

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

August 2013

On August 1 Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee, slams Obama and his lackeys for repeatedly referring to his administration's scandals as "phony." Issa states, "We will follow the facts, and we will conduct investigations. If [Obama] hides those facts, we will still find them, and we will report them. ...[Border Agent] Brian Terry's family does not call it a 'phony' death ...when he was murdered at the border" with a weapon from Operation Fast and Furious. [46851]

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden is granted a one year asylum by Russia, allowing him to leave Moscow's international airport. White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, "We see this as an unfortunate development and we are extremely disappointed by it. We are evaluating the utility of the summit." (Obama is no doubt peeved that Russian President Vladimir Putin did not give him an advance notice of the action. Obama and Putin are tentatively scheduled to meet in Moscow in September, during the G-20 summit. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) suggests that Obama recommend relocating the G-20 summit—but if the other nations do not agree, Obama risks further embarrassment.) Snowden is quickly offered a job by VKontakte ("in contact"), a Facebook-like Russian social network. (At PJMedia.com Victor Davis Hanson later observes that Obama "usually loses" when he "bets against human nature. ...The problem with a thug like Vladimir Putin is not just that he does not respond to 'outreach' and 'reset,' but rather that he interprets such loud magnanimity as weakness. And when [Obama's] sermonizing and lectures are added to perceptions of American impotence, the impression of timidity leads further to contempt, and ultimately to a devilish desire to humiliate and disabuse a naïf Obama of his moral pretensions.") [46856, 46859, 46876, 46881, 46897, 46900, 47432]

At NationalReview.com Jillian Kay Melchior reports on how she was able to easily obtain three taxpayer-subsidized "Obamaphones" from the government even though she did not qualify—and did not lie. Melchior writes, "To be eligible for [the] Lifeline [phone program], the applicant is supposed to be receiving some significant government benefit—food stamps, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, public housing assistance, etc. But because welfare eligibility has expanded under the Obama administration, more people than ever before are qualified to receive 'free' cell-phone service—part of the reason why Lifeline mobiles have become commonly known as Obamaphones. Alternatively, applicants can qualify if their household income is less than 136 percent of the federal poverty line. But as with any federal program with too much funding, too little oversight, and perverse financial incentives, Lifeline has become infamous for rampant fraud and abuse. There have been news reports about recipients flaunting dozens of subsidized phones. And in February, the *Wall Street Journal* reported

on an FCC audit of the top five Lifeline providers, which found that ‘41% of their more than six million subscribers either couldn’t demonstrate their eligibility or didn’t respond to requests for certification.’” Melchior states, “The whole process took less than five minutes, and I had to provide no documentation verifying my income level or (nonexistent) welfare status. ...And if you’ve been wondering why the companies are so eager to hand out free phones, the incentive is built into the program. As [Congressman Tim] Griffin [R-AR] explains, ‘Of course, the way the program was set up, [wireless companies] were getting money for every one they could give out, so they gave out as many as they could.’ And still do.” [46857]

At CNN.com Jake Tapper reports, “CNN has uncovered exclusive new information about what is allegedly happening at the CIA, in the wake of the deadly Benghazi terror attack. Four Americans, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens, were killed in the assault by armed militants last September 11 in eastern Libya. Sources now tell CNN dozens of people working for the CIA were on the ground that night, and that the agency is going to great lengths to make sure whatever it was doing, remains a secret. CNN has learned the CIA is involved in what one source calls an unprecedented attempt to keep the spy agency's Benghazi secrets from ever leaking out. Since January, some CIA operatives involved in the agency's missions in Libya, have been subjected to frequent, even monthly polygraph examinations, according to a source with deep inside knowledge of the agency’s workings. The goal of the questioning, according to sources, is to find out if anyone is talking to the media or Congress. It is being described as pure intimidation, with the threat that any unauthorized CIA employee who leaks information could face the end of his or her career. In exclusive communications obtained by CNN, one insider writes, ‘You don’t [only] jeopardize yourself, you jeopardize your family as well.’ Another says, ‘You have no idea the amount of pressure being brought to bear on anyone with knowledge of this operation.’ ‘Agency employees typically are polygraphed every three to four years. Never more than that,’ said former CIA operative and CNN analyst Robert Baer. ...Among the many secrets still yet to be told about the Benghazi mission, is just how many Americans were there the night of the attack. A source now tells CNN that number was 35, with as many as seven wounded, some seriously. While it is still not known how many of them were CIA, a source tells CNN that 21 Americans were working in the building known as the annex, believed to be run by the agency.” [46858, 46865, 46875, 46878, 46885, 46894, 46906, 46991, 47073]

Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) comments on the new Benghazi revelations: “I think it is a form of a cover-up, and I think it’s an attempt to push it under the rug, and I think the American people are feeling the same way. We should have the people who were on the scene come in, testify under oath, do it publicly, and lay it out. And there really isn’t any national security issue involved with regards to that.” According to CNN, “In the aftermath of the attack, Wolf said he was contacted by people closely tied with CIA operatives and contractors who wanted to talk. Then suddenly, there was silence. ‘Initially they were not afraid to come forward. They wanted the opportunity, and they wanted to be subpoenaed, because if you’re subpoenaed, it sort of protects you, you’re forced to come before Congress. Now that’s all changed,’ said Wolf.” (Whether the

Obama administration will continue to claim the Benghazi scandal is not a scandal remains to be seen.) [46858, 46865, 46929]

HotAir.com writes, “Thirty-five Americans on the ground, 21 at the CIA annex. Maybe the skeletal security crew at the consulate wasn’t as skeletal as thought. Is that what happened here—not so much a security vacuum as a security presence so secret that it couldn’t be revealed publicly, despite the White House being pounded over its failures for months afterwards? None of which is to say that they shouldn’t have had more security; the consulate and annex were overrun regardless, no matter how many people were there. But maybe that helps explain why the formal security presence wasn’t bigger: There was a lot of CIA in the area and maybe the White House didn’t want to attract attention to what they were doing there by inserting a squad of Marines to patrol the grounds. ...But what were they doing there to justify such agency paranoia now about people blabbing? Former CIA analyst Robert Baer tells CNN that agents are typically polygraphed ever few years, not every month. What could be so tippy top secret that it needs to be kept under wraps even if it means threatening agents’ families to buy their silence? ...Exit question: What was the CIA doing in Benghazi?” [46862, 46865, 46932]

Many believe that the CIA was involved in smuggling Libyan weapons to rebels in Syria. If so, the CIA was almost certainly doing so under orders from Obama—without the approval of Congress or the knowledge of the American people. Others believe that the Benghazi attack was a failed kidnapping scheme that was intended to end with Obama trading Omar Abdel Rahman—the “blind sheik” who is serving time in a U.S. prison for planning the 1993 World Trade Center bombing—for Ambassador Christopher Stevens. In one of the videos taken during the attack one gunman can be overhead saying, in Arabic, “Don’t Shoot us! We were sent by Morsi!” There is no explanation for such a statement other than involvement in the plan by Egypt’s then-President Mohammed Morsi. Morsi likely also engineered the anti-video demonstrations in Cairo as a cover for the attacks. *The Obama Timeline* would not be surprised to learn that the anti-Islam video was the work of either the CIA or Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood operatives in the United States. It may be that Obama is covering up both CIA weapons smuggling and a kidnapping plot. (There have also been suggestions that Turkish Consul General Ali Sait Akin was in on the Benghazi attack because he passed freely through the heavily armed jihadi checkpoints outside the U.S. facility after meeting with Ambassador Christopher Stevens on September 11, 2012. TheConservativeTreehouse.com points out, “There is no record that he phoned a warning to his American colleague, the one he’d just had dinner with, Ambassador Stevens. Given the description of the blockade around the American compound and of the jihadis and their trucks that were manning it, it seems unlikely that the he somehow just failed to notice. ‘[N]o one could get out or in,’ according to one neighbor interviewed by the AP.” The foreign leader closest to Obama is Turkey’s Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan—a devoted Islamist who has worked to move his country away from secularism and toward Muslim Shari’ah law.) [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305, 46862, 46865, 46932, 46941]

On Facebook, former Secret Service Agent Daniel writes, “From a Former Secret Service Agent to the Benghazi Survivors, I understand that the pressure being brought to bear on

you to ensure your silence is unthinkable but your country desperately needs you right now. I can only hope & pray that you see this. I know what it is like to walk away from it all. It is the hardest decision you are ever going to make. The financial cost to me & my family has been substantial and the intangible, yet very real, loss of a sense of what tomorrow is going to bring will always haunt you. But, we are in perilous times & an inbox of good intentions is no longer good enough. We need your voice. We can lose the seemingly daily fights over policy but we cannot lose this fight. The fabric of our country is being shredded because the sacred promise, ensuring that those who walk into the heart of danger wrapped in our flag will be rescued by the very same brave men who pledge allegiance to what that flag represents, has been shamefully broken. This is not a partisan fight as political affiliation means nothing with an administration which silences the truth. The truth has no agenda. When I proudly swore to put my life in danger to ensure [Obama's] life never was, I did it with complete disregard for his politics. But, I did not do it for this. This is a national disgrace and I am not at all concerned with the politics of it. Those men were left to die and we dishonor their memories every day where we fail to give their children an answer as to why their fathers will never cheer at their soccer games, clean the jelly of their chins or kiss their mothers again. Please come forward. There are good people left who can help you. Resist. Fight back. Be part of a better tomorrow. We need you." [46921, 46922]

WorldTribune.com reports, "The U.S. intelligence community leaked information on Israeli air strikes on Syria, sources said. Diplomats said the [Obama] administration... has enabled the intelligence community to disclose Israeli military operations against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad. They said the leaks included unreported Israeli air and naval strikes on advanced Iranian and Russian weapons that arrived in 2013. 'This is a decision that could come only from Obama,' a diplomat said. '[T]his reflects his dismay over the Israeli operations, which [Obama] believes could result in a regional war.' ...The diplomats said Israel has protested the U.S. leaks, which increased tension with Damascus. They said the purported CIA leaks have strained relations with Israel's intelligence community, particularly the Mossad. The CIA director is John Brennan, regarded as a confidant of Obama. 'The Israelis have also been going to their friends in Congress to stop the leaks,' the diplomat said." (Brennan may be a "confidant" of Obama because he "knows where the bodies are buried." Obama's passport records were illegally accessed in 2008—more than likely to remove something Obama did not want known. The person charged with the security breach was an employee of a security company headed by Brennan.) [46874, 47323, 47326, 47613]

The White House announces that Obama will nominate John Koskinen to replace Daniel Werfel as IRS commissioner.

By a vote of 87–10 the U.S. Senate confirms Samantha Power to be the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. (Power replaces Susan "it was a video, not terrorism" Rice. Rice becomes Obama's national security advisor—a position that does not require Senate approval.)

Politico reports, “The Office of Personnel Management [OPM], under heavy pressure from Capitol Hill, will issue... regulations saying that the government can continue to make the employer contribution to the health plans of members and aides, according to several Hill sources. ...Currently, the government pays nearly 75 percent of these premiums. The government’s contributions were in jeopardy due to a controversial Republican amendment to the Affordable Care Act, which says that by 2014, lawmakers and their staff must be covered by plans ‘created’ by the law or ‘offered through an exchange.’ Up until now, OPM had not said if the Federal Employee Health Benefits program can contribute premium payments toward health plans on the exchange. If the payments stop, lawmakers and aides faced thousands of extra dollars each year.” (The new regulation means that the taxpayers will continue to pay 75 percent of the premiums for Congressional staffers—who apparently love ObamaCare but do not want to be covered by it.) [46877, 46882, 46899, 46926, 46950, 47035]

CanadaFreePress.com reports that the Thomas More Society has provided Congress with “additional evidence of continued IRS targeting of pro-life organizations. Despite claims by the Obama Administration that the harassment has ceased, the Society produced over 250 pages of documentation showing that the federal government is still interrogating pro-life groups beyond the scope of its legal authority, infringing upon these organizations’ First Amendment rights of assembly, free speech, and religious liberty. ...[P]ro-life groups were harassed with questions about time spent in prayer at abortion facilities and told that they must educate and advocate on abortion from both sides of the issue. Two groups were also falsely denied their tax exemption status by IRS agent Mrs. R. Medley who claimed they didn’t qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. All three groups’ tax exemptions were delayed 13–16 months with IRS supervisors, including Lois Lerner, singling out their applications for further review by an ‘exemption organization specialist.’” (Needless to say, the IRS and the Obama administration have never demanded that Planned Parenthood “must educate and advocate on abortion from both sides of the issue.”) Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel of the Thomas More Society, states, “Despite claims to the contrary, the IRS continues to target and harass pro-life and conservative charities, illegally questioning their religious activities and withholding their tax exemptions. We have now produced irrefutable evidence of six clients whose First Amendment rights were trampled upon by the IRS because of their position upholding the sanctity of life. Even after public disclosure of this wrongdoing, the Obama Administration’s IRS has refused to cease its illegal activity. We will continue to aid Congress in its investigation until those responsible are brought to justice and the IRS is made to respect every American’s constitutional rights.” [46879]

The House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee issues subpoenas to the State Department calling for all documents related to the probe into the attacks on the U.S. facilities in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) tells reporters, “After ignoring requests for months, the State Department has left no alternative but to issue subpoenas for documents relevant to our investigation. State Department tactics to delay and impede accountability have exhausted the Committee’s patience. Further subpoenas may also be necessary if the Department is not forthcoming on other requests.” [46880, 46888]

According to FoxNews.com, "...new Census figures show homeownership dropped in the second quarter to an 18-year low of 65 percent. The rate, which hit a record 69.2 percent in 2004, has now fallen to its pre-housing bubble days nearly two decades ago. [Obama], on the heels of the report, plans to head to Phoenix on Tuesday for a homeownership-themed stop on his multi-city tour—part of his recent pivot back to the economy. ...Richard Barrington, of Money Rates, argues that homeownership is [merely] returning to more reasonable levels, and that the government should not push folks into buying homes they can't afford." [46884]

WhiteHouseDossier.com updates its list of Obama administration scandals—to 24. [46918]

MoneyNews.com reports, "The 10-year Treasury yield hit a 23-month high of 2.75 percent July 8, and it's likely headed back there soon, as the market anticipates a tapering of the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing, experts say. 'In the next couple of weeks to two months or so, I think we've got a push coming up to the 2.85 percent, 2.95 percent zone,' MacNeil Curry, head of global technical strategy for Bank of America, told CNBC. He sees the 10-year yield at 3.50 percent six months from now. 'If we start to push up to new highs on the 10-year yield—so that's the 2.75 level—I think you'd probably see a bit of anxiety creep back into the marketplace,' he added." (When the Treasury Department is forced to pay higher interest rates to get investors to buy U.S. government debt, interest rates on riskier investments necessarily increase even more. Additionally, the value of bonds held by the Federal Reserve, banks, and other investors drops when interest rates rise. Ron DeLegge, editor of ETFGuide.com, tells Townhall.com's John Ransom, "If interest rates continue to head higher, the value of the Fed's liquid assets that it could sell would decline and further undermine its capital cushion. And if the velocity of rate increases intensifies, the Fed, with only \$62 billion in capital, could see its entire capital base completely wiped out.") [46904, 46963]

DailyCaller.com points out that ObamaCare "will make it more difficult for parents of special-needs children to pay for tuition at special schools and to purchase medical equipment... More than 30 million Americans place money into a pre-tax Flexible Spending Account (FSA) through their employers to help save emergency funds to pay for their families' medical costs. Obamacare institutes a brand new \$2,500 cap for FSAs, which will make more money taxable and could raise \$13 billion in taxes for the federal government over the next decade." Parents of special-needs children are among those who relied most heavily on FSAs, who used them for tuition at special schools. ObamaCare now forces them to use after-tax income for that tuition, rather than pre-tax income. [46892]

On *On the Record*, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) tells Greta Van Susteren that the government is forcing Benghazi survivors to change their names and relocate in order to keep them from being identified and interviewed: "[Y]ou stop to think what things are most calculated to get at the truth—talk to people with first-hand knowledge. What creates the appearance, or perhaps the reality of a cover-up, [is] not letting us talk to

people who have the most amount of information, dispersing them throughout the country, and changing their names.” The Ulsterman Report asks, “[W]hy is the Obama government relocating survivors of the Benghazi Massacre and then changing their names? Why are the people with first hand accounts of what happened that night being so strongly silenced? Knowing the administration is engaged in these kinds of tactics, how can anyone allow Barack Obama to stand before the American people and declare Benghazi a ‘phony scandal?’ Would a phony scandal require so much time, effort, and money to cover it up?” Gowdy adds, “There is nothing phony about four murdered Americans in Benghazi, and if [Obama] thinks there is, I’d encourage him to look at the autopsy photos. There’s nothing phony about Brian Terry’s murder at the border. There’s nothing phony about IRS targeting people based on ideology. ...If you want to sit down with Brian Terry’s mother and look her in the eyes and say that this scandal is phony, [Operation] Fast and Furious—or how about the innocent Mexicans who we don’t know their names, but at least 200, who have been killed because of guns we sent into Mexico and call that phony! Or four murdered Americans who went because we asked them to represent us in a foreign land, and their world is set on fire and they’re murdered in Libya! You go call that phony! I dare [Obama] to look Ty Woods’ father in the face and say this is a phony scandal!” [46891, 46901, 46909]

On August 2 FoxNews.com reports, “Even as the White House labels Benghazi a ‘phony scandal,’ a raft of new allegations and concerns is once again bringing the controversy back to the forefront in Washington. Fox News has learned that at least five CIA employees were forced to sign additional nondisclosure agreements this past spring in the wake of the Benghazi attack. These employees had already signed such agreements before the attack but were made to sign new agreements aimed at discouraging survivors from leaking their stories to the media or anyone else.” [46902]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “The State Department has issued a warning about significant and serious threats from al Qaida to Americans traveling in many Muslim countries throughout the Middle East [and Africa]. U.S. Embassies and consulates throughout the region will be closed for at least one day, but the warning doesn’t expire until the end of August.” The State Department advisory cautions, “Current information suggests that al-Qa’ida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks both in the region and beyond, and that they may focus efforts to conduct attacks in the period between now and the end of August. This Travel Alert expires on August 31, 2013. Terrorists may elect to use a variety of means and weapons and target both official and private interests. U.S. citizens are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure. Terrorists have targeted and attacked subway and rail systems, as well as aviation and maritime services. U.S. citizens should take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt appropriate safety measures to protect themselves when traveling.” (Pavlich reminds readers that during the 2012 campaign Obama claimed that “al-Qaeda has been decimated” and “on the run.” CNSNews.com informs readers that August 4, the day embassies and consulates will be closed, “marks the 27th night of Ramadan [“scorching”], which according to most but not all Muslim scholars is Laylat al-Qadr (‘night of power’ or ‘night of destiny’), when Muslims believe the first verses of the

Qur'an were revealed to Mohammed in the 7th century.” August 4 is also Obama’s 52nd birthday if, as he claims, he was born on August 4, 1961.) [46889, 46910, 46916, 46947]

With four Democrats joining Republicans, the House of Representatives votes 232–185 to pass the “Keep the IRS Off Your Health Care Act of 2013,” which would prohibit the IRS from enforcing ObamaCare. Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI) states, “The IRS is already out of control, abusing its power to tax and audit the activities of honest, hardworking Americans... Yet, ObamaCare granted the IRS 47 new powers—including giving confidential taxpayer information to other departments and applying new taxes and penalties.” DailyCaller.com reports that the House also “passed a bill known as the REINS Act, which stands for Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act, which requires congress to approve any federal rule that has a price tag of \$100 million or more.” (Technically, Obama could—without the approval of Congress—order the Environmental Protection Agency to demand that all new cars sold in the United States get 500 miles per gallon, even though that would clearly cost more than \$100 million.) Congress The Senate will not take up or vote on either measure, which Obama would veto even if they were to pass. [46893]

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 162,000 jobs were created in July—about 23,000 fewer than many economists expected. Nevertheless, the “official” unemployment rate falls to 7.4 percent—because 136,000 additional Americans simply gave up looking for work and are no longer counted by the government as part of the unemployed segment of the workforce. The number of part-time workers increased by 174,000, to 28,233,000. (An astounding 97 percent of all jobs created in the first six months of 2013 were part-time—an unprecedented share that can almost certainly be attributed to the fear of ObamaCare costs.) The number of unemployed Hispanics is 2,366,000, up 161,000 from when Obama took office in 2009. Black teen unemployment is a whopping 41.6 percent—compared to 36 percent in July 2012. The white teen unemployment rate is 20 percent. The labor participation rate (the ratio of working Americans to the population of able-bodied Americans of working age) fell from 63.5 to 63.4 percent. (The unemployment rate would be 10.7 percent if the labor participation rate was still at the January 2009 level, when Obama entered the White House.) Average earnings fell in July by \$.02 per hour, and the average workweek fell by 0.1 hour. (The government also revised downward the job creation figures for May and June, by 19,000 and 7,000, respectively.) There are 5.17 million fewer full-time workers in 2013 than there were in 2007; counting part-time employment, there are 2.2 million fewer American workers. At the same time, the working-age population has increased by 13 million. [46896, 46898, 46907, 46908, 46914, 46915, 46928, 46965, 46967]

On CNN, in what Rush Limbaugh calls a “random act of journalism,” business correspondent Alison Kosik says, “The problem is that lower unemployment rate that came in, it may be for the wrong reasons because the number of people counted in the labor participation rate fell, so people literally left the labor force, they gave up looking for work. That’s really not the reason you want to see the unemployment rate tip lower. You want to see people getting jobs, and that’s the reason you want to see the unemployment rate go lower.” Limbaugh later says, “You gotta give ’em credit. I mean,

she's trying. She pretty much got it right. You have to give 'em kudos. ...Here's the thing. Again, the labor force participation rate, that number is what I'm talking about when I tell you that nine million jobs have vanished since Obama took office. The universe of available jobs in the country is down by over nine million. They just don't exist. It's like enough factories closed that there are nine million jobs, no longer attainable. It's not that jobs are waiting to be filled. They're not there anymore. There's nothing good about [the] jobs [news] in this country. ...The unemployment rate went down because it's a mathematical phenomenon here. It has nothing to do with jobs being created, and it's one of the fallacies in the way this number is reported. You would think that if the unemployment rate went from 7.6 percent to 7.4 percent that we're adding jobs—and your average low-information doofus out there is going to think just that. But it's the exact opposite. ...So 953,000 jobs [have been] created in 2013, and 77 percent are part time; 731,000. Another way of looking at it: For every full-time job created, there are four part-time jobs created. I don't care how you slice it, the jobs news isn't good.” [46914]

CNN's Carol Costello blames the Republican-controlled House for the lack of jobs, writing on Facebook, “Many economists think the economy could be a lot better if Congress did its job, but the House is, again, threatening to shut down the government. We've been down this road before... but, with an approval rating of 17 per cent, you'd think the House would come up with something new. Hahahahaaha.” Commenting on the air, Costello's only criticism of Obama is that he has not done enough to push Republicans to cave in on his agenda: “But isn't it important to [Obama] too to try to get Congress on board, at least a little bit? Or is that just an impossibility?” Obama's chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers tells Costello, “Well, [Obama] has done everything imaginable to reach out to the Congress. He has had meetings with different groups within Congress and he will continue to reach out. But just take the issue of the debt ceiling. The debt ceiling says that the Treasury should pay the bills that Congress already rang up. And what we saw in the summer of 2011 was an unnecessary fight over the debt ceiling where Congress was literally playing games with defaulting on the full faith and credit of the U.S. currency. Those are the kinds of manufactured crises that can slow down the recovery or do much more damage to the U.S. and world economy, and that's why I think it's so important that Congress does its job when it comes back from recess and raises the debt ceiling without drama.” [46955]

The House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee issues subpoenas to the Treasury Department, demanding documents related to IRS employee targeting of conservative groups. In his letter to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) writes, “During the past two weeks ...Obama and you have repeatedly labeled the IRS's strategy of targeting Americans for their political beliefs as a 'phony' scandal. While the Obama Administration has so publicly deflected responsibility for the targeting, it simultaneously has attempted to thwart congressional oversight into the matter... the IRS has engaged in a systematic effort to delay, frustrate, impede, and obstruct the Committee's investigation.” [46911, 46912, 46913, 46919]

At CNET.com Declan McCullagh reports, “The U.S. government is quietly pressuring telecommunications providers to install eavesdropping technology deep inside companies’ internal networks to facilitate surveillance efforts. FBI officials have been sparring with carriers, a process that has on occasion included threats of contempt of court, in a bid to deploy government-provided software capable of intercepting and analyzing entire communications streams. The FBI’s legal position during these discussions is that the software’s real-time interception of metadata is authorized under the Patriot Act. Attempts by the FBI to install what it internally refers to as ‘port reader’ software, which have not been previously disclosed, were described to CNET in interviews over the last few weeks. One former government official said the software used to be known internally as the ‘harvesting program.’” (*The Obama Timeline* recommends the use of a “virtual private network” for those interested in making it more difficult for the government—and identity thieves—to spy on their Internet activities.) [47002, 47003]

ThePostEmail.com reports, “In a PPSimmons Radio broadcast on Friday [August 2], Pastor and “Freedom Friday” host Carl Gallups stated that several congressman with whom Maricopa County Cold Case Posse lead investigator Mike Zullo has met have “promised” to take steps to launch a congressional investigation into the forgery of Obama’s long-form birth certificate. ...Gallups stated that interest from ‘VIPs’ with ‘deep connections to the White House’ and others is now increasing in the forgery. ...[Gallup] predicted that when the information in the possession of the posse is made fully public, ‘most of the world will be outraged. ...[The fraud] *will* be brought to light. One way or the other, the world *will* know. I promise,’ Gallups said.” [46920]

Aetna, Inc. pulls out of the ObamaCare health insurance exchange in Maryland after the state pushes it to lower its premiums by as much as 29 percent. RawStory.com reports, “In an August 1 letter sent to the Maryland Department of Insurance, Aetna said the state’s requirement for rate reductions off its proposed prices would lead it to operate at a loss. The rate reductions include products from Aetna and Coventry Health Care, which it bought this spring. ...According to online documents, Aetna had requested an average monthly premium of \$394 a month for one of its plans and the agency had approved an average rate of \$281 per month.” (HotAir.com comments, “[L]ike California, Maryland is encountering some *most* unfortunate problems the likes of which only they and their fellow esteemed Democrats seem not to have seen coming. ...Maryland would *really* very much appreciate it if the insurance companies operating in their state could offer rates that the state arbitrarily deems to be affordable and attractive offers, the better to lure potential participants into the state’s ObamaCare exchanges. Insurance companies, meanwhile, would really like it if they could avoid operating at a loss. It’s selfish, really. ...And it was just the other day that ObamaCare’s supporters were touting Maryland’s lower rates as proof of the health care overhaul’s success.”) [46948, 46949, 47185]

On August 3 John Ransom writes at Townhall.com, “Another month and another jobs report that’s so bad it’s good. At least that’s how Wall Street will look at it, because free money from the Fed will now continue. The economy added 162,000 jobs overall, well below the previous few months. Additionally wages and hours fell, meaning workers are

bringing home fewer bucks. ...Known as the labor participation rate, the number of people who are participating in the workforce fell by .1%. The number of unemployed, not coincidentally, fell by 263,000 while the number of people not in the workforce increased by 240,000. Nice how that works so well with all the other Obama math. This is known to Obama as a 'balanced approach.' ...Obama treats jobs like he did brain cells when he was a teenager. It kind of makes you wonder what he's smoking now, besides the cigarettes he likely puffs in the Oval Office." [46927]

Also at Townhall.com. Paul Driessen reviews the Obama administration's proposed EPA regulation to reduce the ambient ozone level from 84 parts per billion to 60 parts per billion. "The Obama EPA's 60 ppb rule would put 96% of those [monitored] counties—707 of 736—out of compliance, according to EPA! ...This insanity is underscored by the fact that even parts of Yellowstone Park would be out of compliance, if the 60 ppb rule is imposed. That's because the volatile organic compounds that are precursors to ozone don't come just from fuels, plastics and other hydrocarbons. They also come from volcanoes, hot springs and trees: deciduous trees emit VOCs on hot, sunny days; conifers emit them day and night. The regulatory derangement is further accentuated by its outrageous cost. EPA itself says the 60 ppb rule will carry a \$52–90 billion annual price tag. The Manufacturers Alliance (MAPI) says the actual cost could be *\$1 trillion per year!*" According to the American Petroleum Institute, "Upcoming EPA regulations of ozone could shut down business expansion and new jobs where 97 percent of Americans live, without providing any significant environmental benefit." [46930, 46931]

According to CBSNews.com, "The terror threat prompting the U.S. government to close nearly two dozen embassies and consulates Sunday is the most specific, credible threat information in years... Intelligence officers have reporting from a reliable source that a major plot is under way and that the team to carry it out has been selected and is in place, Miller reports. The threat information has been described as the most specific and credible since the foiled plot to blow up British planes en route to the United States in 2006, Miller reports. The specificity ends there. What authorities don't have is the date, the timing or the target of the attack, which is why they have taken such an approach to warning potential targets, Miller reports. The threat has prompted the U.S. to issue a global travel alert to all Americans for the first time since the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. White House officials said ...Obama was briefed Saturday morning on the potential terrorist threat before departing for Camp David..." [46933]

Author Mark Steyn comments, "[T]his weekend, America's embassies in Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, and a bunch of other places will be shut down because everybody hates us. Meanwhile, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has embraced the first American defector to Moscow in decades, and is all but egging Obama to pull out of the G20 Summit and the insufficiently LGBT-friendly Russian Olympics." [46939]

While U.S. embassies are being closed across the Middle East and in Africa because of terrorist threats and national security advisors and other key administration officials meet to discuss the issue, Obama plays golf for seven hours with Reggie Love and others and then heads to Camp David to celebrate the eve of his birthday with basketball and

bowling. In Obama's absence, the meeting is led by Susan "it was just a response to a video" Rice, whose fear of another Benghazi fiasco likely influenced her desire to close the embassies. Whether Obama's closest aide, Valerie Jarrett, attended the meeting is not known. (Obama is reportedly briefed after the meeting. Some suggest that Obama ordered the embassies closed *not* because of a terrorist threat but *in honor of the 27th night of Ramadan*—the "night of power" for Muslims commemorating the revelation of the first verses of the Qur'an to their prophet Mohammed. Thus, Obama did not have to attend a meeting to discuss threats to embassies—because his action was meant to mollify the Muslims. August 4 is also Obama's 52nd birthday if, as he claims, he was born on August 4, 1961.) [46889, 46910, 46916, 46944, 46945, 46946, 46947, 46969, 46982]

The Telegraph reports, "Towns and villages in Syria that have been home to Christians for hundreds of years are being steadily emptied by sectarian violence and targeted kidnappings. Tens of thousands Syriac Christians—members of the oldest Christian community in the world—have fled their ancestral provinces of Deir al-Zour and Hasakah in northeastern Syria, residents have said. ... Conflict in the area, desperate economic conditions, lawlessness, and persecution by rebel groups born from the perception that Christians support the regime, remain the main reasons for why Christian families are fleeing the area. The growing presence of radical jihadist groups, including al-Qaeda, has also seen Christians targeted." (AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller comments, "Muslims are slaughtering Christians. That is what is happening. It is not sectarian violence. It is jihad. It is Islamic supremacism. I warned of a coming genocide of Christians and religious minorities of unimaginable proportions in Syria if the jihadists, Muslim Brotherhood and other devout Muslim groups had their way. And as far back as 2011, Obama favored Muslim Brotherhood groups in Syria 'for the sake of stability.'" On August 17, 2011 the Assyrian International News Agency reported, "[The] U.S. favors Muslim Brotherhood over pro-democracy Syrian opposition... The [Obama] administration... has selected the Muslim Brotherhood over the pro-democracy opposition to lead Syria after the expected ouster of President Bashar Assad, a report said. The Hudson Institute, a leading consultant to the Defense Department, asserted that the administration has decided to work with Turkey and the Brotherhood in Syria for a post-Assad government. In a report by Herbert London, the institute said Obama has dismissed the pro-democracy opposition as an alternative. ... In July, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton invited Brotherhood operatives and urged them to work with Turkey to help oust Assad. 'Missing from the invitations are Kurdish leaders, Sunni liberals, Assyrians and Christian spokesmen,' the report said. 'According to various reports the State Department made a deal with Turkey and Muslim Brotherhood representatives either to share power with Assad to stabilize the government, or replace him if this effort fails.'" [46934, 46935, 46936, 46937, 46938]

On August 4, Townhall.com's Michael Schaus quotes Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN): "The bottom line is we're not broke, there's plenty of money, it's just the government doesn't have it. The government has a right, the government and the people of the United States have a right to run the programs of the United States. Health, welfare, housing—all these things." That is, the government has the right to your income

and if it were simply to confiscate more of it there would be no deficit. (The government would have to raise taxes by \$3,174 for each of 315 million Americans in order to reduce the annual deficit by \$1 trillion.) [46940]

Newsmax.com reports that Obama—who apparently believes he is not seen often enough by the American people—will appear on *The Tonight Show* on August 6. “On this visit, NBC says he will talk about ‘job initiatives and the economy.’” (Obama has been so busy that he has not held a press conference since April, and too busy to meet with advisors on August 3 to discuss terrorist threats at U.S. embassies in the Middle East and instead played golf, but he is not too busy to fly to California for his sixth appearance on *The Tonight Show*—and his 10th on a television talk show. On Fox News, Neil Cavuto observes that during the Cuban missile crisis President John F. Kennedy “was holed up in the White House... and he wasn’t appearing [on *The Tonight Show*] with Jack Paar.”) [46942, 47037, 47044, 47052]

Politico reports that only one person showed up for a planned “Organizing for America” pro-ObamaCare event in Centerville, Virginia. Politico observes, “gatherings like today’s in Centerville... [are] probably not what OFA organizers had in mind.” (Other similar events across the country have somewhat better attendance.) [46951, 46961, 46964]

The Sunday talks shows focus on the closing of U.S. embassies in the Middle East because of terrorist threats—a topic which, conveniently for Obama, shifts the focus from new Benghazi revelations about the CIA pressuring survivors to keep quiet. The reports of increased terrorist communications also help the administration downplay the furor over NSA spying on U.S. citizens, because some Americans will respond, “Well, I guess the spying is necessary in order to keep us safe.” [46943, 46954]

On *Meet the Press*, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) calls the current terrorist communications “the most serious threat that I’ve seen in the last several years.” On *Face the Nation*, Congressman Michael T. McCaul (R-TX) says, “I have been given every assurance that we’re doing everything we can to prevent this threat from happening, and I must say this is probably one of the most specific and credible threats I’ve seen perhaps since 9/11. And that’s why everybody is taking this so seriously.” Senator Dick “Eddie Haskell” Durbin (D-IL) says, “We need to know and realize we’re living in an increasingly dangerous world, and this specific threat that we’ve been briefed on over and over again has reached a new level.” (Durbin made no mention of an “increasingly dangerous world” during the 2012 campaign, when Obama said al-Qaeda was “on the run” and its leaders had been “decimated.”) [46953, 46956]

