very publicly voted (live C-Span, live radio, *NY Times*) for Obama-Biden in 2008. As I studied Obama’s performance... I could no longer support him. ...I am enormously disappointed in ...Obama and his administration. The economy remains bad. The debt bomb keeps growing. Iran is on the verge of having nukes. The power of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamism is expanding rapidly. Our Justice Department is full of politics and political correctness. [Operation] Fast and Furious is a disgrace. [Attorney General] Eric Holder needs to go. I want leadership in the White House. I want a government with a budget that makes sense. I do not want problems perpetually kicked down the road. I want major legislation to be debated in the public, and not rammed down our throats without even being read by anyone other than the special interests who wrote it. I want a leader to stand up against sharia law and jihad—and to make clear how antithetical these concepts are to the American way. I thought ...Obama was ideally situated to speak some necessary truths to the Islamic world. But [he] has not, and he will not in a second term. The world is teetering on the brink as a result. We need some Reagan-like truth telling about repressive systems of government and ideologies which are evil. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. I feel deceived and let down by Barack Obama. His autobiography turns out to contain a lot of fiction. What

does it tell you about a man and his campaign when the truth is repeatedly distorted around an issue as solemn as cancer?" (Silverman is referring to the Democrat PAC ad accusing Mitt Romney of being responsible for the death of laid-off steel worker Joe Soptic's wife.) [35925, 35926]

Silverman continues, "Barack Obama ran [in 2008] as a positive bipartisan person. Now, he is so negative and partisan. Obama claimed he could work with the other side, but he is way too far over to the left. [Obama] is a super big spender and we simply cannot afford that any more. If we re-elect Obama, we get the same big spending, dysfunctional government. This is no time for that. Mitt Romney worked well with Democrats in Massachusetts. Some people put down Mitt Romney as a Massachusetts moderate, but that works for me. I expect it will work better for America. Vice President Biden played the race card in Roanoke, Virginia and every decent person knows that. The divide and conquer strategy disgusts me. It scares me to have Joe Biden one heartbeat from the Presidency. Paul Ryan is so much smarter and better. Paul Ryan is a serious and decent man who represents a new generation. I disagree with Romney and Ryan on some social issues, but there are other, more pressing problems and priorities for America and the free world right now. I urge other people who voted for Barack Obama in 2008 to make a change in 2012." [35925, 35926]

On August 22 the Congressional Budget Office reports, "For fiscal year 2012 (which ends on September 30), the federal budget deficit will total \$1.1 trillion... marking the fourth year in a row with a deficit of more than \$1 trillion." (In February 2009 Obama said, "I am pledging to cut the deficit we inherited by half the end of my first term in office." He has since added more than \$5 trillion to the national debt.) [35878, 35879]

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, cancels a planned event with Obama and Mitt Romney because of "uncivil discourse." Warren states, "We created the civil forums to promote civility and personal respect between people with major differences. The forums are meant to be a place where people of goodwill can seriously disagree on significant issues without being disagreeable or resorting to personal attack and name-calling. But that is not the climate of today's campaign. I've never seen more irresponsible personal attacks, mean-spirited slander, and flat-out dishonest attack ads, and I don't expect that tone to change before the election. It would be hypocritical to pretend civility for one evening only to have the name-calling return the next day." Warren tells *The Orange County Register*, "...Obama's policies clearly show what he values and I have told him that I adamantly disagree with those particular policies. I have not talked about this issue with Governor Romney, but I would imagine that as a Mormon he'd obviously understand the importance of protecting all religions against persecution, and ensuring people's rights to practice their conscience without government intervention." HotAir.com observes, "Go figure that The One [Obama] wasn't eager to sit down with him [Warren] in a televised interview 10 weeks before the election and be quizzed on why he can't carve out a conscience exemption to his contraception mandate for Catholic-affiliated health-insurance plans." (Both Obama and Senator John McCain joined Warren for a forum in 2008. Warren asked Obama when he believes human life

begins. Obama, wanting to avoid his controversial pro-abortion votes and support for partial birth abortion, responded, “Well, (sigh), you know, I... I... eh, er, I think that whether you’re looking at it from a theological perspective or, uh, a scientific perspective, answering that question with specificity, uh, you know, is above my pay grade.” Warren interviewed John McCain separately. The Obama campaign later accused him of having been fed his questions in advance by Warren, and Obama staffers made sure that NBC reporter Andrea Mitchell repeated the unfounded charges on the evening news. Warren and McCain categorically denied the charge, and no apology to Warren or McCain was ever issued by Obama or Mitchell.) [162, 315, 430, 35990, 36000]

Obama’s deputy campaign manager Stephanie Cutter appears on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe* and makes the ridiculous claim that the Obama administration has created more jobs than the Reagan recovery. (There are fewer Americans working in 2012 than were employed in January 2008. During the first three years of the Reagan recovery, 9.8 million jobs were created.) Cutter also claims, “There’s only one candidate today who cares for that unemployed worker and has plans on the table to help him get back to work.” (Obama’s “plan” consists of nothing more than raising taxes on job-creators.) Cutter also charges that Mitt Romney’s plan is to improve the economy from the “top down,” while Obama wants to do so from the “middle out.” HotAir.com asks, “What does that mean? Team Obama’s distortions of economic terminology are enough to make your head spin! Yes, top-down economics were a huge problem in initiating our financial crisis—but what that really means is that the federal government was getting way too meddlesome and butting its fat nose into everything and distorting market signals while encouraging rent-seeking (Example: Hey, we think it’d be a great idea and really help us win more votes if every American owned a home! End result: Housing bubble. Pop.) We do not need more government, we need less—that’s the only route for encouraging the entrepreneurship, ingenuity, innovation, and freedom that nurtures robust economic growth.” [35890, 35909, 35921]

In her MSNBC appearance, Cutter makes the specific claim that the Obama administration created *4.5 million jobs*. Even if one accepts that number, it is still less than one-half the jobs created during the Reagan recovery. The blog *Ace of Spades* points out, “What Obama likes to do is count jobs ‘created’ from the deepest depth of the recession. But that’s not how we count recovery from a recession—we say we’ve recovered when we’ve recovered up to the previous high point. As the collapse was still occurring when Obama took office, there was still further to fall, so Obama likes to pretend that any jobs above the lowest-of-the-low are jobs he ‘created.’ At this point in time, Obama still hasn’t ‘created’ a single net new job. His job figures remain negative, except when you play games as far as your start period for counting them. Both Bush and Reagan added new jobs *on top of* the previous high-water mark for employment. Reagan’s expansion was fueled by millions and millions of such jobs. Obama has yet to even get back to zero.” (For example, there were about 146 million employed Americans in early 2008. In 2010 that declined to about 138 million, a loss of 8 million jobs. Arguably, Obama cannot brag about jobs he “created” until the job market gets back to where it was—146 million—and then starts improving. The 9.8 million jobs created

during the Reagan recovery were jobs added *after* the baseline returned to where it was before the recession he inherited. Obama has not even gotten the economy back to the baseline.) [35890, 35936]

Townhall.com notes a new poll from Gravis Marketing that shows Mitt Romney leading Obama 49–45 percent in Florida. (Romney leads among Catholics and Protestants; Obama leads among Jews, atheists, Muslims, and others.) In another poll, Romney leads Obama in Nevada, 47–45. (Nevada’s unemployment rate is 12 percent and it has experienced record numbers of home foreclosures.) Romney leads Obama nationwide, 46–44, in Rasmussen’s daily poll. [35877]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “47% of Likely U.S. Voters are scared more of the health care law [ObamaCare] than of [Paul] Ryan’s proposal. Forty-one percent (41%) are more scared of what Ryan has proposed. Twelve percent (12%) are undecided. ...But among voters 65 and older, 55% are more fearful of [Obama’s] health care law versus 34% who are more scared of the changes in the government health insurance plan proposed by Ryan.” (The Obama campaign may have been erred in believing it can use “Mediscare” tactics to capture the votes of senior citizens.) [35880, 35881]

Another Rasmussen poll gives Republican U.S. Senate candidate Linda McMahon a 49–46 percent lead over Democrat Congressman Chris Murphy—in Connecticut. (The D/R/I sampling is 46/32/22, which tilts the survey in Murphy’s favor.) HotAir.com comments, “If McMahon can maintain her advantage over Murphy, the GOP may get an unexpected pickup to make up for the now-expected loss in Missouri. It might also force Obama to spend some resources to make sure McMahon doesn’t drive enough turnout to have Connecticut voters thinking about change at the very top of the ticket, too.” (Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate seat in Missouri the GOP was expected to win handily is at risk because of an absurd rape/abortion remark by Republican candidate Todd Aiken.) [35891, 35893, 36145]

The CBS affiliate in Tampa, Florida reports that the city’s mayor “warns that the Republican National Convention could be canceled if Tropical Storm Isaac heads for the city. Mayor Bob Buckhorn [a Democrat] told CNN that he is more concerned about the safety of his people than holding the convention. ‘Absolutely we’re prepared to call it off,’ Buckhorn explained to CNN. ‘I mean, human safety and human life trumps politics. I think the RNC recognizes that.’” (The odds of the storm turning into a strong hurricane that strikes Tampa head-on are minimal. But the story gives liberals the opportunity to claim that “God is using the storm to punish Republicans.” *The Washington Post’s* Dana Milbank asks, “Has God forsaken the Republican Party?” Milbank should be asked, “I thought liberals believed the climate was controlled by SUVs, not God?”) [35885, 35892, 35931, 35935, 36046]

CNSNews.com reports that leftist activist Sandra Fluke will deliver an address at the Democrat National Convention. Also speaking will be Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, and Nancy Keenan, president of the NARAL Pro-

Choice America. (It is no surprise that Richards supports Obama. Planned Parenthood received closet to \$500 million in federal funds in 2011.) The Democrats apparently believe that a “pro-abortion” and gay marriage convention theme is the way to attract support for Obama and other Democrats. (Because Obama cannot win reelection based on his record and the economy, the Democrat convention will likely focus on “social issues” like abortion rights, the “Republican war on women,” and spending more federal dollars on “the children.” Whether that will persuade many of the 13 million unemployed Americans to vote for Obama remains to be seen. Obama and his comrades apparently have not noticed that what is forefront in the minds of voters is job-creation, not abortion. Additionally, an August 22–23 CNN/ORC survey shows that 62 percent of Americans would like abortion to be illegal in most or all cases, while only 35 percent support Obama’s position of allowing abortions throughout the entire pregnancy and for any reason. The only reason most Americans do not denounce Obama for supporting partial-birth abortions is that, thanks to the mainstream media, they do not know that he does.) [35942, 35962, 36005, 36006, 36037, 36038, 36055]

A Washington Post/ABC poll shows Vice President Joe Biden with a favorable/unfavorable rating of 43/43. (Biden was at 57/32 in April.) Congressman Paul Ryan’s numbers are 41/37. (They were 29/32 on August 12.) Among senior citizens, Ryan’s favorable/unfavorable ratings are 50/35—an indication that Democrat attempts to portray him as a destroyer of Medicare are not working. [35889]

The Ulsterman Report posts a photograph of Obama and three Ohio college students spelling out the state’s name, a la “YMCA.” Obama is the “H,” positioned to misspell the name “OIHO.” (It is assumed Obama knows how to spell YMCA, as well as “Man’s Country,” the gay bath house in uptown Chicago which Obama and his former chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, reportedly frequented. Some might argue that Obama reads from right to left—having studied the Quran during his childhood in Indonesia.) [1242, 11584, 11585, 11633, 11672, 11673, 35898, 35908, 38293]

CNSNews.com reports that Michelle Obama “is serving as guest editor for iVillage.com, NBC’s ‘community of online women’ that offers sexually explicit material, including graphic sex tips from prostitutes, ‘20 kinky things you SO can do,’ and a list of ‘naughty’ apps for mobile devices. ...Michelle Obama is identified as a ‘Guest Editor’ on all of the website’s pages, including several titled ‘Love & Sex.’ Video clips of iVillage interviews with Mrs. Obama appear on some of those sexually-oriented pages, although the first lady herself does not discuss sex.” [35900, 35901]

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts that the economy will enter into another recession and the unemployment rate will continue to remain at or above 8 percent if the Bush income tax rates are allowed to expire at the end of 2012. (Obama has called for the expiration of the rates for families that earn \$250,000 or more at the end of 2012, with the rates expiring for everyone else at the end of 2013.) [35902]

Obama proposes a 0.5 percent wage increase for federal workers, but calls for its

implementation to be delayed until after Congress passes a budget. (The Democrat-controlled Senate has not passed a budget in more than three years. Obama's proposal may be the only thing that prompts it to action.) [35905]

Campaigning in Detroit, Michigan, Joe Biden states, "I can tell you, and I've known eight presidents, three of them intimately..." (He does not provide details or photographs, but on April 25 Biden told an audience, "Now is the time to heed the timeless advice from Teddy Roosevelt, 'Speak softly, and carry a big stick.' End of quote. I promise you, [Obama] has a big stick.") [31641, 31669, 31676, 35910, 35911, 35958]

Kate Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, "According to sources, the long awaited Department of Justice Inspector General Report on Operation Fast and Furious has been delivered to DOJ 'shot callers,' including Attorney General Eric Holder, this morning. It will be reviewed today and in the coming weeks. No cell phones, iPads or computers are allowed in the review room. After it is reviewed, it will be released to the public in 30 days." [35912]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 47–45 percent in a nationwide Gallup poll of registered voters. The poll question: "Suppose the presidential election were held today. If Barack Obama were the Democratic Party's candidate and Mitt Romney were the Republican Party's candidate, who would you vote for Barack Obama, the Democrat or Mitt Romney, the Republican?" [35913]

To the surprise of no one, a poll by Manta shows owners of small business prefer Mitt Romney to Obama: 62–26 percent. (Twenty-six percent apparently like higher taxes and burdensome regulations.) [35956, 35957]

FoxNews.com reports, "Republican lawmakers allege in a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder that a key figure in the failed [Operation] Fast and Furious anti-gunrunning operation has been allowed to earn a second paycheck while still receiving his government salary. ...ATF Assistant Deputy Director Bill McMahon has received a leave of absence allowing him to pull down two salaries. Taxpayers pay him six figures to [not] do his ATF job while he's also reportedly pulling down in excess of \$100,000 as the full-time director of global security and investigations for JP Morgan in the Philippines. The arrangement allows McMahon to retire in December with a full government pension." (JP Morgan Chase apparently has no problem hiring people who committed perjury before a Congressional committee.) Republican members of Congress have "demanded to know who approved McMahon's leave, the grounds for any waiver, and his current employment status." (Although the Obama administration seems not to mind that McMahon is breaking ATF personnel rules, it is suing ATF agent Jay Dobyns over those same rules. Dobyns is one of the whistleblowers who dared to expose Operation Fast and Furious. His "outside employment" is the writing of a book.) [35915, 35922, 35960]

Campaigning in Detroit, Michigan Vice President Joe Biden calls for another program to

bail out homeowners who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. Biden says, “We helped millions of families modify their mortgages so they can stay in their homes and we helped more than a million refinance their homes saving \$3,000 bucks a year, but guess what? We can do it for another 12 million if the Republicans would just get out of the way, just get out of the way. Right? Just get out of the way and it won’t cost the government a penny. ...If you’ve got a \$250,000 mortgage at six percent interest rates, but the value of your home has fallen below \$200,000, right now you can’t refinance. You’re ineligible. But that’s going to change. If you meet certain requirements, you will have the chance to refinance at lower rates, which could save you hundreds of dollars a month, and thousands of dollars a year on mortgage payments.” (That the proposal might not “cost the government a penny” a penny is irrelevant. Such refinancing will cost everyone who has money in a bank or owns bank stocks. If the federal government orders banks to forgive debt, the loss must be covered by someone—even if it is not the taxpayers. If an individual owes \$250,000 on a mortgage and the bank is ordered to “settle” for \$200,000, there is a \$50,000 loss. That will be paid for by bank customers—through lower interest rates on their deposits and higher fees—and by holders of bank stocks that decline in value. Many pension funds own bank stocks. Biden is therefore suggesting that the pensions of some people should be put at risk in order to bail out others who took out loans they could not afford to pay back.) [35932, 35963]

Campaigning in Las Vegas, Nevada, Obama calls for more federal money to go to states so they can hire additional teachers. He says, “If we want America to lead the 21st century, we’ve got to give all of our children the best education possible from the day they start in pre-school to the day they start their career because other countries are racing, they are doing everything they can to out-educate us because they know that means that they’ll be able to out-complete us. They know that new businesses, new industries will take root and create jobs wherever the best educated, most highly skilled workers are. ...[Mitt Romney] thinks that teachers need to have somebody policing them and checking them and that’s the main purpose of the Department of Education. That’s like saying you keep the Department of Agriculture around so you can push around farmers.” (DailyCaller.com notes, “In May, Romney said the federal government needs to ‘push back against’ the teachers unions. ‘Education has to be managed at the state level, not at the federal level,’ Romney said on Fox News. ‘Will there be any of flow through of funds to the states? Yes but the role I see that ought to remain in the president’s agenda with regards to education is to push back against the federal teachers unions. Those federal teachers unions have too much power. In some cases, they overwhelm the states, they overwhelm the local school districts, we have got to put the kids first and put these teachers unions behind.” Obama conveniently twists Romney’s words to make it sound as though he is opposed to teachers, rather than the unions that protect the incompetent teachers.) [35933, 35961]

In an appearance at LeClaire Manufacturing in Bettendorf, Iowa Mitt Romney says, “It is free men and women that drive our economy. Freedom is what makes America work. And ...Obama, bless his heart, has tried to substitute government for free people—and it has not worked, and it will never work.” (The “bless his heart” is arguably condescending and mocking. Romney is essentially saying, “Poor Obama, he simply doesn’t know any

better.”) [35937, 35951]

Campaigning in Florida, Michelle Obama says, “So that one new voter that you register in your precinct—think about it—that one neighbor that you get to the polls on November the 2, I want you to understand, that could be the one that makes the difference. That one conversation, that one new volunteer you recruit, that could be the one that puts this over the top.” (The election is November 6.) [35940]

Ken Bickers, a University of Colorado professor and political analyst predicts that Mitt Romney will win the election, based on an analysis of various factors that has been proven accurate in every election since 1980. Bickers states, “Based on variables of relative employment across the 50 states and rising or falling real income across the 50 states we’re able to go back and analyze how the states have come out over the last 8 election cycles. ...In this election cycle what that model shows is that the Obama-Biden ticket is likely to lose the election. ...At this point in time with economic data that exists right now our forecast is that the Obama ticket would win 218 Electoral College votes and that the Romney-Ryan ticket would get 320 Electoral College votes. ...Essentially what that means is that the Romney ticket would sweep most though not all of the battleground states [including Colorado].” [35952, 35953, 35970, 35986]

According to the Associated Press, “Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy Dolan will give the benediction at the Republican National Convention on the night Mitt Romney accepts the presidential nomination. The cardinal’s spokesman said the appearance was not an endorsement.” (HotAir.com comments, “To emphasize that he’s not endorsing Romney, Dolan says he’ll give the benediction at the Democratic National Convention too if they want. But of course, the point of the RNC inviting him isn’t to claim his endorsement. It’s to push him back into the news and entice the media into interviewing him about O’s contraception mandate, a useful reminder to Catholic voters about where their church stands shortly before the Democratic convention has itself a big pro-choice jamboree 10 days from now. Good retail politics. Whether giving Dolan a media soapbox to challenge O will convince any Catholic fence-sitters to actually tilt Republican, though, I don’t know.”) [35954, 35955]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer, noting Obama’s eagerness to mention the Clinton years at his campaign stops, says, “[But] There are huge differences in the environment [between the current economy and the Clinton years]. Number one, there was the peace in the end of the Cold War, an influx of hundreds of billions of dollars out of defense into ...social programs and the private economy. That happens once in a lifetime. Second, it was the dot com bubble. But the most interesting part of this is that Obama’s been in office for four years and he’s running on the Clinton economy. I mean, this is embarrassing. ...[A]ll you can say is the last Democrat before [me] really knew how to run an economy. It’s like Eisenhower seeking re-election in ’56 running on the Coolidge economy. If there was an admission that Obama doesn’t have anything he can run on and that they are somewhat running scared, is when you have to go back, what is it a decade and say, ‘Look how he did. Ignore the four years I’ve been in office, pretend it’s

the Clinton re-election campaign.” [35938]

ClashDaily.com reports that Bishop Earl Walker Jackson has called for Christians to leave the Democrat Party. He states, “The Democrat Party has turned its back on Christians. It is time to turn our backs on the Democrat Party.” (Jackson, “a Marine Corps veteran, graduate of Harvard Law School and adjunct professor of law” who happens to be black, was particularly incensed by Obama’s endorsement of gay marriage.) [35974, 35975]

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis states in a press release, “As young Americans all across the country prepare to head into a new school year, I’m excited to say that many more will take with them lessons learned through summer jobs. It’s no secret that the effects of the 2007 recession had a significant impact on job prospects for youth, but today’s [Bureau of Labor Statistics’ annual youth unemployment] report showed positive signs that job prospects for young people picked up pace in 2012.” (The youth unemployment rate has declined to 17.1 percent, about 2 points less than in 2010. Solis apparently believes a 17.1 percent unemployment rate is worth celebrating.) [36012]

CNSNews.com reports, “Pro-life Democrats—including former Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI)—are planning to show up in force at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte on Sept. 4 to challenge the lock that Planned Parenthood and pro-abortion activists seem to have on the Democratic Party. Democrats for Life of America (DFLA) says the Democratic Party needs to be more ‘diverse’ and ‘inclusive’ on the issue of abortion.” [36013]

At a fundraiser at which several NBA stars also appear, an arrogant, self-absorbed Obama says, “It’s rare that I come to an event where I’m, like, the fifth or sixth most interesting person.” (One of the NBA players in attendance is Carmelo Anthony, who FreeBeacon.com reports is an “anti-police activist” who appears in a video called “Stop Snitching.” The video discourages people from cooperating with the police. Another person in the video declares that he handles snitches by “putting a hole in their head.” Whether Obama approves of that activity is not known.) [35967, 35968, 35969]

Obama refers to Todd Aiken as “the Senator of Missouri.” (Aiken is a Congressman running for the U.S. Senate.) [36108]