On *This Week*, Congressman C. A. Ruppertsberger (D-MD) says, “High-level people from al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula are talking about a major attack. The good news is that we’ve picked up intelligence.” Congressman Peter King (R-NY) says, “[An attack] could be in Europe, it could be in the United States. It could be a series of combined attacks. This threat was so specific as to how enormous it was going to be and also certain dates were given.” (The threat was “so specific,” yet the federal government chose not to provide U.S. citizens with more information to help them defend themselves. If “certain

dates” were given, there is no excuse for not sharing those dates with the American people. If Prime Minister Winston Churchill had information about specific locations and dates of German attacks on London during World War II he would not have kept it a secret from the British people.) [46956]

ABC’s Martha Raddatz and Jonathan Karl report, “On the day that almost two dozen U.S. embassies and consulates across North Africa and the Middle East are closed following the identification of a significant threat from an al-Qaeda affiliate, a senior U.S. official is providing new details about the communications intercepted from the terrorists, telling ABC News that al-Qaeda operatives could be heard talking about an upcoming attack. The official described the terrorists as saying the planned attack is ‘going to be big’ and ‘strategically significant.’ ‘The part that is alarming is the confidence they showed while communicating and the air of certainty,’ the official said, adding that the group—Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula—appeared to have a media plan for after the attack.” (That confidence may come from an expectation that Obama will do next-to-nothing in response.) [46958]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Bill Kristol comments, “Four years ago ... Obama gave a much heralded speech as outreach to the Muslim world. And now, four years later we are closing embassies throughout the Muslim world. A year ago [Obama] said al-Qaida is on the run. And now we seem to be on the run. I’m not criticizing the decision to close the embassies. That’s probably the right thing to do for the sake of trying to save American lives and others, but it’s a terrible thing. ... [J]ust a year ago [he was] boasting al-Qaeda is on the run and Osama bin Laden is dead.” [46960]

At AtlasShrugs.com, Pamela Geller writes, “I’ll tell you one thing. Whatever these Muslim savages are planning in their next big assault on the US, the one thing they are not worried about is what Obama may or may not do. He’s a weak, spineless sister and they know it.” [46957]

The Obama administration announces that 19 U.S. embassies in the Middle East will remain closed at least through August 10. [46968]

AtlasShrugs.com posts a music video from Egypt that supports the ouster of Mohammed Morsi and ridicules Obama: “You Obama, your father, mother and all the others; listen to me Obama, our army is very strong... behave yourself... Hey, Obama, support the terrorism, [you are a] traitor like the [Muslim] Brotherhood members... Obama says it’s a coup... that’s not your business., dirty man... You want us to release Morsi... Hey, Obama, you are a stupid, bad man... Why then [did you] told Mubarak to leave immediately? ... You threaten us with the U.S. aid. Fuck it and fuck you. You are a jerk...” [46959, 46999]

On *Political Insiders*, Pat Caddell, a Democrat pollster and former advisor to Jimmy Carter, states that Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) “has been purposely suppressing anything on Benghazi because he knew what we found out this week, and he approved it... the CIA teams on the ground which were sending weapons from Libya

through Turkey to Syrian rebels without Congressional approval. And what we have is, we find out... [Obama] has suppressed the truth... We have John Brennan, who left the White House, went to the CIA... What is the CIA doing? They are polygraphing every member of the people [sic] who were on the ground there [in Benghazi], keeping them from telling the Congress the truth, and Congress won't act in its own defense." On the issue of the IRS targeting of conservative groups, Caddell says, "Bob Bauer is the name—he was the [White House] counsel—he comes in, he's the person in 2008, this week we found out, that went to the FEC. The FEC's Republican members issued a harsh memo this week saying the staff on its own—guess who they went to [in the IRS], guess who's on the staff? Lois Lerner was there to help them pursue Obama's enemies. I guarantee you this [IRS scandal] stuff goes directly into the White House and members of the White House staff." (Bauer, Obama's former White House counsel, led the defense team that represented Obama in the many birth certificate/eligibility lawsuits. Bauer is married to Anita "I love Chairman Mao" Dunn, Obama's former White House director of communications.) [46984]

Father Augustine Kipkemei, from the Diocese of Nakuru in Kenya, visits Saint Pius X Catholic Church in New Orleans, Louisiana. Kipkemei tells the congregation, "Kenyans are known to Americans for two main reasons—for our speed and because our native son is your president Obama. ... We are very proud of our son in Kenya." (Many Kenyans believe—or know—that Obama was born in their country.) [47121]

On August 5 foreign policy expert K.T. McFarland is interviewed on Fox News. Noting the extension of embassy closings, she observes that the administration has moved from "leading from behind" to "cowering under a desk." In equivalent but less brunt words than those of Pamela Geller, McFarland emphasizes that America's adversaries are emboldened when Obama says actions have consequences but then never imposes those consequences—just as Osama bin Laden was emboldened to plan the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks after the United States did nothing in response to embassy bombings in Africa and the attack on the U.S.S. Cole. (Another explanation, according to some, may be that the embassy closings are merely an elaborate ruse by the Obama administration to take attention away from the IRS and Benghazi scandals and to convince Americans that the NSA spy programs should be welcomed, rather than feared.) [46968, 47167]

At Spectator.org Jed Babbin writes that Obama "continues to insist that there is some bloom of democracy in the Middle East. Both he and [Attorney General] Eric Holder have admonished the Egyptian military to include the Muslim Brotherhood in any interim government they might form. This would be, Obama and Holder insist, a more 'inclusive' government for Egypt. They obviously believe that the Muslim Brotherhood—for all its ties to terrorism, for all its doctrine of strict Sharia law—is a force for democracy rather than against it. Either they believe that, or Obama and Holder have made America into a force against freedom and democracy. At this point, there is ample reason to believe either interpretation of American policy." [47073]

The Republican National Committee (RNC) threatens to exclude NBC and CNN from 2016 debates if they proceed with their plans to produce a pro-Hillary Clinton miniseries and movie. Chairman Reince Priebus states, “Production of Hillary programming must be stopped or the RNC will not partner with CNN or NBC for any 2016 primary debates. ...If they don’t agree, then we will dump and block them from our primary debates. Pretty simple. ...It’s appalling to know executives at major networks like NBC and CNN who have donated to Democrats and Hillary Clinton have taken it upon themselves to be Hillary Clinton’s campaign operatives. Their actions to promote Secretary Clinton are disturbing and disappointing. I hope Americans will question the credibility of these networks and that NBC and CNN will reconsider their partisan actions and cancel these political ads masked as unbiased entertainment. If they have not agreed to pull this programming prior to the start of the RNC’s Summer Meeting on August 14, I will seek a binding vote stating that the RNC will neither partner with these networks in 2016 primary debates nor sanction primary debates they sponsor.” (NBC News responds, “NBC News is completely independent of NBC Entertainment and has no involvement in this project.” Both NBC News and NBC Entertainment are, of course, owned by the same parent company. For NBC News to essentially claim that there is no “corporate ideology” and that it will not do everything it can to help Hillary Clinton defeat the GOP candidate in 2016 is laughable.) [46962, 46973, 46986, 47051, 47430]

At NationalReview.com Kevin Williamson writes, “Unlike Ronald Reagan, to whom he likes to be compared, ...Obama shows no signs of having expended any effort on big thinkers or big ideas. President Reagan’s guiding lights were theorists such as F. A. Hayek and Thomas Paine; Obama’s most important influences have been tacticians such as Abner Mikva, bush-league propagandists like the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, and his beloved community organizers. Far from being the intellectual hostage of far-left ideologues, ...Obama does not appear to have the intellectual energy even to digest their ideas, much less to implement them. This is not to say that he is an unintelligent man. He is a man with a first-class education and a business-class mind, a sort of inverse autodidact whose intellectual pedigree is an order of magnitude more impressive than his intellect. ...The real import of Barack Obama’s political career will be felt long after he leaves office, in the form of a permanently expanded state that is more assertive of its own interests and more ruthless in punishing its enemies. At times, he has advanced this project abetted by congressional Democrats, as with the health-care law’s investiture of extraordinary powers in the executive bureaucracy, but he also has advanced it without legislative assistance—and, more troubling still, in plain violation of the law. ...Obama and his admirers choose to call this ‘pragmatism,’ but what it is is a mild expression of totalitarianism, under which the interests of the country are conflated with those of the president’s administration and his party.” Obama, observes Williamson, is the leader “that John Adams warned us about.” [46966]

Williamson continues, “Instead of delegating power to a would-be president-for-life, we delegate it to a bureaucracy-without-death. You do not need to install a dictator when you’ve already had a politically supercharged permanent bureaucracy in place for 40 years or more. As is made clear by everything from campaign donations to the IRS jihad, the bureaucracy is the Left, and the Left is the bureaucracy. Elections will be held,

politicians will come and go, but if you expand the power of the bureaucracy, you expand the power of the Left, of the managers and minions who share Barack Obama's view of the world. Barack Obama isn't the leader of the free world; he's the front man for the permanent bureaucracy, the smiley-face mask hiding the pitiless yawning maw of total politics. ...Congress's supine ceding of its powers, and the Obama administration's usurpation of both legal and extralegal powers, is worrisome. But what is particularly disturbing is the quiet, polite, workaday manner with which the administration goes about its business—and with which the American public accepts it. As Christopher Hitchens once put it, 'The essence of tyranny is not iron law; it is capricious law.' ...President Nixon's lawlessness was sneaky, and he had the decency to be ashamed of it. ...Obama's lawlessness is as bland and bloodless as the man himself, and practiced openly, as though it were a virtue. President Nixon privately kept an enemies list; ...Obama publicly promises that 'we're gonna punish our enemies, and we're gonna reward our friends.' Barack Obama's administration is unmoored from the institutions that have long kept the imperial tendencies of the American presidency in check. ...He has spent the past five years methodically testing the limits of what he can get away with, like one of those crafty velociraptors testing the electric fence in Jurassic Park. ...This is a might-makes-right [administration], and if Barack Obama has been from time to time muddled and contradictory, he has been clear on the point that he has no intention of being limited by something so trivial as the law." [46966]

Reuters reports, "A secretive U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration unit is funneling information from intelligence intercepts, wiretaps, informants and a massive database of telephone records to authorities across the nation to help them launch criminal investigations of Americans. Although these cases rarely involve national security issues, documents reviewed by Reuters show that law enforcement agents have been directed to conceal how such investigations truly begin—not only from defense lawyers but also sometimes from prosecutors and judges. The undated documents show that federal agents are trained to 'recreate' the investigative trail to effectively cover up where the information originated, a practice that some experts say violates a defendant's Constitutional right to a fair trial. If defendants don't know how an investigation began, they cannot know to ask to review potential sources of exculpatory evidence—information that could reveal entrapment, mistakes or biased witnesses. 'I have never heard of anything like this at all,' said Nancy Gertner, a Harvard Law School professor who served as a federal judge from 1994 to 2011. Gertner and other legal experts said the program sounds more troubling than recent disclosures that the National Security Agency has been collecting domestic phone records. The NSA effort is geared toward stopping terrorists; the DEA program targets common criminals, primarily drug dealers. 'It is one thing to create special rules for national security,' Gertner said. 'Ordinary crime is entirely different. It sounds like they are phonying up investigations.'" [46972]

The Washington Post is sold to Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon.com, for \$250 million. Katherine Weymouth, the newspaper's publisher and CEO, states in a letter to her staff, "This is a day that my family and I never expected to come. The Washington Post Company is selling the newspaper it has owned and nurtured for eight decades. The buyer is one of America's great innovators and most respected business leaders, Jeff

Bezos, chief executive officer and founder of Amazon.com. Jeff is making this acquisition in his personal capacity and not as part of Amazon.” According to Politico, “The transaction covers The Washington Post and other publishing businesses, including the Express newspaper, The Gazette Newspapers, Southern Maryland Newspapers, Fairfax County Times, El Tiempo Latino and Greater Washington Publishing.” (Although Bezos can be expected to work to modernize the newspaper in the digital age, he is unlikely to “rock the boat” as far as its slant. Bezos has attended at least one Bilderberg Group conference, generally contributes to Democrat political campaigns, and supports higher taxes and gay marriage.) [1752, 1753, 2510, 2663, 2687, 21415, 21428, 21429, 21430, 21444, 21445, 21446, 46975, 46994]

At FoxNews.com financial columnist Liz Peek writes that “Jimmy Carter’s ghost stalks [the] Obama White House. ... Vague terrorist threats shutting down nineteen of our embassies, Russian strongman Putin thumbing his nose at ... Obama, Iran jerking our chain—the U.S. hasn’t looked this cowardly on the world stage since the Jimmy Carter administration. Here at home, too, we’ve gone back to the Carter future; unemployment is high, Keynesian economics are all the rage, our professorial president is increasingly whiny and ineffectual; all that’s missing is a cardigan sweater and that infernal violin. ... Both Carter and Obama came to office convinced that by dint of righteousness or personality they could win over our enemies. That it was just a matter of *persuasion*. President George W. Bush is widely scorned these days for attempting to export democracy to the peoples of other lands; Mr. Obama, like Carter before him, has sought kindness and justice from the likes of Hugo Chavez and Bashar-Al-Assad. Which is more naïve? Naiveté is costly. Both the Carter and Obama administrations have been distinguished by the rare murder of an ambassador. ... In Egypt today, the United States is ignored by both Islamist supporters of now-deposed President Morsi and also by the military; we are blamed by *both* sides for the chaos in that country. That’s quite an accomplishment, given the enormous aid we have ladled out to Egypt for decades. ... The parallels between the Carter and Obama presidencies are not accidental. Both men were elected in what amounted to a national rejection of their predecessors. ... Both men promised change, and fulfilled that promise. Unhappily, they did not always deliver change for the better. ... One of the few divides between [Obama and Carter] is that Mr. Obama won reelection. Pity.” [47623]

According to ConservativeReport.org, “Confidential sources... have confirmed that Valerie Jarrett was the key decision-maker for the administration, the night of the Benghazi terrorist attack on 9/11/2012. ... The military-order, not to initiate [cross-border] action, saving our men in Benghazi, was issued by... Valerie Jarrett. And this is a ‘phony’ scandal?” [46976, 47043, 47112]

At the daily White House press briefing, not one reporter asks press secretary Jay Carney about the report from CNN’s Jake Tapper that the CIA is forcing Benghazi survivors to take lie detector tests and not comment on the events of September 11, 2012. HotAir.com writes that it is “... torn between thinking that this is the ultimate proof that the daily briefing now operates as a form of anti-news and thinking that it wouldn’t matter if they’d asked three dozens questions about it since Carney would have simply deflected

them away anyway ('I'd refer you to the CIA for further comment'). The briefing is really a platform for reporters more than for the White House itself: The media gets to show the public that it's asking the tough questions, even though it gets zero answers and Carney never, ever says anything legitimately newsworthy. What's left if they're not even asking the tough questions, though? Does the Daily Caller need to send a 14-year-old down there to do it for them?" (Mediaite.com reports, "Some CNN reporters are reportedly fearful now that their access to the White House will be hampered following their probing into a story that members of the Obama administration would prefer remain uninvestigated. 'Access is a very serious consideration when it comes to stories that could adversely impact a show, correspondent, or network's relationship with the administration, a campaign, or any political leader,' one source with insider information told Mediaite. 'I would suggest it's not an accident that those who have been given a lot of access to [Obama] have generally been AWOL when it comes to stories that might reflect poorly on him,' the source, who did not wish to be identified, continued. 'It's the name of the game. And it's bad for everyone trying to do this job the right way.' Those reporters have reason to fear for their access to America's executive branch. Some suspect that reporters who soft-pedal or underreport stories uncomfortable to the administration receive preferential access to White House officials.") [46977, 46978, 46979]

Reporters press Carney on Obama's 2012 campaign statement that al-Qaeda had been "decimated" and its leaders were "on the run" and how that is contradicted by the organization's actions in 2013. Carney responds, "As al-Qaeda's core has been diminished through the efforts of the United States and our allies, affiliate organizations, including in particular, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula [AQAP], have strengthened. We have here in Washington have identified AQAP in particular as the dangerous threat. ... There is no question that over the past several years that the al-Qaeda core has been greatly diminished, not least because of the elimination of Osama bin Laden." (Obama and Carney apparently believe that being blown up by a member of an al-Qaeda "affiliate" somehow hurts less than being blown up by a "core al-Qaeda" member." In fact, the terrorist threats that prompted the closing of U.S. embassies in the Middle East came from "core" al-Qaeda leader Ayman al Zawahiri.) [47000]

On Sean Hannity's radio program, Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) says, "We don't want any more people to die [in attacks on U.S. embassies]. But it brings us back to the question that [then-Secretary of State] Hillary Clinton asked, 'What difference does it make at this point?' The difference it makes is, that if you will bother to find out exactly what went wrong, why you didn't have security where you needed it, where you need security to shore up, what you can do to make sure that doesn't happen again, you don't have to close your embassies like a bunch of cowards that go running away. ... We didn't learn [our lesson after embassy attacks during the Clinton administration]; by golly, we [had] better learn it now or we're going to get hit again and we're going to look weak." [46980]

On his syndicated radio program, former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee says, "I know we're not supposed to say anything unkind about Islam. I mean, it's politically

incorrect. I get that. But can someone explain to me why it is that we tiptoe around a religion that promotes the most murderous mayhem on the planet in their so-called 'holiest days.' You know, if you've kept up with the Middle East, you know that the most likely time to have an uprising of rock throwing and rioting comes on the day of prayer on Friday. So the Muslims will go to the mosque, and they will have their day of prayer, and they come out of there like uncorked animals—throwing rocks and burning cars. You know, I'm just pointing out that for all of the demands that we're supposed to be so very polite, and I'm not saying all Muslims are radical and I am not saying that all Muslims are violent. I'm not. But we as a government recognize that the most likely times for them to erupt in some type of terrorist activity, violent storming of an embassy, is on their holy days. Now, my point is—I mean do you ever say 'Oh boy, it's Christmas! Oh my gosh, these Christians are going to come out of that Christmas Eve service and they are going to Wal-Mart, and they are going to so rip that place apart, because you know what happens when they go in there and pray about Jesus. And they get out of there and they go straight to the mall, and they just, I mean they set fire to the place.' I mean, when Christians get out of their Christmas services, about the worst thing they do is commit the sin of gluttony when they go to some Christmas dinner, be it at a restaurant or someone's home. I mean, for most of us, the holiest days that come in the Christian world, particularly Christmas and Easter, I don't really recall that the government has to issue a warning and say 'Look Out! It's Easter! Those Christians are coming. They'll be throwing eggs all over town.' That's just not what we do. It never occurs to us that on the days in which we are supposed to be humbled by the presence of God that somehow we would rise up and kill innocent people including children. It just doesn't seem to fit. And I know I'm likely to just get hammered for what I've just said. So be it. I bring it up because it just doesn't make sense to me." [46981]

Montgomery Blair Sibley reports that Judge Deborah A. Robinson has sealed her order granting dismissal of an indictment and arrest warrant against U.S. Capitol bomber and fugitive Elizabeth Duke. (Sibley had questioned Robinson's authority to dismiss charges against Duke—a Weather Underground comrade of Obama's communist pal, William Ayers. Some believe that Duke, rather than Stanley Ann Dunham, is Obama's real mother, and that led him to have charges against her dismissed shortly after he took office in 2009. *The Obama Timeline* believes Dunham is his mother, but that his father was not Barack Hussein Obama, Sr.) [46769, 46770, 46771, 46772, 46835, 46869, 46870, 46985, 46997, 47179, 47180, 48713, 50919]

FoxNews.com reports, "The U.S. Army is refusing to suspend contracts with dozens of companies and individuals tied to Al Qaeda and other extremist groups out of concern for their 'due process rights,' despite repeated pleas from the chief watchdog for Afghanistan reconstruction. In a scathing passage of his latest report to Congress, Special Inspector General John Sopko said his office has urged the Army to suspend or debar 43 contractors over concerns about ties to the Afghanistan insurgency, 'including supporters of the Taliban, the Haqqani network and al Qaeda.' Sopko wrote that the Army 'rejected' every single case." Sopko writes, "I am deeply troubled that the U.S. military can pursue, attack, and even kill terrorists and their supporters, but that some in the U.S. government believe we cannot prevent these same people from receiving a government contract."

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) states, “The fact that U.S. taxpayer money has ended up in the hands of terrorists and insurgents in Afghanistan is totally inexcusable. It’s sickening to think that we’ve been giving money to the very people who are killing our brave service men and women.” [46988]

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the Egyptian-American producer of the video *Innocence of Muslims*, is released from prison after serving time for parole violations. Nakoula tells DailyCaller.com he will produce more films and write a book about Islam: “I want the world to see the truth.” (The Obama administration repeatedly and falsely claimed *Innocence of Muslims* prompted the Benghazi attack on September 11, 2012, even though it knew it was a planned terrorist action.) “I have many Muslim friends,” states Nakoula, who is a Coptic Christian. “They do not believe in terrorism culture like many others. We have to keep fighting against this culture to protect our future generations and our civilization. This war does not use weapons but minds. ...I am talking about how much the world will suffer because of this culture if we do not stop it as soon as possible. ...We can see mosques everywhere all over the world but we can’t see churches in Saudi Arabia. [Muslims] are saying it is holy land. I say also New York is a holy land. ...3,000 Americans get killed on this land. [Muslims] want to build an Islamic center on Ground Zero, no problem. But they won’t let us build churches in Saudi Arabia. They even burn down the churches in other Islamic countries, like Egypt.” [47011, 47205]

On CNN, anchor Erin Burnett rips the Obama administration for not providing the “transparency” it has repeatedly promised and claimed. [47046]

On August 6 “Impeach Obama Overpass Rallies” are held in a number of cities, with demonstrators holding “Impeach Obama” placards on highway overpasses. [46987, 47444]

The State Department pulls all non-essential employees from the U.S. embassy in Yemen and orders all Americans leave the country as soon as possible. According to IsraelNationalNews.com, “A security source confirmed to the BBC that Yemeni intelligence services had discovered that tens of al-Qaeda members had arrived in Sanaa over the past few days in preparation for the implementation of a large and dangerous plot. The source suggested that the plot includes ‘explosions and suicide attacks aimed at Western ambassadors and foreign embassies in Yemen, in addition to operations aimed at the Yemeni military headquarters.’ The US drone strike has killed at least four suspected al-Qaeda fighters in Yemen’s eastern Marib province, a tribal source has told the AFP news agency. The raid targeted their vehicle ‘and turned it into a ball of fire, immediately killing the four, all of whom are Yemeni,’ the source said...” [46990, 47001, 47005, 47008]

After major league baseball player Alex Rodriguez is suspended for using performance enhancing drugs, White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters that Obama believes Rodriguez and others like him have “important responsibilities as role models.” (Obama claims he did not know that his administration was engaged in Operation Fast

and Furious, NSA spying on citizens, and IRS targeting of conservatives, but he follows the use of drugs in professional sports.) [46992]

As children prepare to start the next school year, Townhall.com reports that students in Los Angeles will encounter “potato and chive waffles with no sugar added, to stay in compliance with new federal lunch regulations championed by First Lady Michelle Obama. Students will also be dining on a ‘black bean mountain’ along with a cucumber and tomato salad and a ‘warm pear and raisin compote.’” (Students who might not like the new menu could conceivably bring a “brown bag” lunch to school—but might then be accused of racism.) [46993]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration staffer [Margaret Weiss] who organized White House meetings between then-IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman and a top Obama administration official at the same time the IRS began targeting conservatives now works for a progressive billionaire and major Democratic donor. ... Weiss now works as Special Assistant at Monumental Sports and Entertainment, owned by billionaire Democratic donor Ted Leonsis. Leonsis, who once criticized ... Obama’s class warfare rhetoric during the 2012 campaign, nevertheless maxed out in Obama contributions in both 2008 and 2012.” [46996]

Former President George W. Bush, age 67, receives a stent after doctors found blockage in one of his heart arteries. White House press secretary Jay Carney says Obama “obviously wishes him well.” (Mercifully, Obama does not claim that the need for surgery was “Bush’s fault” or that Bush “didn’t build that” stent.) [46998, 47028]

Money.CNN.com reports that residents of some states will see significant increases in the cost of health insurance as a result of ObamaCare. “In Florida, for instance, officials constructed a hypothetical silver-level plan based on the offerings available today. Then they looked at how the cost of that plan compares to the average silver plan that will be available on the exchange. Florida found premiums will rise between 7.6% and 58.8%, depending on the insurer. The average increase would be 35%. ... Ohio, meanwhile, said there would be an average increase of 41% by comparing a trade association’s report of premiums for all plans available today with the average premium expected on the exchange.” [47040]

Reuters reports, “The federal government is months behind in testing data security for the main pillar of Obamacare: allowing Americans to buy health insurance on state exchanges due to open by October 1. The missed deadlines have pushed the government’s decision on whether information technology security is up to snuff to exactly one day before that crucial date, the Department of Health and Human Services’ inspector general said in a report. ... The most likely serious security breach would be identity theft, in which a hacker steals the social security numbers and other information people provide when signing up for insurance. ... When people try to enroll in health insurance starting on October 1 for insurance plans taking effect in 2014, their identity, income and other information they furnish with their application will be funneled through a federal ‘data hub.’ The hub is like a traffic circle for data. It does not itself store

information, but instead has digital spokes connecting to the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies that will allow it to verify information people provide. Opponents of Obamacare have repeatedly raised concerns that sensitive personal information could be stolen.” At HotAir.com Mary Katherine Ham comments, “This makes three major security concerns with Obamacare the administration has decided to mostly ignore instead of taking the time and effort to ensure consumer safety. First, they dropped any pretense at verification of income, thereby allowing anyone to claim subsidies no matter what their income or whether they’d been offered health insurance elsewhere. Second, we have a security system that will admittedly get no substantial test run, and can’t even hope to finish a security certification process required by law until the day before the exchanges launch. And, third, they’re cutting corners on vetting and training the very people who are supposed to walk Americans and their sensitive data through the insecure process. This is basic stuff. If this were a private business, everyone would be reporting them to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and with good reason.” [47063, 47064]

WhiteHouseDossier.com notes that Obama “continues to say nothing to a jittery nation about what some who have been briefed on the danger are describing as the worst terrorist threat since 9/11, declining to either offer reassurance or an explanation of the peril the nation faces. Certainly, [Obama] does not want to take questions about a threat he had minimized during the 2012 campaign. But what’s striking is that he has not addressed the nation in a formal manner on the potential for a major attack.” [47004]

John Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, tells Newsmax.TV, “I was very surprised when I heard reference to and leaks from the Obama administration about this specific telephone call [about upcoming terrorist activity] because it would be very unusual for [al-Qaeda leader Ayman al] Zawahiri to break communication security and be caught this way. But if in fact it did happen, obviously it’s not helpful to the United States to leak about it so that now if Zawahiri had any doubts, he knows that we have heard what he said. In general, this is another case of the administration leaking information which it thinks helps—but which in fact is very dangerous. If that is an accurate description of what we heard, though, it’s ironically a repudiation of the Obama administration’s whole story line on al-Qaeda being on the road to defeat, al-Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan being a tiny sliver of what it used to be and really not responsible for operations worldwide, because that intercept proves exactly the opposite. ...[The embassy closures raise] the larger and obviously more important question about the effect of the weakening of the U.S. position against the terrorist threat that the Obama administration has brought about by not recognizing that we’re in a global war on terror and basically trying to argue that the war was basically over. We’re in a much weaker position and that’s attributable at the macro level to the incorrectness of Obama’s world view, that terrorism really isn’t that much of a threat, that you can treat it not as a war against us—which it is—but random, occasional, localized acts of violence. Ironically, just as we’re looking at these events in Yemen and elsewhere in the Middle East, Major Nidal Hasan is on trial for the Fort Hood shootings, which the administration described as workplace violence by a lone wolf—not really part of the international terrorist threat.

That's also part of the unwillingness to see that the terrorists really do constitute a threat, that they are still at war with us whether we want to be at war or not." [47020, 47021]

Bolton comments on the administration's claim that when Obama said al-Qaeda was "on the run" he only meant "core" al-Qaeda and not its affiliates: "That aids their narrative, that the war on terror is over. [But] It's a mistake to think that al-Qaeda was ever organized like a corporation or a military hierarchy. ...al-Qaeda continues even when, for example, we kill Osama bin Laden. So trying to imagine that you can redefine al-Qaeda to suit your purposes was always a mistake. [It is a] threat that doesn't go away just because we hope it will." [47020]

After seemingly doing nothing to deal with the terrorists who attacked the U.S. facility in Benghazi, Obama's Department of Justice files sealed criminal charges against leader Ahmed Khatallah. WashingtonTimes.com writes, "News of the charges prompted a cautious reaction in Washington on Tuesday night. Some lawmakers suggested that the Justice Department was responding to nearly a year of pressure from Republicans over the assault, which took place on the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and killed Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans." Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) says, "I think they're feeling pressure to do something, to show they're making progress. ...Part of the problem I think they have is that they don't know what they'll do if they find [and capture] somebody. ...[T]hey don't know where they'll bring him [because Obama has been busy trying to empty the terrorist detainee center at Guantanamo." (Under federal law it is *illegal* to reveal the existence of a sealed indictment. The leak was apparently intended to make the Obama administration look as though it was finally acting on Benghazi—but the law was broken in the process.) [47016, 47027, 47117]

Militants shoot down an army helicopter in Yemen, killing eight. [47006]

Campaigning for his agenda in Phoenix, Arizona, Obama says, "Let's make it easier for qualified buyers to buy homes they can. We should simplify overlapping regulations and cut red tape for responsible families who want to get a mortgage, but who keep getting rejected by banks." (Obama is blissfully unaware that banks reject mortgage applications for *good reasons*—such as a down payment that is insufficient and concerns that the borrower may not be able to pay back the mortgage. According to DailyCaller.com, the Obama administration has "suggested that people with credit scores as low as 620 should get loans." But those are precisely the people who are most likely to default on their loans. The administration also whines that banks protect themselves "by only lending to those with the most pristine credit." Obama apparently prefers that banks go back to making risky sub-prime loans.) "It's pretty simple," says Obama. "When more people buy homes, and play by the rules, home values go up for everybody." ("Home values" means "home prices," and when they increase it makes it more difficult for people to afford homes. Obama is essentially calling for price inflation—not to make home-buying easier, but to make homeowners believe the economy is improving.) [47019, 47025]

Obama also claims that “fixing” the nation’s immigration rules would also help boost home values: “It’s pretty simple. When, when more people buy homes and play by the rules, home values go up for everybody. And according to one recent study, the average homeowner has already seen the value of their home boosted by thousands of dollars just because of immigration. And the good news is, with the help of your senators, John McCain and Jeff Flake, the Senate has already passed a bipartisan immigration bill that’s got the support of CEOs and labor and law enforcement. This could help homeownership here. So I want you to encourage Republicans in the House of Representatives to stop, you know, dragging their feet; let’s go ahead and get this done.” (Of course, the millions of illegal immigrants Obama wants to reward with citizenship did not “play by the rules.” Obama is essentially saying that allowing more immigrants into the country would create a housing shortage, and that shortage would cause home prices to increase. Although that might please homeowners who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth, it will not please anyone who is trying to save a down payment for a new home.) [47031]

Protesters outside Obama’s Arizona event carry signs that read, “47 percent Negro” and “Impeach the Half-White Muslim!” and sing “Bye, Bye Black Sheep.” [47101]

On Facebook, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer writes, “I was disappointed that ...Obama used his visit to Arizona today as an opportunity to lay out a plan for even more big government programs, while also trying to take credit for Arizona’s housing and economic recovery. That credit belongs to the hardworking people of Arizona. Our recovery in Arizona has been made possible in spite of [Obama’s] policies—not because of them. Instead of trying to take credit for Arizona’s successes, ...Obama should learn from our example. The nation would benefit from an administration that promotes, rather than stifles, business growth. Given ...Obama’s recent interest in job creation and economic recovery, he certainly came to the right state at the right time. The Arizona Comeback is in full-swing, and this was [Obama’s] opportunity to witness firsthand a true economic success story. ...These successes are no accident. They are certainly no result of the Obama administration’s policies, which favor big government and bureaucracy over limited government and business growth. ...Obama and I took office under similar economic circumstances, but have pursued vastly different paths. The Arizona Comeback has been made possible by fostering free-market principles, freezing burdensome government regulations, lowering taxes and allowing businesses to grow and prosper. This is hardly the route ...Obama has taken—and it shows. Perhaps that’s why, nationwide, homeownership is at an 18-year low while rental prices continue to surge. Of course, none of this means our work is done. Too many of our friends and neighbors continue to struggle with unemployment and a fickle economy. But we are on the right track, and our successes are a true testament to our state’s responsible policies and quality workforce. Arizonans who have witnessed our turnaround, and continue to work hard to sustain it, should be baffled by today’s campaign-style appearance in Phoenix.” [47045]

Breitbart.com reports, “The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) made an unusual move by granting temporary asylum to several Mexican immigrants, including a handful of those who are illegally in the United States, after they crossed the border in a pro-amnesty protest in late July.” [47069, 47070]

At his trial in Fort Hood, Texas, terrorist Nidal Malik Hasan states, “Evidence from this trial will only show one side. I was on the wrong side but I switched sides,” and evidence will show that “I am the shooter.” (The Obama administration continues to call Hasan’s shooting spree, in which he took 14 lives, “workplace violence” rather than a jihadist’s act of terror. The workplace violence classification deprives the victims of Purple Heart awards and accompanying benefits.) Hasan also states, “We the Mujahideen are imperfect Muslims trying to establish the perfect religion in the land of the supreme god.” [47007, 47014]

According to EgyptIndependent.com, “...Obama has agreed to meet with Muslim Brotherhood representatives at the White House... Obama would reportedly meet with Brotherhood officials to ‘hear their opinion’ on developments in Egypt, in the presence of Turkish diplomats. Egypt Independent heard from sources inside the Muslim Brotherhood that Islamist-linked billionaire Hassen Malek requested a meeting through Obama’s office manager. The meeting with Turkish officials is expected to take place this month.” (Pamela Geller comments at AtlasShrugs.com, “Obama is like a dog with a bone. How high and how deep does the Muslim Brotherhood infiltration of the Obama administration go? Millions of people of Egypt have forced the removal of the illegal and mercifully short reign of the Islamic supremacist Brotherhood regime. And still, Obama insists upon imposing his pro-jihadist agenda on a foreign nation.”) [47015, 47017]

In Egypt—at the behest of Obama—Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) meet with members of the Muslim Brotherhood. (McCain later states, “We met some Muslim Brotherhood representatives. They were senior-level people. They believe things are going to get a lot worse before they get better. They demand that [former president Mohamed] Morsi get released. They believe it was a military coup and they are very far apart from the military and the new government.” McCain and Graham foolishly agree with Obama that the Muslim Brotherhood deserves “a place at the table” in any new government in Egypt. That is tantamount to arguing that the Chicago City Council should include aldermen from vicious gangs.) [47018, 47029, 47030, 47111]

At WND.com AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller writes, “It is hard to point to any one single failure (foreign or domestic) of Obama’s as the absolute most damaging, because his vow to ‘transform’ America has resulted in myriad failures, including a number that are catastrophic. That’s not sarcasm or hyperbole; it’s a terrible reality that we (and our children) will have to live with. ...His latest failure is manifest in the closing of our embassies all over the Muslim world. After 21 U.S. embassies and consulates all over the Muslim world were closed Sunday because of an anticipated major jihad attack, it was announced that many of them would remain closed this week, until Aug. 10. And be sure they will prolong the closure in increments. ...How they [radical Islamists] must laugh at us. They chatter—we close our embassies in the Muslim world. Boom. That’s all it takes. They succeeded in terrorizing us without so much as firing a shot. ...After four and a half bruising years of this, here we are. Forced to close our embassies across the Muslim world last Sunday, and we are told now that they will stay closed. Jihadist groups openly chatter now, unafraid of any consequence from the toothless has-been America. Obama

releases five vicious Taliban terrorists from Gitmo as a goodwill gesture without so much as getting one soldier in return, despite the fact that ‘the Taliban proposed a deal in which they would free a U.S. soldier held captive since 2009 in exchange for five of their most senior operatives.’ Bomb schools, kill teachers, poison girls’ schools, strap bombs on to children, oppress and torture women, harbor jihad leaders like Osama bin Laden—and perhaps you, too, will get on Obama’s favored status list. Obama has taken this country to new lows on the international stage. I have never seen the United States so disrespected and held in such contempt. America was once synonymous with freedom. The U.S. under Obama is the laughingstock of the world.” [47050, 47059]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer observes that to the Obama administration an embassy “Evacuation is not an evacuation, it is an ordered departure. I would have thought ordered departure is what happens at [Reagan] National Airport every couple of hours when a plane takes off on time. A coup in Egypt isn’t a coup, it’s a change of government. The war in Afghanistan isn’t really a war, it’s an overseas contingency operation. What happened in Benghazi was not really a terror attack, it was a spontaneous riot. As the Secretary of State at the time said, ‘What difference does it make?’ This is the first administration in history ever to launch a lexicological war on the enemy. You know, they’ve thrown the book at them—the dictionary. It really isn’t enough.” (Krauthammer might have noted another example: The military was not told to “stand down” after the Benghazi attack; it was simply told to do nothing.) [47042, 47043]

Obama appears on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. As usual, Obama sits with his legs crossed like a woman. Obama also lies, claiming, “We don’t have a domestic spying program. What we do have is some mechanisms that can track a phone number or an email address that is connected to a terrorist attack... That information is useful.” Obama criticizes Russia, telling Leno he has “no patience for countries that try to treat gays and lesbians and transgendered persons in ways that intimidate them or are harmful to them.” (Obama has clearly shown considerable patience with Muslim countries over that issue.) “I have been very clear that when it comes to universal rights, when it comes to people’s basic freedoms, that whether you’re discriminating on the basis of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation you are violating the basic morality that I think should transcend every country. ...I think [Vladimir] Putin and Russia have a big stake in making sure the [upcoming Winter] Olympics work. I think they understand that for most of the countries that participate in the Olympics, we wouldn’t tolerate gays and lesbians being treated differently—they’re athletes” he said. If Russia wants to uphold the Olympic spirit, then every judgment should be made on the track or in the swimming pool or on the balance beam and people’s sexual orientation shouldn’t have anything to do with it.” (For the record, there are no track, swimming, or balance beam events in the *winter* Olympic games. Whether Obama will prohibit the U.S. beach volleyball team from traveling to Russia is not known.) On the issue of NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, Obama says, “There are times when they [the Russians] slip back into Cold War thinking and Cold War mentality. What I continually say to them and to President Putin, that’s the past.” (The next day Obama exhibits a Cold War mentality by canceling an upcoming meeting with Putin over Russia’s granting of asylum to NSA leaker Edward Snowden. Putin, it should be noted, has never canceled a meeting with Obama because the United

States has granted asylum to KGB defectors.) [47010, 47012, 47013, 47023, 47026, 47033, 47036, 47056, 47363, 47559]

Obama also tells Leno the government needs to spend more billions of dollars on infrastructure, and “If we don’t deepen our ports all along the Gulf—places like Charleston, South Carolina, or Savannah, Georgia, or Jacksonville, Florida—if we don’t do that, those ships are going to go someplace else. And we’ll lose jobs. Businesses won’t locate here.” (Also for the record, Charleston, Savannah, and Jacksonville are *not* located “all along the Gulf.” They are cities on the Atlantic coast of the United States, far away from the Gulf of Mexico.) [47023, 47026, 47033, 47036, 47113]

Leno does not challenge Obama when he makes the outrageous claim, “One of the things I’ve been trying to get across here is that we don’t need a huge government.” [47058, 47066]

After the taping of his *Tonight Show* appearance, Obama has dinner with DreamWorks Animation CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg—who raised millions of dollars for Obama’s 2012 campaign. [47044]

August 7 marks the 15th anniversary of U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania by radical Islamists. (Arguably, the lack of a response by the Clinton administration led al-Qaeda and other jihadists to believe the United States was a paper tiger. That, in turn, led to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.) [47041]

Obama celebrates the end of Ramadan by issuing “warmest greetings” to Muslims and giving \$195 million in aid to Syria. “During the past month,” states Obama, “Muslims have honored their faith through prayer and service, fasting and time spent with loved ones.” (They have also persecuted and killed Christians, Jews, Buddhists, and Kurds. According to RT.com, “Unconfirmed reports have emerged detailing a new massacre in which 450 Kurds—including 120 children—were allegedly slaughtered by al-Qaeda-linked rebels fighting against the Syrian government. ...According to Iranian TV channel Al-Alam, militants from the Jabhat al-Nusra Front attacked the town of Tal Abyad on Monday, killing 120 children and 330 women and elderly near the Turkish border.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller points out, “These are the ‘rebels’ Obama is sending lethal weapons to. And it’s not just him. Doddering old clueless McCain is right there taking photos with kidnapers and terrorists.”) [47066, 47106, 47107, 47111]

Meanwhile, TheReligionOfPeace.com posts the statistics from the jihadist activities during Ramadan in 2013: 310 Islamist terrorist attacks, 28 suicide bombings, 1,651 dead, and 3,048 wounded. (Obama has no comment.) [47081, 47082]

Van Jones, Obama’s former “green jobs czar,” ridicules Obama’s claim that the government has no domestic spy program. Jones tells CNN’s Jake Tapper, “If we don’t have one now, I would hate to see us with one. Everybody knows I love [Obama], but

this is ridiculous. What we need to do is figure out how we're going to balance these things, not pretend there's no balancing to be done." [47071]

The White House announces that Obama has canceled his scheduled one-on-one meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin—after using Obama's *Tonight Show* appearance to provide the phony excuse that Russia discriminates against homosexuals and transvestites. (While Obama "punishes" Russia over its treatment of gays by canceling a largely meaningless meeting, he does nothing about the fact that homosexuals are routinely persecuted and killed in Muslim countries. Although he will not meet with Putin privately, Obama will attend the September G-20 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. CNN's Jake Tapper reports that the meeting with Putin "was probably going to be canceled anyway" because of a lack of progress on other issues, such as missile defense and a reduction of nuclear arsenals. Arguably, the United States is better off without another meeting at which Obama gives up something to the Russians in exchange for nothing. Some may believe that Obama's decision is a snub of Putin, but Putin no doubt could not care less—and the average Russian probably feels the same.)

AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller comments, "Could Obama look like more of a jackass (uh, don't answer that). Remember Obama's 'reset' button? Reset button? Well, yes, at least under Bush the United States was respected and feared. Reset Obama—now we are neither. The good news is that at least Americans can rest easy that Obama won't be whispering in the ear of the Russian president—who can forget the last time, when Obama's ["I will have more flexibility"] election-year plea to Russia was caught on a hot mic? If Bush had failed so publicly, the media would have been all over him like maggots on flesh. But the King's sniveling subjects are still polishing his knob." [47013, 47022, 47049]

The government of Yemen claims it foiled an al-Qaeda terrorist plot targeting oil facilities and cities. [47924]

Video surface of IRS official Lois Lerner telling a Duke University audience on October 19, 2010, "Everyone is up in arms [about the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling] because they don't like it. [The] Federal Election Commission can't do anything about it; they want the IRS to fix the problem. ...So everybody is screaming at us right now, 'Fix it now before the election. Can't you see how much these people are spending?'" BizPacReview.com observes, "What's interesting here is what Lerner apparently thought of as 'everyone' and 'everybody.' Opposition to the Citizens United decision was overwhelmingly Democrat—made infamous by ...Obama's disgraceful attack on the Supreme Court during his state-of-the-union speech on Jan. 27, 2010, a week after the decision was handed down. By October, 2010, the IRS was under pressure to 'fix the problem' caused by Citizens United but couldn't. In November, 2010, [Obama's] party lost control of the House. So with [Obama] having made his feelings clear, and the election results showing a clear rebuke to [Obama's] party, is it any wonder that the IRS—led by Lerner, who was in charge of deciding what organizations got tax exemptions—started a crackdown aimed at starving conservative groups of the money they would need to fight [Obama's] re-election two years later?" (Lerner's comments at

Duke University reinforce the claim that the IRS improperly and illegally provided information to the FEC about conservative organizations.) [47060, 47062]

CNSNews.com reports, “Major health insurance companies—Blue Cross, Aetna, United, Humana—have fled the Obamacare health care exchanges in various states, which are scheduled to start on Oct. 1. Insurance companies like Aetna and United have said, ‘thanks, but no thanks’ to the public health insurance marketplace set up under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare, which will facilitate government subsidies to individuals and small businesses to buy approved health plans to comply with the law.” Meanwhile, the Associated Press reports, “Insurance companies have already warned small business customers that premiums could rise 20 percent or more in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act. That’s making some owners consider not paying for coverage for workers’ families, even though insurance is a benefit that helps companies attract and retain top talent. If more small business owners decide to stop paying for family coverage, it will accelerate a trend that started as the cost of health insurance soared in recent years.” [47032, 47054, 47055]

PJMedia.com reports that foreign students studying in the United States will be eligible for taxpayer-subsidized health insurance under ObamaCare rules. [47034]

Barack “endless campaign” Obama pushes his agenda at Camp Pendleton, California, telling an audience of U.S. Marines, “You get up and do your jobs every day. Let’s make sure Washington gets up and does its job. And what makes me frustrated is that sometimes the very folks who say they stand with our military, the same folks are standing in the way of [reversing] the sequester [cuts]. It’s important to look at deeds, and not just words.” (Obama is, needless to say, a part of Washington. Additionally, Congress offered Obama the ability to apply sequester spending cuts where he saw fit, rather than allow them to be implemented across the board to all military spending. He cannot therefore complain about where the cuts were applied.) On the closing of U.S. embassies in the Middle East, Obama says, “Here’s what those who would cowardly attack our civilians don’t get: the United States is never going to retreat from the world. We don’t get terrorized.” (Closing embassies arguably is retreating, and the United States certainly has been terrorized by radical Islamists.) Obama also says, “Because of you [Marines], al-Qaeda’s top ranks have been hammered. The core of al-Qaeda, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, is on the way to defeat.” [47038, 47068]

According to a Fox News poll, 52 percent of voters disapprove of Obama’s performance and 71 percent “say Obama’s recent economic speeches are full of the same things he’s been talking about for the last few years. That’s three and a half times the number who think he’s putting forward new ideas to boost the economy (20 percent).” Additionally, 74 percent of voters believe Americans are too dependent on government; 57 percent believe “most food stamp recipients are taking advantage of the system,” and “36 percent think they are truly in need of help.” [47039, 47074]

More than a few residents of Martha’s Vineyard are less than thrilled that the Obamas will soon be vacationing there again. According to WeeklyStandard.com, one says, “He

really needs to find another place to go. He treats people here terribly.” (The complaints stem largely from road closings.) [47047, 47120]

The Associated Press reports, “Guards were preparing to serve the first in a series of special meals Wednesday to prisoners at Guantanamo Bay to mark the end of the Muslim holy period of Ramadan, which this year brought a lull in a long-running hunger strike. The military planned to serve lamb, bread, dates and honey as the last daylight fasting period of Ramadan ends, followed by three traditional holiday dinners on Thursday, said a spokesman for the prison, Navy Capt. Robert Durand. There will also be a special hour-long prayer for the holiday known as Eid al-Fitr in addition to the five daily prayers.” (Whether the Obama administration will also provide the prisoners with 72 virgins is not known.) [47048]

Investors.com reports, “Chicago appears to be following Detroit’s lead to financial disaster, perhaps the latest victim of decades of one-party rule by Democrats eager to redistribute wealth while driving real wealth creators out of cities. Moody’s Investors Service downgraded the Windy City’s credit rating by three notches last week, partly the result of \$19 billion in unfunded pension debt, leaving Chicago’s lower than 90% of Moody’s public finance ratings. Among the nation’s five largest cities, Chicago has put aside the smallest portion of its looming pension obligations, according to a study issued this year by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The condition of Chicago’s four city employee pension funds is growing desperate. The firefighter pension fund has assets to cover just 25% of liabilities, followed by police (31%), municipal employees (38%) and laborers (56%). The city’s four funds for retired city workers are short by \$19.5 billion. Pew also reports Chicago’s retiree health benefits are exactly 0% funded, with not a single dollar against a \$1 billion liability. The city’s retirees could wind up in thrall to ObamaCare. ...Law enforcement also seems affected by Chicago’s financial decline. As the Sun-Times reports, the number of physical arrests by Chicago police officers declined from 152,740 in 2011 to 145,390 in 2012, the year that saw well over 500 murders in a city with strict gun laws. ...Police made 227,576 arrests in 2006. The number has been dropping like a rock ever since, and it hasn’t been because Chicago is becoming less violent. People are fleeing in droves, voting the only way they can in a one-party town—with their feet. From 2000 to 2009, Chicago’s population shrank by 200,000—the only one of the nation’s 15 largest cities to lose people.” [47077]

On August 8 Charlie Savage reports at NYTimes.com, “The National Security Agency is searching the contents of vast amounts of Americans’ e-mail and text communications into and out of the country, hunting for people who mention information about foreigners under surveillance, according to intelligence officials. The N.S.A. is not just intercepting the communications of Americans who are in direct contact with foreigners targeted overseas, a practice that government officials have openly acknowledged. It is also casting a far wider net for people who cite information linked to those foreigners, like a little used e-mail address, according to a senior intelligence official. ...To conduct the surveillance, the N.S.A. is temporarily copying and then sifting through the contents of what is apparently most e-mails and other text-based communications that cross the border. The senior intelligence official, who, like other former and current government

officials, spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic, said the N.S.A. makes a 'clone of selected communication links' to gather the communications, but declined to specify details, like the volume of the data that passes through them." (In other words, Obama was lying when he told Jay Leno, "We don't have a domestic spying program.") [47057, 47061]

Al-Qaeda leaders and followers gloat over Obama's closure of U.S. embassies, seeing it as proof that the United States still considers them a threat. According to *The New York Times*, one jihadist declared, "God is great! America is in a condition of terror and fear from al-Qaeda." According to Newsmax.com, "The decision to close embassies was also criticized by allies in the region. Yemen's president Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi was in Washington at the time, meeting with Obama." One Yemeni official states, "When you do evacuations, you signal that all the effort to build up trust in the Yemeni security establishment amounts to nothing." [47075]

According to a Fox News poll, only 17 percent of voters agree with Obama that the Benghazi issue is a "phony scandal," while 78 percent (including 70 percent of Democrats) believe questions about the attack and the cover-up need to be answered. On other issues, "69 percent of voters say the National Security Agency's electronic surveillance of everyday Americans is serious," and 59 percent take the IRS targeting of conservatives seriously. According to the poll, 57 percent of voters (including 25 percent of Democrats) believe the implementation of ObamaCare is "a joke." [47080, 47089, 47090, 47093]

DCClothesline.com reports, "A whistle-blower from Higher Education Services Corporation in Albany New York came forward and advised Attorney Orly Taitz that she personally reviewed Barack Obama's financial aid information, which stated that financial aid was given to Obama as foreign student and as a citizen of Indonesia. In the original case there were over 100 pages that documented that Barack Obama was a citizen of Indonesia at the time he attended Occidental and that he has used fraudulent means to secure Identification. However, Superior Court Judge Charles Marginis ruled in favor of Occidental College and denied Taitz's motion to force them to produce Obama's college registration forms." Taitz's submission to the court reads, "Taitz ...independently verified that the whistleblower is indeed employed by the Higher Education Services Corporation in Albany, New York. She further checked that Obama transferred from the Occidental college to Columbia University in New York and his financial aid would indeed be handled by the Higher Education Services Corporation in Albany, New York (Hereinafter HESC). Whistleblower advised Taitz that the policy of the HESC is not to destroy records and microfilm is contained in the safe of the corporation. She further advised Taitz that several employees of the HESC made copies of the microfilm, in case the management decides to destroy the evidence. She came forward, as she is concerned about fraud being committed and the fact that as a citizen of Indonesia Obama was not eligible to be the president of the United States." (*The Obama Timeline* believes that Obama became a citizen of Indonesia upon his adoption by his step-father, Lolo Soetoro, and that he never relinquished that citizenship. In fact, he used it to his financial advantage when attending Occidental College, and as an excuser not to register for the

draft in the United States. The Selective Service registration form eventually produced for Obama is clearly a forgery, made necessary by the fact that no original ever existed. Obama had kept his school record secret not to hide grades—mediocre as they may have been—but to hide the fact that he remains a citizen of Indonesia and traveled on an Indonesian passport during the 1980s.) [47079]

In Obama's childhood home of Jakarta, Indonesia, Muslims throw Molotov cocktails into a Catholic school and a Buddhist temple. (Obama has no comment.) [47083, 47084]

ForeignPolicy.com reports, "With conditions continuing to deteriorate in Syria, the Obama administration is making a major policy shift by agreeing for the first time to allow thousands of new Syrian refugees into the United States... The numbers are relatively small: just 2,000 refugees, compared to an estimated two million people who have fled Syria during the civil war. But it's a significant increase from the 90 or so Syrian refugees who have been permanently admitted to the U.S. in the last two years. And it's not entirely uncontroversial. The refugees, mostly women and children, will be screened for terrorist ties—a process that could take a year or more to complete. Unlike previous efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to give temporary protected status to Syrians already in the United States, the State Department effort will bring in Syrians from overseas for permanent resettlement in America." ("Mostly women and children" no doubt means, "Will be supported with welfare benefits paid for by U.S. taxpayers.") [47085, 47086]

In a letter to former State Department spokesman Victoria Nuland, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee, demands copies of all emails from or to her between September 11, 2012 and September 16, 2012. Specifically, Issa seeks to identify the State Department official who changed the talking points on Benghazi to blame an Internet video for the terrorist attack. Issa gives Nuland a deadline of noon on August 15. [47087, 47088]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Charitable hospitals that treat uninsured Americans will be subjected to new levels of scrutiny of their nonprofit status and could face sizable new fines under Obamacare. A new provision in Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, which takes effect under Obamacare, sets new standards of review and installs new financial penalties for tax-exempt charitable hospitals... Approximately 60 percent of American hospitals are currently nonprofit. Charity for the uninsured is one of the factors that could discourage enrollment in Obamacare, which requires all Americans to purchase health insurance or else face new taxes themselves from the IRS." (Non-profit hospitals will have to prove to the IRS there is a need for charitable services in their geographical area—a "need" as specifically defined by ObamaCare. If they cannot do so, they will be considered for-profit and have to pay taxes. Obama does not want free health care provided by charities, of course, because charities reduce the need for government programs. Obama does not want poor people to rely on charity; he wants them to rely on government.) [47092]

NationalJournal.com reports there is a “Plan B” in the works if no “comprehensive immigration plan” passes: “‘There are groups that are for immigration reform no matter what. Then there are groups like us, grassroots... We have the other track,’ said Adelina Nicholls, the executive director of the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights. ‘The other track is Barack Obama.’ The idea behind the ‘other track’ is to freeze the current undocumented population in place through an administrative order, give them work permits, and hope for a better deal under the next president, with the hope that he or she is a Democrat. It’s a significant gamble, but some advocates—particularly those outside of the Washington legislative bartering system—argue that it’s better than what they stand to see under the legislation being discussed now. ... The Obama administration... has already flexed its muscle and shown that it is willing to exert authority to stop the deportation of hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth through its deferred-action program announced last year. The immigrant community argues that there is no reason that this administrative authority cannot expand further to include other ‘low priority’ candidates for deportation—i.e., parents of ‘Dreamers’ or parents of children who are citizens because they were born here, people who are employed, people who are caregivers, and so on.” (In other words, if Obama does not get the amnesty legislation he wants, he will simply order the Department of Homeland Security to stop arresting and deporting illegal immigrants—and dare Republicans to stop him.) [47097, 47105]

The White House announces that Presidential Medals of Freedom will be awarded to former Chicago Cubs player Ernie Banks, former *Washington Post* editor Ben Bradlee, the late Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Nobel Prize scholar Daniel Kahneman, former Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), singer Loretta Lynn, chemist Mario Molina, the late astronaut Sally Ride, the late civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, musician Arturo Sandoval, former University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith, feminist Gloria Steinem, minister and civil rights activist Cordy Tindell Vivian, Judge Patricia Weld, talk show host Oprah Winfrey, and Bill Clinton. (Some might argue that the last two names do not belong on the list: Winfrey, for stoking the fire of race relations with charges that “millions” of blacks have been lynched in the United States, when the figure is probably closer to 4,000, and Clinton, for disgracing the office of the presidency, lying under oath, and committing rape. *The Obama Timeline* author, born and raised in Chicago in the 1950s and 1960s, will not, however, quarrel with the inclusion of Ernie “Mr. Cub” Banks.) [47102, 47564]

In response to a terrorist threat, the State Department closes the U.S. consulate in Lahore, Pakistan and evacuates most employees. (Whether the threat came from the “decimated” and “on the run” al-Qaeda is not known.) [47096, 47100]

On August 9 Obama holds his first press conference since April. Asked about NSA surveillance programs, Obama claims they are not being abused but calls for an oversight board to review the programs. He also unconvincingly claims he called for a review of all surveillance programs even before Edward Snowden leaked information about NSA spying on U.S. citizens. (Jennifer Hoelzer, former deputy chief of staff to Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), takes issue with Obama’s claim, writing, “Really, Mr. [Obama]? Do you really expect me to believe that you give a damn about open debate and the democratic

process? Because it seems to me if your Administration was really committed to those things, your Administration wouldn't have blocked every effort to have an open debate on these issues each time the laws that your Administration claims authorizes these programs came up for reauthorization..." Obama also insists that "core" al-Qaeda has been weakened and he never said otherwise: "What I said was al-Qaeda was on its heels, has been decimated. But what I also said was al-Qaeda and other extremists had metastasized into regional groups that can pose significant dangers." On the issue of holding the Benghazi terrorists accountable, Obama notes that the Department of Justice just indicted one of the leaders—even though it is illegal to disclose the existence of a sealed indictment. (Obama does not explain why it took 11 months to act on Benghazi.) Obama claims he does not have a "bad relationship" with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and then insults him by saying, "[H]e's got that kind of slouch, looking like the bored kid in the back of the classroom." (On August 28 *The New York Times* reports that Putin was, according to a "Russian official," "infuriated" by Obama's remark.) [47091, 47094, 47095, 47099, 47114, 47117, 47146, 47155, 47156, 47157, 47158, 47159, 47174, 47184, 47276, 47717]

On delaying the implementation of ObamaCare's employer mandate, Obama claims he had the authority to do so because he first consulted "businesses all across the country." Blogger Ace of Spades writes, "So, if I understand this right, so long as any future president has the support of 'businesses' and donors for suspending parts of ObamaCare, he has the constitutional power to do so. I'll take that precedent. [It] Makes things easier than I thought they would be, actually. I think if a Republican is elected in 2016, he just might have support in the business and corporate community for suspending all elements of ObamaCare.") [47091, 47094, 47095, 47099, 47114, 47117]

Obama accuses Republicans of wanting to deny sick and poor people access to health care: "The American people would have difficulty understanding why we would weaken our economy, shut down our government, shut down vital services, have people who are not getting paid who then can't go to restaurants or shop for clothes or all the other things that we're doing here—because Republicans have determined that they don't want to see these folks get health care. ...My friends in the other party have made the idea of preventing these people from getting health care their holy grail. Their number-one priority. The one unifying principle in the Republican Party at the moment is making sure that 30 million people don't have health care..." (Arguably, it is Obama who wants to see a government shutdown over the issue of ObamaCare funding, because Democrats—with the help of the mainstream media—would relentlessly use the issue in their 2014 campaigns. A government shutdown, for which the GOP gets the blame, may be the only way Democrats can re-take the House of Representatives. Obama would pay any price for that outcome, because he could then essentially rule like a dictator in 2015 and 2016.) [47091, 47094, 47095, 47099, 47114, 47117, 47176]

At Townhall.com, Charlotte Hays later observes that Obama's press conference is made easier by reporters who ask a variety of "non-challenging" questions, such as (paraphrasing), "Is Vladimir Putin at fault for our poor relations with Russia?" (As if Obama would answer, "No, it is my fault.") "Is your appointment of a new Federal

Reserve Board chairman important?” (As if Obama would answer, “No, it is not at all important. Next question.”) [47308]

At HotAir.com, Mary Katherine Ham observes, “I understand [Obama] is very mad about opposition to Obamacare and very contemptuous of its opponents. That doesn’t actually help fix the law that is his signature. When he engages in this ridiculous straw-man fight, he engages in exactly the kind of backward-looking pose of which he accuses Republicans. ‘Mr. [Obama], you’ve said it yourself. Obamacare is the law. You passed it without any bipartisan support. You passed it without winning the support of the country for it. You put off implementation to spare your hide in 2012, and are now watching a poorly constructed and planned monstrosity fail to meet any of the promises you made.’ He promised the impossible. Now, he professes impotence. And, points fingers at anyone but himself and his signature legislation for glaringly obvious failures. He is doomed to repeat this line and we’re doomed to keep hearing it.” (During the press conference, Obama offered no new information about anything and essentially did little but blame others for the nation’s problems.) [47094]

Of Obama’s “NSA reform” claim, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange states, “Today [Obama] validated Edward Snowden’s role as a whistleblower by announcing plans to reform America’s global surveillance program. But rather than thank Edward Snowden, [Obama] laughably attempted to criticize him while claiming that there was a plan all along, ‘before Edward Snowden.’ ...As Snowden has stated, his biggest concern was if he blew the whistle and change did not occur [sic]. Well reforms are taking shape, and for that, [Obama] and [the] people of the United States and around the world owe Edward Snowden a debt of gratitude. (HotAir.com comments, “Assuming that we somehow get our hands on the guy [Snowden] and bring him to trial, this [reform claim by Obama] is pretty much a golden gift to the defense. It would be better than pretty much anything else short of granting Bradley Manning a full pardon.” In other words, the Obama administration can hardly prosecute Snowden and call him a traitor at the same time Obama is publicly admitting that reforms were needed at the NSA. Obama’s news conference statement arguably confirms Snowden’s whistleblower claim.) [47162, 47163]

According to DailyCaller.com, “Two major encrypted email providers have shut down in recent days rather than cooperate with federal investigators, including the service used by NSA intelligence leaker Edward Snowden. The two services, Lavabit—the client Snowden used—and Silent Mail both posted notices on their websites explaining they will shut down their services shortly. The owner of Lavabit, Ladar Levison, insinuated in his post Thursday that his site had become the target of a federal investigation and that he personally was subject to a gag order as a result, Forbes reports. Rather than becoming ‘complicit in crimes against the American people,’ Levison had decided to shutter his nearly ten-year-old business and fight the investigation in court. Levison finished his post by bluntly warning anyone from storing data in the United States. Silent Mail’s creators decided to end their encrypted email service on Friday in conjunction with Levison, bluntly announcing that they had ‘preemptively discontinued the service to prevent spying.’” [47153]

ChicagoTribune.com reports that Obama's close friend and frequent golf partner Dr. Eric Whitaker "acknowledged that he is cooperating with federal authorities working on a \$433,000 kickback scheme at the state public health agency he once led, but he said he was not involved in the alleged crimes. Whitaker declined an interview request Thursday but released a statement following the indictment of Quinshaunta R. Golden, who was his chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Public Health. Golden is accused of conspiring with state grant recipients to divert federal money into her own pockets and then trying to cover it up. ... Whitaker... left the [Illinois] state public health department in September 2007 to work with Michelle Obama at University of Chicago Medicine before leaving this year. Golden left her state job in early 2008 and joined Whitaker at U. of C. Golden, the niece of U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, is the 13th person to be charged in a federal task force's ongoing investigation of state grant and contract fraud. Davis was aware of the investigation only 'via newspaper accounts, family members and general knowledge' and never discussed it with Golden, said Davis spokesman Ira Cohen. ... Also indicted in the grant probe is the daughter of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., [Obama's] controversial former pastor. Jeri Wright, of Hazel Crest, has pleaded not guilty to charges of money laundering in a case involving former Country Club Hills police Chief Regina Evans. Wright is alleged to have helped Evans convert paychecks from Evans' nonprofit to Evans' personal use rather than using it for the intended purpose of training minority and female workers in the building trades." [47098]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, a Chicago non-profit organization called "Let's Talk, Let's Test" (LTLT) is being investigated by the U.S. attorney's office for misuse of Illinois taxpayer funds. The organization was founded to fight the spread of AIDS in the black community. It purportedly spent more than \$500,000 of the \$1.2 million it received from the state on ghost-payrollers, Soldier Field skybox tickets, and five-figure bonuses to staffers. Funds for LTLT were approved by Obama's pal Whitaker, former head of the Illinois Department of Public Health. LTLT is now \$950,000 in debt, and blames the state for not giving it another \$1.2 million. (Obama helped get Whitaker his position at the Department of Public Health. Whitaker then became an executive vice-president at the University of Chicago Hospitals, which received a \$1 million earmark through the efforts of Obama. Michelle Obama's salary at the hospital then jumped from \$121,900 to \$316,962.) A federal grand jury subpoenaed Whitaker's records in an investigation involving various 'faith-based initiatives' and health-awareness campaigns funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health when Whitaker headed the agency. According to Edward Klein's book *The Amateur*, Whitaker was the middleman in 2008 when Obama needed Jeremiah Wright to remain silent and not preach controversial sermons. Wright claims Whitaker sent an email offering him \$150,000 to keep quiet. Wright was then visited by Obama, who, according to Wright, said, "I really wish you wouldn't do any more public speaking until after the November election. ... I wish you wouldn't speak in public. The press is gonna eat you alive." (Obama, of course, was not worried about the media "eating Wright alive." He was worried about the voters learning what kind of anti-American and anti-Jew sermons he listened to for 20 years.) [110, 111, 112, 664, 1945, 5056, 11060, 11505, 32220, 32228, 32234, 32255, 32293, 32294, 32309, 32346, 32377, 32419, 32423, 32425, 32445, 32449, 32465, 32555, 32802, 32952]

According to DailyCaller.com, Eric Whitaker “was a speaker at Wright’s Trinity United Church of Christ during a Sept. 17, 2006 ‘Health Care Justice Forum.’ ...Shortly after that speech, longtime Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett recruited Whitaker to be executive vice president of the University of Chicago Medical Center, where she was the board chairwoman. Michelle Obama also held a leadership post there, and helped create the Center’s Urban Health Initiative.” Some referred to the program as a “patient-dumping” scheme, with the hospital even arranging bus service to transport emergency room patients with no insurance to other facilities—so that it could concentrate on patients with high-level insurance. [110, 111, 112, 664, 1945, 5056, 11060, 11505, 32220, 32228, 32234, 32255, 32293, 32294, 32309, 32346, 32377, 32419, 32423, 32425, 32445, 32449, 32465, 32555, 32802, 32952]

Sharon Light, former advisor to the Internal Revenue Service’s Lois Lerner, leaves her government position to work for the American Cancer Society. [47103]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Government Accountability Office confirmed... that it will investigate how Planned Parenthood is using the millions of taxpayer dollars it receives each year. The announcement came after 72 members of Congress, petitioned the agency in February seeking an audit of the country’s largest abortion provider and other providers that receive federal funding, Fox News reported Thursday. In 2010, the GAO released a report that indicated significant discrepancies in Planned Parenthood’s reported spending and funding. ...Last year, clinics affiliated with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America performed a record 333,964 abortions and reported a record \$1.2 billion in revenue generated, according to a report by Life Decisions International. Taxpayer funding of the organization reached \$538.5 million last year [about \$1,600 per abortion or \$400 per severed fetus limb] and accounted for 45.2 percent of Planned Parenthood’s total annual budget in 2011-2012.” [47104]

In Cairo, Egypt, several gunmen open fire on a church, killing a 10-year-old girl and injuring other Coptic Christians. The killers are reportedly supporters of former president Mohamed Morsi. (Obama has no comment—but it is a certainty that he would be making repeated and forceful public comments if Christians were ruthlessly attacking dozens of mosques and killing hundreds of Muslims.) [47108]

In an interview with National Public Radio affiliate KNPR, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) says, “Here we are seven months into [Obama’s] second term and nothing has changed. It’s been obvious they [Republicans] are doing everything they can to make him fail. And I hope, I hope, and I say this seriously, it’s based on substance and not the fact that he’s an African American.” (Conservative columnist Clarence V. McKee—who happens to be black—later responds, “It’s been typical for the last three and a half years—Obama supporters, black and white—whenever he’s criticized the first thing they yell is ‘race or racism.’ For the Senate majority leader to stoop that low and go into the racial gutter is disgusting. He’s just race baiting and [Obama] should disavow it as should other Democrats, but they’re all part of a race-bait chorus. They’re doing more to hurt race relations than the [George] Zimmerman verdict will ever do.”) [47115]

Reid also says the nation must “work our way past” insurance-based health care: “What we’ve done with ObamaCare is have a step in the right direction, but we’re far from having something that’s going to work forever.” WeeklyStandard.com reports, “When then asked by panelist Steve Sebelius whether he meant ultimately the country would have to have a health care system that abandoned insurance as the means of accessing it, Reid said: ‘Yes, yes. Absolutely, yes.’” (Reid is essentially admitting that ObamaCare is not the ultimate solution of leftists; it is merely an initial step in their destruction of the private health insurance industry, which will then lead to a full government takeover of health care in the United States—where the federal government owns and operates all hospitals and all physicians are federal employees. This should not be a surprise to anyone. In 2003 Obama told an audience, “I happen to be a proponent of a single-payer, universal health care system. But, as all of you know, we may not get there immediately, because first we’ve got to take back the White House, and we’ve got to take back the Senate.” On March 24, 2007, Obama said, “But I don’t think we’re gonna be able to eliminate employer coverage immediately. There’s gonna be potentially some transition process... I can envision a decade out, or 15 years out or 20 years out where we’ve got a much more portable system...” On April 18, 2009, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) addressed a group and stated, “And next to me was a guy from the insurance company who then argued against the public health insurance option saying it wouldn’t let private insurance compete, that a public option will put the private insurance industry out of business and lead to single-payer. My single-payer friends, he was right, the man was right.” Schakowsky could not be any clearer; her goal is to put all private health insurance companies out of business and place all Americans at the mercy of the federal government for their health care.” Schakowsky—whose husband, Robert B. Creamer, served time in federal prison for financial crimes—also stated, “This is *not* a principled fight. This is a fight about strategy for getting there and I believe we will!” Obama’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, said in 2007, while serving as governor of Kansas, “I’m all for a single payer system eventually.”) [5592, 6688, 47118, 47175, 47189]