Donald Trump sends a Twitter message: “Many people will be surprised at what is about to be released concerning @BarackObama’s background. I, for one, won’t be.” (Both Trump and Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio will be in Tampa for the Republican National Convention. Whether that will be the venue for releasing damaging information about Obama is not known. Trump has implied that Obama’s college transcripts may contain information Obama does not want made public. This *Timeline* suspects Obama was enrolled as a foreign student at Occidental College, and perhaps also at Columbia University.) [36032, 36033, 36034]

On August 23 there is only one official activity on Obama's schedule: "12:05 pm Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing." (The Ulsterman Report quips, "Valerie Jarrett Tells Obama—Sleep In And Then Take The Rest Of The Day Off...") [35972]

The Obama Victory Fund holds a fundraiser in Stockholm, Sweden. (Although it is illegal for a candidate to accept campaign contribution from foreign citizens, Obama and Romney can collect money from U.S. citizens living abroad.) [34344]

The New York Times reports that CBS, NBC, and ABC will not broadcast the first night of the Republican National Convention. (CBS apparently believes a rerun of Hawaii Five-O is more important than allowing viewers to watch Ann Romney deliver an address. It can be assumed, however, that the networks will broadcast Michelle Obama's speech at the Democrat National Convention.) The networks plan to show only one hour of the remaining three nights of the Republican event, and similarly limited coverage of the Democrat gathering. (More complete coverage of both events will be available on the Internet. The Democrat convention has been reduced from four days to three because of a lack of financing. Ann Romney's address may be moved to a different evening in order for it to be seen by more viewers.) [35919, 35920, 35999]

The Department of Labor reports that first-time claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending August 18 increased by 4,000 over the previous week, from 368,000 to 372,000. (As usual, Reuters calls the increase "unexpected." It is unclear at what point something that happens week after week after week is considered expected by that news agency.) [35939, 35965, 36007]

The Associated Press reports, "A veteran Wall Street executive who performed an independent review that exonerated the Obama administration's program of loans to energy companies contributed \$52,500 to re-elect ... Obama in the months since completing his work, according to an Associated Press review of campaign records. The executive defended the integrity of his conclusions and said he decided to donate to Obama after his work was finished. The campaign contributions to Obama started just weeks after Herbert M. Allison Jr., in congressional testimony in March, minimized concerns that the Energy Department was at high risk in more than \$23 billion in federal loans awarded to green energy firms. Two weeks later, Allison began giving to the Obama campaign. His contributions to Obama and the Democratic National Committee totaled \$52,500 by last month. Allison previously was the former head [sic] of the government's mass purchase of toxic Wall Street assets." (Allison is the former president and CEO of Fannie Mae and former president and CEO of Merrill Lynch. He also served as the assistant secretary for financial stability at the Treasury Department and was responsible for overseeing the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Allison's "independent review" was arguably a sham because it did not examine failed "green" loans, such as Solyndra or Beacon Power. In March, 2012 Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) asked why the Solyndra loan was not included. Allison responded that his reports focused only on "loans that exist now." Paul asked "I have your mandate—it looks to me wide open, if

you were to look at oversight, why wouldn't you look at where the problem is? This is about crony capitalism. This isn't about starting up solar panels. It's about giving money to people who've already got enough money. Let them make their own loans. If they love solar panels, let them do it [with their own money]. But I don't understand, you didn't look at any of the problems and how do we come to conclusions about oversight, if you didn't look at the companies where the problems originated?" Allison answered, "...[I]f we were going to look at that, we would've needed investigatory powers, subpoena powers, the right to demand documents. We would've taken probably many months, if not a year." In other words, the White House review was not intended to identify problems or assign blame; it was intended only to provide cover for the ill-advised loans.) [14633, 28084, 30258, 35941, 35947]

New CBS News/New York Times/Quinnipiac University polls show Obama leading Mitt Romney 49–47 percent in Wisconsin, 49–46 in Florida, and 50–44 in Ohio. As usual, HotAir.com notes the D/R/I samplings that give an illogical advantage to Obama: 32/28/33 in Wisconsin, 34/28/32 in Florida, and 34/26/34 in Ohio. "Once again, we have a significant under-representation of Republicans in all three states, especially against the 2010 model. And yet, Barack Obama doesn't seem to be faring too well even with the boost." In all three states, a majority of those polled believe Romney will do a better job of dealing with Medicare problems than Obama—a result that should have the Obama team worried. (If Obama can't win Florida senior citizens, he is unlikely to win the election.) [35942, 35493, 35944]

The Romney campaign releases its energy plans in a detailed position paper. HotAir.com's Erika Johnsen writes, "It's all great stuff, in my humble opinion: fewer federal regulations; more state self-determination; more drilling, both offshore and terrestrial; less government 'investment' in politically preferred pet green energy projects; a quicker green-lighting procedure for major energy projects and North American cooperation; and etcetera." Meanwhile, an Obama campaign spokesman says, "Clearly [climate change] is something that is important to the administration, but right now we are obviously going to be focusing on jobs and the economy and talking about what our contrast [with Mitt Romney] is [sic]." (In other words, Obama dares not talk about "cap and trade" legislation or regulations because most voters know that means higher energy costs and fewer jobs.) [35948, 35949, 35950]

Campaigning in Hobbs, New Mexico, Romney says, "Sometimes I have the impression that the whole regulatory attitude of the [Obama] administration is trying to stop oil and gas and coal, that they don't want those sources and instead, they want to get those things so expensive and so rare that wind and solar become highly cost effective and efficient. Look, I like wind and solar like the next person, but I don't want the law to be used to stop the production of oil and gas and coal, and I'm going to get the law to finally be transparent with timelines, statutes of limitations and stop using these legal suits to try and stop the production of energy in this country. ...I want to promote energy innovation. Now, what do I mean by that? We've watched [Obama] follow a different path. He's taken federal dollars, your money, to invest in companies, solar companies, wind

companies. About \$90 billion in so-called green jobs—\$90 billion—has gone to this. Look, the government of the United States is not a very good venture capitalist. He’s picking winners and losers. Mostly, he’s been picking losers. You know, Solyndra and Ener1 and Fisker, there’s a long list of businesses he’s investing in. I don’t want the government investing in companies, particularly companies of his campaign contributors. I want instead to have our government investing in basic science and research, finding new sources of energy, also finding new ways to be more efficient in our use of energy.” According to CNSNews.com, “Romney also said he would put states in charge of issuing permits for energy exploration on federal lands and increasing offshore drilling. He said his energy plan would create 3 million new jobs in the United States.” [36011, 36060, 36061]

NBC airs a *Rock Center* special about Mitt Romney’s Mormon religion, which is officially known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Host Brian Williams does his best to criticize Romney’s faith, charging that it is “...still dealing with the issue of polygamy... and other issues of inequality.” The Media Research Center reports, “Teasing a report on the history of the Church, Williams promised to answer the question of ‘why so many Americans still today are suspicious of the religion.’ Introducing that portion of the broadcast, Williams touted pop culture mocking the faith, starting with a clip of Fox’s *Family Guy* in which lead character Peter Griffin declares: ‘I’m going to be a Mormon... Come on, nailing a different wife every night. That’s a no-brainer.’ ...After briefly describing the founding of the religion, Williams quickly focused on negative perceptions of Mormonism: ‘Part of the history of the Church that they can’t shake is polygamy... even though polygamy was officially banned a century go, it’s something the Church still has to deal with. ...Critics in other religions have openly called them a cult. ...Williams then turned to those ‘issues of inequality’ that he hyped at the top of the program: ‘There is another part of Mormonism in the recent past that was late to change, and that’s racism. African-Americans were not allowed to become full members until 1978.’” (Williams and NBC do what they set out to do: suggest that the church is cult and imply that Romney supports bigamy, racism, and gender bigotry. NBC has never aired a special about the radical Chicago church Obama attended for 20 years, or an expose of his controversial minister Jeremiah “God Damn America” Wright.) [35964, 36019, 36088]

Newsmax.com reports, “Ten employees at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are suing the Obama administration to block a new program to let many young illegal immigrants avoid deportation and get a work permit. The suit also claims that directives from the Department of Homeland Security and its secretary, Janet Napolitano, force agents to break the law by not arresting certain illegal immigrants.” Chris Crane, an ICE deportation officer and president of the National Immigration and Customs Enforcement Council, tells reporters, “We’re not enforcing law any more. It is pretty much just let everyone go.” [35971, 35982, 35983, 36010]

Times247.com (*The Washington Times*) reports, “A former Marine who was forced into a psychiatric ward for anti-government Facebook postings has been freed from the hospital

by a Virginia circuit court ruling handed down Thursday. Judge Allan Sharrett dismissed the case against Brandon Raub, 26, who had been detained by government officials in Richmond, Va., and transferred to a VA hospital in Salem, Va. The judge called the petition to continue Raub's forced detention "so devoid of any factual allegations that it could not be reasonably expected to give rise to a case or controversy." On August 16 "Mr. Raub was taken into custody at his Richmond home by FBI and Secret Service agents and Chesterfield County Police. He was not charged with a crime, yet he was handcuffed and placed in the back of a police vehicle. From there, Mr. Raub was taken to a police station and then to the John Randolph Medical Facility in Hopewell, Va., for a psychiatric evaluation. He was never formally arrested or charged with a crime... The Facebook postings were part of a private room chat, and included anti-government sentiments and warnings of revolution." Cathleen Thomas, Mr. Raub's mother, states, "We're just a very politically active family. We keep our pulse on that, on the Constitution, we're commanded to do that, actually, by the Founding Fathers. ...They [the government] had to hack in to it to see it [his private Facebook page], then they took the comments out of context. Agree with him or not, agree with his comments or not, the bigger question is, why is the government checking on postings in the first place? The point is, he has a right to free speech." John W. Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, a civil rights firm that defended Mr. Raub, states, "The mom and son feel aggrieved, being taken without charge and detained, and a civil action is being discussed. And I want to make sure this doesn't happen again. If you can handcuff someone and detain them without charge, that's not freedom. The law must be modified so this doesn't happen again." (Raub plans to file a civil lawsuit against all government officials involved in his arrest and detention.) [35973, 35991, 36803, 36091, 36368]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Household income is down sharply since the recession ended three years ago, according to a report released Thursday, providing another sign of the stubborn weakness of the economic recovery. From June 2009 to June 2012, inflation-adjusted median household income fell 4.8 percent, to \$50,964, according to a report by Sentier Research, a firm headed by two former Census Bureau officials. Incomes have dropped more since the beginning of the recovery than they did during the recession itself, when they declined 2.6 percent, according to the report, which analyzed data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey." (That is, Americans who "blame Bush" should note that incomes fell even more *after* Obama took office than in 2008, when the housing "bubble" burst and the economy collapsed.) "The recession, the most severe since the Great Depression, lasted from December 2007 to June 2009. ...Over the past three years, the inflation-adjusted median income of households headed by whites was down 5.2 percent, to \$56,255. Households headed by blacks sustained a staggering 11.1 percent drop in median income. Hispanic-led households saw their real income decline by 4.1 percent over the same period, the report said. Looking at the data by age, the researchers found that income has risen only for workers older than 65 during the recovery, which report co-author and Sentier partner Gordon Green attributes to the cost-of-living increases for Social Security recipients. Households led by the self-employed saw their income drop 9.4 percent, to \$66,752, the report said. Households headed by private-sector employees saw wages drop by 4.5 percent, to \$63,800, and households led by government workers saw median income decline by 3.5 percent, to

\$77,998, the report said.” (Not only do government workers earn more than their private sector counterparts, they are also spared the worst effects of a recession because of their “privileged” positions. Obama’s claim that “the private sector is doing fine” is the exact opposite of reality. It is the federal workers who are “doing fine.”) [35993, 35994]

Mitt Romney leads Obama 45–44 in a nationwide Fox News poll of likely voters. (The D/R/I weighting is +4 for Democrats.) “About one voter in ten is undecided or says they’ll vote for someone other than Obama and Romney. Among just those voters, 55 percent disapprove of the job Obama is doing and only 17 percent think the country has changed for the better in the last four years. ...Romney has the edge among white Evangelical Christians (70–18 percent), white voters (53–36 percent), married voters (51–38 percent), men (48–40 percent) and seniors (50–41 percent). Obama has the advantage among black voters (86–6 percent), women (48–42 percent), lower income households (53–35 percent), young voters (48–39 percent) and unmarried voters (55–34 percent). Independents back Romney by 42–32 percent (one in four is undecided).” Charles Krauthammer comments, “I think for Romney to be in a dead heat after the assault he suffered, the personal attacks, everything they [the Obama team] tried with Bain and all the variations of that, I think it leaves him [Romney] in a very good position.” At NYPost.com John Podhoretz notes that the Obama campaign “...spent an astounding \$120 million over the summer, much of it on negative ads targeting Romney personally, and almost all of it in 12 battleground states. To give you a sense of how much spending that is, the McCain campaign in 2008 spent a mere \$75 million in the general election against Obama in all 50 states.” [35945, 35946, 35978, 36017]

TheHill.com reports, “A new study by Vanderbilt University found that an ad from Mitt Romney criticizing ...Obama over a super-PAC attack that insinuated the presumptive Republican nominee was responsible for the death of a cancer patient is having a measurable effect on swing voters. The study found that Romney’s ‘America Deserves Better’ commercial was resonating with swing voters, moving ‘pure independents’ who remained undecided some 6 percentage points in the Republican’s favor. The researchers said this was the first ad of the campaign cycle they had studied that resonated with true swing voters. ...In the commercial, the Romney campaign criticizes Obama [for] trying ‘to use the tragedy of a woman’s death for political gain.’ ‘What does it say about a president’s character when he had his campaign raise money for the ad, then stood by as his top aides were caught lying about it?’ the narrator says. ‘Doesn’t America deserve better than a president who will say or do anything to stay in power?’” According to a USAToday/Gallup poll, “Obama gets more blame for negative attacks than he did in 2008. Then, 30% accused him of attacking his Republican opponent unfairly; now 44% do. In contrast, 40% say Romney is attacking Obama unfairly, compared with 48% who said that of McCain four years ago.” [36001, 36002]

FoxNews.com reports, “A provision of ObamaCare is set to punish roughly two-thirds of U.S. hospitals evaluated by Medicare starting this fall over high readmission rates, according to an analysis by Kaiser Health News. Starting in October, Medicare will reduce reimbursements to hospitals with high 30-day readmission rates—which refers to

patients who return within a month—by as much as 1 percent. The maximum penalty increases to 2 percent the following year and 3 percent in 2014. Doctors are concerned the penalty is unfair, since sometimes they have to accept patients more than once in a brief period of time but could be penalized for doing so—even for accepting seniors who are sick.” Sunil Kripalani, MD, a professor with Vanderbilt University Medical Center “who studies hospital readmissions,” states, “Among patients with heart failure, hospitals that have higher readmission rates actually have lower mortality rates. So, which would we rather have—a hospital readmission or a death?” (Obama bureaucrats look at treatment as though it were a car repair: if the mechanic replaces the fuel pump, it should not again have to be replaced within 30 days. The ObamaCare penalty is an attempt to encourage doctors and hospitals to “do it right the first time.” But hearts are neither as simple as fuel pumps or as easy to replace—and few patients will want to hear their doctor say, “I’m sorry, but I can’t see you until your 30 days are up.”) [36121]

On August 24, campaigning in Michigan, Mitt Romney says, “Now, I love being home, in this place where Ann and I were raised, where both of us were born. Ann was born at Henry Ford Hospital; I was born at Harper Hospital.” Romney adds, “No one’s ever asked to see my birth certificate; they know that this is the place that we were born and raised.” (CBS reporter Jan Crawford notes, “At [the] Romney event, two reactions to his birth certificate joke: reporters gasped—and a crowd of thousands laughed and cheered.” Obama will be livid, because he cannot stand to be mocked. John McCain was afraid to make fun of Obama in 2008, but Romney is not afraid to do so in 2012.) Referencing a “four more years” sign he saw someone carrying outside the event, Romney says, “I almost felt like stopping and saying, ‘Do you want four more years of 8 percent unemployment? Do you want for more years of record numbers of foreclosures and declining home values? Do you want four more years of trillion dollar deficits to pass on to your kids? Do you want four more years of businesses finding it hard to hire people? Do you want four more years of government becoming more and more intrusive in your lives and in your businesses? I don’t want four more years of what we have, do you?’” [35976, 35977, 35981, 35984, 35996, 36020, 36035, 36041, 36042]

USAToday.com reveals that “...Obama’s Twitter account has 18.8 million followers—but more than half of them really don’t exist, according to reports. A new Web tool has determined that 70% of Obama’s crowd includes ‘fake followers,’ *The New York Times* reports in a story about how Twitter followers can be purchased.” [35979, 35980]

Proving he has learned nothing since 2008, Obama sends a Twitter message: “Today marks four years since I chose @JoeBiden to be my running mate. Here’s to an outstanding Vice President and a great friend. –bo.” [35985]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Internal documents obtained by the House Judiciary Committee show that the Obama administration has been ‘cooking the books’ in order to reach their ‘record’ number of deported illegal immigrants, chairman Rep. Lamar Smith said Friday. Based on the internal U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) documents, the number of removals are actually down, the opposite of what the

administration has been claiming.” [35987]

In New York City, a police officer shoots and kills a man who killed his former boss. Nine others are wounded, outside the Empire State Building. Mayor Michael Bloomberg says, “New York City, as you know, is the safest big city in the country, but we are not immune to the national problem of gun violence.” The shooter, 53-year-old Jeffrey Johnson, was not stopped by the city’s gun laws—which are among the nation’s strongest. (It is later reported that *all nine* of the wounded were inadvertently shot by police officers, *not* by Johnson. The city’s gun control laws apparently do not require that the police control their own weapons. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly states, “I believe it was handled well.”) Meanwhile, the *Chicago Tribune* reports, “Nineteen people were shot across the South and West sides [of Chicago] from Thursday evening through early Friday morning—13 of them wounded over a 30-minute period, authorities say.” [35988, 36008, 36027, 36028, 36047]

The Republican Party includes Internet freedom as one of the items in its official platform for its August 27–30 national convention. According to DailyCaller.com, the draft language states, “We will remove regulatory barriers that protect outdated technologies and business plans from innovation and competition, while preventing legacy regulation from interfering with new technologies such as mobile delivery of voice and video data as they become crucial components of the Internet ecosystem. We will resist any effort to shift control away from the successful multi-stakeholder approach of Internet governance and toward governance by international or other intergovernmental organizations. We will ensure that personal data receives full constitutional protection from government overreach and that individuals retain the right to control the use of their data by third parties.” [35989]

The Obama campaign releases an ad, Conservative Women for Obama.” In the ad, one young woman makes the absurd claim, “If you’re a conservative woman and you believe in small government, then Barack Obama is your candidate because he’s keeping the government out of decisions that should remain between you and God and you and your own conscience.” (It is later reported that at least two of the women in the ad are not conservatives, but registered Democrats. PowerLineBlog notes that Maria Ciano, a registered Democrat since 2006, has a Facebook page that lists dozens of her leftist “likes,” including MoveOn.org, ThinkProgress, The Sierra Club, Obama for America, Denver Young Democrats, Latinos for Obama, Obama Truth Team, and the Democrat Party. Maria’s mother Delia, who also appears in the ad, met with Michelle Obama on August 11.) [35995, 36048, 36049, 36054]

Meanwhile, a Republican PAC releases a devastating ad featuring 40 Democrats and independents who voted for Obama in 2008 but who plan to vote for Mitt Romney in 2012. Among their comments: “The man [Obama] is a very good public speaker... but that’s part of the sale.” “I don’t think I got what I was expecting [from Obama].” “I just don’t want to listen to it any more.” “The party’s over; the smoke is clearing.” “He didn’t make good on any of his promises.” “We’re spending way too much.” “He promised a

change, and we all got fooled.” “The hole’s only gettin’ bigger.” “It’s almost like buyer’s remorse.” “Obama let me down.” “I don’t feel like he’s used his time wisely.” “He’s done a lousy job.” and “Can we go through another four years of this?” (The full video will be aired at the Republican National Convention with, according to HotAir.com, “a planned introduction by one of the convention’s star speakers.”) [36003]

Obama’s lead over Romney in CNN’s poll falls to 2 points, 49–47, within the margin of error. (Romney’s 45–44 lead in the Fox News poll is also within the margin of error.) [35997, 35998]

Mitt Romney moves into a 47–47 tie with Obama in a Rasmussen poll in Virginia. (Obama won the state by 6 points in 2008.) [36014]

Retired National Football League star Burgess Owens (who happens to be black) calls for black voters to reject Obama. [36021]

On CNBC Marc Faber, author of the Gloom Boom & Doom report, says, “Europe is already in a recession and the German economy is still growing very, very slightly but will likely to go into recession soon. The other economies are in recession. The U.S has decelerated, and I don’t see much growth in the U.S. in the next six to nine or 12 months. If you would measure the cost of living increase, real [gross domestic product] would be negative. ...There are more and more stocks that are breaking down, economic sensitive stocks and companies that cater to the high-end. That suggests to me the economy is likely to weaken and the huge asset run is likely to come to an end with significant asset deflation. ...I think we could have a global recession either in Q4 or early 2013.” Asked the odds of a recession, Faber responds, “100 percent.” Asked about the possibility that the Federal Reserve will attempt to improve the economy with another round of “quantitative easing,” Faber responds, “Well, I think that if you look at the injections of liquidity and the intervention by the Fed—and also by the Treasury [Department] with fiscal measures—it has actually already impoverished the U.S. economy. They can print money and maybe the [Standard & Poor’s 500 Index] goes up somewhat more, but my sense is that the market has pretty much discounted further easing already.” (Some believe that the Federal Reserve will soon inflate the money supply in order to boost the stock market, in an effort to boost Obama’s chances for reelection.) [36022]

The University of Virginia declines a request from Obama to speak on the campus on August 29. According to NBC29.com, “The university declined the request for a number of reasons including class cancellations, which UVA estimates could be more than 186 classes on the second day of school. The other main reason is they would have to take on the full cost of security, and because of university policy and their federal and state tax exempt status, they would have to offer the same opportunity to the other candidate so as not to show favor for either candidate.” (Obama frequently campaigns at colleges because his most enthusiastic supporters are young people—who are susceptible to the “hope and change” rhetoric because they have yet to enter the real world of working for a living. By contrast, Obama is not often seen speaking at VFW halls.) [36023, 36030]

FreedomOutpost.com reports that “Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has been asked to address a large audience of delegates to the Republican National Convention in Tampa. The invitation-only reception for delegates from Western states will be held Aug. 30.” (Whether Arpaio will discuss the problems of dealing with illegal immigrants in Arizona or his investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate is not known.) [36024]