Reid’s interview also includes an offhand comment intended for members of labor unions who have exemplary health insurance coverage: “You can’t just keep running to the doctor with no deductible.” (Reid is certainly correct that it is unreasonable for workers to expect employer-provided health insurance that never costs them a dime, but labor unions have led their members to believe that is actually the case.) DCClothesline.com observes, “Imagine how the unions, who dropped the better part of a billion dollars on Obama and the democrats, in 2008 and 2012 alone, must feel. Many of the trade unions, who move from project to project, such as carpenters, pipefitters, and drywallers, can no longer demand that the various companies cover their healthcare costs between them and they will likely end up in the same exchanges they fought for everyone else to get. The irony is sweet. Not only that but union members who get to keep their benefits will end up paying a Cadillac tax because their coverage is too good. Unions for their part can lose the lucrative healthcare fund they administer.” [47181]

At CNN.com author and Miami Herald world affairs columnist Frida Ghitis writes, “America’s foreign policy has gone into a tailspin. Almost every major initiative from the Obama administration has run into sharp, sometimes embarrassing, reverses. The U.S. looks weak and confused on the global stage. ...America’s failure in international strategy is a disaster-in-the-making for its allies and for the people who see the U.S. model of liberal democracy as one worth emulating in their own nations. There is no question that Obama was dealt a difficult hand. ...Still, trying to count the ways in which foreign policy has gone badly for Obama makes for a stunningly long list. ...America’s diplomatic disaster is the result of ham-handed efforts to please all sides, compounded by a failure to explain America’s position in a coherent way. In fact, there is no driving idea behind the country’s foreign policy. What does America stand for in the world today, can anyone answer that question? ...It is time for Obama to spend some time thinking about what America stands for, what its goals are and then explain it in a clear and credible way. Even if we disagree with his conclusions, at least there will be a North Star guiding his policies.” [47125]

At a town hall meeting in Oklahoma, Congressman Markwayne Mullin is asked by former Congressional candidate Miki Booth, “What do you know about Obama’s identification fraud?” According to DCClothesline.com, Mullin responds, “We lost that argument November 6th.” Offered 71 pages of affidavits from Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s cold case posse investigation of Obama’s forged birth certificate, Mullin says, “I don’t even give a shit. ...I believe what you’re saying and I don’t support [Obama] whatsoever. But ma’am, we lost November 6th. We had the opportunity to get another president in there. ...We had four years to take care of that. Our country’s facing some serious issues. If the rest of the American people thought that was a big enough issue—which, I thought it probably would’ve been. Who would’ve thought we would ever actually be questioning if we had a natural-born [citizen] being president? Who would’ve ever thought that we’d actually be there? ...So when I say we lost the argument, we lost that argument. Now let’s move on to some other issues. I believe it’s still there, but my God if we didn’t prove it the first four years, what do you think the chances are now?” (Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) is one of only a few legislators who seems interested in exposing the truth about Obama, and is reportedly gathering support for a bill calling for an investigation into the birth certificate forgery.) [47122, 47123, 47134, 47286]

Addressing a group of veterans in Orlando, Florida, Obama says, “We’ve got these reckless, across-the-board budget cuts called the sequester that are hitting a lot of folks hard.” (Obama does not mention that he threatened a veto of legislation that would give him the authority to designate where cuts would be made, to keep them from being “across the board.”) He also warns that veterans benefits will have to be reduced if the Republicans do not act to reverse the sequestration cuts (that were actually only reductions in increases), and states, “Going forward, the best way to protect the VA [Veterans Administration] care you have earned, is to get rid of this sequester.” (At Townhall.com Michael Schaus later notes that Obama “touted the ‘progress’ the Federal Government is making in reducing the backlog of claims. Currently, there are around a half a million disabled vets who are backlogged in the system. A true testament to government-run healthcare.”) [47150]

In India, an armed mob of 20,000 Muslims attacks Hindus and burns their shops and homes. The death toll is not known. (Obama has no comment—as he heads to Martha’s Vineyard for a nine day vacation, accompanied by 75 staffers.) [47130, 47131, 47132, 47136]

On August 10, at Townhall.com, John Hawkins lists “20 questions the media would be asking Barack Obama if he were a Republican.” Among the questions: “[D]o you agree with the Department of Defense report that labeled [the Fort Hood shootings] as ‘workplace violence’ or was that an act of terrorism?” “Americans died in Benghazi and it’s a ‘phony scandal’—Would you tell a mother who lost a son there that it was a ‘phony scandal?’” “Do you consider your administration’s strategy in Egypt, Syria, and Libya to be a success? If not, what did you do wrong that caused you to fail?” “Since the Russians are refusing to hand over Edward Snowden, is it fair to say that the ‘reset’ failed and that relations have actually deteriorated since you took over from George Bush?” “After seeing the behavior of Anthony Weiner, Eliot Spitzer, and Bob Filner, are Americans justified in asking if your party is engaged in a war on women?” “If Al-Qaeda has been decimated and it’s on the run, why have we had to recently close down 22 embassies and consulates because of the threat from Al-Qaeda?” “To this day, we still don’t know what you were doing during the Benghazi attack, what directives you issued, why your administration lied about what was going on, whether you had good reason to have such lax security in the first place, and whether American troops could have potentially arrived in time to save the lives of the men who died. When is your administration going to come clean so that the families of the men who lost their lives can have some peace?” (Needless to say, none of Hawkins’ suggested questions were asked by reporters at Obama’s August 9 press conference.) [47109]

Also at Townhall.com, Caroline Glick writes, “Since taking office, Obama has repeatedly claimed that he will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. But in practice, his actions have enabled Iran to vastly expand its nuclear weapons program. Due to his malfeasance, today Iran has arrived at the cusp of a nuclear arsenal. More than his words, Obama’s actions have made clear that he has no intention whatsoever of conducting military strikes against Iran’s nuclear installations to prevent the regime from developing nuclear weapons. Obama’s latest ploy for running the clock down is his embrace of the fiction that Iran’s new president, Hassan Rouhani, is a moderate interested, (and perforce empowered), to cut a nuclear deal with the US that would see Iran voluntarily and credibly end its uranium enrichment activities. Speaking of Rouhani this week, [Israeli] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu referred to him as ‘a wolf in sheep’s clothing,’ and warned US and European officials not to be taken in by his act. Netanyahu also noted that Iran has expanded its nuclear activities since Rouhani was elected two months ago. But he might as well save his breath. Rouhani’s act—like that of his supposedly moderate predecessors Mohammad Khatami and Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani—is so thin that it can only work on people who will be taken in by anyone. And indeed, the Obama administration was taken in by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. For five years Obama insisted on conducting self-evidently futile negotiations with Iran while Ahmadinejad—the anti-moderate—was serving as president.” [47110]

Glick continues, “The US and Europe are not taken in by Iran because Iran is good at hiding its true intentions. They are taken in by Iran because they want to be taken in. They want to believe that they don’t have to attack Iran and overthrow the regime to prevent it from becoming a nuclear power. They want to believe they can appease Iran by pretending it isn’t a danger, just as they believe they can end the threat of terror by jihadists in the US military and Benghazi by pretending they don’t exist. They want to believe these threats can be ignored, or appeased away. And just as Obama and his followers are willing to pretend away Hasan’s actions to protect ‘diversity,’ and to pretend away the September 11, 2012, attack in Benghazi to protect the myth of the Arab Spring, so they are willing to permit Iran to go nuclear to protect the sanctity of appeasement. The only thing they are willing to put their foot down about is the prospect of an Israeli strike. ...Obama will not change course. He doesn’t have to. So long as he maintains faith with the god of appeasement, the US media will protect him. And so long as they protect him, he will pay no price for his failures. So he will repeat them. Israel cannot countenance a nuclear Iran. So Israel needs to attack Iran’s nuclear installations. No more needs to be said.” (Glick believes Obama is merely a fool. *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama is evil and *wants* Israel to be destroyed, and that it makes little difference to him whether that might be accomplished by a nuclear Iran or hordes of Islamist terrorists. Others argue that many in the U.S. government are more than willing to see a war with Iran so that it can be destroyed—which would send a message to other oil producing nations that the U.S. dollar must remain the world’s reserve currency. Libya’s Moammar Gaddafi and Iraq’s Saddam Hussein were ousted, some believe, *not* because they were dictators but because they wanted oil purchased with gold, rather than dollars. *The U.S. government would readily go to war if it meant preventing the dollar from collapsing.* The Federal Reserve and the U.S Treasury would be protected, and U.S. troops would be considered expendable.) [47110, 47144]

Obama’s approval rating plummets to 41 percent in the August 7–9 Gallup poll. His disapproval rating is 50 percent. [47116, 47154]

The State Department offers “a \$10 million reward for information that helps authorities kill or capture Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.” The reward is prompted by a terrorist attack in Baghdad, Iraq—not an attack on *Americans*, but an attack on *Muslim families* celebrating the end of Ramadan. State Department spokesperson Jan Psaki states, “The terrorists who committed these acts are enemies of Islam and a shared enemy of the United States, Iraq, and the international community.” (Remarkably, the Obama administration has done next to nothing to bring to justice the perpetrators of the Benghazi attack that killed four Americans, but is eager to spend taxpayer dollars to obtain justice for Iraqi Muslims. At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “This is one step beyond The Twilight Zone... it’s the O’Zone, just as poisonous and deadly.”) [47187, 47188]

Attorney Orly Taitz writes Congressman Darrell Issa (R-IA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Taitz states, in part, “3. In May of 2013 I participated at a Washington DC rally organized by a number of the US congressmen protesting the mega amnesty of millions of illegals that is currently pushed by the

Democratic party as well as targeting of the conservative organizations by the IRS. 4. At the rally I met a whistle blower, employee of the HESC—Higher Education Services Corporation, Ms. Laurie Hathaway. 5. Ms. Hathaway advised me that she is desperately trying to provide the public with evidence of fraud committed by Barack Obama, specifically the fact that Barack Obama received an educational loan from HESC as a foreign citizen, a citizen of Indonesia. As a citizen of Indonesia he is not eligible to be the U.S. President. Ms. Hathaway stated that she forwarded this information to Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio as well. 6. Ms. Hathaway has sworn to me that she personally saw the documents, showing Barack Obama listed as a foreign national, citizen of Indonesia in his loan documents. 7. Ms. Hathaway stated that the documents are never discarded and are kept in the vault at the HESC head quarters at Buffalo, New York. She advised me that other employees of the HESC saw the same documents and aware of Obama's loans received based on his status of a foreign student and fraud committed by Obama in asserting his eligibility for the U.S. Presidency claiming the U.S. citizenship, while retaining the Indonesian citizenship." [47119]

Taitz continues, "8. I did my due diligence and checked and verified that Laurie Hathaway is indeed an employee of HESC in Buffalo, New York. I have in my position her e-mail address at the HESC and other identifying information. 9. Ms. Hathaway promised to obtain a copy of the document and forward it to me. 10. After the meeting I had one or two phone conversations with Ms. Hathaway and received one or two e-mails from her. 11. Shortly thereafter Ms. Hathaway's cell phone was disconnected and nobody responded at her home number. 12. On 08.10.2013 I tried to contact her again. As I was leaving a message for her, a man answered the phone. The man sounded very frightened and asked me not to call or e-mail Ms. Hathaway because FBI is investigating Ms. Hathaway because she blew the whistle and provided information to me. They are afraid of the FBI. This phone conversation took place at 10:59 am, PST on 08.10.2013. 13. Intimidation and harassment of the whistle blower Laurie Hathaway by Holder Department of Justice and ...[the] FBI is akin to the intimidation of citizens by the Hitler NAZI Gestapo or SS troops. This nation is rapidly becoming another NAZI tyranny, unless this is stopped by someone in the U.S. Congress or Judiciary who still retains one drop of decency, integrity, moral values and respect for the rule of law and the Constitution. I am attaching herein a 146 file of additional evidence showing the citizen[ship] of Indonesia, Barack Obama, using a stolen Social Security number and fabricated IDs as a basis of his identity and eligibility to the U.S. Presidency and in order to defraud the U.S. citizens and usurp the position of the U.S. President and Commander-in Chief based on fraud, harassment, intimidation and use of multiple agencies of the U.S. government for purposes of terror and harassment of whistle blowers. I am prepared to testify before the U.S. Congress and attest to the authenticity of each and every document in the file as well as provide names of multiple other whistle blowers against Obama being terrorized and intimidated by the Department of Justice/FBI, other governmental officials, as well as by a number of state and federal judges." [47119]

Taitz concludes, "I am requesting an immediate investigation by the U.S. Congress of the fact that a citizen of Indonesia, Barack Obama, is usurping the U.S. Presidency based on fraud, harassment, intimidation and use of stolen and fabricated IDs. I am also

requesting a congressional investigation of the employees of the U.S. government, including employees of the Department of Justice and the FBI, federal and State judges, who are criminally complicit in the cover up of Obama's fraudulent IDs and criminally complicit in terror and harassment of the whistle blowers who provided the aforementioned information to me." [47119]

Fox News reports, "A loophole is allowing hundreds of immigrants across the Mexico border in to the United States. Immigrants are being taught to use 'key words and phrases' to be allowed to enter and stay in the country. Just this past Monday, Border Patrol agents say about 200 people came through the Otay Crossing claiming a quote: 'credible fear' of the drug cartels. So many were doing this that they had to close down the processing center and move the overflow by vans to another station. 'They are being told if they come across the border, when they come up to the border and they say certain words, they will be allowed into the country,' said a person who did not want to be identified on camera." ("So many were doing this"—probably because the Obama administration updated a Department of Homeland Security web page on June 18 to make it clear that an immigrant can seek asylum if he claims "credible fear of persecution or torture." The claim gets the immigrant in court rather than sent back across the border. Safely in the United States, he or she then simply fails to show up for the court proceeding and joins the millions of other illegal immigrants "living in the shadows.") Pete Nunez, former U.S. Attorney and immigration expert says, "We are being overwhelmed. This will swamp the system... to make our system even more ridiculous than it has been in the past. There are no detention facilities for families, so the family would have to be split up. We don't want to split families up, so we end up releasing people out into the community on bond, on bail." Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) calls for a hold to be placed on any immigration legislation until the asylum abuses are ended. [47143, 47147, 47148, 47179, 47170, 47177, 47204]

ThePostEmail.com reports that the organization Special Operations Speaks will be sponsoring billboards in House Speaker John Boehner's Ohio district that call for a special investigation into the Benghazi terrorist attack and the subsequent cover-up. The billboard will read, "If four members of Congress were killed in Benghazi, would we have a Watergate style select committee today?" (Boehner is blocking a full-scale investigation—probably because it may reveal that he was aware of the CIA's gunrunning operations in Libya.) [47124]

The Telegraph reports that Iran has brokered a deal in which it will receive uranium from Zimbabwe. Both Iran and Zimbabwe will ignore restrictions against such trade. [47128, 47129]

The Wall Street Journal reports that "anti-U.S. hostility" is "ramp[ing] up in Egypt." Egyptians who favored President Hosni Mubarak are angry that Obama helped remove him from office; supporters of the radical Muslim Brotherhood are angry that Obama did not do more to keep his successor, Mohamed Morsi, in power; and the military believes Obama "coddled" the Muslim Brotherhood. State Department spokesman Jennifer Psaki states, "There's been a great deal of misinformation out there. We've been taking every

step possible to convey what our view is.” (That view is arguably no more clear to Americans than it is to Egyptians, with Obama paying lip service to democracy yet acting to help the brutal Muslim Brotherhood gain power. Obama has not helped matters with the suggestion that Robert Ford will be named the next U.S. ambassador to Egypt. Ford has served as ambassador to Syria—and certainly cannot claim to have improved U.S. relations with that country. Syrians once attacked the embassy, spray-painted graffiti, and called Ford a “dog.” According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “An article on Monday in Al Ahram, the flagship state newspaper, called Mr. Ford ‘the engineer of destruction in Syria, Iraq and Morocco’ and ‘the man of blood.’” Egyptian protestor Raef Elwishee says of Ford, “He’s a troublemaker. It’s enough to know that he was ambassador to Syria. He is top in one of the U.S. spy agencies... and we don’t need that kind of relationship.” [9272, 22296, 22297, 22336, 23619, 23620, 23654, 25766, 25767, 25768, 25788, 47133]

Obama plays golf at Martha’s Vineyard, overshooting the hole on his first putt by 15 feet—and then needing two more shots to sink the ball. (Despite playing 135 rounds of golf since entering the White House, Obama reportedly remains a terrible golfer.) The Obamas are staying at the \$7.6 million, 5,000 square foot, ocean view home of David Schulte, founder of the private equity firm Chilmark Partners. (The Obama campaign spent a substantial amount of time during the 2012 campaign criticizing Mitt Romney for operating a private equity fund; Obama apparently now believes they are good things.) [47140, 47141, 47152, 47171]

At the Missouri State Fair, a rodeo clown wears an Obama mask and an announcer shouts, “We’re going to stomp Obama now. As soon as this bull comes out, Obama, don’t you move.” Another voice on the speakers says, “Hey, I know I’m a clown. He’s just running around acting like one. Doesn’t know he is one.” (Although many in the Missouri crowd are not offended, some visitors and Missouri politicians express outrage—apparently believing that no past president has ever been publicly ridiculed or called a clown. Others, not surprisingly, label the mocking of Obama “racist”—apparently unaware that the white George W. Bush was mocked unmercifully for eight years, that a George H. W. Bush dummy was used to provoke attacks from a bull in a 1994 rodeo, and a black rodeo clown once wore a Hillary Clinton mask. In fact, Obama himself wore an Obama mask in an October 2007 *Saturday Night Live* skit. The NAACP laughably calls for the FBI and the Secret Service to “investigate” the “incendiary event.” Rush Limbaugh comments on the overreaction: “This is no different than those countries reacting freakishly when there were cartoons of the prophet Mohammed.” More than a few people repeat the words of C. S. Lewis: “Above all else, the devil cannot stand to be mocked.”) [47151, 47173, 47197, 47212, 47217, 47268, 47272, 47275, 47284, 47341, 47378]

At the Iowa State Fair, country legend Hank Williams, Jr. sings, *We Don’t Apologize for America*, and the crowd chants “USA, USA.” To loud cheers, Williams then says, “We’ve got a Muslim [in the White House] who hates farming, hates the military, hates the U.S. and we hate him!” [47127]

On August 11 Newsmax.com reports, “American wind turbines kill 1.4 million birds and bats each year, a new peer-reviewed study discloses—while producing just 3 percent of U.S. electricity. The numbers indicate that ...Obama’s global warming plan will kill hundreds of millions of birds and bats—with dire consequences—‘while doing little if anything to reduce global temperatures,’ energy and environment writer James Taylor observes in an article for Forbes.com. ...Yet the Obama administration has never fined or prosecuted a wind farm for killing eagles and other protected bird species, although each death is a federal crime and the administration has prosecuted oil companies when birds drown in their waste pits and power companies when birds are electrocuted by their power lines, Fox News reported in May. Obama has championed a \$1 billion-a-year tax break to the industry that nearly doubled the amount of wind power in his first term. And his recently announced campaign to reduce global warming may seek to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 80 percent. Since climate change alarmists oppose nuclear, coal, and natural gas power, reducing emissions would require a 25-fold increase in the production of electricity from wind power. That would lead to the deaths of 350 million birds and bats in the United States each decade, Taylor surmises.” [47135]

Newsmax.com also reports, “Last year 36 percent of young adults in the United States were living in their parents’ home—the highest share in at least four decades, Pew Research Center reports. A record total of 21.6 million Americans ages 18 to 31—so-called millennials—were living in a home with one or both parents in 2012, up from 18.5 million in 2007. ...Most likely the major factor is declining employment. In 2012, just 63 percent of millennials had jobs, down from 70 percent in 2007.” (Many young people who have found employment are working only part-time, partly because of ObamaCare, and cannot afford to pay back college loans without depending on their parents for housing.) [47135]

In St. Paul, Minnesota, 26-year-old Ray Widstrand clings to his life after being attacked by a mob of about 50 blacks. WND.com reports, “...Widstrand thought he had nothing to fear from moving into a black neighborhood on the East Side of St. Paul. This young white guy and aspiring filmmaker thought he had nothing to fear when decided to take a Sunday night stroll through his adopted part of town. ...Many of the episodes of the black mob violence in the Twin Cities region—and the officials denials they are happening at all—are documented in ‘White Girl Bleed a Lot: The Return of Racial Violence and How the Media Ignore It.’” (Obama has no comment.) [47138, 47139]

According to *The Telegraph*, Obama’s dog Bo “arrived separately” for the family’s Martha’s Vineyard vacation “on one of two MV-22 Ospreys, a hybrid aircraft which takes off like a helicopter but flies like a plane. ...More than 70 hotel rooms, each costing up to \$345 (£220) a night, have been booked out for Secret Service agents, who took charge of luggage including two large mesh bags full of basketballs. ...The Martha’s Vineyard Times newspaper warned residents to expect ‘extraordinary and lengthy up-island detours.’ Local officials also emailed residents, saying: ‘Anyone aggrieved by this closing should email or call the White House.’” (This would not be the first time the family dog arrived separately from Obama—an action which always prompts rumors of Obama being a Muslim, because Muslims consider dogs unclean. The two Ospreys were

no doubt needed for more than just Bo and his cage, but the story nevertheless feeds rumors.) [47142, 47149, 47160]

On *Face the Nation*, host Bob Schieffer criticizing government doublespeak and “the linguistic hoops [it] jumps through to make the news seem better than it is, as when our embassy in Yemen was evacuated because of a terror threat, and the State Department referred to it as a ‘reduction in staff’; as when Homeland Security Chief Janet Napolitano referred to terror attacks as ‘man-caused disasters’; [or] the episode at Fort Hood where an army doctor who said he killed thirteen of his comrades in cold blood because he was a proud soldier of Allah is officially listed as ‘workplace violence,’ not an act of terror. This is nothing new. When the news goes bad, governments invent new words and phrases to explain it. ...It never works because people are not stupid. But government never seems to learn that good public relations [PR] never trumps bad policy, and bad PR never defeats good policy. Nixon’s men mounted a massive PR campaign to cover up Watergate. It failed. The good things Nixon did—the opening to China, for one—live on with no PR help. If we want to cut the federal budget, why not start by eliminating the people whose job seems to be inventing these new words and phrases to make the news seem better than it is? It’s a waste of their time and our money.” (*The Obama Timeline* suggests referring to Islam as “the religion of workplace violence.”) [47145]

On *Meet the Press* (which is experiencing its lowest ratings in 21 years), Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX) responds to Obama’s claim that even before Edward Snowden released information about NSA practices he planned to initiate a review. McCaul says, “I think when the story initially broke [Obama] went undercover. He just finally came out last Friday with ways to try to salvage the program by window dressing. The problem, fundamentally, is he has failed to explain these programs, which are lawful, which have saved lives, which have stopped terrorist plots. He has not adequately explained them, and now he’s in a bit of a mess because after the IRS scandal, where people don’t trust this government with their tax records, they sure don’t trust them with their phone records. ...I think Snowden came out, leaked this information, and the White House has been backtracking ever since.” [47159, 47229]

McCaul also disputes Obama’s claim that al-Qaeda has been significantly weakened, and says Obama’s insistence on emphasizing “core” al-Qaeda is “semantic gymnastics” and a “distinction without a difference. It’s all al-Qaeda. And it’s spreading. It’s getting worse, not better. And I think the American people need to know that. And I believe it’s very deceptive for [Obama] to give a narrative that is pretty much over when, in fact, what I see is a spider web throughout northern Africa into Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Afghanistan. This threat is getting worse, not better.” [47166]

Reuters reports that in addition to releasing 104 Palestinian prisoners during renewed peace talks, “Israel sweetened the deal for far-right members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s centre-right cabinet by moving forward on plans to build nearly 1,200 homes for Jewish settlers. While condemning settlement expansion, Palestinians have stopped short of threatening outright to abandon the negotiations.” (The move will no doubt anger Secretary of State John Kerry and Obama—who are eager to see Israel

relinquish land to the Palestinians, not expand their presence on territory the Jewish state won in the 1967 war. HotAir.com comments, “Earlier this summer, Reuters reported that Israel had agreed to pre-1967 borders as a condition for the talks, a rumor that clearly didn’t come from the Israelis and had people accusing Netanyahu of giving away the store. Netanyahu has every reason to act aggressively to push back against these clumsy attempts to push negotiations forward, and that may be effective even if not one of these apartments ever gets past the drawing board.” For Obama, the media, and the Palestinians to continue to refer to Israeli construction as “expanding their settlements” is absurd. Israelis are simply building homes and businesses *on Israeli land*. To criticize Israelis for building homes in Israel is tantamount to criticizing Texans for “expanding their settlements in San Antonio.” That the land used to be part of Mexico is irrelevant.) [47164, 47165]

At NYPost.com, Kyle Smith reports that Obama’s new “nudge czar” will be 27-year-old Maya Shankar, who seems to be a professional student who “has never had an actual job.” As the new “senior policy advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy,” Shankar will be in charge of “citizen behavior modification,” working to “nudge” Americans into acting as the federal government wishes. Smith adds, “For a White House senior science advisor wielding the federal joysticks of citizen behavior modification, Shankar has somewhat thin credentials. The only published paper of hers I could find—I’m not making this up—was about whether the color of your juice affected its taste. It was called ‘Grape Expectations: The Role of Cognitive Influences in Color-Flavor Interactions.’” (According to FoxNews.com, Obama’s new “...Behavioral Insights Team... will look for ways to subtly influence people’s behavior...” [3150, 3179, 3180, 3182, 3200, 3564, 3738, 3894, 4057, 4568, 4591, 46823, 47078, 47182])

Congressman Justin Amash (R-MI) states, “Less than two weeks ago, the Obama administration released previously classified documents regarding NSA’s bulk collection programs and indicated that two of these documents had been made available to all Members of Congress prior to the vote on reauthorization of the Patriot Act. I can now confirm that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence did NOT, in fact, make the 2011 document available to Representatives in Congress, meaning that the large class of Representatives elected in 2010 did not receive either of the now declassified documents detailing these programs.” [47183]

On August 12 FoxNews.com reports, “A sudden influx of illegal immigrants from Mexico requesting asylum is overwhelming immigration agents in San Diego, forcing agencies to rent hotel rooms for some undocumented families and release others to cities around the U.S. Documents obtained exclusively by Fox News show Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been paying for hotel rooms for dozens of recently arrived families to relieve overcrowding inside the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa, Calif., processing centers. Some ICE employees are working overtime and others have been asked to volunteer to work weekend shifts. ‘Duties include intake, placements, transports and release of family groups and unaccompanied minors,’ according to a memo obtained by Fox News. The surge has raised suspicions about what is driving the influx, amid claims that illegal immigrants have learned they can attempt to get asylum by using a few key

words—namely, by claiming they have a ‘credible fear’ of drug cartels. ...Asylum claims from Mexico are highly unusual and critics say this is an orchestrated sham—it’s not about getting asylum, they say, but about overwhelming the system and getting a free pass into the U.S. and a court date for which no one will show up. ...ICE sources say an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 illegal immigrants a year do not show up for their court date and disappear into the U.S.” [47147, 47148]

Movie director Oliver Stone tells the Foreign Correspondents’ Club of Japan in Tokyo, “Obama is a snake. He’s a snake. And we have to turn on him. ...The Boston Marathon, they were so busy tracking down potential protestors... that they missed the bombers. It’s never about terrorists, it always becomes about the way [the late FBI director] J. Edgar Hoover did it; he brought all the weight of government to bear against protestors. He didn’t like protestors. He thought they were left-wing communists. He never could find the proof, but by the time the Vietnam War came around, as you know, 500,000 people were on the list, and they were being eavesdropped on. And where are we now? Same place.” Stone calls NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden “a hero” who “sacrificed his well-being for the good of us all.” [47258, 47259]

The Telegraph reports, “The number of assaults involving acid throwing and other corrosive substances has tripled in six years in England, official records show. Experts say they believe many of the cases involving acid are linked to Asian communities, with women attacked by their husbands and punished for refusing forced marriages, while men were attacked during disputes over dowries.” (By “Asian communities,” the politically correct *Telegraph* means, “Muslims.”) ...Jaf Shah, executive director of Acid Survivors Trust International said that many attacks in Britain were not reported, because women targeted lived in fear of reprisals. He said: ‘There is a reluctance among women in the Asian [sic; Muslim] community to come forward; these attacks do not usually come from strangers, but from someone close to them in the community—a husband, a father, or their family.’ Just two days earlier, BBC.com reported that the government has warned “teachers, doctors and airport staff... to be alert to the problem of forced marriages over the school holidays... Ministers said there were concerns about teenagers being taken abroad thinking they were going on holiday but being forced into marriage instead. Figures suggest cases are particularly common during the summer break.” AtlasShrugs.com reports that Muslim girls in Great Britain go so far as to “insert spoons in [their] vaginas to set off airport security and escape forced marriage. ...Basically the girls insert the spoons so that when the parents take them to the airport, the spoon sets off the metal alarm which prompts security to separate them from the parents so they can ask the UK to help them escape the marriage and the trip.” (Obama has no comment.) [47371, 47372, 47373, 47374, 47375]

HotAir.com reports that the Obama administration lied when it “claimed that a year-long initiative run by the Mortgage Fraud Working Group in the DoJ [Department of Justice] had charged 530 people who had victimized 73,000 people.” The real numbers were 107 and 17,185. According to Bloomberg.com, “Last October, two days after [Attorney General Eric] Holder first publicized the numbers, Phil Mattingly and Tom Schoenberg of Bloomberg News broke the story that some of the cases included in the Justice

Department's tally occurred before the initiative began in October 2011"—and even before Obama took office. [47161, 47192]

InfoWars.com reports, "A high-ranking Yemeni security official has told McClatchy that the Obama administration's recently announced terror threat which supposedly targeted US embassies had 'no basis in fact' and was manufactured merely to dampen opposition to drone strikes. After initially warning of a terror plot 'thought to have been one of the most serious against American and other Western interests since the September 11 attacks,' the US closed 20 embassies and consulates earlier this month, 18 of which reopened yesterday. The announcement of the threat occurred as it was simultaneously acknowledged that the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi last year was linked to a clandestine CIA arms smuggling operation based in the Libyan city that was being used to transport arms to rebels in Syria, many of whom are allied with Al-Qaeda militants. The announcement of the threat against US embassies also served to justify blanket NSA surveillance, leading some to suggest that the alleged plot was being hyped to distract from the Edward Snowden scandal. It was later claimed that the NSA had intercepted a 'conference call' of Al-Qaeda members during which militants discussed an attack." [47172]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. announced Monday that low-level, nonviolent drug offenders with no ties to gangs or large-scale drug organizations will no longer be charged with offenses that impose severe mandatory sentences. The new Justice Department policy is part of a comprehensive prison reform package that Holder unveiled in a speech to the American Bar Association in San Francisco. He also introduced a policy to reduce sentences for elderly, nonviolent inmates and find alternatives to prison for nonviolent criminals. ...Holder is calling for a change in Justice Department policies to reserve the most severe penalties for drug offenses for serious, high-level or violent drug traffickers. He has directed his 94 U.S. attorneys across the country to develop specific, locally tailored guidelines for determining when federal charges should be filed and when they should not." [47178]

On her television talk show, Kris Jenner—mother of Kim Kardashian—excoriates Obama for his comments about her daughter. (In a July interview, Obama said, "I do think what's shifted is a notion that the wealthier you are, the more conspicuous consumption you engage in. The more successful you are, the more society should stay out of your way as you pursue the bigger house or the fancier jet or the bigger yacht. Were there things that all of us might have liked to have? Sure. But partly, I think, there also has been a shift in culture. We weren't exposed to things we didn't have in the same way kids these days are. There was not that window into the lifestyles of the rich and famous. Kids weren't monitoring every day what Kim Kardashian was wearing, or where Kanye West was going on vacation, and thinking that somehow that was the mark of success.") Jenner responds, "...I wasn't aware that you could only set the bar so high and that we could only dream so big. I was taught, 'dream big, work hard, and you could have whatever you wanted.' ...I bet [Obama] has some friends with 10,000-square-foot houses and you probably wouldn't mind going over there, Mr. [Obama] while you were asking them to have a party for you when you were campaigning for... dollars to run for

president. ...I started thinking about [Kim's] 10,000-square-foot house. I thought, wow, her job affords her to live in a 10,000-square-foot house. And I think, if I'm not mistaken, that [Obama's] job affords him to live in a 55,000-square-foot house. So basically my house would fit in his entry[way]." [47186, 47191, 47201, 47208]

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signs legislation requiring the state's voters to show photo identification at the polls, starting in 2016. McCrory states, "Common practices like boarding an airplane and purchasing Sudafed require photo ID and we should expect nothing less for the protection of our right to vote." (Whether Obama will have Attorney General Eric Holder challenge the law in court remains to be seen. Obama and Holder oppose photo ID requirements for voting because it helps prevent vote fraud.) Hillary Clinton, already trolling for votes for her 2016 presidential run, calls the new North Carolina law one of the "greatest hits of voter suppression. ... Unless the hole opened up by the Supreme Court's ruling is fixed... citizens will be disenfranchised, victimized by the law instead of served by it, and that progress, that historical progress toward a more perfect union, will go backwards instead of forward." [47190, 47210]

U.S. District Judge Ronald White rules that the state of Oklahoma can proceed with its lawsuit challenging ObamaCare, rejecting the Obama administration's argument that the state lacks standing to sue. (At FreedomOutpost.com Tim Brown later explains the lawsuit: "[W]hen constructing the sweeping legislation, apparently lawmakers, specifically Democrats, made an error by allowing states to decide whether or not they would set up their own insurance exchange, which they would control. If a state chose not to set up an exchange, then the federal government would establish one. States establishing an insurance exchange under Obamacare would tax employers who did not provide insurance under the employer mandate. ... The problem comes because more than two dozen states have chosen not to establish state insurance exchanges. Barack Obama and the Democrats didn't place a tax in the bill for states that opted out of the state insurance exchanges. Therefore, they cannot be taxed. ... In order to correct the glaring problem, Barack Obama bypassed Congress and had the Internal Revenue Service re-write the law." But, of course, only Congress can pass laws; Obama and the IRS do not have that power. "This means that what Obama and the IRS did was illegal. Now a new lawsuit has been filed by the state of Oklahoma challenging the illegal power grab by the IRS and the Obama administration." [47193, 47434, 47575]

Former U.S. Attorney Joe DiGenova is interviewed on Washington, D.C.'s WMAL. He states, "We had troops ready to deploy in Croatia to go [to Benghazi] that night of September 11, 2012 to rescue Americans. We have learned that one of the reasons the administration is so deeply concerned—we have been told there were 400 surface-to-air missiles stolen, and that they are on or about [sic] in the hands of many people, and that the biggest fear in the U.S. intelligence community is that one of these missiles will be used to shoot down an airliner. This information comes from former intelligence officials who stay in constant contact with people in the special ops and intelligence community. And it is pretty clear that the biggest concern right now are the 400 missiles which have been diverted in Libya and have gotten into the hands of some very ugly people. And they worried specifically, according to these sources, about an attempt to shoot down an

airliner.” DiGenova, who represents one of the Benghazi whistleblowers, says “...it is clear that the annex [in Benghazi] was somehow involved in the process of the distribution of those missiles. ...What happened is, the reason they lied, about—in other words, remember the famous demonstration, and the phony video and all of that? That’s what this was all about. That’s why they’re so worried. That’s why they have lied repeatedly about what happened in Benghazi. Because they are now responsible for all of the stepchildren of violence that happens as a result of this. This is a very serious matter. And when you compound it with the flippancy of [Obama] who talks about a sealed indictment to cover his fanny—to make it look like he’s doing something when in fact he has done nothing—we have reached a level of cynicism on the part of [Obama] that is staggering.” [47194, 47196, 47206, 47249]

DiGenova states that Obama got close to committing an impeachable offense when he revealed at his August 9 press conference that there is a sealed indictment against one of the people responsible for the Benghazi attack. (It is against federal law to reveal the existence of a sealed indictment.) DiGenova says that Obama “can declassify a document, but he cannot unseal an indictment. Only a federal court can do that. Whoever is the chief judge of either one of those districts should issue a show cause order for the United States attorney for that district as to why the United States attorney or [Obama] should not be held in contempt.” [47206]

In a Twitter message, Obama states, “Gravity exists. The Earth is round. Climate change is happening.” (CNSNews.com reports that, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “Antarctica sea ice ‘reached a record high of 7.51 million square miles’ on Sept. 26, 2012. And the latest figures for this year show that there’s been a slowdown of melting in the Arctic this summer as well, with temperatures at the North Pole well below normal for this time of year. Meteorologist Joe Bastardi calls it ‘the coldest ever recorded.’” But Obama continues to claim “global warming” is a threat—even though NASA reports that Arctic sea ice covers 1.5 million more square kilometers than it did at the same time in 2012, and “is heading toward the largest extent on record...”) [47239, 47252, 47571]

SanDiego6.com reports, “This week Elise Jordan, wife of famed journalist Michael Hastings, who recently died under suspicious circumstances, corroborated this reporter’s sources that CIA Director, John Brennan was Hastings next exposé project. Last month a source provided *San Diego 6 News* with an alarming email hacked from super secret CIA contractor Stratfor’s President Fred Burton. The email was posted on WikiLeaks and alleged that then Obama counter-terrorism Czar Brennan, was in charge of the government’s continued crackdown or witch-hunt on investigative journalists.” (At WesternJournalism.com Kris Zane writes, “Adding further fuel to the conspiracy fire, Hastings sent out a frantic email hours before his death, stating that he was working on a big story and needed to go into hiding, adding that the FBI was investigating him. When the email became public, the FBI vociferously denied investigating Hastings; but friends of Hastings not only confirm that the FBI was investigating him, but that the FBI had visited Hastings’ home the day before his death! The question is not was Michael Hastings murdered, but who did it? Did the head of the CIA—John Brennan—order the

assassination of an American citizen on American soil? Did John Brennan call for Michael Hastings to be tried under the Espionage Act, and did that prove to be too inconvenient for the head spook? Sources close to Hastings state not only that Hastings was investigating Brennan and his rogue CIA agency, but the NSA as well.” [47225, 47226, 47227, 47228, 43721, 47365, 47720]

Addressing an audience at Ohio University, Robert Murray, president of Murray Energy, says Obama’s anti-coal regulations represent “a coordinated effort to accomplish the total destruction of the United States coal industry. ...Obama, his appointed cabinet cronies, and his supporters in the U. S. House and Senate, are rapidly accelerating their attacks on our jobs and nothing has been enacted to even slow them down, let alone stop them. Mr. Obama has totally usurped the legislation branch of our federal government in his radical agenda.” According to Murray, “The proposals of Mr. Obama’s U.S. EPA alone were estimated to destroy 2.15 million American jobs and result in \$200 billion in electricity rate increases, all by 2020, before his campaign to place so-called ‘climate change’ controls on so-called ‘greenhouse gas’ emissions from electric power plants, which he announced weeks ago. This is notwithstanding that the Earth has cooled for the last 16 years and that there is no connection between human activity and any ‘global warming.’ His agenda, and that of his Democrat supporters, is to tax carbon to obtain additional revenue to operate the already bloated federal government. This is bad for Ohio, and bad for America.” Congressman Mike Dovilla (R-OH) says, “All Ohioans should be concerned about the growing list of announced power plant closures in our state with no plan to bring online additional power-generating capacity to meet our current and projected needs. Ohio’s hard-working families will be particularly impacted as analysts have projected electricity rate increases of up to 300 percent.” [47223]

Obama calls for an “outside” panel to review the government’s surveillance programs, and has reportedly selected Director of National Intelligence James “lied to Congress” Clapper to appoint the panel’s members. (This is not quite having the fox guard the NSA henhouse; it is having the fox’s cousin review henhouse security systems.) [47213, 47214, 47215, 47313]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer responds to leftists who argue that requiring photo ID for voting “disenfranchises” them: “The left gets the prestige of this by saying that its position is to prevent people from being—from losing the right to vote, from being disenfranchised. But, if you go to the polls, and you vote for ‘a’ and by a fraud, say, an illegal immigrant or somebody who’s, who voted already votes for candidate ‘b,’ your vote for ‘a’ has been cancelled. So, in effect you also have been deprived of your vote it. So I think it ought to be seen in those terms. There are ways depriving of the vote. ‘A’ is to stop them [from voting]. Second is to cancel the [legitimate] vote by allowing illegal fraudulent voting. So, I think there is an equal moral standing on the two sides.” [47221]

On August 13 no one shows up for an Organizing for America “climate change day of action rally” in Washington, D.C. (Whether some activists missed the event because their Chevy Volt batteries ran low is not known. Or they may have missed Obama’s Twitter

message, “Gravity exists. The Earth is round. Climate change is happening.”) In an effort to reduce the amount of embarrassment, the event listing is quickly removed from my.barackobama.com. [47198, 47199, 47200, 47209, 47218, 47239]

Reuters reports, “Pakistan-based [Islamist] militants are preparing to take on India across the subcontinent once Western troops leave Afghanistan next year, several sources say, raising the risk of a dramatic spike in tensions between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan. ...Hafiz Sayeed, founder of the [militant group] LeT [Lashkar-e-Taiba], has left no doubt that India’s side of Kashmir will become a target, telling an Indian weekly recently: ‘Full-scale armed Jihad will begin soon in Kashmir after American forces withdraw from Afghanistan.’” [47303]

Appearing on Fox News, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton “needs to be deposed again” on the issue of the Benghazi attacks.” Referring to her previous Congressional testimony, Paul comments, “I’m concerned about surface-to-air missiles, obviously, being in the hands of Islamic radicals, but I’m also concerned—was Hillary Clinton telling the truth, or was she simply saying, ‘Well, maybe it’s classified, maybe I won’t tell the truth. I don’t think our public officials should come before committee and not tell the truth. ...What was the CIA annex doing there [in Benghazi]? Why have we had no discussion of that so far? ...[Clinton] needs to testify under oath, did she know about this? And did it have anything to do with the misdirection [“blame a video”] campaign, and did she have anything to do with not allowing the Marines to go aid their wounded brothers over there in Benghazi? ...It’s not so much what happened at the time of the attacks. For six months leading up the attacks, they asked and they asked and they pleaded for more security, and she says, ‘Oh, I never read the cables.’ The problem with that is... that’s her job.” [47195]

Attorney Orly Taitz reports that oral arguments in *Taitz v. Barack Obama, Senator Diane Feinstein and Elizabeth Emken* are scheduled for Monday, September 26, in Santa Ana, California. [47202]

Obama plays golf with World Bank President Jim Kim, Comcast chief executive Brian Roberts and former U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk. [47233]

The Obama administration delays until 2015 an ObamaCare rule that establishes maximum out-of-pocket limits for health insurance. (The administration laughably claims that insurance companies need more time to change their computer programs; such programming changes are minimal. The truth is that enforcing those limits would result in even higher insurance premiums—which Obama wants to delay until after the November 2014 mid-term elections.) [47203, 47207, 47216, 47248, 47297]

The Obama administration announces it will challenge the proposed merger of U.S. Airways and American Airlines, arguing it would reduce competition. (The argument is absurd. The two airlines share virtually no routes, and the merger would improve service to the flying public. Additionally, American Airlines essentially needs the merger to rescue it from bankruptcy. Blocking the merger would result in massive job losses. The

Obama/Holder move arguably makes no sense—unless it is viewed as nothing more than a reflexive action by anti-capitalist statist who would like to see all large businesses fail and be taken over by the federal government.) According to Fox News, “at least four labor unions have joined in opposition” to the Obama administration action. [47242, 47243, 47251, 47635]

WND.com reports, “The son of a jailed Muslim Brotherhood leader in Egypt is claiming his father has evidence that will land ...Obama in prison. ...In an interview with the News Agency Anatolia in Turkey, Saad Al-Shater, the son of imprisoned Muslim Brotherhood leader Khairat Al-Shater, said his father ‘had in his hand’ evidence that will put Obama in prison. In a thinly veiled threat, Saad Al-Shater said a U.S. delegation [that included Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns] and was sent to Cairo by Obama to press for the release of the imprisoned Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including his father to prevent the release of explosive information.” [47211, 47250, 47343, 47350, 47441, 47513]

On WFLA Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) warns, “I believe that [Obama] will be tempted, if nothing happens in Congress [to pass amnesty legislation], he will be tempted to issue an executive order like he did for the DREAM Act kids a year ago, where he basically legalizes 11 million people by the sign of a pen. Now, we won’t get an E-Verify, we won’t get any border security. But he’ll legalize them [anyway].” [47230, 47244]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A group of C-list rappers and R&B [rhythm and blues entertainers] will help end obesity, according to Michelle Obama. [She] is co-producing a hip hop album featuring a plethora of musicians that you have probably never heard of as part of her ‘Let’s Move’ anti-obesity campaign, AllHipHop News reports. White House assistant chef Sam Kass said, ‘So many kids listen to Hip Hop so why not give these messages to kids in a way that’s not preachy. I think hip hop in particular—so many kids love hip hop. It’s such a core part of our culture. Particularly in the African-American community and the Latino community which is being disproportionately affected by those health issues.’ (What the assistant White House chef has to do with hip-hop “music” is not known, although it is assumed he is a factor in Michelle Obama’s less-than-svelte figure.) [47222]

House Republicans suggest reducing food stamp spending by a mere five percent, and House Democrats predictably go berserk, claiming it would “increase hunger in America.” (Food stamp enrollment has increased by a whopping 70 percent since Obama took office in 2009. Democrats apparently believe there is not even five percent waste and fraud in the program.) [47240, 47241]

Debka.com reports, “Chairman of the US Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey arrived in Israel Monday, Aug. 12 for critical talks with Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense minister Moshe Ya’alon and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, followed by parallel talks in Jordan. DEBKAFile reports he has come to lay the ground ahead of ...Obama’s final decision to embark on limited US military intervention in the

Syria civil war. The Obama plan, if it goes forward, would involve Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Israel, Jordan and possibly Turkey.” [47257]

The Associated Press reports, “In a rebuke to the Obama administration, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been violating federal law by delaying a decision on a proposed nuclear waste dump in Nevada. By a 2-1 vote, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ordered the commission to complete the licensing process and approve or reject the Energy Department's application for a never-completed waste storage site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. In a sharply worded opinion, the court said the nuclear agency was ‘simply flouting the law’ when it allowed the Obama administration to continue plans to close the proposed waste site 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The action goes against a federal law designating Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste repository. ‘[Obama] may not decline to follow a statutory mandate or prohibition simply because of policy objections,’ Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh wrote in a majority opinion, which was joined [by] Judge A. Raymond Randolph. Chief Judge Merrick B. Garland dissented.” At Breitbart.com Joel Pollak comments, “Though the ruling re-opens the [nuclear waste] issue, and provoked bipartisan backlash from Nevada Senators Harry Reid (D) and Dean Heller (R), the bigger impact is the fallout the decision may have for the White House on other issues. ...[The ruling] could be relevant to several other issues on which ...Obama has decided to flout federal statutes. In 2012, after Congress refused to pass the ‘Dream Act’ to ease immigration laws for illegal aliens brought to the country as children, Obama announced that he would direct federal agencies not to enforce existing immigration laws against them. That decision is already the subject of a lawsuit by ICE agents.” [47235, 47236, 47237]

According to WashingtonPost.com Obama is considering increasing cell phone taxes by billions of dollars per year and using the money to “expand high-speed Internet access in schools that would allow students to use digital notebooks and teachers to customize lessons... Doing that relies on the Federal Communications Commission, an independent agency that has the power to approve or reject the plan. Republicans vow to oppose any idea that raises costs for consumers, while others question whether it's appropriate to use the FCC to fund an initiative that is better left to Congress's authority. ...White House senior advisers have described the little-known proposal, announced earlier this summer under the name ConnectEd, as one of the biggest potential achievements of Obama's second term.” Deputy press secretary John Earnest tells reporters, “You would think that connecting schools to the information superhighway would be a pretty non-controversial topic. Unfortunately, we haven't seen a lot of action in Congress, so [Obama] has advocated an administrative, unilateral action to get this done.” (It is not improving Internet service at schools that is controversial, it is Obama bypassing Congress and raising taxes without appropriate legislation that is objectionable.) [47281, 47282, 47285, 47293, 47295]

The *NBC Nightly News* runs a segment that warns ObamaCare will leave some Americans “with no insurance and a pay cut.” Reporter Lisa Meyers reports, “We spoke to almost 20 small businesses and other entities around the country. Almost all said

because of the new law, they'd be cutting back hours for some employees." Obama economic adviser Jason Furman tells NBC he "sees no systematic [sic; systemic] evidence" that ObamaCare is "having an adverse impact on the number of hours people are working." (Furman is apparently unfamiliar with newspaper stories.) United Food and Commercial Workers union president Joseph T. Hansen warns, "Wait a year, and you'll see a tremendous impact as workers have their hours reduced and their incomes reduced." [47220]

While Obama administration officials continue to claim there is no evidence that ObamaCare is causing workers' hours to be reduced, AZCentral.com reports, "Temporary faculty members at Arizona State University are feeling a sting from the Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare], even though a key component of the law does not go into effect until January 2015. ASU administrators recently notified non-tenured associate faculty members that they will be limited to teaching six credit hours per semester beginning this fall, which amounts to two general-education courses. ... The new guidelines represent an effort by ASU to more clearly define the difference between a full-time professor and a part-time, temporary faculty member, also called 'faculty associates' or 'academic associates,' said ASU media spokeswoman Sharon Keeler. Beginning in January 2015, ASU will be obligated to provide health-care coverage to employees who average 30 hours or more per week. Though enforcement of the law is a year and a half away, ASU is entering a legally required 'baseline monitoring period' for implementation of the law this fall, Keeler said." [47296]

CNN wonders whether Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is eligible to serve as president. Wolf Blitzer says Cruz has "taken the Senate by storm stirring up controversy and ruffling feathers on both sides of the aisle in his first months on the job. For that Ted Cruz is a Tea Party favorite already generating lots of buzz about the 2016 race for the White House. However, the question isn't only will he run, but can he run under the U.S. Constitution?" Reporter Athena Jones responds, "The big question here is whether Ted Cruz is a natural-born citizen. I spoke with several constitutional law experts about this today. And all of them believe that Cruz is. But it's important to know the Constitution doesn't define who is a natural-born citizen. And those are the only people eligible to run for president. Also I should add the Supreme Court has never ruled on this issue." (Cruz is certainly not a natural born citizen. He was born in Canada, to a U.S. citizen mother and a Cuban father. As noted many times in this *Timeline*, historically, the term natural born citizen has meant birth on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. Cruz does not meet those requirement. Nor does Obama, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), or Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. Democrats will not be foolish enough to push the issue in an effort to prevent Cruz, Rubio, or Jindal from running for president, as any controversy will only show that Obama himself is ineligible. The media will therefore only find "Constitutional experts" whose opinions do not discredit Obama. (Cruz says, "I'm not going to get into a legal debate about whether I'm also a Canadian citizen." He also says he will renounce his Canadian citizenship—which arguably is a recognition that he has, in fact, gotten into a legal debate. He states, "Nothing against Canada, but I'm an American by birth and as a U.S. senator, I believe I should be only an American." Of

course, “denouncing” facts do not alter those facts. Whether Cruz will also renounce hockey remains to be seen.) [47262, 47263, 47264, 47265, 47421, 47426, 47427]

It is worth noting that the Founding Fathers were more than familiar with Emerich Vattel’s *Law of Nations*, in which he discussed natural born citizens: “[I]n order to be of the country, it is necessary that a person be born of a father who is a citizen; for, if he is born there of a foreigner, it will be only the place of his birth, and not his country,” and “natural-born citizens are those born in a country of citizen parents.” Additionally, the “grandfather clause” in Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution *makes no sense* if “natural born citizen” means nothing more than born on U.S. soil: “No Person except a natural born Citizen, *or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution* [emphasis added], shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.” That grandfather clause *had to be included* because neither George Washington nor anyone else was a natural born citizen of the United States in 1789, even though they may have been born on U.S. soil. [47262, 47263, 47264, 47265, 47511]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tells CNN’s Erin Burnett, “You won’t find me questioning his [Ted Cruz’s] eligibility [to serve as president]. I decided a long time ago I wasn’t going to be a birther. I’m not a birther for Democrats. I’m not a birther for Republicans. I’m staying out of that. Yeah, I’m just staying out of that one.” (In other words, “I don’t care that others have made a mockery of the U.S. Constitution.”) [47266]

On August 14 DailyCaller.com reports that Obama is diverting money from ObamaCare to fund pre-kindergarten schooling. [47219]

The White House denies that James Clapper will have anything to do with a group tasked with reviewing surveillance policies. [47213, 47214, 47215, 47224]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Violent clashes spread across Egypt on Wednesday after security forces stormed two sprawling protest camps in an early morning assault that killed scores of supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi. With at least 281 people killed, it was the deadliest day in Egypt since the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, and the fallout dealt a further blow to the prospect that the country might resume its path toward democracy. At least 37 died in clashes in the conservative oasis town of Fayoum; the tolls from other cities were not immediately available. By nightfall, the military-backed interim government that replaced Morsi after a July 3 coup had declared a state of emergency, and Mohamed ElBaradei, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and vice president, had tendered his resignation in protest over the bloody crackdown. ... Hundreds of Morsi-allied Muslim Brotherhood members were arrested nationwide after the dawn assault, the Egyptian government said. The authorities blamed the Islamist group for the violence and said police had confiscated guns, ammunition and other weapons from the protest sites at Rabaa al-Adawiya and Nahda squares.” (Counts of deaths and injuries by various media outlets vary widely.) [47231, 47232, 47238, 47277, 47278, 47279]

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says, “Today’s events are deplorable and they run counter to Egyptian aspirations for peace, inclusion, and genuine democracy. ...Egyptians inside and outside of the government need to take a step back. They need to calm the situation and avoid further loss of life.” At Martha’s Vineyard, Obama’s deputy press secretary Josh Earnest says, “The violence that we saw overnight is a step in the wrong direction. It is an indication that they’re not currently following through on their promise to transition back to a democratically elected civilian government, that they’re not committed to an inclusive process.” (By “inclusive process,” Earnest means “Obama wants the radical Muslim Brotherhood back in charge.”) Morsi’s supporters respond to the government’s break-up of their protest camps by torching three Coptic Christian churches. (CopticWorld.org posts a list of the dozens of Christian churches, schools, and institutions in Egypt that Muslim Brotherhood thugs have defiled or destroyed—while the Council on American Islamic Relations calls on Obama to support the radical Islamists.) [47231, 47232, 47238, 47277, 47278, 47279, 47291]

At NationalReview.com Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “The Muslim Brotherhood and its Islamic supremacist allies—portrayed in the mainstream media as ‘peaceful protesters’ subjected to unprovoked violence by Egyptian security forces—continue their jihad against Christians. And that jihad continues to be portrayed in the mainstream media as ‘reprisal’ attacks, as if it were the Copts [Coptic Christians] rather than the armed forces who had ousted the Brotherhood from power. ...The attacks on the Copts are not just a continuation of jihad as usual. They are a strategic effort to link the Copts in the public mind with the armed forces that carried out the coup (as well as the minority secularists who took to the streets to demand it). The military is a revered institution, but the most significant fact of life in Egypt is Islam. If the generals are seen as partners of the Copts, they end up on the ‘enemies of Islam’ side of the narrative spun by Islamic supremacists. As we’ve seen again and again since 2011, that is the wrong side to be on in Egypt’s ‘democracy.’ And isn’t it just ducky that the Obama administration, instead of discrediting the toxic ‘enemies of Islam’ narrative, has now adopted it in State Department pronouncements.” [47360]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports that on August 20 Obama is meeting, “for no apparent reason, with the 1972 Miami Dolphins. ...The Dolphins were the only NFL football team in history to complete an undefeated season, including a Super Bowl VII victory over the Washington Redskins. But other than that it would amuse [Obama] and his aides, it’s unclear why they would be invited to the White House 40 years later. ...Meanwhile, the White House remains closed to average Americans due to the sequester.” [47234]

WeeklyStandard.com and other sites report a July 18 public statement by Obama’s former White House “body man” Reggie Love that Obama played cards during the Osama bin Laden raid. Love said, “Most people were like [sic] down in the Situation Room and [Obama] was like [sic], ‘I’m not going to be down there, I can’t watch this entire thing,’ We must have played 15 games of [the card game] spades.” (The video of Love making the statement is quickly removed from YouTube after the story spreads.) It is worth noting that many people believe the famous photograph showing Obama

huddling with intelligence and military advisors in the White House “situation room” was faked—because the image of Obama appears unrealistically small when compared with the others in the room. His head appears tiny, for example, even though he is closer to the camera lens than others in the photograph who have “normal sized” heads. (More than a few anomalies have been identified in many of the photographs from Obama’s past.) [47245, 47246, 47247, 47273, 47274, 47283, 47290, 47294, 47302, 47319, 47345, 47577]

In Brasilia, the capitol of Brazil, Secretary of State John Kerry talks about climate change: “So the challenge is ahead of us, for all of us, and I know that the United States has a great commitment under ...Obama to take our own initiatives, not even to wait for congressional action, but to move administratively in order to do our part. I know we can continue to work with Brazil on this issue of climate, and we look forward to doing so. ...We need to inspire meaningful reform and action within the Major Economies Forum [on Energy and Climate Change]. We need to lead the effort to phase down hydrofluorocarbons in the Montreal Protocol. And together, Brazil and the United States need to join with other countries in an effort to negotiate a climate agreement in 2015 that is ambitious and flexible and that works for all of us.” [47253]

Kerry tells U.S. embassy employees in Brasilia, “[E]ver since the end of the Cold War, forces have been unleashed that were tamped down for centuries by dictators, and that was complicated further by this little thing called the Internet and the ability of people everywhere to communicate instantaneously and to have more information coming at them in one day than most people can process in months or a year. It makes it much harder to govern, makes it much harder to organize people, much harder to find the common interest, and that is complicated by a rise of sectarianism and religious extremism that is prepared to employ violent means to impose on other people a way of thinking and a way of living that is completely contrary to everything the United States of America has ever stood for. So we need to keep in mind what our goals are and how complicated this world is that we’re operating in.” (From Kerry’s perspective, the Internet makes it “harder to govern” because the average citizen now has access to information about what the government is doing—making them more difficult to control.) [47254]

Middle East scholar and author Dr. Mike Evans tells WND.com, “You’ll have civil war, ultimately, in Egypt. There’s no question about it. It’s not over yet. This is a battle for Islam. It’s not about Democracy. It never was. ...About one-third of the population [of Egypt] is uneducated and another two-thirds are unemployed. About 60 percent of the population are young people. The mullahs and madrassas are emboldening them and dumbing them down. It’s a real problem. [The Christians in Egypt are] in the crosshairs. It’s the same way in the Palestinian territories. They’re hated, they’re despised, they’re considered aligned with the West. It’s a battle. ...You’ve got John Kerry on his white horse, trying to save the day by forcing Israel to release terrorists and make peace with the Palestinians, who don’t want peace. [Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu told me personally that there’s [sic] things he would not allow: territories, treaties, an army or airspace. In order for the Palestinians to have a state, they have to have treaties.

They have to have an army. They've got to have airspace. The prime minister will never ever give that up. It's just not going to happen. It's wrong for Kerry to come in there and give them false expectations, because when he does that he gets people killed. They revert back to the terror card and Jews die. ...Barack Obama is Jimmy Carter on steroids. [Bill] Clinton had it right when he said it [Obama's Middle East policy] was a fairy tale. He doesn't have any comprehension of what he's trying to sell. He wants Islam to have their equal rights. He doesn't understand what they will do with those equal rights." [47280]

Jesse Jackson, Jr. is sentenced to 30 months in prison for misuse of \$750,000 in campaign funds. His wife, Sandra—a former Chicago alderman—is sentenced to one year in prison for filing false income tax returns. (Both receive much lighter sentences than would a “normal” person. Some probably suspect that the former congressman—who has argued that his bipolar disorder was responsible for his actions—received a light sentence in exchange for not implicating Obama in a deal to sell his U.S. Senate seat after the 2008 election.) [47255, 47256, 47260, 47267, 47269, 47270, 47271, 47287]

CBSNews.com reports, “Three more weapons from [Operation] Fast and Furious have turned up at crime scenes in Mexico, CBS News has learned, as the toll from the controversial federal operation grows. According to Justice Department tracing documents obtained by CBS News, all three guns are WASR-10 762-caliber Romanian rifles. Two were purchased by Fast and Furious suspect Uriel Patino in May and July of 2010. Sean Steward, who was convicted on gun charges in July 2012, purchased a third. The rifles were traced yesterday to the Lone Wolf gun shop in Glendale, Ariz. During Fast and Furious and similar operations, federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) encouraged the Lone Wolf and other gun stores to sell massive amounts of weapons to questionable purchasers who allegedly trafficked them [to] Mexican drug cartels. Patino is said to have purchased 700 guns while under ATF's watch. Ever since, a steady stream of the guns have been recovered at crime scenes in Mexico and the U.S. But the Justice Department has refused repeated requests from Congress and CBS News to provide a full accounting. An estimated 1,400 guns are still on the street or unaccounted for.” [47261, 47289]

John Chambers, CEO of Cisco, announces the lay off of 4,000 employees beginning in early 2014. (Cisco had already cut 8,000 jobs in the last two years.) [47305, 47306]

Obama attends a cocktail party in his honor. Also in attendance are Attorney General Eric Holder, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and Obama advisor Valerie “Svengali” Jarrett. [47382]

On August 15 the Osceola (Florida) News-Gazette whines that Obama's 2012 summer vacation “was totally ruined as he was on the campaign trail,” and his Christmas vacation “was interrupted due to congressional clashes over the fiscal cliff. ...While most recent presidents had a vacation home to enjoy such as George W. Bush's Texas ranch and Ronald Reagan's Santa Barbara home ...Obama doesn't have that luxury. Unless you have ever considered Chicago's South Side for your next vacation.” (The Bush and

Reagan vacation homes were, in fact, their permanent homes—not vacation palaces. Apparently the News-Gazette believes Obama had nothing to do with his purchase of a Chicago mansion and the taxpayers owe it to Obama to pay for his jaunts to Martha’s Vineyard—because there are no golf courses and nothing to do in the Chicago area.)

Breitbart.com reports, “Convicted Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) is scheduled to receive \$8,700 per month in government disability pay, as well as a partial federal pension of \$45,000. That generous \$8,700 in disability comes thanks to Jackson’s sudden development of a ‘mood disorder’ as the federal government began looking to indict him. Jackson, who was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison, had no history of mental illness during his prior 17 years in Congress. Rev. Jesse Jackson has defended his son’s claims of mental illness, stating to the court, ‘This time a year ago I thought we may have lost him.’” (Some might argue that slavery reparations would have been cheaper.) [48441]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “A YouTube video featuring an interview with former Obama bodyman Reggie Love was removed after his comments surfaced in news reports highlighting some private details from ...Obama’s life in the White House. The video, posted by the Artists and Athletes Alliance YouTube account, featured a July 18 interview with Love and Jim Newton, the editor-at-large of the Los Angeles Times, during a lunch hosted by the Alliance with UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs.” IN the interview, Love “joked about the day that Obama ‘finally found his birth certificate.’ ‘I remember when he finally found his birth certificate,’ he said with a grin. ‘It took a little too long, by the way,’ Newton added, prompting laughter from the crowd. ‘You know, your parents don’t live together, you travel all over the world, documents get lost there,’ Love continued. Love revealed that Obama just wanted to walk into the press briefing room in the White House and put the birth certificate on the podium [sic; lectern], but his staff disagreed. ‘Everyone was like ‘That’s a really bad idea’,’ Love said. ‘But he was very gung-ho about doing it, because he was so irritated about it.’” (PatDollard.com comments, “Really? Finally found? We were told he had it the whole time. Apparently, according to Reggie Love, it just showed up one day. The day after Obama’s forger finished it, it sounds like. ‘Lost it overseas.’ Yeah, that was the story he told the White House staff and people like Reggie, SINCE HE DIDN’T HAVE IT TO SHOW IT TO THEM. Fascinating story: Obama told Reggie Love he didn’t have his birth certificate because he lost it overseas. And then, right when Donald Trump has cranked-up the heat to an intolerable level, it suddenly and coincidentally shows up, he ‘finally found’ it, in Reggie’s own words, and wanted to tape it to his podium [sic; lectern] during his infamous birth certificate press conference.”) [51578]

Taking a brief break from golf, Obama “punishes” the Egyptian military for its crackdown on radical members of the Muslim Brotherhood (who have set fire to churches, bombed government buildings, and gunned down police officers) by announcing the cancellation of a joint U.S.-Egypt military exercise, Operation Bright Star, scheduled for September. Obama says, “While we want to sustain our relationship with Egypt, our traditional cooperation cannot continue as usual. ...We appreciate the complexity of the situation. While Mohammed Morsi was elected president in a democratic election, his government was not inclusive and did not respect the views of all

Egyptians.” (The situation is arguably not complex. President Mohamed Morsi was thrown out of office not because he “did not respect the views of all Egyptians,” but because he was imposing strict Islamic Shari’ah law on millions of Egyptians who did not want it, and the military that ousted him is fighting Morsi’s organization, the radical Muslim Brotherhood—which had been outlawed by former President Mohamed Morsi for good reason. Additionally, it is in the best interests of the United States to hold the military exercise, as it brings U.S. military commanders in close contact with their Egyptian counterparts. That, in turn, can lead to a better understanding of what is actually happening on the ground in Egypt. Obama apparently disagrees.) [47288, 47291, 47292, 47300, 47304]

Obama declares, “Americans cannot determine the future of Egypt; that’s a task for the Egyptian people” [a sentiment Obama clearly did not have when he went out of his way to help oust President Hosni Mubarak to clear the path for the Muslim Brotherhood’s Mohamed Morsi]. We don’t take sides with any particular party or political figure.” The Egyptian government says Obama’s statement is “not based on facts...[and] can empower the violent militant groups and encourage them in their destabilizing discourse.” (CNSNews.com notes, “A short time after delivering his remarks, [Obama] changed into golf attire and headed out to the links...”) [47288, 47291, 47292, 47300, 47304]

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton writes, “Egypt’s security forces have now moved decisively to eliminate Muslim Brotherhood protest camps in Cairo, producing the bloodshed foretold by daily confrontations between the Brotherhood’s supporters and opponents. Six weeks after the ouster of President Mohammed Morsi, Egypt remains deeply and violently divided—and American policy is confused and irresolute. While confusion and irresolution are nothing new to the Obama administration, this is not the place to dither or make strategic mistakes. We must define precisely what U.S. priorities are in light of Egypt’s strategic significance, and given the potential for protracted hostilities there between armed combatants. ...What Washington needs to do is clear. U.S. policy should be to support only Egyptian leaders unambiguously committed to [the 1979] Camp David [peace agreement between Egypt and Israel], both to its terms and to its broader regional significance. And we must assist those who place highest priority on repairing Egypt’s badly weakened economy and securing its international economic obligations, particularly safe transit through the Suez Canal. Both Egypt’s military and its ‘pro-democracy’ elements support Camp David, while the [Muslim] Brotherhood does not. There is, accordingly, no reason to advocate including the Brotherhood into a ‘coalition’ form of government or, frankly, to welcome them into the political process at all. ...In particular, that means keeping aid flowing to Egypt’s military, which since 1979 has brought its leadership close to Washington. We should fix whatever U.S. statutory problem exists, and encourage Europe and friendly Arab states to follow our lead. We should also leave our Egyptian friends flexibility in their internal political debates. This does not mean granting them a completely blank check. It does mean rejecting the Obama approach of essentially supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, which is as much an armed militia as a political party, and condemning the interim government. We all have admirable philosophical ideals about perfect

democracy, but these must now be for university debates, not judging the punctilio of daily Egyptian politics. What is happening in Egypt now is not pretty. We should take care that our efforts to improve things don't make them worse, disrupting our larger regional and worldwide interests." [47301]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, "In Egypt the Obama administration has managed to alienate the military, secular constitutionalists, the Islamists, and the proverbial street all at once. How and why? First, we have never articulated a consistent policy in the Middle East, partly because we cannot distinguish constitutional government from one-vote/one-time plebiscites. Second, this administration seems to harbor a distrust of governments that are more secular than not, and are pro-Western, as if they might somehow might be inauthentic or imposed from abroad. Third, our Middle East policy, such as it is, is just a loud 'reset,' as if not being George Bush means anything at all. Country by country, chaos and violence arise, as our stature sinks. ...In Egypt, we suddenly turned on [Hosni] Mubarak, but did not insist that the ascendant Muslim Brotherhood respect consensual government, and then were surprised when they proved to be as predictably thuggish as their nature. The result of this flip-flop-flip is that we are reduced to playing word games about coups, and lacked the courage to cut loose the Muslim Brotherhood, whose master plan all along was to turn a minority win in a plebiscite into something like the post-Shah Iranian elections and theocracy. Now we can only hope that the military restores order, and soon restores a constitution, with elections on the distant horizon that do not lead to a repeat of the Morsi takeover. ...Our policy at this point should be to support constitutional government and the rule of law—and to assume Islamist movements of all types simply do not share those goals, and never will, as we see with Hamas, which sought plebiscites to find legitimacy for their subsequent lawlessness and illegitimacy. The tragedy is that lots of reformers in Iran, former American allies in Iraq, Christians in Syria and Egypt, and pro-Western secularists in North Africa have had very little support, while we blustered, pontificated, sermonized, and did nothing other than legitimize those who went after them and despise us." [47361]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "The National Security Agency has broken privacy rules or overstepped its legal authority thousands of times each year since Congress granted the agency broad new powers in 2008, according to an internal audit and other top-secret documents. Most of the infractions involve unauthorized surveillance of Americans or foreign intelligence targets in the United States, both of which are restricted by statute and executive order. They range from significant violations of law to typographical errors that resulted in unintended interception of U.S. e-mails and telephone calls. The documents, provided earlier this summer to The Washington Post by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, include a level of detail and analysis that is not routinely shared with Congress or the special court that oversees surveillance. In one of the documents, agency personnel are instructed to remove details and substitute more generic language in reports to the Justice Department and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence." (The revelation proves that Obama lied when he told the American people, "If you look at the reports, even the disclosures that Mr. [Edward] Snowden's put forward, all the stories that have been written, what you're not reading about is the

government actually abusing these programs and, you know, listening in on people's phone calls or inappropriately reading people's e-mails. What you're hearing about is the prospect that these could be abused. Now part of the reason they're not abused is because they're—these checks are in place, and those abuses would be against the law and would be against the orders of the FISC [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court].” (George Orwell could not be reached for comment.) [47298, 47312, 47318]