CampusReform.org reports, “A public university in Colorado offered course credit to students to volunteer on ...Obama’s reelection campaign, Campus Reform learned on Tuesday. The offer, which has since been retracted, appears to have violated the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act, section 1-45-117, which bans the use of public resources for ‘campaigns involving the nomination, retention, or election of any person to any public office.’ Adams State University posted the opportunity late last week on its website stating: ‘The Obama Campaign Internship (GOVT 279 Presidential Election Internship) will be a 12 week long organizing internship for the Obama Campaign.’ No similar offer was made for students to participate on the presidential campaign for Mitt Romney, who is the Republican nominee for the White House.” [36296, 36326]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich posts an audio clip of Obama arguing against the “Born Alive Act” while he served in the Illinois State Senate. The legislation required doctors to treat a child that survives an abortion. Obama voted against the bill, thus endorsing a procedure of simply leaving the child to die, unattended. Obama said, “That if that fetus, or child, however you want to describe it, is now outside of the mother’s womb and the doctor continues to think that it’s non viable but there’s lets say movement or some indication that they’re not just coming out limp and dead that in fact they would then have to call in a second physician to monitor and check off and make sure that this is not a live child that could be saved?” (As noted in Part I of this *Timeline*, Obama argued that it would be a burden to require that surviving babies be treated because, in his view, “...essentially adding an additional doctor who then has to be called in an emergency situation to come in and make these assessments is really designed simply to burden the original decision of the woman and the physician to induce labor and perform an abortion.” Although a “pre-viable fetus” that survives an abortion is not considered a “person” by Obama, he has yet to provide a reasonable or legally acceptable name for those living, breathing, kicking, and crying viable “non-persons.” Obama argued that defining “...a pre-viable fetus” that survives an abortion as a “person” or “child would essentially bar abortions, because the Equal Protection Clause does not allow somebody to kill a child, and if this is a child, then this would be an anti-abortion statute.” Obama—who blissfully ignores the fact that a “pre-viable fetus” certainly *is* viable if it survives an abortion—was essentially arguing, “We can’t call it a person because then we can’t kill it.” Testifying in favor of the law was an Illinois nurse, Jill Stanek, who had witnessed infants being left to die by abortionists. Stanek later wrote, “Obama articulately worried that legislation protecting live aborted babies might infringe on women’s rights or abortionists’ rights. Obama’s clinical discourse, his lack of mercy, shocked me.”) [91, 272, 346, 412, 2262, 36026]

The Associated Press reports that Vice President Joe Biden may not be heading to Tampa, Florida to rain on the parade of the Republican National Convention after all—because he wants to avoid actual rain. “An Obama campaign official says Biden is putting off Monday’s trip in order to ensure that all local law enforcement and emergency management resources can stay focused on Tropical Storm Isaac, which could impact Florida during the convention.” [36039]

FoxNews.com reports that Seagate Technology has offered to buy the property that houses the now-bankrupt Solyndra for \$90.3 million. The original cost was about \$300 million. (It is unlikely that the taxpayers will see that \$90.3 million, as the \$535 million loan to Solyndra approved by the Obama administration absurdly did *not* require that the U.S. government be first in line for payments in the event of a bankruptcy. The Obama loan “allowed private investors to be repaid before taxpayers.”) [36040]

WND.com reports, “The Obama administration has asked the Palestinian Authority [PA] to delay its bid to unilaterally declare a state at the United Nations until after November’s presidential election, a senior PA official told WND. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the request was passed to PA President Mahmoud Abbas’ office by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem earlier this month. The official said the PA has not yet made a decision about the timing of its application with the U.N. General Assembly for accepting ‘Palestine’ as a non-member state. The official, however, did indicate Abbas is inclined toward waiting until after the U.S. presidential election.” (In other words, Obama has told the Palestinians he can be “more flexible” after the elections and, if he wins, he can then safely throw Israel under the bus.) [36043]

NYPost.com reports that Obama has “turned down a chance to have Timothy Cardinal Dolan deliver a prayer at the Democratic National Convention after Dolan told Democrats he would be ‘grateful’ to deliver a blessing in Charlotte.” (The snub of Dolan, head of the Archdiocese of New York and president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, will not help Obama with Catholic voters.) [36071, 36072]

SodaHead.com suggests that an Obama administration lawsuit filed against the Gallup polling company may be an attempt at intimidation: “Twice this summer, Gallup has published a report calling into question discrepancies between its unadjusted research and what is being tallied in the adjusted official statistics.” On August 17 Gallup wrote, “...barring heroic adjustments or a sharp change in direction, Gallup data suggest the seasonally adjusted U.S. unemployment rate for August will increase—possibly substantially—when announced in early September.” SodaHead translates that statement: “In other words, Gallup said the only way unemployment numbers don’t go up next month is if someone in Obamaland puts a finger on the scale,” and points out, “A few days later, Eric Holder dropped the fifty-pound sledgehammer on Gallup, joining in a ‘whistleblower’ action. The original complaint alleges that the Gallup organization inflated the number of hours required to do polling projects for the U.S. Mint, the State Department, and other federal agencies. ...The complaint was filed by a former Gallup employee who—in a sheer coincidence, no doubt—was a field organizer for Obama in

2008, according to the Daily Caller. ...If Gallup did something wrong, the company should be held to account. But the timing of the action and the apparent ties of the original complainant to the Obama administration call into question the motivation behind the DOJ action.” DailyCaller.com later obtains emails that “show senior Obama campaign adviser David Axelrod attempting to subtly intimidate the respected polling firm when its numbers were unfavorable to [Obama]. After Gallup declined to change its polling methodology, Obama’s Department of Justice hit it with an unrelated lawsuit that appears damning on its face.” [36092, 36093, 36094, 36594, 36631, 36763, 36911, 37281]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Social Security Administration released its annual statistical report on federal disability insurance last month, revealing that at the end of 2011 there was a then-record of 8,575,544 workers collecting federal disability benefits and among them were 1,304,851 doing so because they suffered from ‘mood disorders.’ ...Massachusetts led the 50 states for disabling mood disorders. In that state, 22.8 percent of disability beneficiaries had been diagnosed with a mood disorder. New Hampshire was second with 22.2 percent, and Rhode Island was third with 20.7 percent.” (Some might wonder if “mood disorder” means, “I can’t find a job.”) [36111]

According to *The New York Times*, a review of the 2010 tax return released by Mitt Romney proves he has paid income taxes for at least the last 10 years because the documents reflect “...a \$129,697 foreign tax credit, which he used to offset taxes he owed in the United States. American taxpayers who claim the foreign tax credit are required to report their total foreign taxes paid and tax credits used for the previous 10 years. So that return contains foreign tax data going back to 2000. ...The Romney campaign has said that Mr. Romney’s foreign income came through a blind trust established in 2003, when he became governor of Massachusetts. Thus, he didn’t oversee the foreign investments that produced the income and tax credits.” (Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) is therefore lying when he claims Romney has not paid income taxes for the past 10 years.) [36112]

The Independent reports, “The Obama administration will pressure European governments not to let Greece fall out of the eurozone before November’s Presidential elections, British Government sources have suggested. Representatives from the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank and the European Commission are due to arrive in Athens next month to assess Greece’s reform efforts. ...American officials are understood to be worried that if they decide Greece has not done enough to meet its deficit targets and withhold the money, it would automatically trigger Greece’s exit from the eurozone weeks before the Presidential election on 6 November. They are urging eurozone Governments to hold off from taking any drastic action before then—fearing that the resulting market destabilisation could damage ...Obama’s re-election prospects.” (In 2008, Obama welcomed the financial crisis because it helped him get elected. In 2012, Obama expects European leaders to do what is best for *him*, not what is best for Europe.) [36161]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on Mitt Romney's birth certificate joke: "I don't think he stepped on anything. It wasn't an unforced error, it wasn't a forced error. It wasn't an error. It wasn't an error at all, it was a joke. And this outrage response from the Obama campaign, I think is the most absurd example of fake umbrage in the history of fake umbrage. Give me a break. Romney has dismissed the birther issue from the beginning. There was no implication that he believes in this stuff. Obama himself has joked about his birth certificate... The press swallows it up. I think it's another example of what we heard the other night of the press—I think it was [NBC's] Chuck Todd who said that the press tends to follow the Obama campaign and what it wants to emphasize. This is a non-story of a non-story." [36029]

On August 25 Deadline.com reports, "Because of Friday's very weak box office, there was finally clarity for the Top 10 film rankings this morning. ...[T]he shocker was Rocky Mountain Pictures' political documentary 2016 Obama's America which expanded into theaters across America this weekend after a very limited release and wound up in 4th place. That's stunning because it's playing in 1/3 less theaters across North America than the other wide release actioners [action films]. ...Its success comes because of savvy marketing on the eve of the Republican National Convention August 27–30. Exhibitors are reporting busloads arriving at theaters around the country in pre-organized trips. It also employed much of the same marketing techniques used to garner attention and support for faith-based films, understandable since the audience is overlapping. Its campaign included advertising nationally over the past two weeks on talk radio and cable news channels including Fox News Channel, A&E, History and MSNBC." [36025, 36031, 36045]

Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, dies at age 82. Obama states, "Neil was among the greatest of American heroes—not just of his time, but of all time. When he and his fellow crew members lifted off aboard Apollo 11 in 1969, they carried with them the aspirations of an entire nation. They set out to show the world that the American spirit can see beyond what seems unimaginable—that with enough drive and ingenuity, anything is possible. And when Neil stepped foot on the surface of the moon for the first time, he delivered a moment of human achievement that will never be forgotten. Today, Neil's spirit of discovery lives on in all the men and women who have devoted their lives to exploring the unknown—including those who are ensuring that we reach higher and go further in space. That legacy will endure—sparked by a man who taught us the enormous power of one small step." (The arrogant Obama also posts on the Internet a backlit photo of *himself* looking up at a crescent moon. At Breitbart.com Mike Flynn writes, "Obama is a literary construct. It's as if Zelig jumped off the movie screen and took up residence in the Oval Office. He puts himself in the frame of historical events, even if he has only the smallest cameo." Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com, "This conceited horse's ass killed the space program, but he runs a photo of himself when Neil Armstrong, *a real American hero*, dies. ...One tiny narcissistic step for Obama, another giant step backward for American exceptionalism." SooperMexican.com points out that the image "...was a stock photo taken of Obama from their Flickr account... posted a full four months ago. Wow, president mompants couldn't even be bothered to take a fresh picture. Classy! What a way for the worst president in recent memory to egotistically dishonor the death

of an indisputable American hero...”) [36081, 36082, 36114, 36133, 36150]

In his weekly Internet address/podcast, Mitt Romney states,” In 44 states, it got harder for an unemployed dad to look his son in the eyes at the dinner table. In 44 states, a young mother worried that her daughter won’t have the same opportunities as the other kids at school. In 44 states, a man laid off in the middle of life laced up his best shoes, straightened his tie, and walked out the door to face another long day of hard stares, hard interviews, and hard disappointments. Last month, more families were shattered, more hearts ached, and more children wondered if they’d ever see their parents smile again... because the hope of a recovery that should have been ours grew dimmer in 44 states. In six states, people saw the unemployment rate go down or stay the same. But all Americans are hurting. Too many are living paycheck to paycheck. Just this week, we got the unbelievable news that household incomes fell even further during the so-called recovery than they did during the recession itself. Anxiety has never been higher. Another new report out of Washington warns that higher unemployment and a double-dip recession will be a reality next year unless immediate steps are taken to avert what they’re calling a ‘fiscal cliff.’ In all 50 states, Americans are looking to the White House for leadership. But all they’re getting from [Obama] is fear, frustration, and blame. Instead of uniting our nation in this time of crisis, ...Obama has hit the campaign trail to declare ‘a stalemate in Washington.’ Think about that. With millions of Americans hurting like never before, [Obama] has admitted defeat. With five months to go before his term is up, he’s saying he won’t even try anymore. Isn’t this a devastating verdict on his own failure to lead? I’ve led companies. I’ve overseen an Olympic Games. And I’ve governed a great American state. When people are telling you to give up, that’s when you find a way to try harder. When others are pointing fingers, that’s when you extend an open hand. And when Americans are hurting and families are falling apart, that’s when you put politics aside and find a way to get them some help. In a word, you lead. Look to Tampa. Two days from now, leaders from all across the country will gather to show Americans that help is on the way. For that father whose heart cries out for the dignity of work... for that child who needs a stable home... for that mid-career worker who just wants another chance, a better America can be more than just a hope. It can be our future. It must be our future.” [36051, 36052]

Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan address a massive rally in Powell, Ohio. Overhead, a small plane tows a MoveOn.org-sponsored attack banner that reads, “America is better than [sic] birtherism.” (The ad misspells “than” as “then.”) [36050, 36053, 36058, 36062]

Romney tells the Ohio audience, “Just a word to the women entrepreneurs out there. If we become president and vice president, we want to speak to you. We want to help you. I want to speak to the women of America who have dreams, who begin businesses in their homes, who begin businesses out in the marketplace, who are working in various enterprises and companies. I want you to be successful. Our campaign is about making it easier for entrepreneurs, women and men, to start businesses and to grow businesses.” [36058]

Republican officials announce the cancellation of the first day of their convention because of the possibility that Tropical Storm Isaac may reach hurricane strength and approach Tampa. Because of the schedule changes, Donald Trump apparently will not be present to provide a “big surprise” on the opening day of the event. (Many Democrats welcome the storm because it disrupts Republican convention plans and gives the media the opportunity to endlessly remind viewers of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and endlessly repeat that the Bush administration was incompetent in dealing with it. But the storm may actually end up harming Obama. If it strengthens to hurricane status and heads across the Gulf of Mexico toward New Orleans, it may result in the shutdown of oil, natural gas, and refinery production over a huge area. A lengthy disruption may result in higher oil and gasoline prices—something that will certainly not help Obama. Additionally, reducing the GOP convention by one day may mean the elimination of some of the most virulent anti-Obama speakers from the earlier part of the schedule. Although those red-meat speeches fire up the crowd in the auditorium, they can alienate independent voters who are turned off by the attacks. That may end up helping Romney win the votes of some of the fence-sitters—assuming many of them watch the convention.) [36056, 36059, 36078, 36099, 36129, 36130]

A Mason-Dixon poll shows Mitt Romney with a 50–43 lead over Obama in Missouri. According to HotAir.com, “It’s not even close. Obama carries the metropolitan areas of St. Louis and Kansas City, but only by 50/39 and 50/43, respectively. Romney gets over 60% in every other area of the state, while Obama can only get to 36%. Obama has leads among women and 18-34YOs, but only by 2 and 10 points, respectively. Romney wins a majority in every other age demo, and has a +14 among men at 54/40. ...The presidential race isn’t likely to change much, either. Romney’s favorables are a modest 44/32 for a +12, with 23% neutral.” (In 2008 John McCain won Missouri, but beat Obama by fewer than 5,000 votes out of almost 2.9 million cast.) [36057]

On Fox News, host Neil Cavuto interviews Congressman Allen West (R-FL) and says, “The thing that bedevils this [Republican presidential] ticket, for good or ill, is [Obama’s] proverbial likeability. We hear a good deal made of that. I often think too much. But it must explain why [Obama] is even [in the polls] despite all these economic concerns and worries you raise, because on that score, Americans favor him, polls indicate 2-to-1, as the more likable guy. Does Mitt Romney have to make a case on that front [at the GOP convention] next week?” West responds, “Of course he does. I think that it’s very important that he introduces himself to America and he defines himself. But let’s be very honest and let’s put this in military vernacular. If you’re feeding a person a crap sandwich with a smile, it’s still a crap sandwich. That’s what you see coming from ...Obama. He’s fed America just a load of you-know-what, and it has not done anything for this country [other] than increasing our unemployment, increasing [the number of] Americans in poverty, increasing the food-stamp rolls, and we’re heading in the wrong direction. When you look at a budget that he produces that talks about a balanced approach, raising \$1.9 trillion in new taxes but it never balances. As a matter of fact, all it goes to is 53 percent growth of the federal government. So I think it is very important that we win the image war. There is no doubt about that. The personality, the persona, you have to define yourself, but you also have to stay on message, on track, because the American people

are suffering under these failed economic policies.” [36063]

The Romney campaign releases an ad showing Obama saying on October 17, 2008, “Senator McCain would pay for ...part of his [health care] plan by making drastic cuts in Medicare—\$882 billion worth.” The ad then notes that Obama cut \$716 billion from Medicare to pay for ObamaCare, and asks, “What would candidate Obama say about President Obama’s Medicare cuts?” The ad returns to Obama’s 2008 remarks: “It ain’t right.” (The most effective political ads are often those that use the opponent’s own words against him.) It is worth noting that, in addition to the \$716 billion in Medicare cuts, Obamacare includes a Medicare tax increase—from 2.9 to 3.8 percent. *But that additional tax revenue will not be used to help shore up Medicare; it will be applied to ObamaCare spending.* (Romney campaign ads have not yet made that an issue, but if it is raised it will certainly turn more senior citizens against Obama.) [36065, 36066, 36141]

ThePostEmail.com reports that Texas, Nebraska, and Arizona “have refused to issue identification cards or extend public benefits to young illegals classified by Obama’s executive order ...as eligible to remain and work in the United States.” [36074]

On August 26 Charlie “Me First” Crist, the former Republican governor of Florida, endorses Obama in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Florida Republican Party Chairman Lenny Curry writes, “Today we have seen a repugnant display from a self-centered, career politician. While the people of Florida, and thousands of visitors who’ve traveled here, are facing an emergency, Charlie Crist has demonstrated, yet again, that his political ambition will always come first. Beyond the appalling timing of this move, Crist now professes his support for Barack Obama despite spending his entire political career bashing the political agenda that Obama advances. Crist in 2010 said ‘I don’t agree with the guy on hardly anything he does.’ ...For Crist to pull this Obama stunt while the [state of] Florida faces a hurricane only proves Charlie Crist cares about just one thing: Charlie Crist.” On Fox News, Former Florida Congressman Adam Putnam comments, “No one in Florida is surprised. Charlie left the Republican Party a long time ago. ...Charlie Crist ...is just so desperate to be in the parade, he will wear anybody’s costume.” [36070, 36079, 36110]

The Columbus Dispatch reports that its telephone survey of likely Ohio voters places Mitt Romney and Obama in a 45–45 tie. U.S. Senate candidates Sherrod Brown, the Democrat incumbent, and Republican challenger Josh Mandel are tied, 44–44. “Sixty-two percent say the country is on the wrong track. A total of 55 percent—including 1 out of 7 Obama supporters—say [Obama’s] performance since taking office has been worse than they hoped.” [36067]

At ThePostEmail.com Miki Booth reports that “Native Americans are very angry to learn that Muslims in the United States of America are being touted as ‘indigenous,’ a complete falsehood. ...Organizations like BIMA [Bureau of Indigenous Muslim Affairs] marginalize native Americans in favor of Muslims, and Indians are not pleased.” Booth, who lives in Oklahoma, notes that “the support Obama received from native American

Democrats in 2008 is waning.” BIMA is involved with an opening day Islamic prayer event at the Democrat National Convention, and claims there will be 20,000 participants. (Muslims are certainly not indigenous to the United States, although they improperly claim to be indigenous to practically every nation. In the upcoming book, *The Muslim Discovery of America*, author Frederick William Dame shatters the claims that Muslims have a long history in the United States, preceding Christopher Columbus and other European explorers. Because Islamorada, Florida starts with the letters “Islam,” Muslims claim that is proof “they were there first.” Similarly, the town of Allakaket, Alaska “must be of Muslim origin” because “Alla[h]” is in the name. Dame, noting the claim of a “One Thousand Year Anniversary of the Muslim (Islam) Discovery of America,” writes, “There was and there is no reason for an international call to celebrate any Muslim arrival in the Americas five centuries before Columbus, unless the goal is to re-write history and to delude people into believing that the foundation of cities and places in America owe their existence to Muslims, Mohammed’s dogma of world domination, and Islam. ... The reason that Islamic internet sites conduct such creeping, slimy Islamic claims is because they are intent on convincing unknowledgeable persons that wherever a Muslim set his foot, that that land belongs to Islam. It does not matter when this happened. As such, the Islamic logic of expansion is that whenever and wherever a Muslim appears in a foreign land, regardless of the historical age, it is only logical according to the Koran that that land must become Islamic, otherwise Allah would never have made it possible for that Muslim discoverer or explorer to be physically present in said new country.”) [36075, 36076, 36077]

While Muslims claim they discovered America 10 centuries ago and prepare to gather for an opening prayer ceremony at the Democrat National Convention, at PJMedia.com Pamela Geller reports on an exhibit at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. called “1,001 Muslim Inventions.” Geller writes that the traveling exhibit “...has indoctrinated hundreds of thousands of children into a rosy and romanticized view of Islam that makes them less appreciative of their own culture’s achievements and more complacent about Islamization in the West,” by making them believe that Muslims invented the camera and were the first to fly—centuries ago. [36095, 36096, 36097, 36098]

DailyCaller.com writes, “Republicans are winning the political debate on entitlement reform and Medicare, issues long dominated by Democrats, in the wake of Mitt Romney’s selection of running mate Paul Ryan. A poll released last week shows seniors nationwide back the GOP proposals on Medicare overall, with tight battles in some key swing states. Romney is out-polling ... Obama on Medicare among seniors by margins of 48 percent to 44 percent in Florida and 49 percent to 43 percent in Ohio, according to the New York Times/CBS/Quinnipiac poll. In Wisconsin, Obama is barely ahead of Romney among seniors.” [36080]

Newsbusters.org reports, “R. Lee Ermey, the actor best known for his role as the drill sergeant in Stanley Kubrick’s “Full Metal Jacket,” claims he was fired by GEICO for criticizing ... Obama. ... After being asked [by TMZ] about his GEICO commercial wherein he played a psychiatrist calling his patient a ‘jackwagon,’ Ermey said, ‘GEICO

fired me because I had... I wasn't too kind about speaking with the... about the administration, so the present [Obama] administration. So they fired me. ...If you're a conservative in this town, you [had] better watch out." [36084, 36159]

Reuters reports that Argentina's president Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's popularity plummeted "to 30 percent in August, less than half of what it was a year earlier, according to a poll published on Sunday that portrayed a country worried about crime and high inflation. ...As recently as September last year, a month before winning her second term, Fernandez had 64.1 popularity while campaigning on promises of deepening the interventionist policy model of her late husband and predecessor as president, Nestor Kirchner." (Kirchner, a socialist who has the support of Obama, has followed in the footsteps of Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez, nationalizing industries and attempting to ban foreign books.) [31604, 31605, 36085]