Even some Democrats react negatively to the *Washington Post's* NSA story. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) calls the report “extremely disturbing.” Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) states, “Reports that the NSA repeatedly overstepped its legal boundaries, broke privacy regulations and attempted to shield required disclosure of violations are outrageous, inappropriate and must be addressed.” Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) states, “The American people rely on the intelligence community to provide forthright and complete information so that Congress and the courts can properly conduct oversight. I remain concerned that we are still not getting straightforward answers from the NSA. I plan to hold another hearing on these matters in the Judiciary Committee and will continue to demand honest and forthright answers from the intelligence community.” But Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) cuts the NSA some slack, stating, “The majority of these ‘compliance incidents’ are... unintentional and do not involve any inappropriate surveillance of Americans. As I have said previously, the committee has never identified an instance in which the NSA has intentionally abused its authority to conduct surveillance for inappropriate purposes.” (In other words, “It is acceptable to violate the Constitutional rights of Americans as long as it is unintentional.”) [47327]

Members of the radical Muslim Brotherhood set fire to government buildings in Egypt. (Among the hundreds of people killed in the fighting between Muslim Brotherhood members and Egyptian authorities is Sky News cameraman Mick Deane.) [47299, 47362]

A reporter asks State Department spokesperson Jennifer Psaki, “Do you think or is the administration confident that the steps—that the policy that you have pursued thus far in Egypt and also in Syria are worthy of [Obama,] who not so long ago won the Nobel Peace Prize?” She responds, “Yes.” According to CNSNews.com, “Another reporter asked Psaki if she believes ‘we are at a point where (U.S.) influence has eroded in Egypt.’” Psaki replies, “[I]t’s not about influence; it’s about the many layers of the relationship, including the important role Egypt plays in regional stability... how important that is to our own national security, our belief that they are on a path that we are encouraging to continue, a rocky path to democracy... We still think there is—the window is open for Egypt, for the leaders in Egypt to make the right choices and take the right steps to return to that path.” [47317]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Environmental Protection Agency may have intentionally skirted public disclosure requirements under the Freedom of Information Act, a federal judge ruled Thursday. U. S. District Judge for the District of Columbia Royce Lamberth ordered the EPA to submit to discovery in a case brought against it by the conservative group Landmark Legal Foundation and said the foundation can seek information to

determine whether top EPA officials used personal email accounts to conduct official business. ‘The possibility that unsearched personal email accounts may have been used for official business raises the possibility that leaders in the EPA may have purposefully attempted to skirt disclosure under the FOIA [Freedom of Information Act],’ Lambert wrote. ‘The possibility that the agency purposefully excluded the top leaders of the EPA from the search, at least initially, suggests an unreasonable and bad faith reading of Landmark’s FOIA request and subsequent agreement to narrow its scope.’ Lambert also said the EPA’s statements concerning its search for records were incomplete and ‘contain numerous inconsistencies and reversals which undermine confidence in their truthfulness.’” [47314, 47315, 47320]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Obama administration said Thursday that it has decided to boost by roughly 20 percent the amount of money it is spending on grants to businesses and organizations that will help Americans sign up for the federal health care law—including Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider. The 105 ‘navigator’ groups, which will share \$67 million, up from the \$54 million initially announced, will ‘help consumers apply for coverage, answer questions about coverage options and help them make an informed decision about which option is best for them,’ Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said. Republicans say the money amounts to a ‘slush fund’ for doling out to the administration’s political pals and the higher cost shows the government is breaking the budget with the health care law.” (The “navigators”—who are not required to pass background checks or be fingerprinted—will also collect personal information from each ObamaCare applicant, including Social Security numbers, tax return data, income level—with no guarantee that the information will be protected from identity thieves. Meanwhile, the Obama administration has reduced from 30 hours to 20 hours the amount of training the navigators will receive.) [47340, 47347]

On August 16 Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) appears on *Fox & Friends* and relates details of a private meeting he and other Congressmen had with then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton after the killing of four Americans in Benghazi. According to Kinzinger, Clinton was not happy when someone suggested it was a terrorist attack: “Basically in a very loud angry voice she says, ‘it’s irresponsible to even suggest this is a terrorist attack, this is a YouTube video, we know that there are protests all over and we need to be very careful about how we say this,’ and basically chided this member of Congress. I actually sat there in that meeting and said, well the Secretary believes this is a YouTube video because of how passionately she’s arguing that. But now we found out ...that they knew this whole [sic; the whole] time that it was a terrorist attack, including when it was happening. ...I don’t care about the yelling so much—and she yelled. I care more about the fact that a member of Congress who has a right to know this and ask these questions was chided for asking about what we eventually found out was the truth. ...If you look at the emails that were exchanged during the attack, they knew what was going on ...[Obama] didn’t want to admit it [was a terrorist attack]; he didn’t want to say it. He was more interested in getting through November.” [47307, 47309, 47351]

On MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, former Obama campaign guru David Axelrod is asked whether there will be more administrative changes to ObamaCare. He replies, "I have to believe that's going to be the case. Any time you implement something like this, it's new and there's no doubt that it's complicated, there will be changes along—there should be changes along the way." (HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey comments, "Consider this an extension of Nancy Pelosi's famous sales pitch for the program, 'We have to pass the bill to find out what's in it.' In this case, Obama confidante David Axelrod argues that we have to impose the law before we can find out where it's broken.") [47311]

Members of the Muslim Brotherhood call for a "day of rage" in Egypt. Leader Walid Khattab states, "We will drown the streets in blood and, for us, killing police officers is allowed." Radical Islamists respond by going on a rampage, setting dozens of churches and buildings on fire, and shooting police officers. (Some Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators wear t-shirts showing support for Obama. It is clear that they understand he supports them—even if most Americans do not. AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller observes, "The lines are clearly drawn. Juxta[pose] this [t-shirt photograph] with the tens of millions of Egyptians who took to the streets to oust the oppressive and supremacist Muslim Brotherhood. They carried signs denouncing Obama's support for terrorism and the Muslim Brotherhood. Obama's bald-faced lies yesterday, 'We don't take sides' is up there with 'I didn't inhale' and 'I did not have sex with that woman.' And memo to Obama, we do take sides. The side of political freedom and individual rights.") Secretary of State John Kerry deals with the Egyptian crisis by kiteboarding along the coast of Nantucket, Massachusetts—while Obama went bicycling in Martha's Vineyard. [47310, 47322, 47328, 47329, 47344]

Geller also writes, "The Egyptian government had to clean out the Muslim Brotherhood's terror camps—there were independent entities preparing for civil war where people were being tortured and murdered. Obama was wrong to criticize the Egyptian government while expressing no solidarity with the soldiers and police officers who were brutally murdered by the Muslim Brotherhood. Did anyone think the global jihadist Muslim Brotherhood was going to go quietly? Obama must correct his catastrophic mistake. He supported the Brotherhood from day one... He has MB advisors in his administration. He invited the Muslim Brotherhood to his speech in Cairo in 2009 (despite the fact that they were banned). His Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, called Egypt's branch of the Muslim Brotherhood movement 'largely secular.' He threatened any opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood with withdrawal of billions in US aid after he helped oust Mubarak. His bloody hands are all over this. Yesterday he said, 'we don't take sides.' But once again, he is lying. We did take sides. The wrong side. Obama's silence on the mass cleansing of Christians and churches in Egypt is unconscionable. It is a horror we will never live down." (Obama may simply be biding his time in an effort to help return the Muslim Brotherhood to power. By continuing to attack the military and the police and burn buildings, the radicals invite retaliation. That results in more Muslim Brotherhood bodies, and condemnation of the Egyptian military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi—who certainly cannot ignore the orchestrated violence. International pressure will mount on al-Sisi to schedule new "democratic" elections—and the Muslim Brotherhood will insure that it wins, by any means necessary. The Muslim Brotherhood's

view of democracy was once described by the Jew-hating Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan—Obama’s favorite foreign leader—as “a train that takes you to your destination, and then you get off.” Turkey has probably been aiding the Muslim Brotherhood with financial support. The significant question is, “How many of its members are the Muslim Brotherhood leaders willing to see killed to advance their goals?” The answer is probably, “As many as it takes.”) [47337, 47346, 47349]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Egyptian defense minister has ordered the repair and reconstruction of all churches that suffered damage in the country’s violent demonstrations since the Egyptian military removed President Mohamed Morsi from power last month. Defense minister Col. Gen. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi intends to fix the damage to Coptic churches at Rabaa Adaweya and Nahda squares, according to a report by the Mid-East Christian News.” (Meanwhile, AtlasShrugs.com reminds readers that the Obama administration continues to send U.S taxpayer dollars to Middle East countries to rebuild mosques.) [47330, 47331, 47332, 47333, 47334, 47335, 47336]

The National Salvation Front, which represents pro-democratic and secular political parties in Egypt, issues a letter to Obama that reads: “Like most Egyptians, we listened with attention to your statement on Egypt’s latest developments. As representatives of the non-Islamic political forces in Egypt, we believe in the same fundamental values on which the U.S. was founded. Be we also have 7,000 years of civilization and history that give us a special identity that we are fighting to keep since the Muslim Brotherhood came to power. Let us first inform you about who the Muslim brothers are: They’re an unlawful organization operating outside the realm of Egyptian law, receiving foreign funding and laundering money in a flagrant breach of international law. Their aim is to rule the world through a so-called Islamic Caliphate as they believe in their absolute supremacy. They pretend they are God’s emissaries and they will not rest until they have forced the whole world into submission. For them, Egypt is the launching pad to achieve their fascist dream. Their international reach spans the globe and they command the hearts and minds of many unsuspecting politicians. They have used deceit, soft speeches, international funds and whenever required, violence, to impose their will.” [47369]

“The rule of [former President Mohammed] Morsi showed how in less than a year they [the Muslim Brotherhood] abused the people, reneged on their promises and overturned the rule of law by issuing constitutional diktats monopolizing the judiciary as well as the legislative arms of the state. This was enough to impeach any president in a democratic nation. Unfortunately, Egyptians couldn’t refer to their Supreme Court as it was besieged by thugs for over 60 days back in November of 2012. So finally, Egyptians took to the streets and this century’s second Egyptian ‘peaceful unarmed’ revolution took place in June 2013 to recall the president and reject the rule of the Brotherhood. Egyptians deposed their president not because he was not inclusive, as you so kindly represented, but because he broke his constitutional oath and became another dictator reminiscent of the previous dictator this same great people of Egypt removed in January 2011. This was the will of the people that the West is now trying to bend pretending they are doing so in the name of democracy with no intention of interfering in Egyptian affairs!” [47369]

The letter continues: “Now, I would like to address a few points in your address: Despite the perception, well-intentioned or ill-intentioned, history will tell of a Western media consistently portraying only one side—the Islamist’s. We have to let you know some facts and some truth. Since July 3, 2013, the day deposed President Morsi was ousted by popular demand of millions of Egyptians, the Western media and prominent emissaries from the U.S. and Europe have consistently described the sit-ins that paralyzed a large part of Cairo as ‘peaceful demonstrations.’ They chose to ignore what was happening across Egypt from torching churches and killing randomly and destroying private and public properties. Mr. [Obama], peaceful demonstrators do not have the capacity to kill more than 50 police personnel in just a few hours. Peaceful demonstrators do not attack a police station with RPG [rocket propelled grenades] and kill the police chief and his deputies, strip them of their clothes and drag their naked bodies down the street. Peaceful demonstrators do not threaten Christians with genocide as many of the Muslim Brotherhood declared in hate speeches from the sit-in stage. Peaceful demonstrators do not raise the black flags of al-Qaida while marching with pictures of bin Laden and al Zawahri on their chests. While the Western media was focusing yesterday on the clearing of the sit-ins, more than 45 attacks were made on Christian installations across Egypt, resulting in the torching of 19 churches and cathedrals, some built in the 6th Century.” [47369]

“The list goes on, but your intelligence reports will enlighten you, we are sure. The attached video here will also give you an idea. Mr. [Obama], it is important that you see reality, especially that the great American people have themselves suffered from the darkness of Islamists and unfortunately thousands of great Americans died from their terror. The Muslim Brotherhood and their jihadist allies have never known and will never know peace. It might be useful to remind you that these same people had a three-week sit-in that started on the next dawn after election day and lasted almost two weeks to declare that they will burn Egypt if their candidate is not declared the winner. Mr. [Obama], we are on the side of freedom, we are on the side of human rights. We are on the side of justice for all. We also hurt to see mothers mourn their children and children mourn their parents. Have you seen, Mr. [Obama], the video clip of the Muslim Brotherhood supporter throwing 14-year-old children off the roof of a six-floor building? One mother died of sorrow when she saw the video clip of her son thrown off the building. She did not have time to mourn. Today Mr. [Obama], you chose to consider one side of the picture and to punish the Egyptians by canceling Operation Bright Star. Well Mr. [Obama], Operation Bright Star means nothing to most Egyptians, but it is the misunderstanding and misleading of the American people that we care most about. Egyptians have always stood by the American people when attacked by terrorists because we are freedom lovers and individual liberty champions like the American people. The only difference is that we have always been deprived of these great principles and rights.” [47369]

“Is it too much for Egyptians today to have the support of the American people during our own war on terror? How can the same group be named terrorists in the U.S.A. and peaceful demonstrators in Egypt? How can these be the ones the U.S.A. will never negotiate with while the U.S. government demands that Egyptians not only negotiate with

them but also partner with them in the building of modern Egypt? Mr. [Obama], the interest of peace in the region is served best by truly peace-loving people and democratic values. Finally, Mr. [Obama], we hope that this letter will get your attention for, after all, we are now representing the majority. Our present government represents us, the secular, civil and liberal political forces. We hope that you will find it of value to probe more and investigate more and ask more. When you do, we are ready to come to you in a small delegation and discuss and explain more. We are sure that you will realize that, after all, Egyptians are indeed a great people deserving a great future.” [47369]

Breitbart.com reports, “*The Washington Post’s* article detailing the fourth amendment abuses by the NSA got some push back from the administration who attempted to ‘edit’ the article before publication. The internal audit referenced in the article was obtained by the *WaPo* from Edward Snowden. The details of the audit indicated repeated and growing privacy violations by the NSA, violations which included obtaining thousands of American citizen’s communications records and using methods of information collection that were later deemed unconstitutional by a court. The Post was able to interview John DeLong, NSA director of compliance for the article and they were initially informed ‘DeLong and members of the NSA communications staff said he could be quoted ‘by name and title’ on some of his answers after an unspecified internal review.’ However, the WH subsequently changed their minds.” [47324, 47325]

The State Department announces that it will probably not have a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline until at least January 2014. DailyCaller.com points out, “For more than 1,800 days, the Obama administration has been analyzing whether the Keystone pipeline is in the national interest. The Department of State’s review of the pipeline found that it would create more than 42,000 jobs and not significantly impact global warming or the environment.” At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen asks, “Would anyone like to put money on them finding convenient reasons to continue punting past the 2014 midterms? Anyone? Gotta’ keep reaping those big green-minded donors’ cash to help with Democrats’ campaigns before the midterms, you know—why risk alienating any competing interest groups now?” [47541, 47581, 47631]

The Republican National Committee votes to prohibit NBC and CNN from sponsoring any 2016 Republican primary debates because of their plans to produce and air pro-Hillary Clinton movies. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “NBC is scheduled to produce a fictionalized miniseries called ‘Hillary.’ Oscar-nominated actress Diane Lane is supposed to play Mrs. Clinton. The four-hour film is expected to cover the former first lady’s public life since 1998, the year consumed by President Bill Clinton’s affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky and the resulting impeachment furor. CNN Films, meanwhile, plans to air a feature-length documentary on Mrs. Clinton.” (It is assumed that neither movie will explore the “close relationship” Clinton has with Huma Abedin.) [47338]

Congressman Steve King (R-IA) gives Obama advice on the rodeo clown controversy via Twitter: “Invite the rodeo clown 2 the White House 4 a beer summit. Take the temperature down, have a laugh, relax. It’s not about race.” [47339]

BizPacReview.com reports that "...Obama's former aide has been running his mouth lately, divulging information that can't possibly be sitting well with his old boss. Reggie Love, Obama's former personal assistant, told Jim Newton from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs that when Obama's long-form birth certificate was produced, advisors had to stop the president from calling an 'impromptu press conference' and setting the birth certificate on top of the podium for all to see, The Hill reported. 'He wanted to just have an impromptu press conference, just walk in to the press briefing room in the White House and put it down on the podium [sic; lectern],' Love told Newton. 'And everyone was like, 'That's a really bad idea.' But he was very gung-ho about doing it because he was so irritated about it.' According to The Hill, Love offered an explanation on what took Obama so long to show the birth certificate sought by so many, including Donald Trump, who some credit as the one to finally force Obama to produce the document in April 2011. '[When] your parents don't live together [and] you travel all over the world, documents get lost,' Love said. But that doesn't explain why we have never seen Obama's college transcripts or his student loan applications.'" [47348]

TechDirt.com, noting that at his August 9 press conference Obama called for a review board to study the NSA intelligence process, points out that "...Obama already has an independent group that's supposed to do that thing: called the President's Intelligence Advisory Board (PIAB). There's just one tiny, tiny problem in all of this. It now appears that, back in May, just before all the Snowden stuff started coming out, it appears that the administration basically kicked nearly everyone off of the PIAB board. It went from 14 members down to just four. And those members were basically asked to leave." Among those who were removed from the board were former Congressman Lee Hamilton (R-IN) and Philip Zelikow, the former executive director of the 9/11 Commission and a top aide to former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice." (The four remaining board members all have close ties to Obama, including two former senior White House officials.) [47354, 47355, 47356]

Clothing company Forever 21 announces it will limit non-management employee hours to 29.5 a week—below the 30-hour minimum that is considered full-time by ObamaCare. PolicyMic.com notes, "It is a move that will likely harm the reputation of the company, will absolutely harm the economic circumstances of its employees, and will function as a tangible example of the Affordable Care Act's consequences and shortcomings. ...It is a decision that will pose moderate public-relations consequences for the company and it is an unfortunate result for its employees, but it is a pragmatic choice for any profit-driven company to make. Forever 21 will subsequently be just one of many others to take such an action if the ACA isn't revised or repealed." [47388, 47389]

The Media Research Center notes, "In an impressive display of journalistic gymnastics on Friday's NBC Today, co-host Savannah Guthrie and Meet the Press moderator David Gregory managed to have an entire discussion about U.S. policy in Egypt without mentioning ...Obama by name." (The mainstream media, in an effort to shield Obama from criticism, often uses his name when the news is good but avoids using it when the news is bad. That results in questions like, "What options does the United States have?")

rather than, “What options does Obama have?” and laughable statements like, “The top members of the government, Secretary of State John Kerry and others, felt when Morsi was ousted that the military had this under control.”) [47395]

On August 17 the *Daily Mail* reports, “The brother of a Ayman al-Zawahri, the veteran terrorist leader of al-Qaeda has been arrested according to Egyptian security forces. A security official said that Mohammed al-Zawahri, leader of the ultraconservative Jihadi Salafist group, was detained at a checkpoint in Giza, the city across the Nile from Cairo. Ayman al-Zawahri is credited by many as having been the ‘operational brains’ behind the 9/11 suicide attacks on the U.S. and to have approved the co-ordinated bombings on London’s transport system in 2005 that left 52 innocent people dead. ...He was allied with ousted President Mohammed Morsi, an Islamist, whose supporters are now taking to the streets to protest the killings of its supporters in a security crackdown last week. ...For years second only to [Osama] Bin Laden on the ‘most wanted’ lists of terrorists released by the US in 2001, he has a £15-million bounty on his head and five years ago survived a missile strike aimed at killing him.” [47342, 47352]

Obama plays golf with *Curb Your Enthusiasm* actor Larry David, U.S. trade representative Ron Kirk, and Glenn Hutchins, part owner of the Boston Celtics. [47382]

In his weekly prerecorded radio/Internet address, Obama declares that health care is a “right.” He says, “...I’m going to keep doing everything in my power to make sure this law [ObamaCare] works as it’s supposed to, because in the United States of America, health insurance isn’t a privilege—it is your right. And we’re going to keep it that way.” (There is, of course, *no such thing as a right if it comes at someone else’s expense*. That is why Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Jefferson certainly did not list a “right to health care, paid for by someone else.”) [47357, 47397]

At a highway overpass in Delberville, Mississippi, demonstrators display banners calling for the impeachment of Obama. (At AmericanClarion.com Gina Miller later writes, “‘Overpasses for Obama’s Impeachment’ is a growing, nationwide movement, an eruption of patriot outrage, that is getting larger and larger as our ‘representatives’ in Washington continue to ignore our demands for a redress of grievances against the treasonous criminal Obama and his gang of fellow hoodlums in power who are systematically tearing down our once-free Republic. At the peak of our Overpasses protest on Saturday, we had close to thirty people, but we were just one of many groups all across the nation that gathered on overpasses Saturday to call for the impeachment of Obama. It was an exhilarating two hours that we spent on that busy overpass. After these awful years we have watched malfeasance heaped upon malfeasance from the Obama administration, we were greatly uplifted by the overwhelming response of the steady sound of horns honking and drivers giving us thumbs-up, filming and photographing us and smiling.”) In St. Charles, Missouri, demonstrators calling for impeachment are arrested for “impeding traffic” and “infringing on public safety.” [47423, 48435, 47444]

AtlasShrugs.com reports that the Egyptian intelligence service has thwarted an operation to evacuate Muslim Brotherhood leaders from Cairo to Gaza, and then initiate terrorist attacks against Israel. [47353]

On August 18 Townhall.com reports on the August 16 “day of anger” in Egypt: “Clashes occurred in at least 11 cities including Cairo. The death toll in Cairo reached 82, according to press reports. An additional 72 deaths from clashes were reported in nine other cities. As occurred on 15 August, more churches were attacked and a museum was ransacked. The Pope of the Coptic Christian Church announced his support for the Army and the police and sought greater protection of the Christian minority. ...Most of the casualties on the 15th occurred during the government’s clearance of the Brotherhood camps in Cairo. ...Although the Brotherhood has announced more protests, the government justifiably could interpret the security situation as improving. The Brotherhood has revealed its leaders and members to the authorities in at least eleven cities and in multiple Cairo neighborhoods. In some neighborhoods, the residents have formed militias who are shooting at and otherwise harassing the Brotherhood protestors. If, or more likely when, Egyptian authorities outlaw the Brotherhood, they will have ample dossiers for rounding up as many Brothers as they judge prudent.” [47358]

AtlasShrugs.com posts a translation of a report at AlBawabhnews.com, which states that the interim Egyptian president Adly Mansour will instruct his country’s delegate to the United Nations to “sign on the Armenian Genocide tomorrow!” (The Armenian Genocide Declaration is a document recognizing the Ottoman Empire’s genocide against Armenians. Between 1915 and 1923 more than 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Turkish Muslims. Turkey denies there was a genocide. Obama angered Armenians with his trip to Turkey in April 2009 during which he made the controversial statement, “We do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of citizens bound by ideals and a set of values” and refused to use the term genocide to describe the murdered Armenians—instead calling them mere “casualties of war.” Rather than use the word genocide and blame Muslims for their atrocities, he blamed Americans for killing Indians, saying, “Our country still struggles with the legacy of our past treatment of native Americans.” The Armenian National Committee of America responded that Obama fell “far short of the clear promise he made as a candidate that he would, as president, fully and unequivocally recognize this crime against humanity.”) One political observer comments, “While this move is a political retaliation at [Turkish] Prime Minister Recep Erdogan’s aggressive stance against Egypt and in favor of the Ikhwan [Muslim Brotherhood], this goes beyond the simple retaliation. It shows that the new leading team in Cairo is a group of secular, strategic and long term planning policy makers. For them to sign on the Armenian Genocide Declaration means that they intend to wage an ideological war against the Islamists and the Jihadists in the region. This is not directed against Turks, particularly secular Turks, this is a strike against Erdogan’s Sultanate and in general terms against the notion of a political Caliphate as a rallying point of all Islamists in the region.” (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller comments, “Obama has been a patsy for Erdogan and the Muslim

Brotherhood, and Egypt is calling him out on it.”) [2199, 2201, 2207, 2222, 2283, 9349, 9395, 9396, 9397, 9409, 47376, 47377]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, “You know, I think [the National Security Agency programs] would be better with more oversight, but there are some things they are doing that I fundamentally think are unconstitutional. Our founding fathers, when they wrote the Fourth Amendment, said a single warrant goes toward a specific individual and what you want to look for. ...The Constitution doesn’t allow for a single warrant to get a billion phone records. ...They basically, I believe, are looking at all of the cell phone calls in America every day.” [47452]

On the same program, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) states that Obama having compared Russian President Vladimir Putin “to a kid in the back of a classroom, I think, is very indicative of [Obama’s] lack of appreciation of who Vladimir Putin is. He’s an old KGB colonel who has no illusions about our relationship, does not care about a relationship with the United States, continues to oppress his people, and continues to act in an autocratic fashion.” [47548]

Newsmax.com reports, “The cost of Social Security Disability Insurance [SSDI] has risen so sharply in recent years that its trust fund is now projected to be depleted in just three years. ...The SSDI trust fund is expected to take in \$111 billion this year, and the fund would therefore have a deficit of \$33 billion. In 1970, there were less than 30 disability recipients per thousand U.S. workers; there are now nearly 75. The rising number of SSDI recipients is also increasing Medicare spending, because disabled workers can go on Medicare after a two-year waiting period, regardless of their age. Disability status also makes recipients eligible for food stamps and other benefits. ...A major reason for the surge in disability claims is that ‘Congress has expanded benefit levels over the decades, and eligibility standards have been greatly liberalized,’ [the] Cato [Institute] observes. ‘The result is that people capable of working are instead opting for the disability rolls when confronted with employment challenges.’ The disability program formerly benefited people with debilitating conditions such as strokes and cancer. But Congress expanded the benefits pool to include such claimed ailments as depression, back pain, and chronic fatigue syndrome. And fewer than 1 percent of those who start collecting benefits return to work. The increase in disability claims has occurred even though the share of the U.S. working-age population reporting a severe disability has remained steady over the years. Cato cites economists David Autor and Mark Duggan, who wrote that ‘the rapid growth of Disability Insurance does not appear to be explained by a true rise in the incidence of disabling illness, but rather by policies that increased the subjectivity and permeability of the disability screening process.’” [47359, 47599]

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the government has made it too easy for people who are not totally and permanently disabled to collect disability benefits. When they lose their jobs and cannot find other employment, they develop “bad backs” and “depression” and collect benefits. If they are denied benefits upon initial application, they hire attorneys who know which administrative judges are “generous.” At Townhall.com Tad DeHaven writes, “For example, one judge approved 97 percent of his cases that

involved back disorders, while another judge allowed only 15 percent of his cases with that health problem.” DeHaven notes, “Originally, the idea was that people would be eligible for disability benefits only if they could not work at all, but today the standards for ability to work are much looser. For example, after Congress relaxed eligibility standards in 1984, awards based on ‘nonexertional restrictions’—a mental condition such as depression or physical pain stemming from a musculoskeletal condition—jumped 323 percent in the subsequent 20 years. As a result, moderately disabled people capable of performing work, or at least taking steps in that direction, are opting instead for a check from the government.” [47359, 47599]

Newsmax.com also reports, “A petition calling on the White House to declare Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization has far surpassed the number of signatures needed to require a response, but there has been no word on the petition from the Obama administration. ...A White House ‘We the People’ petition that garners at least 100,000 signatures within 30 days requires a response from the White House. The Muslim Brotherhood petition quickly collected that number, and at the end of this past week had received more than 187,900 signatures.” [47359]

At FreedomOutpost.com Leon Puissegur reports on the Marxist background of Michelle LaVaughan Robinson Obama. At Princeton University in 1984, Michelle Robinson attended a lecture by Manning Marable, a well known black Marxist. The event was organized by the school’s Third World Center, of which Robinson was a board member. In a letter to the editor of the school’s newspaper, Robinson charged, “The bottom line is that white students on this campus are racist, but they may not realize it.” (It is worth noting that Michelle Robinson was admitted to Princeton not because of her grades, but because the school was filling minority slots and she received an advantage because her older brother, a somewhat gifted athlete, preceded her. Puissegur writes, “Michelle Robinson (Obama) did more than make meetings and express her seemingly hate for whites, she went on with the TWC and made demands for minority only meetings. She would have been up in arms to stop such meetings if they were to the exclusion of minorities. Yet it was fine, and even better, when she stood alongside a segregation policy that banned whites from any meetings held by the TWC!” In her sophomoric and poorly written thesis, Robinson whined about the progress of race relations at Princeton—progress that might have been advanced had she and other TWC board members not insisted that whites be banned from meetings. [47366]

Sharon Rondeau, editor of ThePostEmail.com, writes that she was contacted by the Republican National Committee and asked for a donation. Rondeau states, “While we politely declined, stating that we are registered Independents, we took the opportunity to ask the caller why the Republican Party will not act on the issue of the forgery of the long-form birth certificate image purported to be Obama’s which has been displayed on the White House website for more than two years.” The caller admitted, “It’s no secret. He’s a foreigner; he’s a Muslim. ...They [Republican legislators and RNC officials] know, they know. But they’re afraid of losing their jobs.” [47367]

Neal M. Sher, an attorney for the victims of the November 5, 2009 Fort Hood terrorist attack, writes Robert Spencer of JihadWatch.org: "...I can say unequivocally that at every turn the [Obama] Administration and the Army have twisted rules, regulation and common sense into pretzels to avoid acknowledging what [killer Nidal Malik] Hasan himself has admitted prior to the attack and now in court: that he is a committed and devout jihadist who is fighting for an enemy. The question which needs an answer: in light of his admission why has he not been tried for treason, as was Bradley Manning? While his crimes are most serious, he's not a mass murderer." [47370]

The Wall Street Journal reports, "Political allies of Vice President Joe Biden have concluded that he can win the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination—even if Hillary Clinton enters the contest—and are considering steps he could take to prepare for a potential candidacy." (Biden will be 74 years old in 2016, and his chances of winning the nomination are close to zero. His entry in the race would, however, place Obama in an awkward position—because he likely made a deal with Hillary Clinton to endorse her in exchange for her cooperation and silence over the Benghazi scandal.) [47381]

At NationalReview.com Mark Steyn writes, "[E]verywhere except Washington people are thinking strategically: General [Abdel Fattah al-] Sisi has made a calculation that he has a small window of opportunity to inflict damage on the Muslim Brotherhood that will set them back decades and that it is in Egypt's vital interest to do so. Grasping that, the Brothers are pushing back hard. For the same reason, the Gulf monarchies, having weathered the immediate storms of the Arab spring and understanding the longer-term threat the Brotherhood represents, have supplanted Washington as Cairo's principal paymasters: The \$1.5 billion subvention to Egypt was always a drop in the great sucking maw of the US Treasury; compared to what the Saudis and the Emirs are ponying up, it's looking less and less consequential from the Nile end, too. Out in the wider world, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin figures there's a regional power play to be made, and that Moscow can be back in Cairo in a big way for the first time in four decades. All these parties are pursuing their strategic interest. Does the United States have such a thing anymore? Not so's you'd notice. As a result, the factions in Egypt are united only in their contempt for Washington. Obama is despised by Sisi and the generals for being fundamentally unserious; by the Brotherhood for stringing along with the coup; by the Copts for standing by as the Brothers take it out on them; and by the small number of genuine democrats in Egypt for his witless promotion of Morsi's thugs as the dawning of democracy. Any "national-unity government" of the kind the usual deluded twits are urging on Egypt would be united only in its unanimous loathing of Obama, his secretaries of state, and his inept ambassador." [47383]

According to the *Star-Ledger's* Ed Beeson at NJ.com, "The bare-bones health insurance policy that's been the plan of choice for New Jerseyans who can't afford something better is set to go away next year, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. And what those policy holders will be left with may be a choice among pricey, pricier and priciest. About 106,000 people in the Garden State are insured under what are known as 'basic and essential,' or B&E, health care plans, according to state data. ...In addition to requiring most everyone to carry health insurance, the Affordable Care Act—better known as

Obamacare—starting next year will force health care plans to cover certain essential services while capping the out-of-pocket fees people pay in addition to their premiums. As a result, after Dec. 31, insurers won't be able to sell or renew plans that don't meet this litmus test. That includes B&E plans.” (ObamaCare prohibits affordable health insurance plans by forcing insurers to provide more expensive coverage and eliminate various maximum and limits. ObamaCare is the equivalent of Obama saying, “Every American has a right to a car; those without a car must purchase one; but only Cadillacs and Lincolns will be allowed.”) [47384]

According to “a heretofore-unpublished memorandum from the Congressional Research Service” obtained by Forbes.com, “[T]he White House has missed half of the [82] deadlines legally required by the ACA [ObamaCare]” during its first three years of implementation. [47390, 47391]

DallasNews.com posts a copy of the birth certificate of Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and notes, “Born in Canada to an American mother, Ted Cruz became an instant U.S. citizen. But under Canadian law, he also became a citizen of that country the moment he was born. Unless the Texas Republican senator formally renounces that citizenship, he will remain a citizen of both countries, legal experts say. That means he could assert the right to vote in Canada or even run for Parliament.” (Although the United States does not recognize dual citizenship, many other countries do. Cruz cannot serve as President of the United States if he is a Canadian citizen. Of course, even if one argues that Cruz is not a Canadian citizen he still cannot serve as President of the United States because he is not a natural born citizen; he is only a generic “citizen.” Historically, a natural born citizen is one born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. As this *Timeline* has noted many times, Obama is also ineligible to serve as president because his father was not a U.S. citizen—if one believes his father was the drunken Marxist from Kenya, Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. The *Timeline* believes both Cruz and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) *should* run for president—not because they are eligible but because any controversy over their status introduces more Americans to the issue of Obama’s ineligibility.) [47385, 47392, 47394]

The Dallas Morning News also mistakenly writes, “The Constitution says nothing about would-be presidents born with dual citizenship.” (That is, of course, total nonsense. The U.S. Constitution requires that every president must be a “natural born citizen,” which certainly does *not* mean someone born with dual citizenship. Historically, natural born citizen has meant born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. But because the media has had to distort history and contort the meaning of words in order to get around the fact that Obama is not a natural born citizen, it now finds itself needing to repeat the lies for Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal (R-LA).) [47636]

CNSNews.com reports that, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal government’s deficit for fiscal year 2012 was \$1.087 trillion. “2012 marked the fourth straight year—and the only four years in the history of the nation—when the federal government’s deficit topped \$1 trillion.” (All four of Obama’s deficits have been *more than double* the largest deficit under President George W. Bush.) [47396]

According to JihadWatch.org, the Muslim Brotherhood has “attacked, looted, and torched 58 Christian churches, schools, institutions, homes and shops” over three days. (Obama remains silent—except to declare that he does not “take sides.” Of course, by not siding with the innocent victims of jihad, Obama is siding with the perpetrators of violence.) [47409, 47410, 47411, 48412]

At CommentaryMagazine.com Jonathan S. Tobin writes, “There’s some soul searching going on in the Obama administration as it ponders how they got sidelined in Egypt as the situation there got out of control in a spiral of violence. ...[T]he administration went all out to persuade the military that had overthrown the Muslim Brotherhood to compromise and allow the Islamists to rejoin the government. Among other efforts to cajole them or to threaten aid cutoffs, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel made 17 often-lengthy phone calls to Egyptian General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi trying to get him to make nice with the Brotherhood. They even sent two Republican senators—John McCain [R-AZ] and Lindsey Graham [R-SC]—to continue the pressure in person in Cairo. And they’re baffled as to why they were ignored as Sisi ordered police and troops to clear out the Brotherhood’s armed camps in Cairo this week. ...The easy answer to their questions is that unlike Sisi and the military, ...Obama and his foreign policy-team continue to fail to understand that the conflict in Egypt is a zero-sum game. The choice there is between the military and the Brotherhood and the transformation of a key Arab country into an Islamist stronghold. This failure to comprehend the nature of the conflict has led inevitably to paralysis. ...As Sisi prepares to decide whether to enact a ban on the Brotherhood that might bring the confrontation in Egypt to a head, it’s important to understand that Obama’s failure in Egypt is not unrelated to his problems elsewhere. The common thread is a refusal to abandon its preconceptions and to look at facts rather than fiction inspired by ideology.” [47413, 47414]

The Obama administration, observes Tobin, “pressured the military to let Mohamed Morsi take office and then continued to urge them to stand aside as he proceeded to demonstrate that the Brotherhood had little interest in democracy. Even as 14 million people took to the streets to demand that Morsi step down, [Obama] continued to preach restraint and then stood by in puzzlement when the military realized that this was probably their last chance to save their country. Even now, the administration seems stuck in the same mythical ‘Arab Spring’ mindset that is predicated on the idea that a totalitarian movement like the Brotherhood is compatible with liberal democracy. Since they don’t understand what led to the events of the last week, how can we expect the Obama team to put forward a coherent position on what happened and what may unfold in the days to come? ...While critics from both the left and right assail Obama’s indecision that... protects neither American interests nor values in Egypt, this is yet another symptom of an administration that remains besotted with the same preconceptions that it brought to Washington in 2009. While he laments his lack of good choices and the fact that America’s ability to influence events is limited, it is [Obama’s] refusal to face facts about the Brotherhood and some of his other blind spots that is most to blame for the fact that he has left American foreign policy hanging in the wind at a decisive moment in history.” [47413, 47414]

On August 19 Oklahoma City's KOCO.com reports, "Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt won the state's first challenge against the Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare] Monday. Judge Ronald White issued the decision denying the government's motion to dismiss the case Monday afternoon. 'The court rejected the federal government's argument that Oklahoma lacked standing to challenge the law, allowing us to proceed with this pivotal case,' Pruitt said. 'We're optimistic the court will recognize what states have known for months, that the IRS disregarded the law by making the large employer mandate effective in Oklahoma or in any of the 33 other states without a state health care exchange.' Oklahoma challenged implementation of the Affordable Care Act after the IRS finalized a rule that would allow the federal government to punish large employers, including local government, with millions of dollars in tax penalties in states without state health care exchanges, which is not allowed under the health care law, officials said. Oklahoma challenged implementation of the Affordable Care Act after the IRS finalized a rule that would allow the federal government to punish large employers, including local government, with millions of dollars in tax penalties in states without state health care exchanges, which is not allowed under the health care law, officials said. 'Congress provided a choice for Oklahoma and other states in implementation of the health care law, and the IRS is attempting to take that away by rule,' Pruitt said. 'The administration miscalculated how many states would support this law, so now they're using the IRS to push through provisions that Congress did not pass.'" [47368]

At Townhall.com Michael Tanner notes that for millions of Americans going on welfare pays far more than getting a job: "Nationwide, our study found that the value of benefits for a typical recipient family ranged from a high of \$49,175 in Hawaii to a low of \$16,984 in Mississippi. In Connecticut, a mother with two children participating in seven major welfare programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, food stamps, WIC, housing assistance, utility assistance and free commodities) could receive a package of benefits worth \$38,761, the fourth highest in the nation. Only Hawaii, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia provided more generous benefits." Because welfare benefits are not taxed, "a mother with two children in Connecticut would have to earn \$21.33 per hour for her family to be better off than they would be on welfare. That's more than the average entry-level salary for a teacher or secretary. In fact, it is more than 107 percent of Connecticut's median salary. ... We shouldn't blame welfare recipients. By not working, they are simply responding rationally to the incentive systems our public policy-makers have established." (The value of a free "Obamaphone" is not included in the above totals.) [47379]

Obama returns to Washington, D.C. from his Martha's Vineyard golf vacation—but he is scheduled to campaign for his agenda in New York and Pennsylvania on August 22 and 23. [47380]

For no known reason, Obama welcomes the 1972 Miami Dolphins football team to the White House. According to FoxNews.com, "At least three players, including Hall of Fame center Jim Langer, did not make the trip to the White House, citing political differences with Obama." (In his remarks, Obama also refers to the Washington

Redskins—apparently unaware that politically-correct leftists have recently demanded that the team change its name to something that is not “racist.”) [47429, 47442]

At Fort Hood, Texas, a military judge blocks the prosecution from presenting evidence that would suggest that “jihad” was the motive behind Major Nidal Malik Hasan’s killing of 14 people in a November 2009 shooting. (AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller is not alone in her opinion when she writes, “The US government under the Obama administration is going to extraordinary lengths to protect jihad. The jihadists mean to destroy and eliminate us and our government is defending and protecting the ideology. Why is motive a consideration in all murder cases except when it comes to Islam and jihad?”) [47404, 47406, 47416]

FoxNews.com reports, “Egyptian judicial officials have ordered former President Hosni Mubarak freed from jail, a stunning turnaround for the 85-year-old strongman who ruled the nation for three decades before being ousted in a popular revolution, and a move that could plunge the unraveling North African nation into further violence.” (The move is arguably an “in your face,” “I dare you to do anything about it” challenge to both the Muslim Brotherhood and to Obama.) It is worth noting that Mubarak once correctly predicted, “And these groups [like the Muslim Brotherhood]—don’t ever believe that they want democracy or anything like that. They are exploiting democracy in order to eliminate democracy. And if they ever do govern, it will be an ugly dictatorship.” “Then the international news agencies go to these groups [the Muslim Brotherhood] for information, and they tell them, ‘they’re killing us, they’re killing us!’ Well, don’t you [news agencies] see them killing the police?!” [47386, 47387, 47393, 47420, 47461]

FoxNews.com reports, “Egyptian security officials detained the supreme leader of the Muslim Brotherhood early Tuesday, state media reported. Officials said Mohammed Badie, 70, was captured in an apartment in the eastern Cairo district of Nasr City, the same place supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi held a six-week sit-in protest that was cleared by security forces last Wednesday. Morsi is a longtime leader of the Brotherhood.” [47398]

At TheDailyBeast.com Josh Rogin reports, “The U.S. government has decided privately to act as if the military takeover of Egypt was a coup, temporarily suspending most forms of military aid, despite deciding not to announce publicly a coup determination one way or the other, according to a leading U.S. senator. In the latest example of its poorly understood Egypt policy, the Obama administration has decided to temporarily suspend the disbursement of most direct military aid, the delivery of weapons to the Egyptian military, and some forms of economic aid to the Egyptian government while it conducts a broad review of the relationship. The administration won’t publicly acknowledge all aspects of the aid suspension and maintains its rhetorical line that no official coup determination has been made, but behind the scenes, extensive measures to treat the military takeover of Egypt last month as a coup are being implemented on a temporary basis. The office of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the head of the appropriations state and foreign-operations subcommittee, told The Daily Beast on Monday that military aid to Egypt has been temporarily cut off. Leahy’s ‘understanding is that aid to the Egyptian

military has been halted, as required by law,' said David Carle, a spokesman for Leahy.” The White House denies the claim. (Obama may believe he is aiding the Muslim Brotherhood by withholding aid to the Egyptian military, but it receives even more substantial aid from Saudi Arabia and other nations—who also would like to see the Muslim Brotherhood weakened. Through the Saudi Press Agency, Prince Saud Al-Faisal states, “Regrettably, we see that the international position towards the current events in Egypt is contrary to their attitudes towards the events in Syria. Where is the concern for human rights and the sanctity of blood and carnage that takes place every day in Syria which led to the killing of more than one hundred thousand Syrians and destruction of whole Syria without hearing whispering from the international community...?”) [47400, 47425, 47433, 47436, 47447]

The Associated Press reports, “Members of Congress are split over whether the U.S. should cut off military aid to Egypt, highlighting the difficult choices facing the Obama administration amid spiraling violence on the streets of an important Middle East ally.” At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “If the US cuts off aid to Egypt, it sends a signal of support for the genocidal Muslim Brotherhood. Write your members of Congress and urge them not to cut off aid. If we abandon freedom, the consequences will come back to bite us for decades to come. Obama was wrong. If he cuts off aid he makes another catastrophic mistake. Making a mistake is one thing, not correcting it is another disaster. Obama will be compounding his first mistake in supporting these jihad savages.” (Obama either believes the Muslim Brotherhood can be trusted to be part of a secular, democratic government in Egypt—in which case he is incredibly naive—or he wants the radical Islamists back in charge in Egypt, working against both Israel and the United States—in which case he is vilely anti-American and should be removed from office immediately.) [47402, 47403]

Former Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) tells Newsmax.TV’s Steve Malzberg that Obama “believed that with the power of his personality, he could fundamentally change the nature of the relationship with radical jihadist elements and their view of the United State. They saw it as weakness, they took advantage of it, they’re taking advantage of it all across the Middle East. America’s credibility is ruined.” Hoekstra says of Egypt’s military leaders, “They represent the interests that were aligned with the United States for 30 years, they kept stability in Northern Africa, they protected the borders with Israel, they kept the Suez Canal open, they maintained peace and stability. I will take that, an imperfect government like that that gets those kinds of outcomes versus what we saw with the Muslim Brotherhood over the last two years. ...Now that [Muslim Brotherhood leadership has] been overthrown, they’re blaming it on the Christian minority—and it is absolutely brutal and horrific. It’s why we should never have partnered with the Muslim Brotherhood or sanctioned them or recognized them. They are a terrorist organization. They are, pardon the language ...Hell bent on destroying everything that American stands for... We’re seeing the true character and nature of the Muslim Brotherhood now that they’re out of power.” [47418]

At PJMedia.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “The almost eerie hatred for Obama seen in Egypt—among the military, the Islamists, the Egyptian street, and even the secular

pro-Western reformists—in part derives from a sense that Obama tried to cajole them all with cheap commonalities and mytho-histories rather than negotiate often conflicting national interests through tough transparent talks. A good way to get beaten up in the hallway at a tough school is to assure the local king-of-the-hill thug that both of you really have a lot in common. In some sense, Obama’s entire Middle East policy mirrors the hilarious scene in Clint Eastwood’s *Gran Torino*, where the white punk attired in pseudo-gang attire believes he can out-jive gangbangers into leaving his girl alone. He can’t. Obama has unfortunately become such a wannabe in the eyes of unapologetic Middle East gangsters.” [47432]

Davis argues that Obama does not understand human nature, and asks, “Why would an employer incur extra health care costs [because of ObamaCare] when he could juggle and reduce employee hours to avoid them? ... The tire store owner, the 200-acre peach grower, or the restaurateur [sic; restaurateur] sees hourly money going out but not necessarily coming in. That constant angst makes the entrepreneur wonder which wrong decision will be the proverbial final expense that breaks his back. In other words, there is nothing in Obamacare to turn natural self-interest into group interest: not the employer mandate; not the clumsy efforts to force healthy youth to pay a tax for care they most likely will not use; not assuring the well-funded public employee or union member that he can get even better government-brokered insurance; and not even telling the uninsured homeless person that he should sign up and pay something for a plan rather than walk into the free emergency room or local cost-free government clinic. At the very time [Obama] made it in the material and psychological self-interest of the employer to pull back from hiring, he gave equally negative incentives for people to scramble for work by vastly expanding food stamps, unemployment and disability benefits, and health care entitlements. The result is that a part-time job in Obama’s new economy is either no better, or often worse, than receiving government benefits while sitting at home. Why would most—human nature being what it is—take a break from watching daytime television to take a pay cut to pick peaches or mop floors? Bosses are also human, and resent the tiresome class rhetoric. ‘Spread the wealth’ or ‘not the time for profit’ initially could be written off as [Obama’s] funny tics. But add in ‘fat cat,’ ‘one percent,’ ‘millionaires and billionaires,’ and ‘you didn’t build that’ and the monotonous becomes bothersome and finally odious.” [47432]

Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR), clearly concerned that he will lose his bid for reelection in 2014, says in an interview, “I think that ... Obama has in some ways what you would think of as a hard-left agenda in various ways, and that agenda is not popular in our state. And a lot of that agenda I don’t support.” (At HotAir.com Guy Benson comments, “That’s a debatable assertion, but you know who’s *undeniably* on board with O’s agenda? [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid. And every vote for Mark Pryor is a vote to keep Reid, [New York Senator] Chuck Schumer and [Illinois Senator] Dick Durbin in charge of the Senate. Even Pryor’s marginal usefulness as a check on the ‘hard-left’ may soon be wiped away along with the filibuster. Beyond all that, let’s face it: When push comes to shove and the chips are down, Pryor votes with Team Blue, with no regrets.”) [47431]

Charles Nenner, founder and president of the Charles Nenner Research Center, tells Newsmax.TV the United States is heading toward a recession and “It’s going to be bad. It’s very scary because we didn’t have a lot of growth and when this [limited] economic expansion is over, we’re going to be in trouble. ... We didn’t leverage enough. Cycles go up, go down, take three and a half, four, five years, but if you almost don’t jump up and then you’re jumping down, then you’ve jumped down from a much lower level. ... [T]he economy is not going to do much this year. It’s going to pick up a little bit next year into the third quarter and then it’s going to be messy again.” Nenner predicts a recession until after the end of 2014, but “then we’re going back into recession.” Nenner also warns about deflation: “Deflation is a very serious problem we can still have to deal with and that’s much worse than inflation. So my fear is deflation, not inflation. Inflation will come, [but] it will take another three years until it starts. ... The [unemployment] problem is structural. There was a lot of outsourcing and then a lot of jobs ... [We] don’t need a lot of people anymore because of the Internet and IT and all of the technology. People have to think a little bit in a different way and it’s going to be very hard to get the unemployment [level] down.” [47438]

On August 20 “Al Jazeera America” begins broadcasting in the United States. According to NYPost.com the new television network “will come with a big budget a global network of 1,000 journalists and a mission to compete with entrenched rivals like CNN, Fox News and MSNBC. ... Ex-NBC News anchor John Seigenthaler will host its nightly newscast at 8 p.m. It will be followed by a magazine-style show hosted by CNN vet Joie Chen. Another former CNN face, Soledad O’Brien, is on board. Former CNN business journalist Ali Velshi will host a 7 p.m. show called ‘Real Money.’” (Al Jazeera America is being funded by the government of Qatar. That cash may continue for quite some time, as the network may have a difficult time finding companies willing to fund its operations with advertising.) At AtlasShrugs.com, Pamela Geller calls Seigenthaler, Chen, O’Brien, and Velshi “pimps for jihad” for joining the world’s “leading terrorist propaganda organization.” (The network’s first day of programming concentrates heavily on global warming fear-mongering.) [47401, 47407, 47408, 47445, 47446, 47491]

Meanwhile, FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Al Jazeera news channel has been caught airing what appears to be the fake death of a Muslim Brotherhood-backed protestor in Egypt, according to reports. As violence between Muslim Brotherhood protestors and Egyptian security forces rages in the Middle Eastern country, Al Jazeera has run a flurry of coverage that critics say is sympathetic to the Brotherhood. A supposedly dead protestor was filmed and broadcast earlier this week on Al Jazeera. As a distraught woman yells in Arabic, the man in question can be seen clutching what is described as a gunshot wound. However, when the man’s hand is moved it becomes apparent that he has not been injured despite a pool of blood.” Additionally, the “dead man” then moves his legs to block the camera. (Soledad O’Brien has no comment.) [47437]

Pat Buchanan writes at TakiMag.com, “In the near term, bet on the men with the guns. The Egyptian Army, being slowly squeezed out of its central role in the nation’s life by Mohammed Morsi, waited for the moment to oust the elected president and crush his Muslim Brotherhood. ... In the short term, America must get on with the generals. For it

is they who bottle up Hamas in Gaza, battle al-Qaida in Sinai, protect the Christian Copts, grant our Air Force overflight rights and our Navy first-in-line transit rights through the Suez Canal. And it is the generals who continue to honor the terms of the Camp David accords. ... Looking back, of all the forces unleashed by the Arab Spring, the Facebook-Twitter crowd calling for secular democracy harvested the greatest publicity. But even then, other forces seemed to have deeper and broader roots in the hearts and minds of the masses. Those forces: tribalism, nationalism and Islamism. ... And as the Jews have been expelled from the Arab world, today it is the turn of the Christians. They have seen priests murdered, churches torched and congregations massacred in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and beyond, in Ethiopia and Nigeria—by extremists who cite the Quran for what they are doing. And after the Jews and Christians are gone, it is likely to be the turn of the Americans. ... Western peoples are dying, as Muslim populations are exploding and Muslim migrants are pouring into Europe and the United States. While Islam is booming in the East and being welcomed in the West, Christianity is dying in the West and being expelled from the East. It is not unreasonable for Muslim visionaries to see the next 500 years as an era of Islamic ascendancy, as the last 500 saw a Western ascendancy. ... Ethnonationalism and religious fundamentalism tore apart the British, French and Soviet empires. All are working now against the U.S. Imperium. The generals in Egypt won this round. But is there any doubt as to which way the wind is blowing?" [47399]

The Jerusalem Post reports, "Israel has urged the US to back the Egyptian military, saying losing Egypt to Islamists could pose a risk the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks... According to an Israeli official quoted by [*The Wall Street Journal*], Egypt and Saudi Arabia have traditionally played an important role in providing the Palestinians the support to stay in the negotiations and to make concessions, and without them there is a chance the talks will fail. The [*Journal*] also reported on a parallel effort by Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to influence the US into backing the Egyptian military. According to the report, Israel and the US's Gulf allies are urging the Obama administration to encourage the Egyptian military to confront rather than reconcile with the Muslim Brotherhood. Israel is interested in an Egyptian government that will aggressively fight the Islamists in the Sinai Peninsula and protect the border, the report said. The paper quotes an Israeli official as calling anti-Muslim Brotherhood nations 'the axis of reason.'" [47448, 47449]

The Obama family gets a second dog. Named "Sunny," the female dog is, like their dog Bo, a black Portuguese Water Dog. (What the Obamas paid for Sunny is not known, but the cost of an Osprey MV-22 helicopter to fly a designer dog to Martha's Vineyard is \$11,000 per hour. Whether Sunny will keep the media from focusing attention away from Obama's second-term problems remains to be seen. *Morning Jolt's* Jim Geraghty ridicules the situation: "Egypt burns, the NSA is out of control, the economy stinks... hey, look, a puppy! The Obamas have a new puppy. *This changes everything.*" DailyCaller.com notes that Sunny "was born in 2012 in Michigan, where the unemployment rate was 8.8 percent last month.") Some wonder if Obama named the dog "Sunny" in honor of Sunni Muslims. Obama's alleged Kenyan father was a Sunni Muslim; his step-father was a Muslim; his mother converted to Islam; and members of his family in Kenya are Sunni Muslims. (Obama is a big fan of symbolism, scheduling

important events to fall on historic dates that are meaningful to leftists and serving cookies shaped like acorns at a White House Christmas Party—a reference to the leftist activist group ACORN. On election night Obama and his family were all dressed in stark black and red—symbolic of black power and socialism.) [1093, 1094, 1591, 2178, 2179, 7031, 7053, 47415, 47422]

CNN.com reports, “Four State Department employees placed on [paid administrative] leave after last year’s deadly terror attack on the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, won’t be fired, a decision that irritated key congressional Republicans insisting on accountability for security and other shortcomings. A senior State Department official said the employees would be assigned to different jobs, and an agency spokeswoman followed up by saying that an independent review of the matter found problems and raised questions but did not conclude any breach of duty. ... The sanctioned employees included Eric J. Boswell, who the State Department said had resigned from his post as assistant secretary for diplomatic security but remained with the department while on leave. The other three were not identified.” House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) responds, “Instead of accountability, the State Department offered a charade that included false reports of firings and resignations and now ends in a game of musical chairs where no one misses a single day on the State Department payroll. It is now clear that the personnel actions taken by the Department in response to the Benghazi terrorist attacks was more of a public relations strategy than a measured response to a failure in leadership.” (Not one State Department employee—let alone Obama or Hillary Clinton—has been held responsible for the Benghazi disaster.) [47417, 47419, 47424, 47428, 47465]

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says of the reinstatement of the four State Department employees, “This is a definition of how to conduct a stonewall. For all the weeks after Benghazi, remember, weeks that took us past election day, all the administration’s answers to all questions about the Benghazi fiasco were, ‘We can’t talk, it’s under investigation, we’re waiting for the ARB [accountability review board].’ Then you get the ARB report, and then everybody afterward says, ‘Well, it’s all in the ARB report.’ What did it say? Responsibility stops at the assistant secretary level [just below then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton], these are the people who botched it, and they will be put on leave. Stage three is now, where the new Secretary of State [John Kerry] looks at this and says essentially these people were not responsible, or they don’t really carry any accountability, they are back on the job... without ever missing a paycheck. And no one is held responsible. ... Whatever the intent was, it surely is a Clinton protection operation in effect.” [47454]

FoxNews.com reports, “Egypt on Tuesday announced the arrest of the supreme leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, dealing another blow to the group as it struggles to maintain order amid a tough crackdown by authorities, who are looking to quell protests in the wake of President Mohamed Morsi’s ouster. Mohammed Badie was arrested in an apartment at the eastern Cairo district of Nasr City, close to the location of the six-week sit-in protest by supporters of Morsi, who also hails from the Islamist group. The encampment was cleared by security forces last Wednesday, along with another protest

site in Giza, in a raid that killed hundreds of people. Badie's arrest is the latest stage in an escalating crackdown by authorities on the Brotherhood in which hundreds have also been arrested. ... White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary Josh Earnest condemned Badie's arrest, saying it was not in line with the standard the U.S. expects in upholding human rights." (The Muslim Brotherhood has been on a rampage in Egypt, killing scores of police officers, setting building and churches on fire, and killing Christians simply because they are Christians—and the Obama administration claims the arrest of the group's leader violates "human rights." Obama, who claims he is not taking sides, certainly gives the appearance of taking the wrong side.) [47439]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi reports that "Obama's half-brother in Kenya could cause the White House more headaches over new evidence linking him to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and establishing that controversial IRS supervisor Lois Lerner signed his tax-exempt approval letter. Malik Obama's oversight of the Muslim Brotherhood's international investments is one reason for the Obama administration's support of the Muslim Brotherhood, according to an Egyptian report citing the vice president of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt, Tehani al-Gebali. In a news report on Egyptian television of a Gebali speech, translated by researcher Walid Shoebat, a former Palestinian Liberation Organization operative, Gebali said she would like 'to inform the American people that [Malik] Obama is one of the architects of the major investments of the Muslim Brotherhood. We will carry out the law, and the Americans will not stop us. We need to open the files and begin court sessions. The Obama administration cannot stop us; they know that they supported terrorism. We will open the files so these nations are exposed, to show how they collaborated with [the terrorists]. It is for this reason that the American administration fights us.' ... Shoebat reported in May that Malik Obama is the executive secretary of the Islamic Da'wa Organization, or IDO, a group created by the government of Sudan, which is considered by the U.S. State Department to be a terrorist state." [47440, 47441, 47521, 47536, 47617]

Two black teen-agers are charged with first-degree murder in the August 16 shooting of a white college athlete from Australia in Duncan, Oklahoma. (A bi-racial teen-ager who drove the getaway vehicle is charged with being an accessory to the crime, but media reports vary with regard to which of the three fired the weapon.) They reportedly chose 22-year-old Christopher Lane "at random" and killed him "for the fun of it" and because they were "bored." (Obama, Eric Holder, and Al Sharpton have no comment. The best Jesse Jackson can come up with is: "This senseless violence is frowned upon and the justice system must prevail.") Former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) writes, "'We were bored & decided to kill somebody.' 3 black teens shoot white jogger. Who will [Obama] identify w/this time?" (Brenda M. Edwards, the mother of accused killer James Edwards, is currently serving time in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. While many will blame the nation's "gun culture" for having influenced James Edwards, others may argue that his mother and her 19 years of trouble with the law may have had a more significant impact on his life choices.) [47443, 47450, 47453, 47455, 47456, 47470, 47506, 47563, 47566, 47595]

NJ.com reports that the Hamilton, New Jersey school district is limiting substitute teachers to four days of work per week in order to keep their hours under 30 and avoid ObamaCare's insurance requirement. [47463]

CNSNews.com reports, "The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$179,784 grant to 'experimental economists' who will study what drives one's work incentive—personal gain and employer profit or contributing to causes that help the 'needy.'" Angelo de Oliveira, "one of the principal investigators of the study," states, "Our focus is on the less-examined issue of motivation within institutions that do not have profit as their primary goal—that is, organizations with a cause. ... Understanding how individuals with this dual purpose—love and money—respond to both monetary and non-monetary incentives will help design work environments that enhance worker motivation, motivate the employees to take better care of their charges, and give the families of the recipient more peace of mind." (Why the federal government should be involved in "designing work environments" is not explained.) The study "will conduct laboratory experiments that examine the desire to 'do good' as an intrinsic motive for working." (The absurd study is a reflection of society's gross misunderstanding of capitalism. To many Americans, "doing good" means emulating Albert Schweitzer or Mother Theresa, while "making money" is greedy and does not represent "doing good." Of course, in the process of making money, people like Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell did far more to benefit the human race than could any "humanitarian." While many consider teaching a virtuous profession, so too is working in a factory to produce the things that make the lives of Americans easier and pleasurable. Making laundry detergent is also a virtuous profession.) [47467]

At the Kentucky State Fair, Alison Lundergan Grimes—Kentucky's Secretary of State and the likely Democrat opponent of Senator Mitch McConnell in the 2014 U.S. Senate election—defends ObamaCare by pointing to bad food. She tells reporters, "As I've said before, I'm troubled with certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act, but we're here at the state fair and if there's [sic] three reasons why Kentuckians, especially our seniors, need access to affordable health care coverage, you just have to look over to the right where you see the donut burger, the chili cheese-steak and the [cheese] covered french fries that are here." (In other words, "We need ObamaCare so that taxpayers in the other 49 states can pay for the health care of Kentuckians who eat unhealthy foods.") [47505]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) addresses a large audience at a "Defund ObamaCare" rally in Dallas, and is repeatedly interrupted by hecklers paid by Obama's Organizing for Action (OFA) campaign operation. (OFA denies involvement.) [47492]

RTNews.com points out that, "for the first time ever," the Federal Reserve "is carrying more than \$2 trillion in US debt. According to the Fed's latest weekly account, the central bank currently is holding roughly \$2,001,093,000,000 in US Treasury securities. ... By comparison, the amount of federal debt held by the bank since the start of 2009 and the [Obama] administration... has more than quadrupled. On Dec. 31, 2008 that statistic was... less than a half-trillion in Treasury securities, but efforts undertaken by the Fed to revive the economy—so called 'quantitative easing'—have instead left the bank to bear

record amounts of national debt.” (Essentially, this means the Federal Reserve has created \$1.5 trillion out of thin air to help finance the federal government’s deficit spending and boost the stock market to create a false recovery. That \$1.5 trillion *did not really exist* until it was created with bookkeeping entries.) China is the second largest holder of U.S. debt, with about \$1.2758 trillion. [47602]

On *Hannity*, host Sean Hannity tells Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), “I’m going to tell you, congressman, [if] you guys don’t do this [de-fund ObamaCare], you’ve lost me. I’m done. Because there’s no difference between you, then, and the Democrats at that point. None.” (Gowdy supports de-funding ObamaCare.) [47468]

On August 21 various news agencies report the Syrian government’s alleged use of chemical weapons against civilians. Exactly one year earlier, on August 21, 2012, Obama told reporters, “We have been very clear to the [Bashar al-] 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.” (Whether Obama will do nothing and claim that the chemical attack did not meet his “bunch of” threshold is not known. It is worth noting that if the Syrian government did use chemical weapons, it is possible that they were obtained from Iraq 10 years earlier. In the weeks leading up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, Saddam Hussein allegedly had truckloads of chemical weapons transported to Syria for safekeeping—and to ensure that he would not be caught with the “weapons of mass destruction” that George W. Bush’s opponents claimed did not exist. A “special response” to the use of nerve gas is, some might argue, absurd. More than 100,000 people have reportedly been killed in the Syrian conflict, and to argue that killing one thousand with nerve gas “crosses a red line” means the other 99,000 deaths are somehow irrelevant or sanctioned. The “red line” concept is like the Geneva Convention’s prohibition of three-edged saber blades because they cause more traumatic injuries than two-edged blades. If two enemies can agree on *how* to kill each other, then one would think they could agree *not* to kill each other. Some argue that Obama’s ‘red line’ statement in 2012 was his excuse not to get involved in Syria, and that one year later he looks like a fool because Assad called his bluff. Others argue that chemical weapons were used by the rebels in order to make it appear that the Assad regime used them, as an excuse to draw the United States and Europe into the conflict—to make it easier to oust Assad and establish an Islamist regime. Still others claim, with some justification, that chemical weapons were not used at all and the events were simply staged and filmed—because the “powers that be” want a local conflict to grow into a regional war. The Israeli intelligence agency Mossad believes the Syrian government is responsible for the chemical weapons attacks.) [35842, 47464, 47580, 47600, 47601, 47604, 47619, 47692]

The Associated Press reports, “The nations’ [sic; nation’s] top intelligence official is declassifying three secret U.S. court opinions showing how the National Security Agency scooped up as many as 56,000 emails annually over three years and other communications by Americans with no connection to terrorism, how it revealed the error to the court and changed how it gathered Internet communications. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper authorized the release Wednesday. The opinions show that

when the NSA reported to the court in 2011 that it was inadvertently collecting as many as 56,000 Internet communications by Americans with no collection to terrorism, the court ordered the NSA to find ways to limit what it collects and how long it keeps it.” [47451], 47452]

The Times of India reports, “Religious parties in Egypt like the Freedom and Justice Party of ousted President [Mohamed] Morsi may face dissolution while the ban on deposed dictator Hosni Mubarak’s party could be revoked under a proposed new constitution that seeks to overhaul the country’s political system. A 10-member technical committee handed over the amended draft on Tuesday to Egypt’s interim president Adly Mansour after a month of deliberations and revisions. The committee opted to change Article 6 to impose an outright ban on the formation of political parties based on religion or on mixing religion with politics. This could lead to the dissolution [of] Islamist parties—including the Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice party.” [47591]

Josh Earnest, deputy White House press secretary, is asked by a reporter for his reaction to the killing of Australian athlete Christopher Zane. Earnest replies, “I’m not familiar with that, actually. ...[Obama] himself has spoken pretty eloquently about violence in our communities...” [47457, 47508]

Earnest also tells reporters that Obama is set to propose “fundamental reforms that would bring real change to the way that we pay for college education in this country.” The reforms “are not going to be popular with everybody, but they are going to be in the best interests of middle-class families.” (*The Obama Timeline* has no idea what Obama will propose, but assumes it will involve college expenses being partially dumped on someone other than the students and their parents.) [47466, 47474]

U.S. Army Private First Class Bradley Manning is sentenced to 35 years in prison for providing classified government documents to Wikileaks. (According to his attorney, Manning will seek a pardon from Obama. In the meantime, Manning wants to be called “Chelsea” and referred to as a female. He also wants the Army to provide hormone therapy while he/she is in prison. Army spokesman George Wright states, “The Army does not provide hormone therapy or sex-reassignment surgery for gender-identity disorder.”) [47458, 47496, 47497, 47510]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Citing Obamacare, the United Parcel Service plans to remove 15,000 spouses from its health care plan because they are eligible for coverage elsewhere. Rising medical costs, ‘combined with the costs associated with the Affordable Care Act, have made it increasingly difficult to continue providing the same level of health care benefits to our employees at an affordable cost,’ UPS said in a memo to employees, Kaiser Health News reported.” (The UPS change is intended to offset the \$60 million cost of keeping dependent “children” of employees covered through age 26. Although large employers are required to insure employees and dependent children under ObamaCare, the law does not require that spouses be covered. Thus, for some Americans Obama’s “gift” of keeping children covered to age 26 will come at the price of losing spouse coverage. An additional unintended effect of ObamaCare will be that many

employees with spouses and children will be better off *not* having employer-paid insurance and buying taxpayer-subsidized insurance on the ObamaCare exchanges.) The University of Virginia has also announced that it will discontinue spouse coverage if they can obtain it elsewhere. Joanne Peters, spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, states, “The health care law will make health insurance more affordable, strengthen small businesses and make it easier for employers to provide coverage to their workers.” [47459, 47460, 47462, 47479, 47490, 47846]

The UPS change would not affect employees with non-working spouses, but working spouses with their own employer-provided insurance would lose “coordination of benefits” coverage with the UPS plan. For example, the wife of a UPS employee might have an illness that requires \$10,000 in treatment or surgery. If her own employer’s insurance plan covered 80 percent of that expense, or \$8,000, the UPS employee would submit the bill to his own plan—and the UPS plan would likely pay the outstanding balance of \$2,000. But that coordination of benefits will no longer exist if UPS stops covering working spouses of its employees—and UPS would not be obligated to pay the \$2,000.