WeeklyStandard.com notes the desperation in a recent Obama email begging for campaign cash and whining that he is being outspent by the Romney campaign two-to-one on ads. Obama writes, "Close the gap on the air by making a donation of \$5 or more now. ...We're losing this air war right now. I don't have as much time to campaign this time as I did in 2008, so this whole thing is riding on you making it happen. Donate now to close the gap on the air..." Another email that asks for donations states, "And the fact is that solving this problem [of possibly being outspent by the Romney campaign] is up to you. ...I don't have as much time to campaign this time as I did in 2008, so this whole thing is riding on you making it happen." (In other words, "If I lose, it's your fault for not sending me money.") [36087, 36090]

According to the Detroit Free Press, General Motors has asked that neither Obama nor Mitt Romney campaign at any of its manufacturing plants. [36122, 36123]

On *Face the Nation*, host Bob Schieffer does his best to aid Obama by asking questions about everything but the economy. Schieffer focuses first on U.S. Senate candidate Todd Aiken, a Nevada Republican whose stupid remark about rape created the kind of controversy the media loves. Schieffer asks Haley Barbour, former governor of Mississippi, how the Republicans will be able to "get back" to the important issues. Barbour responds, "Well, I was going to say, Bob, the first thing is, if your first four questions are about it [other issues, like Aiken], it's kind of hard getting the subject back on the economy when you want to talk about Todd Akin." (The Associated Press helps Obama with its headline story, "Romney's convention: Big storm, rape controversy." It may just as well have written, "Vote for Obama, not Hitler's secret grandson.") [36089, 36104]

On August 27 MSNBC's master mudslinger, Chris Matthews, "loses it" on *Morning Joe*, going on a rant in which he labels Mitt Romney and Republicans racists and calls Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus "garbage." (Matthews is not bothered by Obama sycophants calling Romney a felon or an ad accusing him of causing a woman's death from cancer, but goes ballistic when Romney refers to his own Michigan birth certificate. Even co-hosts Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski appear

annoyed by Matthews's remarks—probably because they know his extremism will not help MSNBC gain the viewers it sorely needs.) [36164]

HotAir.com observes, “The aromas of desperation and fear are strong in this [video] clip.” (Even Obama knows enough to stay away from the radioactive Matthews. Although Matthews is completely “in the tank” for Obama, earlier in the month the White House denied him an interview request. HotAir.com quips, “I don’t blame [Obama]. What if Tingles [Matthews] surprised him with a tough question about how difficult it is to deal with Republicans?” More accurately, Hot Air writes, “Imagine if he asked him a question as simple as ‘What are your plans for your second term?’ No one knows the answer to that, Obama included, so the risk of a bad soundbite is high. Why chance it?”) [36102, 36106, 36153, 36156, 36157, 36164]

While Chris Matthews blasts Republicans for their attacks on Obama, it takes 17 days for Facebook to get around to removing a “Kill Mitt Romney” page “advocating for the murder of Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney.” According to Fox News, the page “was created by blogger Joshua Scott Albert, who drew the attention of the Secret Service, according to a spokesman. ‘We are aware of it and we are taking appropriate investigative steps,’ Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan told FoxNews.com.” Albert also has a page expressing support for two men who shot and killed Philadelphia police officer Moses Walker, Jr.) [36101, 36115]

The Washington Times writes, “Listening to liberal media reports on Hurricane Isaac, we already know two things: A major disaster is coming, and whatever happens is Mitt Romney’s fault. This rapidly developing story line is the function of what CNN called the ‘eerie similarities’ between Isaac and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Isaac is on a similar track and predicted to make landfall on or about Katrina’s seven-year anniversary. Granted, Isaac is expected to be a weak Category 1 hurricane, in contrast to Katrina, which was Category 5 and the second most intense storm to hit the United States on record. However, the tempest has caused Republicans to reschedule parts of their national convention and given press outlets a handy pretext for limiting their coverage of what remains. To the extent reports continue, the theme will be, ‘Mitt Romney parties while the Gulf Coast suffers.’ ...Playing up a sense of impending doom benefits ...Obama. When Isaac comes ashore and doesn’t repeat Katrina’s devastation, the White House can claim credit for staving off disaster. ...Obama can draw contrasts between himself and [George W.] Bush, which is one of his major campaign themes. The White House may also contend that without ...Obama’s wise leadership, the results would have been much worse—which is his primary talking point discussing the economy.” [36140]

WWD.com reports that Obama found time in his busy schedule to grant an interview with *Glamour* magazine for its November issue. [36100, 36205]

The Obama Victory Fund holds a fundraiser in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted by actor George Clooney. [34344]

A *Washington Post* poll of registered (rather than *likely*) voters shows Mitt Romney with a 47–46 percent lead over Obama. (The D/R/I weighting is 32/25/36. That is, the poll surveyed 7 percent more Democrats than Republicans and Obama *still* trails by one point. The Obama team and the *Washington Post* are delusional if they believe only 25 percent of the voters on November 6 will be Republicans.) Romney leads 4 points among independent voters—another bad sign for Obama. HotAir.com notes that unmarried women prefer Obama over Romney 57/32, Romney leads among married women 55/40. “The split among single and married men is similar, with Obama up 10 points among singles (51/41) but down 24 points among marrieds (35/59). That translates overall to just a six-point lead for Obama among women, 49/43, while Romney takes a nine-point lead among men, 51/42. ...Obama’s draw among younger voters has substantially decreased as well. He only leads the under-40 vote by 13 points, 51/38. Obama loses the seniors by eight, 43/51. For the first time in a while, the Republican leads in the college-graduate demo too, 49/47, although that’s obviously a virtual tie. Obama has dominated among college graduates until now.” Romney leads Obama on several important issues: the economy (50/43), the deficit (51/38), taxes (48/43), and even Medicare (45/42). Obama leads on health care (47/45) and education (45/42). [36103, 36107]

WesternJournalism.com reports that an August 15–19 poll of Catholic registered voters conducted by CC Advertising of Centreville Virginia for the American Life League (ALL) shows only 27 percent supporting Obama. “Seventy four percent (74%) of Catholic men over 50 refuse to support Obama. Moreover an almost identical 25% of Catholic men under 50 support Obama and 31% of Catholic women under 50 support him. Catholic women over fifty support Obama at just a 23% rate. ...The ALL survey found that 73% of its Catholic registered voter respondents see the mandate Obama has placed on Catholic institutions (including Catholic hospitals and indeed the office of Cardinal Dolan) to commit abortions and distribute contraceptive devices as a violation of their religious freedoms.” (Catholics2012.org has raised more than \$500,000 for the Romney campaign and is attempting to reach a goal of \$1 million by August 30.) [36116, 36124]

HollywoodReporter.com reports, “Giant, walking vaginas have descended upon the Republican National Convention. Several demonstrators from the feminist group Code Pink wore frilly pink costumes while others adorned with cardboard cutouts resembling the sexual organ were milling about Sunday looking for Republicans [to harass].” Among the group’s chants: “Take your vagina to the RNC!/Let’s start behaving like a true majority/Show these guys that power/Isn’t in the way you pee/Take your vagina to the RNC.” (Code Pink was co-founded by Medea Benjamin and Jodi Evans. In 2004 the anti-war group delivered \$600,000 in cash and supplies to Iraq—not to American soldiers, but to the terrorists who are fighting them in Fallujah. Evans later donated \$2,300 to the Obama presidential campaign. In a June 2008 interview Evans said Osama bin Laden had a “valid argument” for the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Evans, a friend of Viet Cong sympathizer Jane Fonda, also met with members of the Taliban on a trip to Afghanistan. At a subsequent fundraiser, Evans met with Obama and personally presented him with a package that allegedly contained signatures on anti-war petitions. It is unclear whether Evans gave Obama any personal messages from the Taliban. In June

2009 Benjamin gave Obama a letter from the terrorist group Hamas. In September 2009 Evans and Benjamin met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York City, where he had traveled to deliver an address at Columbia University. His appearance was coordinated by long-time Obama friend Rashid Khalidi, and possibly encouraged by Zbigniew Brzezinski, an anti-Semite and Obama foreign policy advisor who taught international relations at Columbia University.) [104, 215, 220, 355, 395, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 36117, 36154, 36258]

In an interview with Newsmax.tv, Republican political strategist Karl Rove says Obama is trying to discourage voter turn-out: “[W]e’re likely to see ...turnout flat-line this year and maybe even decline a little bit because of the negativity of the campaign. Obama’s purpose is to discourage people who are nervous about voting for him for re-election from voting at all because he wants them to say, ‘All right, you may be leaning against me but I want to make it so unpalatable for you to vote for Mitt Romney that you just stay home.’” Romney’s top priority, says Rove, should be trying to persuade swing voters “...because you don’t want the candidate to be spending the final weeks of the campaign reassuring those who ought to [already] be firmly for him. The good news is he doesn’t need to do that. We’re at a place where Republicans are fired up and ready to go, in part because of Romney and, frankly, in part because of three and a half years of Barack Obama. They’re ready to go.” [36118]

Paul Ryan tells Brett Baier of Fox News, “The contrast between the ...Obama plan, which has put us [on the road to) debt, doubt and decline, versus Mitt Romney’s vision and solutions for a better future, to get us back to prosperity, couldn’t be clearer. And what we want to do [at the convention] is highlight those contrasts.” [36119]

According to AutoNews.com, General Motors is stopping production of the Chevy Volt for the period of September 17 to October 15. (Chevrolet states the shutdown is not the result of poor sales, but to gear up for production of the new Impala. Nevertheless, the move will idle about 1,500 workers. The plant was also shut down in March and April of 2012. In 2008 Obama promised to put one million electric cars on the road by 2015. Only 10,666 Volts were sold in the first seven months of 2012—and many of the vehicles were sold to the federal government and to the state of California. At a rate of about 1,500 cars per month, it would take more than 50 years for one million Volts to be sold.) [15376, 23131, 36125, 36126, 36152, 36384]

Actress Ellen Barkin sends a Twitter message: “C’mon [tropical storm] #Isaac! Wash every pro-life, anti-education, anti-woman, xenophobic, gay-bashing, racist SOB right into the ocean! #RNC ” (Some might argue that the aging, face-lifted actress—probably best known for the 1987 film *The Big Easy*—is desperately seeking attention and relevance.) Actor Samuel L. Jackson states he was “not understanding God’s plan” when the storm did not destroy the GOP convention. Another “tolerant” leftist actress, Jean Smart, comments, “I’ll never forgive anyone for being a Republican.” [36127, 36137, 36147]

Actor Jon Voight, also aging but sans cosmetic surgery and bitterness, tells DailyCaller.com, “The media has been taken over by this administration. It’s not less than what has happened in Venezuela with Hugo Chavez, really, because you can’t get the information through. ...[I]t’s become pure propaganda and we should be appalled. ...Governor Romney, I think because of Governor Romney’s great talents, his great compassion, his great gifts of leadership, he’s going to win this election. The people are going to become aware of these qualities. Now, what the other side has done is try to diminish all this—they’ve lied about him, they’ve done all this stuff trying to hide the true character of this man and the greatness of the fellow. Once people come to see that, they will be voting for him.” Voight comments on the film *2016: Obama’s America*, “It’s a tremendous piece of work—as an artist, I look at it and see this is a very well-produced piece. But this piece gives you very good insight into what the Obama agenda is. And, it’s very concerning, but I say go see it. It’s not done in any—it’s not a strident movie. It’s not polemical. It’s information, and it’s a very, very well done documentary and it will give you understandings that you don’t have because the media in our country has been bought and sold in some ways.” [36139]

Breitbart.com reports, “The controversial super PAC Special Operations for America, led by former Navy SEALs, is set to release a blistering new ad against ...Obama Tuesday at the Republican National Convention. The ad, titled ‘Bow to Nobody,’ depicts Navy SEALs in combat situations; it then proclaims that they fight so that America will not have to bow to anybody.” The SEAL narrator states, “We sacrifice not because we have to. We bleed not because we want to. We fight because we need to—and sometimes, we die because we love this country. I believe in American exceptionalism. As a Navy SEAL I fought so that I would never have to see my president bow to anyone.” With the final words, the ad shows the infamous photo of Obama bowing to the king of Saudi Arabia. [36128, 36136, 36169]

The anti-abortion organization Susan B. Anthony List starts running an ad in Missouri featuring a young woman, Melissa Ohden, who survived an abortion and was rescued by a nurse who noticed that the “discarded fetus” was still alive. Ohden tells the viewers, “Many children, more than you might think, actually survive failed abortions and are born alive. I know because I’m one of them. ...When he was in the Illinois state Senate, Barack Obama voted to deny basic constitutional protections for babies born alive from an abortion—not once, but four times. I know it’s by the grace of God I’m alive today, if only to ask America this question: is this the kind of leadership that will move us forward, that will discard the weakest among us? How will you answer?” [36172]

Political strategist Dick Morris writes, “With all the conflicting polls and survey samples using registered—as opposed to likely—voters, I decided to conduct my own poll using the same methodologies I used so successfully for Clinton. On Thursday, August 23rd, I conducted a national survey of 500 likely voters through live telephone interviews. The poll finds Romney ahead of Obama by 50–43!—far, far different from the published polls. (The sample was 33% Democrat, 31% Republican, 11% black, and 8% Latino). Apart from the head-to-head vote question, my survey tracks with the others on most of

its internals. Obama's personal favorability is 47–50 while Romney's is 48–48. The president's job approval is at 46%." [36142]

While Obama campaign spokespersons and media liberals express outrage at Mitt Romney's statement in his home state of Michigan that no one asked to see his birth certificate, the Obama campaign itself takes advantage of the issue by selling a "Made in the USA" button featuring Obama's picture and a portion of his alleged birth certificate. The campaign site states, "There's really no way to make the conspiracy about ...Obama's birth certificate completely go away, so we might as well laugh at it—and make sure as many people as possible are in on the joke. Get your Obama birth certificate Made in the USA button today. \$5" (For months Obama's campaign has been selling birth certificate coffee mugs.) [36131, 36132, 36171]

On August 28 the Republican National Convention opens in Tampa, Florida. The convention hall boasts a huge "national debt clock" that shows the government's debt growing by the second. (There is a possibility that the amount may reach \$16 trillion on the final night of the convention—something that is not likely to go unmentioned in Mitt Romney's speech.) [36151, 36158]

Mitt Romney becomes the official Republican nominee for president through a roll call vote of delegates. (During the roll call of votes, the spokesperson for Idaho booms, "Idaho, the first to sue ObamaCare!") [36213]

WND.com reports that Obama's former "man servant," Reggie Love, "resurfaced on the eve of the Republican National Convention to support his old boss" as his "deputy political director." "Love, a graduate of Duke University with a B.A. in political science and public policy, started working in 2006 in a low-level staff position in then-Sen. Obama's office after failing NFL tryouts with the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys in 2004 and 2005. In 2007, just before Obama's presidential primary campaign was launched, Love moved up to assume the position of 'personal assistant' to the candidate, a role typically dubbed as a 'body man,' responsible for up-close and personal contact with Obama on virtually a 24-7 basis. As the New York Times reported, the job required anything from carrying Obama's coat or briefcase, to providing him 'cool' Jay-Z music for his iPod, to sneaking off to the gym and playing basketball." (There have been persistent rumors that Love's relationship with Obama is "more intense" than has been officially reported. Love's qualifications for the position of deputy political director are unknown.) [36178]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Officials at the White House, Pentagon and CIA eagerly cooperated with movie producers who were expected to roll out a pre-election movie [*Zero Dark Thirty*] about the successful mission to kill Osama bin Laden, according to a cache of documents revealed by Judicial Watch. ...Tom Fitton, president of the Judicial Watch public-interest law firm, said Tuesday that the documents 'provide more backing to the serious charge that the Obama administration played fast and loose with national security information to help Hollywood filmmakers. These new documents show there is no doubt that Obama White House was intensely interested in this film that was set to

portray ...Obama as 'gutsy.' ...However, the efforts won't yield the administration any major benefits: The resulting film's release has been delayed to December, many weeks after the critical November election." According to the *Daily Mail*, "The Obama administration gave its full backing to the official film version of the raid to kill Osama bin Laden in apparent attempt to give [Obama] a pre-election boost. ...[A]s far back as June last year the CIA thought 'Zero Dark Thirty' would be a 'winning horse' and gave classified briefings to director Kathryn Bigelow. The film's screenwriter Mark Boal also was allowed to make 'deep dives' into sensitive information to shape the script as intelligence officials developed a back-slapping and chummy relationship with him. The revelation is likely to further anger the Navy SEALs who carried out the raid, some of whom are already furious with Obama for trying to claim too much credit for the assassination of the al-Qaeda leader. In one email a senior CIA official boasted: 'I can't tell you how excited we all are about the project'—and apparently vows to keep quiet about free tickets to the premiere. The White House got in on the act as well, making it explicit it wanted to 'have visibility' so it could bask in the glory." [36197, 37260]

As tropical storm Isaac becomes Hurricane Isaac, Obama quickly goes to the microphones to take credit for the preparations: "At my direction, FEMA has been on the ground for over a week working with state and local officials in areas that could be affected, from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, to Florida, and more recently, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. I approved a disaster declaration for the state of Louisiana so they can get the help that they need right away, particularly around some of the evacuations that are taking place. And right now we already have response teams and supplies ready to help communities in the expected path of the storm." [36167]

Obama campaigns in Iowa and Colorado. He states, "As we prepare for it [Hurricane Isaac] to hit, I want to encourage all residents of the Gulf Coast to listen to your local officials and follow their directions, including if they tell you to evacuate. Now is not the time to tempt fate, now is not the time to dismiss official warnings. You need to take this seriously." At Iowa State University Obama says, "This week in Tampa, my opponents will offer you their agenda. It should be a pretty entertaining show. It will be. And I'm sure they'll have some wonderful things to say about me. But what you won't hear from them is a path forward that meets the challenges of our time. Instead, it will be an economic plan that says if you just give folks making \$3 million or more a year another \$250,000 tax cut, then jobs and prosperity will magically rain down on everybody else." (Obama is incorrect. The Republicans are not calling for a tax cut; they are calling for taxes not to be raised. Obama does not explain how he can create jobs by raising taxes, taking even more money out of a already weak private economy.) [36162, 36163, 36168, 36219]

In Ames, Iowa, Obama says, "Governor Romney promised that sometime between taking the Oval Office and going to the inaugural ball, he'd sit right down, grab a pen and kick seven million young people off their parents plan by repealing health reform. Day one, that's what he says he's gonna do. Maybe we should call his plan Romney Doesn't Care. I think it might make sense for you to choose to keep moving forward with the new health care law that's already cutting costs and covering more people and saving lives. I

think women should be trusted to make their own health care decisions. That's a choice that you've got to make." (Repealing ObamaCare would not "kick seven million young people off " the health insurance of their parents' plans. Covering "children" up to age 26 would be up to the insurance companies. Many may continue to extend that coverage. Secondly, ObamaCare has certainly *not* reduced health care costs. Lastly, repealing ObamaCare would not prevent women from making their own health care decisions. It means they would not get federal funding for abortions. Repealing ObamaCare means ending the Independent Payment Advisory Board—the "death panel"—and that may save the lives of elderly women who will be able to obtain treatment for procedures the IPAB might rule inadvisable based on advanced age and a need to cut costs.) [36227]

At Colorado State University, Obama tells his audience, "I just want all of you to understand your power. Don't give it away—not when you're young. Right now, America is counting on you. And I'm counting on you." [36228]

Breitbart.com reports in the various ways leftist and anarchist activists plan to disrupt the convention: "In addition to trying to shut down bridges to prevent delegates from reaching the convention center next week... a subgroup of Occupy [Wall Street] is looking to shut down EMS [emergency medical services] communications throughout the city." Activists are likely to attempt to block streets and bridges, and throw objects from overpasses onto the roads below. [36155]

There are reports that Donald Trump will, in fact, unveil a "surprise" at the Republican National Convention. The schedule for the final day of the convention, August 29, also includes a "To be announced" segment during prime time. (Who or what that will be is not known. Some speculate it will be an address by Sarah Palin or Rush Limbaugh; others suggest General Colin Powell; former Virginia governor Douglas Wilder, a black Democrat who is unhappy with Obama's performance; retiring Democrat Senator Joe Lieberman; athlete Tim Tebow; actor Clint Eastwood; or Nancy Reagan. *The Obama Timeline* wonders if the surprise is a computer-generated "hologram" of Ronald Reagan, introduced by Nancy Reagan.) [36129, 36130, 36143, 36144, 36165, 36166]

CNBC reports, "U.S. consumer confidence unexpectedly weakened in August to its lowest in nine months as Americans turned more pessimistic about the short-term outlook, according to a private sector report released on Tuesday. The Conference Board, an industry group, said its index of consumer attitudes fell to 60.6 from a downwardly revised 65.4 the month before. Economists had expected an increase to 66, according to a Reuters poll." (It is unclear why CNBC finds the decline unexpected or why economists had reason to believe Americans think the economy is getting better.) [36134, 36135]

Townhall.com's Guy Benson interviews former New Hampshire governor John Sununu at the GOP convention. Benson notes that the convention will follow the "Obama's a nice guy but incompetent leader" theme and asks if there should be a "harsher tone." Sununu responds, "It's smart for the candidate [Mitt Romney] to maintain that tone. Since there are irresponsible people like me out there, I don't have to maintain that tone. [Obama] is not a nice guy. He doesn't tell the truth, he allows people attack dishonestly, he lets his

people use language that includes the word ‘felon’ in describing Mitt Romney as a candidate, he lets people get the impression that somehow Mitt Romney was in collusion with acts that caused the death of a woman—that’s not a nice guy. That’s a failed presidency who’s desperate and doing anything to get re-elected. Governor Romney is right to be nice. I don’t have to be nice.” Commenting on the Romney team, Sununu says, “This is a smart campaign. They understand the allocation of resources, and they have allocated their resources well. They are prepared for the last two months of this presidential election. Presidential elections are somewhat like basketball games; it’s always the last two minutes in a basketball game [that most impact the outcome]; it’s the last two months in a presidential campaign. They’ve stored up and prepared very well in husbanding their resources for the last two months. They are smart; they are ruthless; they are tough; they are very energetic in responding quickly. It is easy to criticize campaigns; I find it very difficult to criticize this gang. They’ve done a great job.” [36138]

A Quinnipiac poll in Connecticut gives Obama a 52–45 percent lead over Mitt Romney, a significant fall from his 22-point victory over John McCain in 2008. HotAir.com observes, “A seven-point lead for an incumbent Democratic President in this state is a show of weakness. Combine that with a slight Republican lead in a US Senate race and it begins to look like Connecticut may be shifting out of the Safely Democratic column and edging toward swing-state status.” [36145, 36146]

In Iowa, Obama’s lead over Mitt Romney falls to a mere two points 47–45 in a Public Policy Polling survey. (Obama was ahead by 10 points in May. In 2008 Obama won the state by nine points.) [36146, 36148, 36149]

The New York Times reports, “In response to a crush of media attention, criticism and consumers clamoring to buy the book, the publisher behind the first-hand account of the Navy SEALs raid that killed Osama bin Laden has decided to move up the release date to next Tuesday. Dutton, the imprint of Penguin that acquired the book in secret, said that ‘No Easy Day,’ which will appear under the pseudonym Mark Owen, will go on sale Sept. 4, a week ahead of the planned date, Sept. 11.” The book will not do Obama any favors, as its version of the event conflict with those released by the White House. According to HuffingtonPost.com, the first-hand account reveals that Osama bin Laden “was unarmed and was already dead with a bullet to the brain when the SEALs entered his bedroom in the compound at Abbottabad, Pakistan. ... The book calls out inaccurate accounts of the assault. ‘The raid was being reported like a bad action movie,’ Owen writes. ‘At first, it was funny because it was so wrong.’ Contrary to earlier accounts, Owen says SEALs weren’t fired upon while they were outside the gate of the compound. There was no 40-minute firefight. And it wasn’t true that bin Laden had ‘time to look into our eyes.’ ... Owen says the SEALs joked that Obama would take credit for their success. On his second night in Afghanistan waiting for final orders, sitting around a fire pit and joking about which Hollywood actors would play them in the bin Laden movie, one SEAL joked, ‘And we’ll get Obama reelected for sure. I can see him now, talking about how he killed bin Laden,’ according to Owen.” (As of August 31 *No Easy Day* is ranked

number one at Amazon.com as a result of pre-orders.) [36175, 36176, 36198, 36362, 36689]

In the daily Gallup poll, Obama's approval/disapproval rating is 43/48 percent. [36160]

Former Alabama Congressman Artur Davis addresses the convention, appealing to those Americans who, like him, were enthusiastic about Obama in 2008 but who are now disheartened and disappointed. Davis says that, unlike Obama, Mitt Romney “doesn’t confuse the presidency with celebrity, or loftiness with leadership. The Democrats’ negative ads do convince me that Mitt Romney can’t sing, but his record convinced me that he knows how to lead, and you know which skill we need more. ...To those Democrats and independents whose minds are open to argument: listen closely to the Democratic party that will gather in Charlotte and ask yourself if you ever hear your voice in the clamor. Ask yourself if these Democrats still speak for you. When they say we have a duty to grow government even when we can't afford it, does it sound like compassion to you—or recklessness? When you hear the party that glorified Occupy Wall Street blast success, when you hear them minimize the genius of the men and women who make jobs out of nothing, is that what you teach your children about work? When they tell you America is this unequal place where the powerful trample on the powerless, does that sound like the country your children or your spouse risked their lives for in Iraq or Afghanistan? Do you even recognize the America they are talking about? And what can we say about a house that doesn’t honor the pictures on its walls? John F. Kennedy asked us what we could do for America. [Today’s] Democratic party asks what can government give you. Don’t worry about paying the bill; it’s on your kids and grandkids.” (At the 2008 Democrat convention Davis delivered the address seconding Obama’s nomination. Disillusioned with the party’s movement to the extreme left of the political spectrum, Davis switched to the Republican Party. The Democrats gained Charlie Crist, former governor of Florida. With Davis, the Republicans received the better man. Davis switched parties to preserve his principles, while Crist abandoned his principles to switch parties.) [36181, 36192, 36199, 36212, 36224, 36233]

Among the other speakers are Republican National Committee chairman Reince Priebus; House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH); Mia Love, mayor of Sarasota Springs, Utah and candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives (who happens to be a black businesswoman); South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley; U.S. Senate candidate from Texas Ted Cruz; former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania Rick Santorum; Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin; Ohio Governor John Kasich; Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval; Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell; actress Janine Turner; Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA); businesswoman Sher Valenzuela, a candidate for Delaware lieutenant governor; and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. ABC, CBS, and NBC do not broadcast the convention until Ann Romney and Chris Christie speak. CNN and MSNBC mostly show the speakers in the background, with their liberal commentators talking over them. MSNBC fails to broadcast any speech by a woman, black, or Latino—while eagerly criticizing the GOP as the party of “old white men.” Love tells the audience, “My parents immigrated to the U.S. with ten dollars in their pocket, believing that the America they had heard about really did exist. When times got tough they didn’t look to

Washington, they looked within. So the America I came to know was centered in personal responsibility and filled with the American dream. ...Obama's version of America is a divided one—pitting us against each other based on our income level, gender, and social status. His policies have failed us. We're not better off than we were four years ago—and no rhetoric, bumper sticker, or Hollywood campaign ad can change that. Mr. [Obama], I am here to tell you we are not buying what you are selling in 2012. ...The American Dream is our story. It is a story of human struggle, standing up and striving for more. It's been told for over 200 years with small steps and giant leaps; from a woman on a bus to a man with a dream; and the bravery of the greatest generation, to the entrepreneurs of today. This is our story. This is the America we know because we built it." (Also featured are various owners of small business who relate how hard they worked to create their companies—directly challenging Obama's "You didn't build that!" remark.) [36186, 36191, 36193, 36194, 36195, 36196, 36203, 36209, 36210, 36211, 36212, 36214, 36220, 36221, 36226, 36232, 36253, 36254]

In particular, MSNBC ignores Mia Love's speech because she is not only a black Republican, she is a Mormon—and the leftists in the media are bent on portraying both the Republican Party and Mitt Romney's religion as racist. [36220]

Ann Romney, introduced by Luce' Vela Fortuño, the First Lady of Puerto Rico, delivers a persuasive and heartfelt speech at the Republican National Convention in which she promises that her husband will not let America down. Addressing the women who are watching, she says, "But these last few years have been harder than they needed to be. It's all the little things—that price at the pump you just can't believe, the grocery bills that just get bigger; all those things that used to be free, like school sports, are now one more bill to pay. It's all the little things that pile up to become big things. And the big things—the good jobs, the chance at college, that home you want to buy, just get harder. Everything has become harder." In a jab at Obama—perhaps the best line of the entire evening—Mrs. Romney says, "We're too smart to know there aren't easy answers. But we're not dumb enough to accept that there aren't better answers." Discussing her marriage she notes, "I read somewhere that Mitt and I have a 'storybook marriage.' Well, in the storybooks I read, there were never long, long, rainy winter afternoons in a house with five boys screaming at once. And those storybooks never seemed to have chapters called MS or breast cancer. [Ann Romney has had breast cancer and suffers from multiple sclerosis.] A storybook marriage? No, not at all. What Mitt Romney and I have is a real marriage. I know this good and decent man for what he is—warm and loving and patient. He has tried to live his life with a set of values centered on family, faith, and love of one's fellow man. From the time we were first married, I've seen him spend countless hours helping others. I've seen him drop everything to help a friend in trouble, and been there when late-night calls of panic came from a member of our church whose child had been taken to the hospital." She says, "This is important. I want you to hear this. Mitt doesn't like to talk about how he has helped others because he sees it as a privilege, not a political talking point." [36170, 36173, 36174, 36179, 36187, 36207, 36222, 36237]

"...You may not agree with Mitt's positions on issues or his politics. ...But let me say this to every American who is thinking about who should be our next president: No one

will work harder. No one will care more. No one will move heaven and earth like Mitt Romney to make this country a better place to live. It's true that Mitt has been successful at each new challenge he has taken on. It amazes me to see his history of success actually being attacked. Are those really the values that made our country great? As a mom of five boys, do we want to raise our children to be afraid of success? Do we send our children out in the world with the advice, "Try to do... okay?" And let's be honest. If the last four years had been more successful, do we really think there would be this attack on Mitt Romney's success?" She relates how hard her husband worked to become a success and concludes, "This is the man America needs. This is the man who will wake up every day with the determination to solve the problems that others say can't be solved, to fix what others say is beyond repair. This is the man who will work harder than anyone so that we can work a little less hard. I can't tell you what will happen over the next four years. But I can only stand here tonight, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an American, and make you this solemn commitment: *This man will not fail. This man will not let us down. This man will lift up America!* It has been 47 years since that tall, kind of charming young man brought me home from our first dance. Not every day since has been easy. But he still makes me laugh. And never once did I have a single reason to doubt that I was the luckiest woman in the world. I said tonight I wanted to talk to you about love. Look into your hearts. This is our country. This is our future. These are our children and grandchildren. You can trust Mitt. He loves America. He will take us to a better place, just as he took me home safely from that dance. Give him that chance. Give America that chance. God bless each of you and God Bless the United States of America." [36170, 36173, 36174, 36179, 36187, 36207, 36222, 36237]

HotAir.com's Erika Johnsen later observes, "She covered Mitt Romney's long history of doing kind and charitable things for others without taking credit for himself; she touted his smashing record of turning everything he touches into a tale of success that lifts up others around him; and she regaled us with stories about love, about their marriage, and how they grew up together and relied on one another. She was charming, she was both stern and demure, and she made excellent points about the nature of philanthropy, family, and hard work. In my opinion, the speech was a resounding success in terms of communicating what Republicans hoped it would—and for a final surprise, Mitt actually came out on stage when she finished to thank her with a hug and a kiss. I was downright moved, my friends." [36207]

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie delivers the keynote address, in which he points out that he was able to balance his state's budget without tax increases, and criticizes the Obama administration for its failures. Christie says, "Leadership matters. It's time to end this era of absentee leadership in the Oval Office and send real leaders to the White House." He states, "Let's be clear with the American people tonight. Here's what we believe as Republicans and what they believe as Democrats. We believe in telling hard working families the truth about our country's fiscal realities. Telling them what they already know—the math of federal spending doesn't add up. With \$5 trillion in debt added over the last four years, we have no other option but to make the hard choices, cut federal spending and fundamentally reduce the size of government. They believe that the American people don't want to hear the truth about the extent of our fiscal difficulties

and need to be coddled by big government. They believe the American people are content to live the lie with them. We believe in telling seniors the truth about our overburdened entitlements. We know seniors not only want these programs to survive, but they just as badly want them secured for their grandchildren. Seniors are not selfish. They believe seniors will always put themselves ahead of their grandchildren. So they prey on their vulnerabilities and scare them with misinformation for the cynical purpose of winning the next election. Their plan: whistle a happy tune while driving us off the fiscal cliff, as long as they are behind the wheel of power.” [36170, 36174, 36180, 36190, 36208, 36225, 36229, 36236, 36237]

“We believe that the majority of teachers in America know our system must be reformed to put students first so that America can compete. Teachers don’t teach to become rich or famous. They teach because they love children. We believe that we should honor and reward the good ones while doing what’s best for our nation’s future—demanding accountability, higher standards and the best teacher in every classroom. They believe the educational establishment will always put themselves ahead of children. That self-interest trumps common sense. They believe in pitting unions against teachers, educators against parents, and lobbyists against children. They believe in teacher’s unions. We believe in teachers. We believe that if we tell the people the truth they will act bigger than the pettiness of Washington, D.C. We believe it’s possible to forge bipartisan compromise and stand up for conservative principles. It’s the power of our ideas, not of our rhetoric, that attracts people to our Party. We win when we make it about what needs to be done; we lose when we play along with their game of scaring and dividing. For make no mistake, the problems are too big to let the American people lose—the slowest economic recovery in decades, a spiraling out of control deficit, an education system that’s failing to compete in the world.” [36170, 36174, 36180, 36190, 36208, 36225, 36229, 36236, 36237]

“It doesn’t matter how we got here. There is enough blame to go around. What matters now is what we do. I know we can fix our problems. When there are people in the room who care more about doing the job they were elected to do than worrying about winning re-election, it’s possible to work together, achieve principled compromise and get results. The people have no patience for any other way. It’s simple. We need politicians to care more about doing something and less about being something. Believe me, if we can do this in a blue state with a conservative Republican Governor, Washington is out of excuses. Leadership delivers. Leadership counts. Leadership matters. We have this leader for America. We have a nominee who will tell us the truth and who will lead with conviction. And now he has a running mate who will do the same. We have Governor Mitt Romney and Congressman Paul Ryan, and we must make them our next president and vice president. Mitt Romney will tell us the hard truths we need to hear to put us back on the path to growth and create good paying private sector jobs again in America. Mitt Romney will tell us the hard truths we need to hear to end the torrent of debt that is compromising our future and burying our economy. Mitt Romney will tell us the hard truths we need to hear to end the debacle of putting the world’s greatest health care system in the hands of federal bureaucrats and putting those bureaucrats between an American citizen and her doctor. We ended an era of absentee leadership without purpose

or principle in New Jersey. It's time to end this era of absentee leadership in the Oval Office and send real leaders to the White House." [36170, 36174, 36180, 36190, 36208, 36225, 36229, 36236, 36237]

"America needs Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan and we need them right now. There is doubt and fear for our future in every corner of our country. These feelings are real. This moment is real. It's a moment like this where some skeptics wonder if American greatness is over. How those who have come before us had the spirit and tenacity to lead America to a new era of greatness in the face of challenge. Not to look around and say 'not me,' but to say, 'Yes, me.' I have an answer tonight for the skeptics and the naysayers, the dividers and the defenders of the status quo. I have faith in us. I know we can be the men and women our country calls on us to be. I believe in America and her history. There's only one thing missing now. Leadership. It takes leadership that you don't get from reading a poll. You see, Mr. [Obama], real leaders don't follow polls. Real leaders change polls. ...Let us choose a path that will be remembered for generations to come. Standing strong for freedom will make the next century as great an American century as the last one. This is the American way. We have never been victims of destiny. We have always been masters of our own. I won't be part of the generation that fails that test and neither will you. It's now time to stand up. There's no time left to waste. If you're willing to stand up with me for America's future, I will stand up with you. If you're willing to fight with me for Mitt Romney, I will fight with you. If you're willing to hear the truth about the hard road ahead, and the rewards for America that truth will bear, I'm here to begin with you this new era of truth-telling. Tonight, we choose the path that has always defined our nation's history. Tonight, we finally and firmly answer the call that so many generations have had the courage to answer before us. Tonight, we stand up for Mitt Romney as the next President of the United States. And, together, we stand up once again for American greatness." [36170, 36174, 36180, 36190, 36208, 36225, 36229, 36236, 36237]

Christie is far less critical of Obama in his address than may have been expected by many. The keynote address is often known for its harsh, even mocking, attacks on the other party's candidate. It is likely that the GOP "establishment"—wisely or not—decided to tone down its attack on Obama to make them less personal so as to avoid being labeled racists. They will be called racists by the Obama team and the media anyway, but a more polite tone may win over some of the independent voters who are supposedly turned off by strong attacks. If the Democrats come across as far more mean-spirited by comparison at their convention, that may drive even more independents to the Romney-Ryan ticket. (The political action committees will run a substantial number of brutal ads attacking Obama and pointing out his failures. In the opinion of some, there is therefore arguably little need for the GOP convention to go overboard on criticisms of Obama.) Some might also argue that there are few voters who don't already know that Obama has failed to live up to his promises, and Christie's emphasis on Republican success stories gives fence-sitters a reason to believe they can trust Romney—and moving them toward Romney is more important than pushing them away from Obama. (On the other hand, if most voters fully understood Obama's failures he would be down 20 points in the polls, rather than running about even with Romney.) [36202]

On Fox News, liberal commentator Juan Williams calls Ann Romney a “corporate wife” and says, “you know, the stories she told about struggles, eh, it’s [sic] hard for me to believe. I mean, she’s a very rich woman. ...It [sic] looks like a woman whose husband takes care of her and she’s been very lucky and blessed in this life. She’s not speaking, I think, for the tremendous number of single women in this country, or married women, or separ—I, she, she does speaking [sic]... she did not convince me that, you know what, ‘I understand the struggles of American women in general.’” (Williams ignores the fact that although Ann Romney is wealthy now, she was not always wealthy. He apparently missed the part of her speech in which she describes how she and her husband shared a basement apartment and used an ironing board as a dining room table, and does not consider MS or breast cancer a struggle. Williams also apparently believes he is a better spokesperson for American women than Ann Romney.) Townhall.com’s Guy Benson comments, “I can’t help but think that if Mrs. Romney were married to a Democrat, her years-long struggle against two terrible illnesses would be universally hailed as evidence of her courage and strength—and rightfully so. Alas, she’s married to a well-off Republican, so it’s taken for granted that she can’t possibly relate to other people’s hardships, and is far too corporate to be authentic. Whining about media double standards is useless, but the two sets of rules are as obvious as they are galling.” [36182, 36223]

Political analyst Brit Hume disagrees with Juan Williams, saying, “I think that was the single most effective political speech I’ve ever heard given by a political wife. And I think that to the extent that she could do it in terms of rendering her husband as someone who women who may have had doubts about him, could identify with him, warm up too—I think she did the job as well as she possibly could. And I think that a lot of women would look at her, a great many women—particularly mothers and married women and find her utterly admirable and utterly credible. It was interesting to me tonight—it seems to me that the themes of tonight were two-fold. One was Ann Romney’s set-piece speech which stood by itself and did whatever it did for Mitt Romney. The rest of it was—you notice speakers, younger generations, new leaders, a number of them politically successful to say this is not your father’s, or even the most recent-generation’s Republican Party. This is a new Republican Party, populated by new, young leaders who have been successful, that these tasks before us can be done because we’re proof of that. We have, as Chris Christie said, we have done them.” [36188]

“Tolerant” liberals update Mia Love’s Wikipedia entry to call her a “dirty, worthless whore,” a “House Nigger,” and a “total sell-out to the Right Wing Hate machine and the greedy bigots who control the GOP.” [36215, 36297]

DailyCaller.com reports other reactions: “CBS’s Bob Schieffer: ‘Wow... That Was One Heck Of A Speech.’ (CBS, 8/28/12) ABC’s George Stephanopoulos: ‘A Love Letter To America’s Moms.’ (ABC, 8/28/12)... The Atlantic’s Garance Franke-Ruta: ‘I’m Not Sure I’ve Seen Better From A Potential First Lady.’” Obama campaign strategist David Axelrod calls the GOP convention’s first day “a relentless cavalcade of insults and ideology, anger in place of answers, from a party more bent on tearing down [Obama] than lifting up our country.” Obama toady Robert Gibbs calls it “a night highlighted by

lots of anger and insults.” Democrat consultant Paul Begala calls Chris Christie “angry and bombastic” and makes fun of his weight. [36189]

Judging by the reaction of MSNBC’s commentators (bitter and angry), the first night of the convention ends well for the Republican Party.

NBCNews.com posts highlights from some of the evening’s speeches—but only those of white speakers. (The mainstream media cannot call the Republican Party racist unless it hides proof that it is not.) LATimes has a different approach, with the headline, “Republican National Convention puts a brown face on a white party.” (If the GOP does not have minority speakers it is racist; if it has them it is pandering.) On MSNBC, Chuck Todd says, “Rachel [Maddow], the point is this. Republicans have been criticized in conventions past for while having a diverse list of speakers, that the audience is not diverse. Well this time, every delegation that has any sort of diversity to it, they are getting much more, much better seating so that when the cameras catch the delegates reacting to speeches it is a more diverse—the delegation looks like America.” [36216, 36217, 36218]

Hurricane Isaac disappoints Democrats by reaching only a Category 1 level—insufficient to cause a cancellation of the GOP convention events. [36204]

On August 29 NewsBusters.org reports, “In video broadcast Monday night by ABC and Yahoo over the Internet, [Yahoo News Washington bureau chief David] Chalian can be heard claiming that GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney and his wife Ann are unconcerned about the fate of residents of the New Orleans area who are currently being hit by Hurricane Isaac. ‘They aren’t concerned at all,’ Chalian [formerly with PBS NewsHour and ABC] can be heard on the live broadcast. ‘They are happy to have a party with black people drowning.’ That line elicits laughter from several employees listening in on the joke. The anti-Romney joke was made while Chalian was on an active microphone, apparently unaware that his quips against the former Massachusetts governor were being recorded and broadcast live. Unmentioned by Chalian was the fact that the Republican National Committee canceled the entirety of Monday’s program or that ...Obama did not cancel any of his regularly scheduled campaign fund-raising parties that night.” Later in the day Chalian is fired by Yahoo, which issues the statement: “David Chalian’s statement was inappropriate and does not represent the views of Yahoo!. He has been terminated effective immediately. We have already reached out to the Romney campaign, and we apologize to Mitt Romney, his staff, their supporters and anyone who was offended.” (The media does not criticize Obama for playing golf every weekend while black people shoot each other on the south side of Chicago.) PBS’s Gwen Ifill calls on everyone to overlook Chalian’s “one mistake” because he “is God’s gift to political journalism.” (Ifill, who is black, was selected to moderate the 2008 vice presidential debate despite the fact that she was writing a sycophantic Obama book, *The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama*, that was published on the day of his inauguration.) [36183, 36184, 36231, 36247, 36268, 36280, 36303, 36304]

“A well-placed Republican source” tells Townhall.com that actor/director Clint Eastwood “will travel to Tampa, Florida to attend Mitt Romney's nominating convention this week.” (Whether Eastwood will be the “to be announced” speaker on August 30 is not known. The mystery speaker is not to be confused with Donald Trump’s separate “surprise.”) [36185, 36206, 36298, 36300]

TheHill.com reports, “Advocates pushing for a minimum wage increase are looking to turn it into an election-year issue as the campaign season heats up this fall. Such a hike is expected to be included in the Democrats’ 2012 platform—which will be presented to delegates at the party’s convention in Charlotte, N.C., next week—a member of the drafting committee told The Hill.” (The election year gimmick may gain Obama a few votes, but if Congress were to pass such legislation it would increase the unemployment rate and make it even more difficult for the poor and the uneducated to find jobs. A company with several minimum wage employees may simply lay off one of them and expect those who remain to work harder to compensate for the loss of one employee, and businesses considering hiring more low-wage workers may change their minds when they evaluate the increased costs of doing so.) [36435]

Obama campaigns in Charlottesville, Virginia. ABC’s Jake Tapper reports that Obama’s biggest applause lines—in front of a college crowd—are for “college loans, gay marriage, women’s health care, US troops coming home from Afgh.” The Obama campaign predicted an audience of 12,000; about 7,500 attend. Obama also conducts an “online chat” with Reddit.com readers—during which he advocates restricting free speech: “I think we need to seriously consider mobilizing a constitutional amendment process to overturn Citizens United. ...Even if the amendment process falls short, it can shine a spotlight of [sic] the super PAC phenomenon and help apply pressure for change.” Obama tells a student, “I understand how tough it is out there for recent grads. Obviously some of the steps we have taken already help young people at the start of their careers. Because of the health care bill, you can stay on your parent’s plan until you’re twenty six. Because of our student loan bill, we are lowering the debt burdens that young people have to carry. But the key for your future, and all our futures, is an economy that is growing and creating solid middle class jobs—and that’s why the choice in this election is so important. The other party has two ideas for growth—more tax cuts for the wealthy (paid for by raising tax burdens on the middle class and gutting investments like education) and getting rid of regulations we’ve put in place to control the excesses on wall street and help consumers. These ideas have been tried, they didn’t work, and will make the economy worse. I want to keep promoting advanced manufacturing that will bring jobs back to America, promote all-American energy sources, including wind and solar, keep investing in education and make college more affordable, rebuild our infrastructure, invest in science, and reduce our deficit in a balanced way with prudent spending cuts and higher taxes on folks making more than \$250,000 per year. I don’t promise that this will solve all our immediate economic challenges, but my plans will lay the foundation for long term growth for your generation, and for generations to follow. So don’t be discouraged—we didn’t get into this fix overnight, and we won’t get out overnight, but we are making progress and with your help will make more.” [36200, 36260, 36290, 36360, 36361]

Obama also says, “Sometimes they [the Republicans] just make things up [in their campaign ads]. But they’ve got a bunch of folks who can write \$10 million checks, and they’ll just keep on running them. I mean, somebody was challenging one of their ads—they made it up—about work and welfare. And every outlet said this is just not true. And they were asked about it and they said—one of their campaign people said, ‘We won’t have the fact-checkers dictate our campaign. We will not let the truth get in the way.’” (At WeeklyStandrad.com Mark Hemingway later points out Obama’s lie: “...Obama was referring, as many other critics of the Romney campaign have, to a comment that its pollster, Neil Newhouse, made to reporters at the Republican convention on Tuesday, dismissive of those faulting the campaign’s television ads. What Mr. Newhouse actually said was, ‘These fact-checkers come to those ads with their own sets of thoughts and beliefs. We’re not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact-checkers.’ **Mr. Newhouse did not say, “We will not let the truth get in the way.”**”) [36416, 36611]

Typically, presidential candidates do not campaign while the opposition is holding its national convention. That Obama is doing so, while Hurricane Isaac causes flooding in Louisiana, suggests his campaign is less than confident of a victory on November 6. It also makes it difficult for Democrats and the media to criticize Republicans for continuing their convention during the storm. Meanwhile, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has requested a disaster declaration and federal funding for the emergency—a request that has so far been ignored. [36200, 36260, 36290]

Romney attends the American Legion convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Obama does not attend, but sends a three-minute video message. (Romney advisor Eric Fehrstrom later states, “Now that was an invitation that ...Obama declined. Governor Romney thought it was a privilege to be speaking to people who had served so nobly.”) [36336, 36420]

A “flash poll” of likely voters in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin, conducted by Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research, shows the first day of the Republican convention giving Mitt Romney a boost, with his favorable/unfavorable rating improving from 43/44 to 48/39. [36201, 36202]

TheHill.com reports, “Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be overseas during the Democratic National Convention next week, according to reports Wednesday. She departs Thursday and is scheduled to attend meetings and talks with officials in the Cook Islands, China and the Russian city of Vladivostok, as well as touring Asia. She will not return to the United States all next week, according to reports.” (Clinton did not attend the forum in 2011.) [36230, 36356]

WND.com reports, “‘Barack Obama’s step-grandmother in Kenya, Sarah Onyango Obama, has a 2005 poster calendar on the wall of her home that proclaims ‘The Kenyan Wonder-Boy in the U.S.: Senator Barrack Obama,’ according to a British documentary film. A clip of the documentary by Journeyman Pictures provides a close-up of the

calendar, which was made when Obama was an Illinois state senator. Mentions of the calendar on the Web date back to 2008, but the documentary film provides an exceptionally clear image of the wall poster.” “Grandma Sarah” has publicly stated that she was present at the birth of Barack Hussein Obama, Jr.—in Mombasa, Kenya. During one interview in which she made that claim, various “handlers” in the room tried to “correct” her and stated that he was born in Hawaii. (The U.S. media claims she was merely “misinterpreted” as a result of translation problems, but several Kenyans insist she stated he was born in Kenya. Large numbers of Kenyans believe he was born there.) [36234, 36243]

At CanadaFreePress.com investigator Doug Hagmann relates that, according to his unnamed sources within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), plans are proceeding that are meant to keep Obama “in power beyond the 2012 elections.” The sources states, “It’s going hot. The plan, or whatever specific operation that was devised, is going hot, being put into motion. You’ve got to let people know that something is up, approval has been given, and unless somebody stops it, we’re going to have a staged event inside the U.S., and it’s being set up so that it gets real ugly real fast. ...[F]rom what I’ve been able to learn, there have been a couple different plans or scenarios developed, ready to be implemented at a moment’s notice, but each are distinctly different in nature and timing. This is done for a few reasons. Look how the weather changed the plans for [Vice-President Joe] Biden’s visit to Tampa. That’s just one example. They’ve got contingencies. They are watching the poll numbers. They are closely monitoring public sentiment. But the objective of the plan is that they want to portray Obama as a victim of racist hatred by the white gun owners, the people concerned about the Constitution, the people they consider fringe. They want to silence their critics, prove that talk show hosts are causing hatred, and that all gun owners are behind the recent shootings. That’s at the heart of the plan. But to understand just how insidious this is, you’ve got to understand the people who are behind it. ...I’ve been trying to get as much information as possible, but it’s not been easy. This is definitely a plan that has its origins at the highest levels of the White House, and seems limited to maybe a handful of the people closest to Obama.” [36239, 36240, 36241]

Hagmann writes, “I asked my source whether DHS is involved in the actual planning or staging of the event. In response, this source stated that [DHS Secretary] Janet Napolitano and her closest aides are playing a supporting role. ‘She has to be involved because she has to control the response to a staged event. She’s involved to coordinate and implement the clampdown, after the fact. She does what she’s told. From everything I’ve heard, I believe the plans come from Valerie Jarrett and possibly a close friend and Obama associate who has a very big stake in Obama’s re-election. What happens and when it happens depends on the events of the next sixty days. If it appears that Obama does not have a lock on the next four years to finish what he started, what he has been told to do, then watch for it ‘going hot.’” (*The Obama Timeline* is unable to confirm Hagmann’s report, but would not be surprised if the Obama team were to stage some type of “event” in order to alter the direction of the election. If Obama’s ratings sink further and it appears likely that he will lose the election, something may be done to encourage a greater turn-out from his political base, and to get back some of the independent voters he

is losing to Mitt Romney. Some might suggest that the most likely scenario would depend on the issue of race, both to get discouraged blacks to vote rather than stay home on election day, and to “gin up” the “white guilt” factor that helped Obama win in 2008. What the Obama team may have planned is not known, but somewhere in the nation there may be a white, Christian, pro-life, conservative who does not realize he is about to be made a patsy.) [36239, 36240, 36241]

Gateway Pundit reports that condolence letters sent from the White House to the families of 30 service members (including 17 Navy SEALs) who were killed in a helicopter crash on August 6, 2011 were form letters. (All 30 letters were identical. Some of the families suspect they were signed by an “autopen,” rather than by Obama himself.) Gateway Pundit notes that Obama did send a personalized note to the family of rapper “Heavy D” upon his death.) [36242, 36341, 36342, 36379]

At FoxNews.com Anne Bayefsky, who heads the Touro College Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, writes, “The visit of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Iran this week, as the country chairs a meeting of the so-called 120 member Non-Aligned Movement, says as much about the failure of ...Obama’s Iran policy as it does about the UN’s abject lack of a moral compass. The Obama administration was instrumental in supporting Ban Ki-moon’s bid for a second term, fought back congressional attempts to subject American UN funding to greater controls, and has run its foreign policy through UN institutions from the outset. But when ...Obama asked the SG not to go to Iran during an election cycle that spotlights Obama’s alleged ability to isolate the regime, he turned him down flat. The line of world leaders who don’t take [Obama] seriously just got longer.” Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu states, “Today, over 120 countries are meeting in Tehran, while the regime there denies the Holocaust, and works to destroy the Zionist state. This is a disgrace to humanity.” (Obama sent a representative from his administration to the meeting.) [36306, 36307, 36417]

At the Republican National Convention, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) states, “For four years, Barack Obama has been running from the nation’s problems. He hasn’t been working to earn reelection. He’s been working to earn a spot on the PGA tour. ...We know what [Obama’s] got on his iPod, but we don’t know what he plans to do about a looming tax hike that could trigger yet another serious recession that would result in even more Americans losing their jobs. Ladies and gentlemen: America cannot afford another four years of this. ... As we meet here tonight, America is suffering through an economic calamity of truly historic dimensions. Some are calling it the slowest recovery in our nation’s entire 236-year history. To call this a recovery is an insult to recoveries. ...What this administration has in mind for America isn’t a renewal, it’s a great leveling out. It wants the kind of government-imposed equality that in a single generation transformed Western Europe from a place where for centuries high achievement and discovery and innovation were celebrated and prized, to a place where they have elections about whether people should have to work. Where they make promises they can’t keep and write checks they can’t cash. ...When Mitt Romney looks down the road, he sees a country that’s ready for a comeback. I firmly believe he’s the man to lead it.” (Astoundingly, MSNBC’s Martin Bashir and Lawrence O’Donnell

manage to find racism in McConnell's reference to Obama's time on the golf course.) [36235, 36280, 36282, 36308]

Other speakers at the GOP convention include Senator John McCain (who slams the Obama administration for its national security intelligence leaks: "We can't afford to have the security of our nation and those who bravely defend it endangered because their government leaks the secrets of their heroic operations to the media"); Senator John Thune, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) ("Mr. [Obama], you say the rich must pay their fair share. But when you seek to punish the rich, the jobs that are lost are those of the poor and middle-class."); Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi; former Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty; Senator Rob Portman of Ohio; and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee—who says, "Let me clear the air about whether guys like me would only support an evangelical. Of the four people on the two tickets, the only self-professed evangelical is Barack Obama, and he supports changing the definition of marriage, believes that human life is disposable and expendable at any time in the womb or even beyond the womb, and tells people of faith that they must bow their knees to the god of government and violate their faith and conscience in order to comply with what he calls health care. ...I care far less as to where Mitt Romney takes his family to church than I do about where he takes this country." Martinez says, "Obama promised to bring us all together, to cut unemployment, to pass immigration reform in his first year, and even promised to cut the deficit in half, in his first term. Do you remember that? But he hasn't come close. They have not even passed a budget in Washington, D.C. In 3 years. If he can take credit for government building small businesses, then he can accept responsibility for breaking his promise and adding \$5 trillion to the national debt. Because he did build that." Pawlenty calls Obama "the tattoo president," and explains, "Like a big tattoo, it seemed cool when we were young, but later on that decision doesn't look so good. And you wonder, 'What was I thinking?' But the worst part is, you're gonna have to explain it to your kids." Pawlenty notes, "Next week, Barack Obama will plead with America to give his failed policies and ideas another chance. He's asking Americans to give him more time and more money. Well, sorry, Mr. [Obama], but you're out of time, and we're out of money." Pawlenty remarks, "Ah, the Obama White House: One bad decision follows another. Hard to say exactly just what his worst mistake has been. There's [sic] so many to choose from: The stimulus. His energy policy. Obamacare. Taxes. ...Joe Biden." [36257, 36263, 36264, 36275, 36278, 36279, 36281, 36284, 36315]

ABC ignores the speech by Susana Martinez, choosing instead to interview Jorge Ramos, a news anchor on the Spanish language network Univision. Ramos says, "I think Republicans have a real, real challenge trying to get Latinos. Because just a few words in Spanish from Susana Martinez over [sic] principle is not enough. So they really have to insist on [discussing] economics because if they insist on [discussing] immigration, they're really going to lose the Hispanic vote. I think [Romney] has to avoid immigration. If he says the word 'self-deportation,' that's it for him." (ABC believes its viewers should not be exposed to Hispanic Republicans during a Republican convention, but needs to hear from yet another Democrat who supports amnesty for illegal immigrants. It can be assumed that during the Democrat convention ABC will not interview a Republican while a Hispanic is addressing the audience.) [36294]

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice—without the assistance of a teleprompter—addresses the convention. In her well-received speech Rice states, in part, “[W]e have seen once again that the desire for freedom is universal—as men and women in the Middle East demand it. Yet, the promise of the Arab Spring is engulfed in uncertainty; internal strife and hostile neighbors are challenging the fragile democracy in Iraq; dictators in Iran and Syria butcher their own people and threaten the security of the region; China and Russia prevent a response; and all wonder, ‘Where does America stand?’ Indeed that is the question of the moment—‘Where does America stand?’ When our friends and our foes, alike, do not know the answer to that question—clearly and unambiguously—the world is a chaotic and dangerous place. The U.S. has since the end of World War II had an answer; we stand for free peoples and free markets, we are willing to support and defend them; we will sustain a balance of power that favors freedom. ... And I know too that there is weariness—a sense that we have carried these burdens long enough. But if we are not inspired to lead again, one of two things will happen—no one will lead and that will foster chaos—or others who do not share our values will fill the vacuum. My fellow Americans, we do not have a choice. We cannot be reluctant to lead—and one cannot lead from behind. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan understand this reality—that our leadership abroad and our well being at home are inextricably linked. They know what needs to be done. Our friends and allies must be able to trust us. From Israel to Poland to the Philippines to Colombia and across the world, they must know that we are reliable and consistent and determined. And our adversaries must have no reason to doubt our resolve—because peace really does come through strength. Our military capability and technological advantage will be safe in Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan’s hands. We must work for an open global economy and pursue free and fair trade, to grow our exports and our influence abroad. In the last years, the United States has ratified three trade agreements, all negotiated in the Bush Administration. If you are concerned about China’s rise, consider this fact: China has signed 15 Free Trade Agreements and is negotiating 20 more. Sadly we are abandoning the playing field of free trade—and it will come back to haunt us. ... We must not allow the chance to attain energy independence to slip from our grasp. We have a great gift of oil and gas reserves here in North America that must be and can be developed while protecting our environment. And we have the ingenuity in the private sector to tap alternative sources of energy.” [36244, 36256, 36259, 36276, 36286, 36288]

“And most importantly, Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan will rebuild the foundation of American strength—our economy—stimulating private sector led growth and small business entrepreneurship. When the world looks at us today they see an American government that cannot live within its means. They see a government that continues to borrow money, mortgaging the future of generations to come. The world knows that when a nation loses control of its finances, it eventually loses control of its destiny. That is not the America that has inspired others to follow our lead. After all, when the world looks to America, they look to us because we are the most successful political and economic experiment in human history. That is the true basis of ‘American Exceptionalism.’ The essence of America—that which really unites us—is not ethnicity, or nationality or religion—it is an idea—and what an idea it is: That you can come from

humble circumstances and do great things. That it doesn't matter where you came from but where you are going. Ours has never been a narrative of grievance and entitlement. We have not believed that I am doing poorly because you are doing well. We have not been envious of one another and jealous of each other's success. Ours has been a belief in opportunity and a constant battle—long and hard—to extend the benefits of the American dream to all—without regard to circumstances of birth. But the American ideal is indeed endangered today. There is no country, no not even a rising China, that can do more harm to us than we can do to ourselves if we fail to accomplish the tasks before us here at home.” [36244, 36256, 36259, 36276, 36286, 36288]

“...We have been successful too because Americans have known that one's status at birth was not a permanent station in life. You might not be able to control your circumstances but you could control your response to your circumstances. And your greatest ally in doing so was a quality education. Let me ask you, though, today, when I can look at your zip code and can tell whether you are going to get a good education—can I really say that it doesn't matter where you came from—it matters where you are going. The crisis in K-12 education is a grave threat to who we are. My mom was a teacher—I have the greatest respect for the profession—we need great teachers—not poor or mediocre ones. We need to have high standards for our students—self-esteem comes from achievement not from lax standards and false praise. And we need to give parents greater choice—particularly poor parents whose kids, most often minorities, are trapped in failing neighborhood schools. This is the civil rights struggle of our day. If we do anything less, we will condemn generations to joblessness, hopelessness and dependence on the government dole. To do anything less is to endanger our global economic competitiveness. To do anything less is to tear apart the fabric of who we are and cement a turn toward grievance and entitlement. ...Yes, America has a way of making the impossible seem inevitable in retrospect. But of course it has never been inevitable—it has taken leadership, courage and an unwavering faith in our values. Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan have the experience and the integrity and the vision to lead us—they know who we are, what we want to be and what we offer the world. That is why this is a moment—an election—of consequence. Because it just has to be—that the most compassionate and freest country on the face of the earth—will continue to be the most powerful! May God Bless You—and May God continue to bless this extraordinary, exceptional country—the United States of America.” (AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, “Condi Rice hit it out of the ballpark tonight. She articulated the American idea, the American dream, and as defined by her own brilliance, success and integrity, American exceptionalism. Obama, you can come out from under your desk now.”) [36244, 36256, 36259, 36276, 36286, 36288]

After Rice delivers her speech she is interviewed by MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell. Through her earpiece, Chris Matthews asks, “Can you ask the Secretary... was [her speech] kind of a rejoinder to all the birtherism and the narrowness that she's heard in her party.” Rice completely ignores the absurd premise of the question and states that she wanted to send a message that the United States has broad responsibilities around the world. [36274]

NBC's Tom Brokaw shamelessly injects race into an analysis of Rice's speech. Noting Rice's statement, "It does not matter where you come from. It matters to where you're going," Brokaw remarks, "Well, to a lot of delegates on this floor, it does matter where ... Obama came from because they've been very critical of his Kenyan father, who had a different faith than many of them would embrace. And they've raised lots of questions about where his ultimate loyalty is." (Very few Americans care one whit about the religion of Obama's father; they care that he was a committed socialist who believed that a 100 percent tax rate was permissible. Had the Kenyan's son created jobs rather than debt very few Americans would spend a minute criticizing him.) [36299]

Republican vice-presidential candidate Paul Ryan delivers an exceptional speech that is likely to encourage many independents to vote for Romney-Ryan—and frighten Obama and Joe Biden. Among the lines in Ryan's speech: "[Mitt Romney's] whole life has prepared him for this moment—to meet serious challenges in a serious way, without excuses and idle words. After four years of getting the run-around, America needs a turnaround, and the man for the job is Governor Mitt Romney." "[Obama] started off with stirring speeches, Greek columns, the thrill of something new. Now all that's left is a presidency adrift, surviving on slogans that already seem tired, grasping at a moment that has already passed, like a ship trying to sail on yesterday's wind." "I have never seen opponents so silent about their record or so desperate to keep their power." "College graduates should not have to live out their 20s in their childhood bedrooms, staring up at fading Obama posters and wondering when they can move out and get going with life." "[H]ere's the question: Without a change in leadership, why would the next four years be any different from the last four years?" "So our opponents can consider themselves on notice. In this election, on this issue [Medicare], the usual posturing on the Left isn't going to work. Mitt Romney and I know the difference between protecting a program, and raiding it." "These past four years we have suffered no shortage of words in the White House. What's missing is leadership in the White House." "The man assumed office nearly four years ago. Isn't it about time he assumed responsibility?" "...Obama is the kind of president who puts a promise on the record ...and then calls that the record." "Their moment came and went. Fear and division are all they've got left. With all their attack ads, the president is just throwing away money—and he's pretty experienced at that." "...Obama came to office during an economic crisis, as he has reminded us a time or two." "The issue is not the economy that Barack Obama inherited, not the economy he envisions, but this economy that we are living." "By the way, being successful in business—that's a good thing." "[Mitt Romney] turned around the Olympics at a time when a great institution was collapsing under the weight of bad management, overspending, and corruption—sounds familiar, doesn't it?" "[Our rights] are self-evident and unchanging, and sometimes even presidents need reminding that our rights come from nature and God, not from government" "Mitt has not only succeeded, but he has succeeded where others could not. He is not only a fine businessman, he's a fine man." "Instead of managing American decline, leaving allies to doubt us and adversaries to test us, we will act in the conviction that the United States is the greatest force for peace and liberty that this world has ever known." "The greatest threat to Medicare is Obamacare, and we're going to stop it!" "I'll take freedom over the supervision, the sanctimony of central planners any day." Perhaps Ryan's most significant statement is, "If you're

feeling left out or passed by, you have not failed. Your leaders have failed you. None of us should have to settle for the best this administration offers, a dull adventure-less journey from one entitlement to the next, a government-planned life, a country where everything is free but us.” (Some who listen to Ryan’s speech may note the contributions of one of Sarah Palin’s 2008 speechwriters.) [36250, 36255, 36261, 36265, 36277, 36285, 36289, 36291, 36292]

HotAir.com’s Erika Johnsen writes, “Paul Ryan’s speech, in two words? Nailed it. . . . He was intelligent without being intimidating; he was stern and serious but still optimistic and even funny; and he hinted at his wonkiness without getting into jargon and maintained his approachability. But the most beautiful thing about Paul Ryan as the potential vice president of the United States is his uncanny knack for breaking through populist myths and shrill leftist attacks and instead communicating the merits of free-market economics and small government, all without being shrill or polarizing. Contrary to liberal messaging, wealth creation isn’t about people being people being helpless cogs in the wheel of corporate usury and cruel fate—it’s about people being empowered and free to take up the mantle of personal responsibility and ingenuity, and Paul Ryan can relate that truth highly effectively. He simply and effortlessly walked us through . . . Obama’s long list of failures and history of blaming everyone but himself, and illustrated why a Mitt Romney presidency isn’t just a preferable but rather a desirable alternative—while scattering a few fun personal tidbits into the mix, as well as addressing their religious and generation differences with a message of unity. I thought that talking about his mother’s struggles, coupled with the simple declaration that a Romney/Ryan administration would not eliminate but strengthen Medicare, was the perfect death blow to Democrats’ recent attacks on that score: ‘We had help from Medicare, and it was there, just like it’s there for my Mom today. Medicare is a promise, and we will honor it. A Romney-Ryan administration will protect and strengthen Medicare, for my Mom’s generation, for my generation, and for my kids and yours.’ Bam. Doesn’t get much more straightforward than that.” [36277]

On Fox News, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments, “I thought the speech by Ryan was bold, very strong, and very large, in the sense that he went way beyond just the attacks—which were extremely effective—like stiletto attacks, each one a short jab that left a mark. There was no long elaboration, no wind-up, he went point by point. And I agree with Karl [Rove], it [the criticism] was sort of more in sorrow than in anger, but it cleverly reminded people, you know, that line about the young people with the faded poster of Obama on the wall who don’t have a job. It reminded people of the fact that Obama has disappointed them. He [Obama] had so much promise. And he [Ryan] started with that premise and in the end he said, ‘What have they left you with in real life?’ I thought one of the themes that ran through his speech, Condoleezza Rice, and Susana Martinez was, ‘Obama is conducting a war on success.’ Condi Rice spoke about, ‘We’re not jealous of success.’ Martinez spoke about the success of her [immigrant] parents. ‘They built that.’ And then Ryan, I thought, was stem-winding in talking about how everything this administration has done has been to denigrate what is so natural to Americans who appreciate success, who celebrate it, and to say Romney is a success—that’s a good thing. I think it was very powerful.” [36267]

The Obama team, frightened by Ryan's powerful speech, does not even wait for it to end to start the attacks. Obama operatives quickly attempt to dispute Ryan's statements, emailing "fact-checking" messages to cooperative leftists in the media. As soon as Ryan finishes his address, CNN's Wolf Blitzer shows that he clearly got the Obama message, telling viewers, "You are getting, and so am I, every journalist is getting a lot of email right now pointing out what they claim are, uh, falsehoods, uh, misleading statements, lies, if you will, that were made by, uh, Paul Ryan. And, and I guess those [sic] fact-checking is only about, uh, just getting ready to begin." [36251]

On August 30 the White House insider, who helped elect both Bill Clinton and Obama, tells The Ulsterman Report, "Make this one right to the point—Paul Ryan is a now a full fledged political rock star. That kid is the real f-cking deal. That speech, which had a big contribution from the guy who did Palin's in '08 (best speech of that convention) was off the charts good. He hit up the youth vote, took on the Medicare issue and turned it against Obama, pulled in the Midwest swing states, repeatedly gave high praise Romney, put in some humor, a lot of humility, and ended by raising the roof and giving voters their marching orders. It was a rally speech and it has got to have the Obama camp sh-tting themselves right now. There are conversations going double time between Chicago and the White House. It was so damn good I'm a little worried for Romney tomorrow. He might prove a letdown. Tough, tough act to follow. I've watched a ton of these speeches over the years and forgot just about every damn one of them. I remember Reagan's '80 convention speech and I heard the Ryan speech borrow a hell of a lot from that one. Knew we were in danger of getting our ass kicked that night. I remember Clinton's in '92 and '96 of course. '92 was his best because he was up against it and delivered big time. He was so damn good that night. And I remember Palin's and Obama's in '08. Both equally good in my humble opinion. I would put tonight's Ryan speech right up there with those. And he's got what Obama doesn't—sincerity. The kid really believes what he says. Obama is finding it tougher and tougher to fake that." [36238]

"[I] Saw you put up a story on the [Clint] Eastwood visit tomorrow. Hope that pans out. Now wouldn't that be some kick ass icing on the cake. Let me try and explain to you where this election is really at. Obama is running low on cash. Donations are off by about 30% compared to this time last [election] but he's spending a lot more. Donors are already telling the campaign they are pulling the plug soon if things don't get better. The Old Man [the Wall Street insider] is gonna try and cut off as much of that as he can. Romney has huge reserves of cash on hand and an ad campaign about to launch that is gonna kick Obama's ass hard in those swing states. The debates are gonna be huge. Not since 1980 will they be so important. If Romney edges Obama there, he might wrap this thing up. If Obama is seen as winning, we got a fight to November. I will say this, Romney is going to be a hell of a lot tougher in those debates than McCain. We knew that in '08. McCain is horrible in that environment and that is why we [Democrats] wanted him to be the nominee. Obama already won those debates before they had even started. So recently I told you it was 50/50 we win this thing. I'm leaning about 55/45 in our favor now. Things are going along well. That's what scares me. I'm still worried

something weird is gonna fall on our heads to mess this all up for us. Until then though, let's just enjoy the moment. Right now it's all any of us got." [36238]

The Obama campaign quickly releases an ad rebutting charges made by Paul Ryan in his acceptance speech the night before. Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson points out how Obama's rebuttals are themselves misleading: "(1) They begin with video of CNN reporters discussing accusations of Ryan's 'lies.' This is proof that the Obama campaign sent out a lot of angry emails, and nothing else. (2) Medicare—Sorry, guys, but it is 100 percent true that Obamacare raided \$716 Billion from Medicare to pay for itself. It does cut benefits to current seniors. And Paul Ryan's plan took [Obama's] Medicare 'savings' and re-routed them back into Medicare to shore up the program. Mitt Romney's plan would undo those cuts altogether. Obama took those cuts and used them to pay for Obamacare. He has admitted this on camera... (3) The GM Plant—Part of the factory Ryan mentioned was shut down under Bush, despite the initial GM bailout (which Senator Obama supported). The plant finally fully closed in April of 2009, during Obama's presidency, as this report clearly states. Obama's problem is that he showed up and made empty promises to pander for votes. Ryan never said Obama was personally responsible for the plant's closure, but he accurately stated that it closed down within a year of candidate Obama's hope-filled speech and remains closed today. Obama goes on and on about 'saving' the auto industry and his economic recovery. That boarded-up Janesville [Wisconsin] plant tells a different story." (In October 2008 Obama visited the Janesville plant and told workers, "As president, I will lead an effort to retool plants like the GM facility in Janesville so we can build the fuel-efficient cars of tomorrow and create good-paying jobs in Wisconsin and all across America." On February 2, 2009 Janesville's GazetteXtra.com reported, "When GM officials announced last June that SUV production would cease in Janesville, they also said that medium-duty truck production would conclude by the end of 2009, or sooner if market conditions dictate. In June 2009, GM considered three sites to locate a small car: its Orion plant in Michigan; Janesville, Wis.; and a Spring Hill, Tenn., plant slated to close in November. GM picked Orion and later reopened Spring Hill." Thus, *after* the Obama administration took over General Motors, it could have chosen the Janesville site as the facility to keep open. Reason.com asks, "Now why would Obama choose to close the only plant he had actively 'suggested' he'd keep open? Could it possibly have something to do with the fact that it was in Ryan's (Republican) hometown? Just askin'..." [36251, 36266, 36269, 36270, 36271, 36272, 36287, 36293, 36444]

Benson continues, "(4) The Stimulus—Pointing out that Paul Ryan asked that his district receive a slice of a giant, wasteful pie after it was passed—and despite his opposition—is at worst an instance of hypocrisy. It does not disprove anything that Ryan said in his speech, and it does not change the empirical fact that Barack Obama's borrowed stimulus has utterly failed based on the metrics for success Obama himself set out for it. (5) The debt commission—What Ryan said is absolutely correct. The Obama ad quotes Chris Wallace, who notes that Ryan was on that commission and voted against it. True. He refused to abide the section maintaining Obamacare, and voted no on its final findings. Still, he was intimately involved in the group's deliberations and proposed solutions. Not fully happy with the final outcome, he went on to craft two budgets of his own, with

numerous elements based on the Simpson-Bowles framework. The commission's Democratic co-chairman (Bowles of Simpson-Bowles) has praised Ryan's proposals to the hilt. Barack Obama, who convened the commission in the first place after deriding commissions on the campaign trail, completely ignored its recommendations and proceeded to propose to wildly reckless, debt-busting budgets that received a total of zero votes in either house of Congress. Correctly asserting that Ryan opposed the final Simpson-Bowles recommendations in no way absolves Obama for his demonstrable abdication of leadership on these issues. It's more smoke and mirrors—and more petty Obama blame, another central theme of Ryan's address. (6) Chris Matthews called the speech 'nasty.' Stop the presses! If this is all they've got, it's no wonder they're freaking out. Paul Ryan told the truth about Barack Obama, and [Obama's] campaign can't handle it." [36251, 36266, 36269, 36270, 36293]

On MSNBC Chris Matthews and his guests imply that the Republicans are racist merely because they criticize Obama's "Chicago-style politics." *The Washington Post's* Eugene Robinson (who is black) says, "It's all part of this Barack Obama as 'other' sort of blanket campaign that's been waged by the Republican Party for some time now." Matthews: "They keep saying 'Chicago,' by the way, that's another thing that sends that message—this guy's helping the poor people in the bad neighborhood screwing [sic] us in the [su]burbs." *New York Magazine's* John Heileman adds, "There's [sic] a lot of black people in Chicago." (Thug-like politics have been a part of Chicago for decades, and everyone knows it. It has nothing to do with race. It has to do with Democrats controlling virtually every aspect of the city's operations. Matthews certainly knows that he is turning the issue into race solely to help Obama.) Congressman Allen West (R-FL) responds, "I don't think there's anything you can say. I don't know if he's gotten off of his medications, I don't know of the guy's just gone off the rails, but if I can't say the word 'Chicago,' what next, Philadelphia?" You know we went through this in 2008 when you couldn't; even say [Obama's] middle name. Then all of a sudden when he gets inaugurated I guess we got the permission to say his middle name. So, if we wins again maybe Chris Matthews will give us permission to say 'Chicago' again. This is insidious, and it just shows the desperation and fear of the other side." [36252, 36282, 36308]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Florida Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, the chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, and liberal contraception activist Sandra Fluke crashed the Republican National Convention on Thursday, the day Mitt Romney will give his speech officially accepting the GOP's presidential nomination. As of 1:30 p.m. EST, Fluke and Wasserman Schultz have been strolling through the convention center doing media appearances. Both were spotted on Radio Row, an area where noted convention figures go to make multiple subsequent radio appearances. Wasserman Schultz then visited an area downstairs in the convention center where several reporters are working." (Why Fluke and Wasserman Schultz are not instead helping distraught hurricane victims in Louisiana is not explained.) Fluke refuses to engage in debates with conservative women. Breitbart.com editor Dana Loesch states, "If Sandra Fluke is going to come here and talk about women's issues, then why not talk to actual conservative women about women's issues? I mean, that's the whole point. You can't just come here and hold a press conference and not take any questions. You can't

just go on MSNBC and say whatever you want. Is she an advocate or propagandist? Which one is she? If she's an advocate, she's completely willing to have a discussion on the issues. Democrats don't speak for women. They don't speak for me. I would like to hear why she thinks she speaks for all women because she obviously does not." [36262, 36329]

The Crossroads Generation political action committee releases a devastating ad reinforcing Paul Ryan's convention speech reference to college graduates returning to live with their parents and seeing the faded Obama posters on the walls of their old bedroom. The ad follows a child's bedroom over the years and focuses on an Obama "Change we can believe in" poster, with the words from a 2009 Harpo Productions (Oprah Winfrey) propaganda video, "I pledge to be a servant to our president," Obama saying, "Change has come to America," "When I said change we can believe in I didn't say change we can believe in tomorrow," "Shovel-ready was not as shovel-ready as we expected," and media reports of high unemployment. At the close of the ad the former student removes the Obama poster from the wall, as he tells a friend on the telephone, "Yeah, I'm livin' with my parents again. I don't know, there's just no jobs out there. I've been doing this since graduation and I can't do it for four more years." (HotAir.com notes that some people may think the ad will get young people to vote for Mitt Romney; others may believe it will not get them to vote for Romney but will at least encourage them to stay home on election day; while still others may think the ad will get parents to vote for Romney if that will get heir kids to move out.) [4546, 4561, 36273]

The Romney campaign releases an ad mocking Obama's December 2011 claim that he ranks among the nation's four best presidents. Over images of a baby, the narrator states, "...Obama named himself one of the country's four best presidents. Better than George Washington, John F. Kennedy, and even Ronald Reagan. But [Obama] was just being modest. He's in fact America's best president... at piling on debt. So good that he has managed to pile on nearly as much debt as all the presidents combined. All he needed was just four years to outspend 220 years of history. We can't afford four more years of America's best president." [36426]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Former Navy SEAL Benjamin Smith said Thursday that the Obama administration is 'leaking like a sieve' about the exploits of American special forces, and that special operations are being weakened to the point where 'it's going to get Americans killed. It doesn't matter whether it's Republican or Democrat, but on the field of battle if the enemy finds out what intelligence we have, they have time to change tactics. Or they sidestep us completely because they know we're coming. Then we don't get to fight them overseas. They come here and they kill Americans.' ...Smith said he was frustrated with the Obama administration's failure to protect Shakeel Afridi, a Pakistani doctor who helped SEAL Team Six identify bin Laden, then the leader of the al-Qaida global terror network. Pakistani authorities arrested Afridi shortly after the raid on bin Laden's compound. He was convicted in May on treason charges and sentenced to 33 years in prison. 'What do you think that tells other potential intelligence sources around the world? It says, 'Don't give them anything. Don't trust them or you'll be tortured and your family will be wiped off the face of the earth.'"' [36327, 36328]

According to a national Rasmussen poll, “48% of Likely U.S. Voters trust Romney more on the economy, while 44% have more confidence in [Obama].” [36283]

Katrina Trinko reports at NationalReview.com, “According to a new poll conducted by Democracy Corps (the James Carville/Stan Greenberg-founded firm), Mitt Romney is leading by 16 points among independents, 54 percent to Barack Obama’s 38 percent. Twenty-six percent of independents think the country is going in the right direction; 68 percent think it is going on the wrong track. Forty percent of independents approve of Obama, while 56 percent disapprove. The overall poll isn’t a terrific win for Romney—he’s at 47 percent to Obama’s 49 percent—but if he’s opened up a gap anywhere near this large among independent voters, that’s certainly a hopeful trend for him.” (Obama won independent voters 52–44 in 2008. Obama cannot win reelection if he loses independents by a wide margin.) [36376, 36377]

Leftist Hollywood propagandist Michael Moore tells HuffingtonPost.com, “Mitt Romney is going to raise more money than Barack Obama. That should guarantee his victory. I think people should start to practice the words ‘President Romney.’ To assume the other side are just a bunch of ignoramuses who are supported by people who believe that Adam and Eve rode on dinosaurs 6,000 years ago is to completely misjudge the opposition.” (Moore probably only partly believes his own words; he is likely trying to frighten people into donating more money to the Obama campaign.) [36295, 36330]

Obama tells *Time* magazine, “My expectation is that there will be some popping of the blister after this election, because it will have been such a stark choice.” (In other words, Obama expects to defeat Mitt Romney handily and the Republicans will have no choice but to cave in to his demands because the voters will have given him a mandate.) Obama defends his stimulus legislation, saying, “[W]e were in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime crisis, so we had to just do stuff fast [sic]. And sometimes it wasn’t popular. And we didn’t have the luxury of six months to explain exactly what we were doing with the Recovery Act, which was basically a jobs act and making-sure-middle-class-families-didn’t-fall-into-poverty act.” (That is, “The American people are too stupid to appreciate my genius, but I didn’t have time to explain to them how I would provide them with jobs.” Of course, the stimulus was a failure, costing more than \$800 billion and leaving 23 million unemployed and underemployed Americans.) [36331, 36346]

Carly Fiorina, former CEO of Hewlett Packard, tells Newsmax.tv, “More small businesses are failing and fewer are starting than in any time in the last forty years. If you ask why, people will say, ‘I cannot get through the 27,000-page tax code, the regulatory thicket is impenetrable, I do not know what government is going to ask me to do next.’ In other words, it is just too hard for small business owners. I think we are hearing that at the convention, small business owner after small business owner are standing up and saying ‘I can’t do this anymore.’ Unless the Obama administration was to change direction dramatically—and frankly, I see no evidence of that, in fact I see evidence of him doubling down on the same failed policies. I think the engine of growth in this economy, small businesses and manufacturing, will be stomped on even harder.” Noting

that Mitt Romney will work to cut federal spending, reform the tax code, and repeal Obamacare, Fiorina says. “Why is that important? Because what he is doing is giving a signal of his intentions and that gives small business owners certainty and predictability. ‘Okay, I understand under President Romney, my taxes will go down and not up. I understand that under President Romney I will not have to figure out how to deal with ObamaCare. I understand that under President Romney that the tax code will get simpler, that the regulatory thicket will get less thick.’ Those are really important signals and that of course he needs to follow through, and I think it is pretty clear from Paul Ryan’s speech last night that they are going to follow through.” [36301]

Former New York Senator Alfonse D’Amato tells Newsmax.tv he is optimistic about Mitt Romney’s chances of defeating Obama: “People thought that Ronald Reagan did not have a chance when he started out, and, even after the convention he trailed. But, as he came along and as his ideas and his persona came through and then the debates—he ran away with it. I see the same thing taking place except we are going to be in an even stronger position. ...[N]umber one, we’re not taking [Obama] for granted. Number two, we know he is a wonderful communicator. Number three, there’s a sense of can you really believe him? Isn’t he more about showbiz? We have the opportunity to say, ‘...Obama you made those promises but you haven’t kept them. Your performance has been inadequate. You have not earned the right to the people’s confidence.’ If you look at his record and what he has done, and what he has promised, it’s abysmal. Mitt Romney, he is the fighter for the forgotten middle class. He understands their struggles and appreciates them. Now his wife did a great job in setting the stage. He now must connect with the forgotten middle class. ...I have a feeling that this race is going to be won electorally by a very comfortable margin, by Mitt Romney, or lost by a smidgen. I hope it is the comfortable margin and that will help us win all of the close Senate races or most of them.” [36302]

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, brother of President George W. Bush, covers the topic of improving education and school choice in a speech to the GOP convention, but also comments, “Before I begin my remarks I have something personal I’d like to share with you. I’ve been so blessed to be part of a family that has committed its life to public service. My grandfather and my father have been incredible role models for me and served our country honorably. And my brother, well, I love my brother. He is a man of integrity, courage, and honor. And during incredibly challenging times, *he kept us safe*. So, Mr. [Obama], it is time to stop blaming your predecessor for your failed economic policies. You were dealt a tough hand, but your policies have not worked. In the fourth year of your presidency, a real leader would accept responsibility for his actions, and you haven’t done it.” [36344]

GOP convention speakers include Ted and Pat Oparowski, an elderly couple from Medford, Massachusetts. At Washington Examiner.com Byron York writes, “They knew Romney from church, and when their 14 year-old son David was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease in 1979, Romney visited the boy regularly. ‘They developed a loving friendship,’ Pat Oparowski said, recounting the many times Romney came to see her and her son. David Oparowski’s cancer was terminal. During one visit, Mrs. Oparowski

recalled, ‘David, knowing Mitt had gone to law school at Harvard, asked Mitt if he would help him write a will. He had some prize possessions that he wanted to make sure were given to his closest friends and family. The next time Mitt went to the hospital, he was equipped with his yellow legal pad and pen. Together, they made David’s will. That is a task that no child should ever have to do. But it gave David peace of mind. So after David’s death, we were able to give his skateboard, his model rockets, and his fishing gear to his best friends. He also made it clear that his brother Peter should get his Ruger .22 rifle. How many men do you know who would take the time out of their busy lives to visit a terminally ill 14 year old and help him settle his affairs? David also helped us plan his funeral,’ Pat Oparowski continued. ‘He wanted to be buried in his Boy Scout uniform. He wanted Mitt to pronounce his eulogy, and Mitt was there to honor that request. We will be ever grateful to Mitt for his love and concern.’ It was an extraordinary story, seldom mentioned in the press, and it left many in the hall in tears. ‘You cannot measure a man’s character based on the words he utters before adoring crowds during times that are happy,’ said Ted Oparowski. ‘The true measure of a man is revealed in his actions during times of trouble—the quiet hospital room of a dying boy, with no cameras and no reporters.’ Many critics say the Romney campaign needs to do more to ‘humanize’ the candidate. What those critics might want to do is watch the Oparowski story and ask if they themselves could ever be as human, and humane, as Mitt Romney.” (Romney goes out of his way to help others in need. Obama won’t help his own destitute half-brother in Kenya.) [36317, 36318, 36319, 36321, 36325, 36371, 36373, 36374]

A woman named Pam Finlayson relates the story of how supportive Mitt Romney and his family were when her child was born prematurely and with significant health problems. “As I sat with her in intensive care, consumed with a mother’s worry and fear, dear Mitt came to visit and pray with me. As our clergy, he was one of very few visitors allowed, and I will never forget how, when he looked down tenderly at my daughter, his eyes filled with tears, and he reached out and gently stroked her tiny back. I could tell immediately that he didn’t just see a tangle of plastic and tubes and wires. He saw our beautiful little girl, and he was clearly overcome with compassion for her. When Thanksgiving rolled around, Kate was still struggling for life. Brain surgery was scheduled, and the holiday was the furthest thing from our minds. But that morning, I opened my door to find Mitt and his boys, arms loaded down with a Thanksgiving feast. ...After 26 years of both miracles and struggle, she passed away just a year and a half ago. In the midst of making the final decision to run for president, which had to be the most difficult of their lives, when they heard of Kate’s passing, both Mitt and Ann paused to personally reach out to us and extend us sympathy and express their love. It seems to me when it comes to loving our neighbor, we can talk about it, or we can live it. The Romneys live it every single day.” [36371, 36372, 36373]

A group of Olympic athletes appear onstage in support of Mitt Romney, with several addressing the audience to express their sentiments. (HotAir.com’s Erika Johnsen later writes, “I have to admit, when I first saw the scheduled lineup for the RNC’s Thursday night programming, I was a wee bit confused about the delegation of Olympians... But I was wrong—so wrong. In retrospect, having Olympic athletes describe the meaning and significance of the Olympics was kind of a brilliant idea—not only does it underscore

why turning around the huge administrative and financial boondoggle that were the 2002 Winter Olympics is such an impressive and consequential success story of Mitt Romney's life, but also, Americans in general just really like the Olympics. Nothing gets Americans' patriotic fires a-burnin' like watching other Americans just straight-up winning, and getting some of their favorite athletes from Olympic lore to give their personal take on Mitt's strategy was a master stroke that effectively expanded the tone of the evening to American exceptionalism and tugged on everybody's heartstrings." [36338]

Lifelong Democrat Jane Edmonds, who served in Mitt Romney's cabinet when he was governor of Massachusetts, addresses the convention to tell of her respect and admiration for him. (She tells reporters, "I didn't come here to talk about our [political] differences—I'm not going down that path. I'm here to talk about my experiences working for him. My friends have asked me why. I adore the guy. I have seen him behind closed doors in cabinet meetings. I have seen his compassion. I'm at a point in my life that the character of the human being we entrust to be president is important to me. He would make an excellent president." [36319])

A short film is shown at the Republican National Convention that reviews Mitt Romney's life. (C-Span viewers are able to watch the film. Network coverage does not begin until Clint Eastwood's appearance.) [36310]

Actor Clint Eastwood (sans teleprompter) addresses the convention. Acknowledging the applause and cheers, Eastwood says, "Save a little for Mitt." He points out that not everyone in Hollywood is "left of Lenin." Eastwood states, "I remember three-and-a-half years ago, when Mr. Obama won the election, and though I wasn't a big supporter I was watching that night ...and they were talking about 'hope and change' and they were talking about 'yes, we can,' and ...everybody's crying, Oprah is crying, and I was even crying. ...I haven't cried so hard since I found out there's 23 million unemployed people in this country. Now that is something to cry for, because it is a disgrace, a national disgrace ...and this administration hasn't done enough to cure that. ...Now it may be time for somebody else to come along and solve the problem." With an empty chair next to the lectern, Eastwood pretends Obama is seated in it and asks him several questions. The one-sided "conversation" is arguably odd (and will likely prompt media criticism), but it is effective and prompts enthusiastic applause and laughter. Asking Obama about his decision to close the prison camp at Guantanamo, Eastwood says, "I thought it was just because somebody had this stupid idea of trying terrorists in downtown New York City." Eastwood "asks" Obama about his withdrawal date for troops in Afghanistan, and says, "Mr. Romney asked the only sensible question on it, 'Why are you giving the date out now, why don't you just bring them home tomorrow morning?'" Eastwood quips, "Of course, we all know [Joe] Biden is the intellect of the Democratic Party... kind of a grin with a body behind it." He expresses his support for Romney and Ryan and, looking at the unoccupied chair, says, "I never thought that it was a good idea for attorneys to be president anyway. ...I think it may be time for a businessman—a 'stellar' businessman. ...And I think if you just kind of stepped aside and let Mr. Romney take over—you could still use a plane, though maybe a smaller one, not that big gas guzzler that you're driving

around to colleges and you're talking about student loans... You're an ecological man, why would you want to drive that truck around?" Turning his attention back to the audience and the viewers at home, Eastwood says, "You, we... we own this country. We own it. And it's not ...politicians owning it. Politicians are employees of ours. ...And when somebody does not do the job, we gotta let him go. ...We don't have to be mental masochists and vote for somebody that we don't even really want in office just because they seem to be nice guys—or maybe not so nice guys if you look at some of the recent ads going out there." ("And when somebody does not do the job, we gotta let him go..." is essentially Eastwood giving Americans permission to vote against Obama, assuring them that they are not racists for doing so—they are simply judging his performance.) [36309, 36316, 36322, 36343, 36347, 36351, 36352, 36354, 36355, 36357, 36358, 36380, 36381, 36394, 36395, 36430]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduces Mitt Romney. Among his statements, "Our problem with ...Obama isn't that he's a bad person. By all accounts, he too is a good husband, and a good father—and thanks to lots of practice, a pretty good golfer. Our problem is that he's a bad president." "He tells Americans that they're worse off because others are better off. That people got rich by making other people poor. Hope and Change has become Divide and Conquer." "This election is about your future, not about his." "These are tired and old big government ideas. Ideas that people come to America to get away from. Ideas that threaten to make America more like the rest of the world, instead of helping the world become more like America." "The story of our time will be written by Americans who haven't yet even been born. "Let's make sure they write that we did our part. ...We chose Mitt Romney to lead our nation. And because we did, the American Miracle lived on for another generation to inherit." [36312, 36316, 36324, 36340]

Mitt Romney addresses the convention, but does not walk out from behind the stage. Instead, he enters via one of the aisles, greeting people and shaking hands along the way. (The move is two-fold: it shows him as gregarious and friendly, and it evokes images of presidents entering the House chamber for State of the Union addresses.) Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, "The basic message: Here's who I am. Here's where I come from and what I've done. Here are my values. Here's the current state of the union. And here are my solutions. Please join me." Romney states, in part, "But for too many Americans, these good days are harder to come by. How many days have you woken up feeling that something really special was happening in America? Many of you felt that way on Election Day four years ago. Hope and Change had a powerful appeal. But tonight I'd ask a simple question: If you felt that excitement when you voted for Barack Obama, shouldn't you feel that way now that he's President Obama? You know there's something wrong with the kind of job he's done as president when the best feeling you had, was the day you voted for him." [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349]

Addressing his past, Romney says, "My mom and dad gave their kids the greatest gift of all—the gift of unconditional love. They cared deeply about who we would *be*, and much less about what we would *do*. Unconditional love is a gift that Ann and I have tried to pass on to our sons and now to our grandchildren. All the laws and legislation in the world will never heal this world like the loving hearts and arms of mothers and fathers. If

every child could drift to sleep feeling wrapped in the love of their family—and God’s love—this world would be a far more gentle and better place. Mom and Dad were married 64 years. And if you wondered what their secret was, you could have asked the local florist—because every day Dad gave Mom a rose, which he put on her bedside table. That’s how she found out what happened on the day my father died—she went looking for him because that morning, there was no rose...” [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349]

“I grew up in Detroit in love with cars and wanted to be a car guy, like my dad. But by the time I was out of school, I realized that I had to go out on my own, that if I stayed around Michigan in the same business, I’d never really know if I was getting a break because of my dad. I wanted to go someplace new and prove myself. Those weren’t the easiest of days—too many long hours and weekends working, five young sons who seemed to have this need to re-enact a different world war every night. But if you ask Ann and I what we’d give, to break up just one more fight between the boys, or wake up in the morning and discover a pile of kids asleep in our room. Well, every mom and dad knows the answer to that. Those days were toughest on Ann, of course. She was heroic. Five boys, with our families a long way away. I had to travel a lot for my job then and I’d call and try to offer support. But every mom knows that doesn’t help get the homework done or the kids out the door to school. I knew that her job as a mom was harder than mine. And I knew without question, that her job as a mom was a lot more important than mine. And as America saw Tuesday night, Ann would have succeeded at anything she wanted to.” [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349]

“...Today the time has come for us to put the disappointments of the last four years behind us. To put aside the divisiveness and the recriminations. To forget about what might have been and to look ahead to what can be. Now is the time to restore the Promise of America. Many Americans have given up on this president but they haven’t ever thought about giving up. Not on themselves. Not on each other. And not on America. What is needed in our country today is not complicated or profound. It doesn’t take a special government commission to tell us what America needs. What America needs is jobs. Lots of jobs.” Romney then delivers the best line of his speech: “President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and heal the planet. [audience laughter]. My promise... is to help you and your family.” [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349]

“Everywhere I go in America, there are monuments that list those who have given their lives for America. There is no mention of their race, their party affiliation, or what they did for a living. They lived and died under a single flag, fighting for a single purpose. They pledged allegiance to the *United States* of America. That America, that united America, can unleash an economy that will put Americans back to work, that will once again lead the world with innovation and productivity, and that will restore every father and mother’s confidence that their children’s future is brighter even than the past. That America, that united America, will preserve a military that is so strong, no nation would ever dare to test it. That America, that united America, will uphold the constellation of rights that were endowed by our Creator, and codified in our constitution. That united America will care for the poor and the sick, will honor and respect the elderly, and will

give a helping hand to those in need. That America is the best within each of us. That America we want for our children. If I am elected President of these United States, I will work with all my energy and soul to restore that America, to lift our eyes to a better future. That future is our destiny. That future is out there. It is waiting for us. Our children deserve it, our nation depends upon it, the peace and freedom of the world require it. And with your help we will deliver it. Let us begin that future together tonight.” [36311, 36323, 36339, 36345, 36349]

The GOP convention ends without Donald Trump’s “surprise announcement” materializing; without the words “Tea Party,” “Operation Fast and Furious,” or “birth certificate” being mentioned; and without the “tens of thousands” of protesters many expected would descend on Tampa to disrupt the event. [36348, 36350]

On August 31 Mitt Romney visits Louisiana. Upon learning that Romney was observing Hurricane Isaac response operations, the Obama campaign quickly cancels a planned campaign event in Cleveland, Ohio scheduled for September 3 and announces that Obama will travel to Louisiana instead. (The mainstream media hyped Isaac at the beginning of the week in an effort to portray Republicans as heartless for holding their convention while people were suffering. With the GOP convention over—and people still suffering—the media chooses not to hold Obama’s feet to the fire. Because Louisiana is a safe bet for Romney on November 6, Obama will pay attention to it only if he is forced to—which Romney did. DailyCaller.com posts the best headline: “President heads to storm-ravaged Louisiana (followed closely by Obama.)” [36336, 36337, 36389, 36442, 36453]

While Romney is in Louisiana, DailyCaller.com reports that Obama “was greeted with fleeting applause and extended periods of silence as he offered profuse praise to soldiers and their families during [a] speech in Fort Bliss, Texas. His praise for the soldiers—and for his own national-security policies—won cheers from only a small proportion of the soldiers and families in the cavernous aircraft-hanger. The audience remains quiet even when the commander-in-chief thanked the soldiers’ families, and cited the 198 deaths of their comrades in Iraq and Afghanistan. The audience’s reaction was so flat that [Obama] tried twice to elicit a reaction from the crowd. ‘Hey, I hear you,’ he said amid silence. The selected soldiers who were arrayed behind [Obama] sat quietly throughout the speech. ... The troops’ silence continued through several obvious applause-lines. ... The silence deepened when [Obama] lauded his strategy of withdrawal from the war. ‘Make no mistake, ending the wars responsibly makes us safer and our military even stronger, and ending these wars is letting us do something else; restoring American leadership,’ he said amid complete silence. ... The White House’s video-feed cut off 10 seconds after [Obama] finished his speech, before the audience’s [probably tepid] reaction overall could be gauged by viewers. ... CNN and MSNBC ended their coverage of the speech before it was half-over.” (One Daily Caller reader comments, “It was a bit like asking Anderson Cooper to give a pre-game speech to the Pittsburgh Steelers—total disconnect, if not total disdain.”) [36363, 36478]

Media leftists charge that Mitt Romney's reference to astronaut Neil Armstrong is racist. Romney said, "The soles of Neil Armstrong's boots on the moon made permanent impressions on our souls. Ann and I watched those steps together on her parents' sofa. Like all Americans, we went to bed that night knowing we lived in the greatest country in the history of the world. God bless Neil Armstrong! Tonight that American flag is still there on the moon, and I don't doubt for a second that Neil Armstrong's spirit is still with us—that unique blend of optimism, humility, and the utter confidence that when the world needs someone to do the really big stuff, you need an American." (To some in the media, "you need an American" was not a tribute to the nation's great achievements, but a "secret message" that Obama is not an American.) [36370]

Rasmussen reports that "60% of Likely U.S. Voters believe that the next president will be a Republican. Twenty-five percent (25%) considerate it unlikely that ...Obama will be succeeded by a Republican. Sixteen percent (16%) aren't sure." [36313, 36314]

A Reuters/Ipsos poll of likely voters shows Mitt Romney leading Obama 44–42; the prior poll had Obama leading 46–42. [35353]

According to a media pool report, at one campaign event during the week Vice President Joe Biden entered a restaurant and announced, "I'm Joe Bidenopoulos. Upon leaving, Biden asked, "Can I get some rice pudding to go?" (Whether it was a Greek restaurant was not reported.) [36332, 36333]

The speakers for the September 2–4 Democrat National Convention are announced. They include: lesbian Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Newark Mayor Cory Booker; former President Jimmy Carter; San Antonio's overrated mayor, Julian Castro; former President Bill Clinton; former Republican Governor of Florida Charlie Crist; former Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth, who is pro-abortion; California Attorney General Kamala Harris; Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel; feminist activist Sandra Fluke; former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm; former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine; Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy (who recently named a communist sympathizer to head the state's labor department); Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA); NARAL Pro-Choice America abortion activist Nancy Keenan, who supports aborting all special needs children to lessen their burden on society; Caroline "Valley Girl" Kennedy; "women's rights activist" Lilly Ledbetter; actress Eva Longoria; Senator John Kerry (D-MA); Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter; Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), a pro-abortion Catholic; Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick; President of Planned Parenthood Action Fund Cecile Richards; journalist Cristina Saralegui; the skirt-chasing, ineffective mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa; U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren, who claimed she was a Native American to get hiring advantages; Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC), who is almost certain to lose her seat in 2014; House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Senate majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV); and, of course, Vice President Joe Biden and Obama. (It is clear from the list of speakers that the theme of the Democrat convention will be that the Republicans are anti-women and abortion should be embraced. There are essentially no job creators on the list.

Granholm, for example, left her state a jobless, fiscal disaster.) [36334, 36335, 36375, 36145, 36467, 36484, 36486]

Former President Bill Clinton will address the Democrat convention on the same night Obama delivers his acceptance speech. (At NYPost.com Edward Klein, author of *The Amateur: Barack Obama in the White House*, writes, “Clinton will stand before a cheering throng of delegates on Thursday night and deliver a primetime speech nominating Obama, a man he once dismissed as incompetent, as president of the United States. The Clinton-Obama feud is the worst-kept secret in the Democratic Party. It traces back to the bruising 2008 primary campaign, when Obama’s surrogates lambasted Bill and Hillary for being ‘racists’ and a Clinton aide said of Obama that he ‘embraces the politics of trash.’ ...My sources inside the Obama campaign tell me that the last thing Obama wanted to see was Clinton, one of the country’s greatest orators, standing at the podium of the Democratic convention and sucking all the air out of the place. [Obama], ...Michelle Obama and their senior political adviser, Valerie Jarrett, all argued strenuously against offering Clinton a plum assignment at the convention. They wanted to relegate him to a minor, non-prime-time speaking role. However, Clinton, who is viewed as an iconic figure by the party faithful, refused to accept anything less than the all-important nominating speech and threatened to boycott the convention unless his demands were met. The decisive vote in the matter, according to my sources, was cast by David Axelrod, Obama’s chief political strategist, who argued that the Obamas needed Clinton far more than Clinton needed them. Axelrod had long been aware that things were not going as well for Obama as the mainstream media reported. On the eve of the party’s presidential convention, Democrats had outspent Republicans 4 to 1 and had poured more than \$200 million into negative commercials against Mitt Romney, and yet polls showed the race to be a dead heat, with Romney beginning to pull ahead in some critical swing states.” [36410]

Clint Eastwood’s convention appearance prompts two new bumper stickers: “Make My Day, Romney-Ryan 2012” and “We own This, Romney-Ryan 2012.” [36358]

CNSNews.com reports that the Obama administration “has reached a settlement with the Sacramento (California) Public Library over a trial program the library was conducting that let patrons borrow Barnes and Noble NOOK e-book readers. [The Department of Justice] and the National Federation of the Blind objected to the program on grounds that blind people could not use the NOOK e-readers for technological reasons. The Justice Department said the settlement is aimed at stopping discrimination: ‘Emerging technologies like e-readers are changing the way we interact with the world around us and we need to ensure that people with disabilities are not excluded from the programs where these devices are used,’ said Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez in a news release. A DOJ official told CNSNews.com it interviewed a woman who could not participate in the library’s e-reader program due to her disability and concluded that the program had violated the ADA.” (The Obama administration may not be aware that blind people cannot read regular books. They are also unable to drive automobiles. Whether Obama will direct the Department of Justice to sue General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler for not accommodating blind drivers is not known.) [35359]

HillBuzz.org reports on rumors that Obama and his wife "...are using Chicago proxy-buyers to purchase a \$35 million oceanfront estate for them in the most posh area of Oahu, [Hawaii] where they coincidentally vacation frequently already. Move-in date is scheduled for January 2013." The *unconfirmed* story relates, "Barack and Michelle Obama will be moving to Hawaii in January of 2013 and preparations are now being made to purchase an estate in close proximity to land owned by the University of Hawaii, where the Obama presidential library and 'political center' will be located. Here in Chicago, it's pretty obvious that Michelle does not want to move back to this city and its winters (for any reason) and Michelle's mother, who's been living in the White House with her daughter and her family, will be happily making the move to Hawaii as well. I have a friend whose family knows Michelle's mother; they have been crystal clear that the elderly Mrs. Robinson regularly says that she'll be in Hawaii next year permanently with her daughter and granddaughters. There is neither talk of returning to Chicago to live nor of living in the White House for another four years—instead, there's a sense of 'it was fun while it lasted' coming from Mrs. Robinson in her talks with her Chicago friends." [36364, 36365, 36366]

Rush Limbaugh notes that Clint Eastwood's empty chair routine clearly got under Obama's skin: "At 12:30 last night, somebody on behalf of Obama (and for all I know it was Obama himself) tweeted a picture of Obama in an official presidential chair. Looks like it's in the Cabinet Room ...and it's got a little miniature plaque on the back of the chair that says, 'President US 2009.' And the tweet is, 'This seat is taken.'" [36369, 36423]

Larry Klayman, former Justice Department prosecutor and founder of Judicial Watch and Freedom Watch, writes at WND.com, "The Constitution is as clear as the nose on your face. According to Article II, Section 1, to be eligible to be president or vice president of the United States one must be a 'natural born citizen.' That means born in the United States to two American citizen parents. The framers, concerned about destructive foreign influences at a time of the founding of the nation, were wary that the foreign biases of parents could tragically influence the country's leadership, especially during its formative years. ...Last week, I had the occasion to cross paths with 'revered' Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Scalia has been for many years the darling of conservatives, a judge who they believed had the guts to enforce the Rule of Law and the Constitution in the face of corrosive influences, foreign and domestic. I took the occasion to ask him a simple question, one he would be able to answer. I asked the 'constitutionalist' Scalia what he believed to be the definition of 'natural born citizen,' without asking him to render an opinion on whether Obama was eligible to be president, given that Obama's father was not a citizen of the United States at the time he claims falsely that he was born here. Looking like a deer in the headlights and stuttering sheepishly, Justice Scalia responded, 'I don't know. Isn't a natural born citizen a person born in this country?' I pressed on, asking 'then why are there separate references to 'citizen' and 'natural born citizen' in the Constitution?' Again, Justice Scalia, pulling back out of apparent fright at having to give a straight answer, responded in the same fashion, 'I don't know.'" [36378]

FoxNews.com reports, “Federal authorities say they’re closing their abuse-of-power investigation into Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Arizona without filing charges against him. Authorities were investigating America’s self-proclaimed toughest sheriff for his part in failed public corruption cases against officials who were odds with him. Arpaio brought cases against a judge and two county officials in 2009. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann Birmingham Scheel released a statement Friday saying her office ‘is closing its investigation into allegations of criminal conduct’ by current and former members of the sheriff’s and county attorney’s offices. Scheel didn’t elaborate, saying only that county Attorney Bill Montgomery was advised of the decision ‘not to pursue state criminal charges related to the investigation.’” (Arpaio has charged that the federal probe was prompted by his aggressive efforts to go after illegal immigrants in and around Phoenix, and denies that his deputies engage in racial profiling. Some believe that Obama’s Justice Department has hounded Arpaio because of his “cold case posse” investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate.) [1826, 7779, 7963, 14268, 14398, 36382, 36383, 36385, 36409]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “A former senior congressional aide was indicted this week in D.C. Superior Court on charges that he sexually assaulted two women after drugging them with a sedative that he allegedly put in their drinks. Donny Ray Williams Jr., 36, who served as staff director for a Senate subcommittee and worked in the offices of several members of Congress, gave at least one woman Ambien and assaulted her while she was unconscious, according to court papers.” (WeeklyStandard.com adds, “And though the *Washington Post* story fails to mention it: The staffer has worked *only for Democrats*, including: Senator Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana, Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, and Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, among others. Additionally, Williams appears to have worked in the Obama administration as the general deputy assistant secretary for congressional and intergovernmental relations in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He held this position from April 2009–October 2010, or 1 year and 7 months.”) [36386, 36387]

Time.com reports. “Seven months ago, Israel and the United States postponed a massive joint military exercise that was originally set to go forward just as concerns were brimming that Israel would launch a strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities. The exercise was rescheduled for late October, and appears likely to go forward on the cusp of the U.S. presidential election. But it won’t be nearly the same exercise. Well-placed sources in both countries have told TIME that Washington has greatly reduced the scale of U.S. participation, slashing by more than two-thirds the number of American troops going to Israel and reducing both the number and potency of missile interception systems at the core of the joint exercise. ‘Basically what the Americans are saying is, ‘We don’t trust you,’” a senior Israeli military official tells TIME. ... U.S. commanders privately revealed the scaling back to their Israeli counterparts more than two months ago. The official explanation was budget restrictions. But the American retreat coincided with growing tensions between the Obama and Netanyahu administrations on Israel’s persistent threats to launch an airstrike [sic] on Iran. The Islamic Republic would be expected to retaliate by missile strikes, either through its own intermediate range arsenal or through its proxy,

the Hizballah militia, which has more than 40,000 missiles aimed at Israel from neighboring Lebanon.” [36388]

Actor Jason Biggs creates a controversy with Twitter messages about Paul Ryan, his wife Janna, Ann Romney, and Christianity that are so repellant they will not be repeated here in the *Timeline*. Many Americans quickly condemn the actor, and some call for the Nickelodeon channel to fire him. The Obama campaign is silent. [36413]

Ann Romney responds to Bill Clinton’s statement that Mitt Romney’s “daddy must be turning over in his grave” every time Romney talks about the GM and Chrysler bailouts. On Fox News, Ann Romney says, “Mitt’s father would be cheering and would be with Mitt 100 percent. Because, you know, what Mitt suggested was finally what happened, is that they went through a structured bankruptcy—it’s exactly what ended up happening. Mitt just said to do that before they already spent \$17 billion. So no, Mitt’s father would be cheering, cheering with Mitt.” (Obama and other Democrats have falsely claimed that Romney said GM and Chrysler should be allowed to go out of business. What Romney recommended was for the companies to be restructured through a normal bankruptcy process, without government interference. The companies would still have survived—without costing the taxpayers any money.) [36424]