According to MarketWatch.com, “Many top retailers have cut their full-year earnings outlooks, a clear indication they see a rough holiday season ahead. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., cognizant of the climate, is wasting no time getting a jump on the competition. Merchandising and marketing chief Duncan Mac Naughton, speaking Wednesday before 6,000 employees at Wal-Mart’s annual holiday meeting, said the company for the first time will introduce free layaway with no opening fee and no gift-card reimbursements. Last year, Wal-Mart layaways carried a \$5 fee. It’s also adding infant toys, car stereos and other automotive electronics to the list of categories available for layaway. The program starts Sept. 13, three days earlier this year, and lasts through Dec. 13.” [47598]

In an interview with Salon.com, the legendary liberal author Camille Paglia says, “As a registered Democrat, I am praying for a credible presidential candidate to emerge from the younger tier of politicians in their late 40s. A governor with executive experience would be ideal. It’s time to put my baby-boom generation out to pasture! We’ve had our day and managed to muck up a hell of a lot. It remains baffling how anyone would think that Hillary Clinton, born the same year as me, is our party’s best chance. She has more sooty baggage than a 90-car freight train. And what exactly has she ever accomplished—beyond bullishly covering for her philandering husband? She’s certainly busy, busy and ever on the move—with the tunnel-vision workaholicism of someone trying to blot out uncomfortable private thoughts. I for one think it was a very big deal that our ambassador was murdered in Benghazi. In saying ‘I take responsibility’ for it as Secretary of State, Hillary should have resigned immediately. The weak response by the Obama administration to that tragedy has given a huge opening to Republicans in the next presidential election. The impression has been amply given that Benghazi was treated as a public relations matter to massage rather than as the major and outrageous attack on the U.S. that it was. ...As far as I’m concerned, Hillary disqualified herself for the presidency in that fist-pounding moment at a congressional hearing when she said, ‘What difference does it make what we knew and when we knew it, Senator?’ Democrats have got to shake

off the Clinton albatross and find new blood. The escalating instability not just in Egypt but throughout the Mideast is very ominous. There is a clash of cultures brewing in the world that may take a century or more to resolve—and there is no guarantee that the secular West will win.” [47469]

Elbert Guillory, a black Louisiana State Senator who abandoned the Democrat Party to become a Republican, appears in an Internet video introducing the new Free at Last PAC (Political Action Committee)—of which he is honorary chairman. The PAC was established to help black voters understand that Republican policies are more beneficial to them than Democrat policies. Guillory states, “Liberalism has nearly destroyed black America.” [47471, 47472]

Breitbart.com reports, “Outside of the federal government’s Bureau of Labor statistics, the Gallup polling organization also tracks the nation’s unemployment rate. While the BLS and Gallup findings might not always perfectly align, the trends almost always do and the small statistical differences just haven’t been worthy of note. But now Gallup is showing a sizable 30 day jump in the unemployment rate, from 7.7% on July 21 to 8.9% today. This is an 18-month high. At the end of July, the BLS showed a 7.4% unemployment rate, compared to Gallup’s 7.8%. Again, a difference not worthy of note. But Gallup’s upward trend to almost 9% in just the last three weeks is alarming, especially because this is not a poll with a history of wild swings due to statistical anomalies. Gallup’s sample size is a massive 30,000 adults and the rolling average is taken over a full 30 day period. Gallup also shows an alarming increase in the number of underemployed (those with some work seeking more). During the same 30-day period, that number has jumped from 17.1% to 17.9%.” [47473]

Egyptian-Americans plan an August 22 rally in Washington, D.C. in support of the Egyptian military and in opposition to the Muslim Brotherhood. According to Ahram.org, “A statement by the protest’s planners said the demonstration is planned to ‘expose Muslim Brotherhood terrorism and its collaborators around the world.’ ...The statement added that the protests will also ‘expose the clear bias of the Obama administration and the American media in support of the Muslim Brotherhood and its terrorist ideology.’” [47475]

On CNN, Jake Tapper says, “As of today, it’s official: the Obama administration is holding no one responsible for what happened before the deadly attacks on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya. Last fall, it was only a matter of days after those four Americans were killed in Benghazi before evidence started appearing indicating that State Department officials paid insufficient attention to requests from diplomats and security personnel in Libya desperately asking for additional security. Around that time, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton put four State Department officials on administrative leave. But, as of today, those four have been invited back to work. Secretary of State John Kerry decided that the four do not deserve any formal disciplinary action, and a State Department official tells me that there was no breach of duty for these officials and that they are not returning to their previous positions. What’s notable about this move is that those decisions to not provide additional security personnel and assets in

Libya, [yet] that's one of the only parts of the Benghazi scandal that Obama administration officials will acknowledge was a real actual problem. You can go back and forth on talking points from the White House and whether U.S. military assets were in position to rescue the Americans being attacked, but the continual denials throughout 2011 and 2012 of additional security for Ambassador Chris Stevens and the others there in Libya, that part of the Benghazi controversy no one with any real knowledge or perspective on the tragedy can refute. ...An independent review of what happened in Benghazi noted that security was 'grossly inadequate' and faulted systemic failures in leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels, though it was established that no one had been proven to have been breached his or her duty." [47476]

FoxNews.com reports, "An out-of-control forest fire threatening about 2,500 structures near Yosemite National Park was one of more than 50 active, large wildfires dotting the western U.S. on Wednesday." (Some suspect that al-Qaeda operatives or other radical Islamist operatives are responsible for some of the fires. An al-Qaeda magazine has called for jihadists to use remote control devices to ignite forest fires.) [47477, 47478]

According to DefenseNews.com, "A new report from an Israeli think tank links the new Iranian defense minister to a 1983 terrorist attack that killed 220 peacekeeping Marines and 21 US sailors and airmen. The Aug. 11 report, written by former Israel Defense Force Brig. Gen. Dr. Shimon Shapira, connects Iranian Brig. Gen. Hossein Dehghan to the deadly attack at the US Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which was carried out by a Shiite suicide bomber who drove a dump truck into the compound. A second, simultaneous suicide attack killed 58 French paratroopers at their nearby barracks. Dehghan was appointed to the country's top defense post by new Iranian president Hassan Rouhani and confirmed by the Iranian parliament Aug. 15." [47480, 47481]

CNSNews.com reports, "Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says that over the past year the Obama Administration has exercised what she calls 'prosecutorial discretion' in allowing 430,000 self-declared illegal aliens to stay in the United States without any worry that her department—which is charged by law with enforcing the immigration law—will take action against them. Napolitano calls this non-enforcement of the law 'Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals' (DACA). Under the program, the administration considers anyone who had not yet turned sixteen when they first entered the United States illegally, or first overstayed a visa, to be a 'childhood arrival.'" (Of course, allowing an illegal immigrant child to remain in the United States necessarily means allowing the parents to remain—because Napolitano would not want to "break up families.") [47501, 47661]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "An influential Charlottesville, Va., money management team claims that Obamacare has forced many firms in Thomas Jefferson's hometown to switch to part-time workers, and that one manager was told he'd be fired if he hired a 50th full-time worker, the number that triggers the costly health care system. 'Economic self-defense has many firms forcing their employees to work less than 30 hours a week regardless of their preference or availability. This trend seems to be universal even here in Charlottesville,' David John Marotta and Megan Russell of

Marotta Wealth Management said in an online memo to investors. The firm handles many Charlottesville investors. They added: ‘We hesitate to name all the businesses in town that are cutting employee hours below 30. Even though the list includes almost all major franchises, most firms have been smart enough to keep the changes as quiet as possible.’ The reason: ‘The backlash and boycotts have been harsh and vitriolic from liberals.’” [47516]

The United Nations Security Council meets to discuss the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government. Obama’s just-appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, does not attend. (Essayist Frederick William Dame wonders if Power was playing spades—perhaps with Reggie Love.) Power had previously insisted that the Security Council had to do something about the atrocities in Syria and called its failure to act a “disgrace that history will judge harshly.” (She is apparently unaware that attending its meetings might be one way—albeit minimal considering Russia’s power to issue a veto—to influence the Security Council.) On *Special Report*, Tucker Carlson later comments that Power “has very much a freshman seminar view of the world—a quiver with a moral outrage all the time. ‘People are doing bad things, we have a moral obligation to intervene now, now, now!’ So, they’re silly. Just say where she is. It looks like she is on vacation. If she is, who cares? Everybody is in August. They should admit it.” Some argue that Power’s failure to attend the meeting was a mild slap at Obama for not having done anything in response to the use of chemical weapons. At *WeeklyStandard.com* William Kristol writes, “It’s as close as she can safely come to publicly expressing her distance from and disgust with her boss, ...Obama. ...Samantha Power knows the United Nations will not act. Her tweet [‘Reports devastating: 100s dead in streets, including kids killed by chem[ical] weapons. UN must get there fast & if true, perps [perpetrators] must face justice.’] is an indictment, for the record and for the history books, of ...Obama.” Others suggest that Obama did not want Power at the Security Council meeting because she would have demanded action—and embarrassed Obama if he subsequently did not provide any. (This *Timeline* suggests that sending Twitter messages in lieu of using one’s high-level position to make clear policy statements is juvenile and ineffective.) [47509, 47534, 47542, 47543, 47546]

At *Spectator.org* George Neumayr writes, “At the root of America’s disastrous policy on Egypt lies Obama’s Islamophilia, a stance which leads him to mistake friends for enemies and enemies for friends. Even at this late date, he can’t make the most basic distinctions between pro-American Egyptian military leaders and anti-American Islamic terrorists. His foreign policy rests not on America’s interests but on politically correct prattle about a non-existent Islamic spring. ...[Obama’s] 2009 Cairo speech was a blown kiss to the Muslim Brotherhood, with its pro-revolution blather about how ‘Muslim-majority countries were too often treated as proxies without regard to their own aspirations’ by his odious predecessors. The speech, to which Obama had made a great show of inviting members of the Muslim Brotherhood, laid the groundwork for the overthrow of Mubarak, an American ally, and the rise of Morsi, an Islamic supremacist. Obama soft-pedaled the problem of radical Islam, treating it as a minor issue that a few good chats could eliminate. ...He somehow thought that he could charm jihadists into better behavior and stabilize American foreign policy on a pillar of Islamophilia. Having learned nothing

from this folly, he now gainsays the manner in which Egypt's military is cleaning up his mess. ...Such is Obama's continued faith in the Muslim Brotherhood that he had his Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel repeatedly plead with Egypt's military to give jihadists positions in the new government. America now finds itself on the same side as Iran in the conflict, with Saudi Arabia on the other side, offering to make up much of the difference in lost U.S. aid. This is pathetic. Absolutely no American interest can explain it. The only explanation is Obama's excessive regard for Islam. He was bound and determined to 'reset' relations with it, and he got one in the form of scorched embassies, dead diplomats, and a radicalized Egypt, bloodied and torn." [47514]

On August 22 several hundred Egyptian-Americans demonstrate at the White House against the Muslim Brotherhood and Obama's pro-Brotherhood policies. (Laughably, as the demonstrators march past the offices of *The Washington Post*, newspaper officials—apparently afraid of Coptic Christians carrying signs that read, “You can burn down our churches but you can never touch our faith”—lock the front doors “for a short time for safety.”) [47482, 47518, 47522]

The AFL-CIO in Nevada passes a resolution criticizing ObamaCare—despite having strongly endorsed the legislation (and Obama) in the past. [47483, 47498, 47515]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Obama administration and Mexican government officials recently discussed creating a three-tier security system designed to protect Mexico's southern border from drug and human traffickers, according to U.S. officials. The border control plan calls for U.S. funding and technical support of three security lines extending more than 100 miles north of Mexico's border with Guatemala and Belize. The border security system would use sensors and intelligence-gathering to counter human trafficking and drug running from the region, a major source of illegal immigration into the United States.” (Obama shows no interest in securing the southern border of the *United States*, but is willing to give taxpayer dollars to Mexico to protect *its* southern border—which already has a complete fence, armed guards, and barbed wire.) [47484, 47485]

The Department of Justice announces that it will file a lawsuit challenging the voter identification law in Texas—even though the Supreme Court has ruled that the states need not clear such voting laws with the federal government and even though the Supreme Court has ruled voter photo ID laws constitutional in other states, such as Indiana. Attorney General Eric Holder states, “We will not allow the Supreme Court's recent decision to be interpreted as open season for states to pursue measures that suppress voting rights.” Catherine Engelbrecht, president of the True the Vote organization, states, “We will not sit idly by and allow the most politically charged Department of Justice in US history to set aside the US constitution and attempt to bully the people of Texas. We will meet Attorney General Holder in court and we will do whatever we need to do to advance the cause of voters' rights for all Americans. ...General Holder's announcement today demonstrates just how radical the DOJ has become. The same department that criminalizes journalism and fails to prosecute IRS agents who violate the rights of American taxpayers is promising to sue states with

taxpayer dollars to block laws passed by elected legislators such as voter ID and citizenship verification. Every American voter deserves to have his or her vote counted - and not diluted by fraud or error. The DOJ just put itself between the voters of Texas and their guaranteed constitutional and civil rights. True the Vote has watched as Attorney General Eric Holder has repeatedly disregarded the rule of law. We understand that this Department of Justice does not believe that protection of voters' rights should be colorblind. Texas will stand its ground in San Antonio—that's a promise." (The Alamo is located in San Antonio.) [47486, 47524, 47535, 47540]

Campaigning for his agenda at the University of Buffalo (after first incorrectly referring to Mayor Byron Brown as Brian Higgins), Obama unveils a plan he claims will make college more affordable: a government rating scheme through which schools that provide the "best value," have the highest graduation rates, sufficient minority enrollment, and meet other criteria will receive the most in federal aid. (Obama does not explain where the money will come from to fund his program. His goal is not, of course, to reduce the cost of higher education but to place it under more federal control. As schools vie for increased federal aid, the government will define the rules that must be followed in order to receive that aid. Obama's ultimate goal is to have all schools at all levels under federal control, just as his goal with ObamaCare is to eventually eliminate all private health insurance. Evidence for that theory is provided by Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), who later appears on MSNBC and says, "There is no reason why a young person should have to pay for college education, because who does it benefit except a nation?" Making college "free," of course, only means shifting the cost from the students and their parents in particular to the taxpayers in general—and insuring total government control over curricula.) Obama also proposes limiting the payback of college loans to no more than 10 percent of the student's future annual income—which Obama is apparently too stupid to realize will only exacerbate the problem of excessive student borrowing. (If a student know he will never have to pay more than 10 percent of his income on loan payments, he has an incentive to borrow to the hilt. If the car payment on a Ford Escape costs 10 percent of one's income and a Lamborghini can be purchased for the same monthly payment, would not many drivers opt for the more expensive vehicle?) [47487, 47488, 48489, 47500, 47502, 47503, 47504, 47517, 47533, 47537, 47699]

According to WKBW.com, "Craigslist [was] flooded with people selling their tickets to see ...Obama Thursday. Almost immediately after the free tickets were given out and the UB [University of Buffalo] lottery winners were chosen, ads began popping up online. On Craigslist, one person offered to sell their [sic] ticket Tuesday for \$250 dollars, but then on Wednesday, the price jumped to \$350. There are also ads from people without tickets, offering hundreds of dollars for a chance to see [Obama] in person." (Selling such tickets is illegal.) [47495]

DailyCaller.com reports, "One of the two students removed from Oberlin College earlier this year for allegedly circulating virulently racist, anti-Jewish and anti-gay messages around campus is an ardent leftist and committed supporter of ...Obama, The Daily Caller News Foundation has learned. Dylan Bleier, one of the two students, organized a voter registration drive on behalf of Obama before the 2008 election. That voter drive is

still listed on the website for Organizing for Action, the non-profit group whose mission is to advance Obama's agenda. The Oberlin Police Department identified Bleier and his partner in the spree, Matt Alden, as two of the principal architects of a month-long spate of racist, anti-Jewish and anti-gay messages at the small, private campus. On his now-defunct LinkedIn page, Bleier noted that he was the founder and president of the Ithaca High School for Obama club. He also identified himself as a member of the Oberlin College Democrats." (Essentially, Bleier and others planted inflammatory messages in an attempt to discredit conservatives. Michelle Malkin observes, "Sad to say, this is the sorry state of liberal arts colleges in America today: Extreme identity politics, multiculturalism and pedagogical self-indulgence are creating a generation of race trolls enabled by tenured cultural Marxist punks raking in beaucoup bucks. The bursting of the higher-ed bubble can't come fast enough." The odds of Obama's Department of Justice prosecuting Bleier and Alden for hate crimes are zero.) [47493, 47525]

Fox News reporter Ed Henry asks deputy White House press secretary John Earnest if Obama also had a "red line" for Muslim attacks against Christians in Egypt. Earnest replies, "Well, I didn't bring my red pen out with me today." (Hundreds of Christian churches and homes owned by Christians have been burned and vandalized by Muslims in Egypt, Christians have been persecuted and killed—and the Obama administration finds it a matter that warrants a joke.) Earnest then adds, "I can tell you that we have condemned in unambiguous terms all the violence that's been perpetrated there in Egypt. We have been concerned and condemned the violence that has been perpetrated by the government against peaceful protestors, and we're just as outraged and just as concerned about reports that Christian churches have been targeted." (CBN.com later reports, "Father Rafic Greiche, the chief spokesman for the Catholic Church in Egypt, criticized ...Obama for not speaking out against the worst violence against Egyptian Christians in nearly 700 years. "...Obama when he made a speech he just touched on the burning churches instead of telling the Muslim Brotherhood that they are terrorists and they are making terror on Egypt," Greiche said. 'He did not speak loud for this and shame on him if he is a Christian that he does not speak out loud. The spokesman of the White House who... was asked, 'What is the red line for the Christians in Egypt?' he mocked and said, 'I didn't bring my red pen,' he noted. So I think it was a mockery and not at its place and really shame on him also,' he said.") [47494, 47499, 47764, 47765]

Intellihub.com reports, "The evidence of foul play in the death of [journalist] Michael Hastings has been piling up since the incident happened, and now another witness is stepping forward to tell about Michael's fear that someone had been tampering with his car. This conversation was had just one day before his death, and to make matters even more strange, it was also recently discovered that the feds visited Hastings's home the day before the crash as well. ...With the evidence of foul play mounting up the mainstream media has went [sic; gone] into damage control, even claiming that Hastings was a drug addict just to smear his name." (At the time of his mysterious death, Hastings was working on a story about CIA Director John Brennan.) [47225, 47226, 47227, 47228, 43721, 47365, 47512]

At WesternJournalism.com Kris Zane writes, “According to Arabic News Channel TV14 and reported on by Egypt Daily News, Obama sent an *eight billion dollar secret bribe* to the Muslim Brotherhood to guarantee that the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula be turned over to the terrorist group Hamas. Hamas, a Muslim Brotherhood sister group, works directly with Ansar al-Sharia in the Sinai Peninsula. Channel TV14 goes on to say that the agreement was signed by Mohammed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood’s second in command, Khairat Al-Shater, now under house arrest in Egypt, *who says he has documents that will put Obama in prison!* But it gets worse: the eight billion dollars that Obama sent to the Muslim Brotherhood was shared with Ansar al-Sharia, the group that attacked our consulate and CIA Annex in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. If all of this proves to be true, Barack Hussein Obama funded the attack on the Benghazi consulate and CIA Annex. Barack Hussein Obama funded the assassination of U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. Barack Hussein Obama is therefore an accessory to murder, not to mention a traitor!” [47513, 47576]

At HumanEvents.com John Hayward Follow reports that Delta Airlines sent a letter to the Obama administration in June warning of the enormous costs the company would face because of ObamaCare. The letter reportedly claims that the legislation will cause Delta’s health insurance costs to increase by “nearly \$100,000,000 next year.” (Just one section of ObamaCare calls for a \$63 per employee fee. With 160,000 employees and covered retirees, that fee alone will cost Delta more than \$10 million per year.) Follow notes, “Between ObamaCare’s mandated coverage for ‘children’ of advanced age [to age 26], and the individual mandate that will compel people to seek insurance who might otherwise have chosen to decline coverage, you can pour another \$28 million worth of red ink on Delta’s books. And the ‘Cadillac tax’ is probably going to wipe out their pilots’ insurance plans in a couple of years. This is all hitting a vital industry with notoriously thin (some would argue non-existent) net profit margins. To politicians like Barack Obama, \$100 million is pocket lint, but of course they’re spending other people’s money.” (Needless to say, Delta Airlines cannot print money. If its operating expenses increase by \$100 million, it will have to increase passenger fares—or go out of business.) [47515, 47545, 47560]

According to WashingtonPost.com, “The White House will hold a closed-door roundtable discussion on issues facing bisexuals Sept. 23.” [47519]

The *Daily Mail* reports that the Department of Health and Human Services will hire 86 investigators to ferret out ObamaCare lawbreakers. (The law calls for only 50 such positions—but Obama apparently believes he can violate the law and hire 36 more investigators in order to punish others who break the law.) [47532]

World War II veteran Delbert Belton, age 88, is beaten to death with flashlights by two black teens at the Eagles Lodge in Spokane, Washington. According to KXLY.com, “the suspects [Demetrius Glenn and Kenan Adams-Kinard] are African Americans between 16 and 19 years old.” (Obama, Eric Holder, Jesse Jackson, and Al Sharpton have no comment. They also have no comment on the murder of 99-year-old Fannie Gumbinger

in Poughkeepsie, New York, at the hands of 20-year-old Javon Tyrek Rogers.) [47520, 47529, 47530, 47569, 47585, 47648]

Four rockets are fired from southern Lebanon into northern Israel. According to Reuters, “Two struck Israeli communities without causing casualties, a third was intercepted by the ‘Iron Dome’ missile shield and the fourth fell outside Israeli territory... A U.S.-based group which monitors Islamist militants said the Brigades of Abdullah Azzam, an organization linked to al Qaeda, claimed credit for the rocket attack.” [47523]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey notes that the people chosen by Obama to review U.S. surveillance programs include Michael Morrell, former acting head of the CIA, and former White House officials Richard Clarke, Peter Swire, and Cass Sunstein—husband of Obama’s new ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power. Morrissey observes, “Yes, nothing says transparency that appointing some of your friends and staffers to review your performance. Morrell and Clarke are longtime establishment figures, but Sunstein is in a class by himself. Don’t forget that Sunstein once suggested that government covertly disseminate propaganda to combat narratives it finds inconvenient. In fact, as Glenn Greenwald himself noted in January 2010, Sunstein ‘propos[ed] that the U.S. Government employ teams of covert agents and pseudo-‘independent’ advocates to ‘cognitively infiltrate’ online groups and websites—as well as other activist groups—which advocate views that Sunstein deems ‘false conspiracy theories’ about the Government.’ Well, *that’s* a real confidence-builder, isn’t it? We’re asking the man who, theoretically at least, proposed covertly infiltrating opposition groups in order disseminate administration-serving propaganda to provide us with *greater transparency on government operations*. What could go wrong?” (In essence, Obama has named four foxes to review hen house security procedures.) [47539]

On *Special Report*, the Washington Post’s Charles Lane criticizes Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) for not admitting he was born with dual citizenship. “There’s nothing wrong with being a dual Canadian [sic; Canadian-American] citizen!” Host Bret Baier interrupts: “Well, if you’re running for president, you can’t be a dual citizen.” Lane: “Who says? He’s a natural born U.S. citizen. He’s perfectly eligible for the presidency. Okay?” (Lane is, of course, wrong. Cruz is *not* a natural born citizen, which requires birth on U.S. soil to *two* U.S. citizen parents. Neither Baier nor panelists Stephen Hayes or Charles Krauthammer point out that Obama is, for the same reason, not a natural born citizen. A dual citizen cannot serve as president because of the issue of allegiance to another sovereign nation. Even the Obama-defending web site fightthesmears.org recognizes that Obama was born with dual citizenship—but argues that is irrelevant because he “has neither renounced his U.S. citizenship nor sworn an oath of allegiance to Kenya” and “his Kenyan citizenship expired on Aug 4, 1982.” The Obama site fails to comprehend that citizenship status *at birth* is the issue—not citizenship status after reaching age 21.) [49362, 49364, 49365]

On August 23 Fort Hood terrorist Major Nidal Malik Hasan is convicted of all counts of murder and attempted murder. [47527, 47547]

Ryan Crocker, former U.S. ambassador to Syria (1998–2001) tells National Public Radio, “I was in Lebanon when the Israelis invaded in June of 1982, and the entire Syrian air force was basically just destroyed in a matter of hours because of inadequate air defenses. The Syrians learned from that and have spent decades with their Russian allies developing a highly advanced, well-integrated air defense system. That’s what makes a no-fly zone so much more dangerous in Syria than in, say, Iraq or Libya. There’s every chance we would lose aircraft. ...[But] Whatever we say or don’t say, they [Bashar al-Assad and his supporters] are going to continue the fight. There’s just no question about it. Whether we talked about red lines a year ago or did not talk about red lines a year ago, it doesn’t change, I think, the calculus of the Syrian regime at all. They are utterly ruthless and utterly determined to win a fight for their survival.” [47682]

Townhall.com posts video of Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) telling a town hall meeting audience that Obama is “getting perilously close” to warranting impeachment. Coburn states, “What you have to do is you have to establish the criteria that would qualify for proceedings against [Obama]. And that’s called impeachment. That’s not something you take lightly, and you have to use a historical precedent of what that means. ...I think there’s some intended violation of the law in this administration. And I also think there’s a ton of incompetence... I don’t have the legal background to know if [the Obama administration] rises to [the level of] ‘high crimes and misdemeanors,’ but I think they’re getting perilously close... I am fed up. I am frustrated. And I am happy to raise an issue at every point. Barack Obama is a personal friend of mine. He became my friend [when he served] in the Senate. But that does not mean I agree in any way with what he’s doing or how he’s doing it.” (Former Obama campaign guru David Axelrod, who usually laughs off charges of forged birth certificates and impeachment, takes Coburn’s words seriously—calling them “out of bounds” and saying, “He speaks to a kind of virus that has infected our politics that really has to be curbed.” Axelrod does not explain how he believes free speech should be curbed.) [47526, 47538, 47572, 47640]

At WashingtonPost.com Ed Rogers writes, “On its face, impeachment seems far-fetched and borderline wacky; it is definitely off-message from where I think the GOP should be focused. Republicans need to concentrate on Obamacare and the economy, because that is what will drive votes in November 2014. But the fire [Obama] is stoking through his willful flaunting of the law can’t be denied. Perhaps the former constitutional law professor [sic; Obama was *not* a full professor] has overreached and decided that the Constitution is more flexible than he once thought. His misdeeds are increasingly being detailed by commentators, even those who are not marginalized conservatives. ...The bothersome reality is that ...Obama is inventing new laws, selectively choosing to enforce laws he likes and ignoring or amending the ones he doesn’t. Many writers, from George Will to Jeffrey Anderson to Charles Krauthammer have written about the president’s increasing lawlessness. What is the penalty for this? How is it supposed to be investigated? We are close to uncharted constitutional territory. ...The talk about impeachment just isn’t as crazy as it used to be. It’s a distraction politically, but it’s not meritless and it won’t go away.” [47573]

At Townhall.com, Katie Pavlich reports that Department of Homeland Security employee Ayo Kimathi, whose job is to purchase weapons and ammunition for the agency, is “also the owner of waronthehorizon.com, a website dedicated to advocating the murder of white people. He’s also a homophobe.” Kimathi’s web site proclaims, “Warfare is eminent, and in order for Black people to survive the 21st century, we are going to have to kill a lot of whites—more than our Christian hearts can possibly count.” [47528, 47570]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A Department of Defense [DoD] teaching guide meant to fight extremism advises students that rather than ‘dressing in sheets’ modern-day radicals ‘will talk of individual liberties, states’ rights, and how to make the world a better place,’ and describes 18th-century American patriots seeking freedom from the British as belonging to ‘extremist ideologies.’ The guide comes from documents obtained by Judicial Watch and is authored by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, a DoD-funded diversity training center. Under a section titled ‘extremist ideologies,’ the document states, ‘In U.S. history, there are many examples of extremist ideologies and movements. The colonists who sought to free themselves from British rule and the Confederate states who sought to secede from the Northern states are just two examples.’” Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch, responds, “The Obama administration has a nasty habit of equating basic conservative values with terrorism. And now, in a document full of claptrap, its Defense Department suggests that the Founding Fathers, and many conservative Americans, would not be welcome in today’s military. And it is striking that some [of] the language in this new document echoes the IRS targeting language of conservative and Tea Party investigations. After reviewing this document, one can’t help but worry for the future and morale of our nation’s armed forces.” [47593]

Motorcyclists plan a “2 Million Bikers to DC” even on September 11, 2013. The organizers state that their peaceful demonstration will emphasize their adherence to the U.S Constitution, honor and respect the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, display opposition to any “fundamental transformation of America” by Obama. [47531]

At PJMedia.com Abraham H. Miller, former head of the Intelligence Studies Section of the International Studies Association, writes, “We can legitimately debate whether there ever was such a thing as American exceptionalism, but today, it would be difficult to argue that there is not such a thing as American irrelevance. Favoring the Muslim Brotherhood and speaking in patently naïve and platitudinous rhetoric calling for reconciliation between the Egyptian military and the Brotherhood, the Obama administration suspended aid to the military regime in Egypt. Within hours, the Saudis stepped in to replace the suspended aid and showed that the administration’s threats were as meaningless as they were stupid. In the meantime, Russian President Vladimir Putin has slid into the great-power vacuum to call an extraordinary meeting of the Kremlin and announce that Russia is putting all her military facilities at Egypt’s disposal. Putin also announced Russia’s willingness to replace America in the joint military exercises the Obama administration cancelled as part of its escalating sanctions against the Egyptian military. Igor Morozov, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of

Russia's parliament, chastised the American administration for not understanding the threat the Muslim Brotherhood was to the entire region. The Russians have exploited the amateurish foreign policy of the American administration and shifted the dynamics of power in the Middle East. The Egyptian crisis has created strange bedfellows. In Egypt, the Russians are now aligned with the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates, who are aligned with Israel. Not that these countries are coordinating directly with each other, but they all share a common goal: preventing the spread of the Brotherhood's version of militant Islam. For its part, the Obama administration has once again failed to comprehend the threat of the Brotherhood. ...Calling for reconciliation with the Brotherhood is akin to calling on the liberal factions in the Weimar Republic to find a means to reconcile with the Nazis after they burned the Reichstag." [47544]

"...Oblivious to the changing dynamic created by the new alignment in Egypt and what it took for the Saudis to openly challenge America's Egyptian policy, the Obama administration still plays the only note it knows how to play, leaving Putin with one foot in the Iranian camp and one foot in the Egyptian. Putin has not only managed to outmaneuver the dim-witted Obama, but he is also straddling both sides of the Shia/Sunni divide. Obama is once again leading from behind. In this case, he is following the man he admires most in the Middle East, Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan. America has become hostage to Turkey's hegemonic interests. Turkey supports the opposition in Syria because with Bashar Assad out of the picture, Iran's hegemonic dream of a Shi'ite crescent from Tehran to the Mediterranean is no longer possible. Sunni Turkey no longer has to be concerned about sharing power in the region with Shi'ite Iran. If the Brotherhood in Egypt is restored to power, Egypt will be significantly weakened and Turkey will not have to worry about a powerful Egypt as a major regional competitor. Where Turkey has gone in Syria and Egypt, Obama [whose sympathies lie with the Sunni Muslims] has followed. ...Obama is not considering America's interests in the region. He is still the neurotic narcissist standing in the adulation of the crowd at Cairo University as the young and naïve students resonate to his banalities and as the Muslim Brotherhood leaders look on with bemusement from their front-row seats. And Vladimir Putin, this morning, must wonder if there is a God, for in Barack Obama, Russia has truly been blessed." [47544]

The Mesquite (Texas) Rodeo announces it will feature an Obama clown: "You've heard about the controversy surrounding the Obama clown in Missouri. This weekend, an Obama clown is a special guest star as the Mesquite Rodeo puts on the grand finale to its 2013 season with non-stop rodeo action you will only find in the aptly named 'Rodeo Capital of Texas.' Though he promises to remove his hat for the prayer, people are wondering: How will an Obama clown be received in the Lone Star State?" [47549]

Obama, in a softball interview conducted by Chris Cuomo on CNN, whines that Congress is not getting what he wants done: "Congress doesn't have a whole lot of core responsibilities. One core responsibility is passing a budget, which they have not done yet. The other core responsibility that they've got is to pay the bills that they've already accrued." (House Republicans have passed a budget every year. It is the Democrat-controlled Senate that has failed in its budget responsibilities. "[P]ay the bills that they've

already accrued” means, of course, “I want the debt limit increased so I can spend even more.”) Cuomo’s “tough” questions include, “What is more daunting to you, the prospects of protecting the free world or dealing with a teenager and a near-teen?” and “How much of the lack of action in Washington do you put on yourself in terms of blame?” Obama responds, “Ultimately the buck stops with me. I get frustrated, and I’ve said before and I continue to say I’m willing to do whatever it takes to get Congress—and Republicans in Congress in particular—to think less about politics and party and think more about what’s good for the country.” (Some may wish to insert a “pot calling the kettle black” comment here.) On ObamaCare, Obama says, “I’ve made this argument to my Republican friends privately, and, by the way, sometimes they say to me privately, ‘I agree with you, but I’m worried about a primary from, you know, somebody in the tea party back in my district’ or, ‘I’m worried about what Rush Limbaugh is going to say about me on radio.’” (Obama here demonstrates—again—his defensiveness and his inability to accept criticism. In truth, Obama has gotten most of what he wanted from Congress, and Rush Limbaugh has little sway over the Republican establishment—which certainly acts counter to his suggestions.) [47550, 47605, 47609, 47634, 47643]

With regard to the conflict in Syria, Obama—who may not want to accept that another “core responsibility” of Congress is to declare war—tells Cuomo, “When you start seeing chemical weapons used on a large scale... it is very troublesome” and “starts getting to some core national interests that the United States has, both in terms of us making sure weapons of mass destruction are not proliferating, as well as needing to protect our allies, our bases, in the region.” (One year earlier, Obama warned that the use of chemical weapons would cross a “red line.” When chemical weapons were used in Syria in March 2013 there was no serious talk of a U.S. military strike. Why the use of chemical weapons four months later is different is a question Obama has not answered.) [47567, 47810]

Cuomo does not ask Obama to comment on the rising death toll in Nigeria, where the death toll of victims at the hands of the Muslim terrorist group Boko Haram reportedly passed the 12,000 mark. A majority of the victims have been Christians. (AtlasShrugs.com notes that “...Obama refuses to designate Boko Haram... a terrorist organization. If not them, who?”) [47625, 47697]

WeeklyStandard.com reports, “New estimates derived from the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey by Sentier Research indicate that the real (inflation-adjusted) median annual household income in America has fallen by 4.4 percent during the ‘recovery,’ after having fallen by 1.8 during the recession. During the recession, the median American household income fell by \$1,002 (from \$55,480 to \$54,478). During the recovery—that is, from the officially defined end of the recession (in June 2009) to the most recent month for which figures are available (June 2013)—the median American household income has fallen by \$2,380 (from \$54,478 to \$52,098). So the typical American household is making almost \$2,400 less per year (in constant 2013 dollars) than it was four years ago, when the Obama ‘recovery’ began. ...And perhaps it’s just a coincidence, but the span of time over which the typical American household’s income has dropped by about \$2,400 a year (during an ostensible ‘recovery’) corresponds almost

exactly with the span of time that we've been living with the looming specter of Obamacare—which began to be debated in earnest around June 2009.” Investors.com adds, “[I]ncomes fell more in the year after the recovery started than it did during the recession itself. And household incomes have basically flat-lined ever since. ... The picture gets even grimmer the deeper you dive into the data. The most vulnerable groups—blacks, Hispanics, female-headed families and the young—have fared far worse under Obama than everyone else. Black households' median income has plunged 11% since the 'recovery' started. Hispanic households are off 4.5%. For single moms, median household income dropped 7.5%. For those households with three or more children, it fell even more—9.2%. ... We keep hearing economists say the economy is 'firming up' and it's poised for growth soon. What we see instead is an economy that, thanks to this administration's misguided policies, has fallen and can't get up.” [47551, 47553, 47557]

According to the Commerce Department, sales of new single-family homes in the United States dropped 13.4 percent in July, the lowest level in nine months. CNBC.com reports that “higher interest rates could be taking some of the air out [of] the [supposed] recovery. The government revised sharply lower its estimate for new home sales in May and June. At July's sales pace it would take 5.2 months to clear the houses on the market, up from 4.3 months in June. A supply of six months is normally considered a healthy balance between supply and demand.” (Higher interest rates not only have an impact on the housing market, they can quickly exacerbate the federal government's already disastrous borrowing situation. A one percentage point increase in rates can add \$160 billion to the government's annual interest expenses. If rates were to increase to historical levels, or about 6 percent for 10-year Treasury borrowing, the result would be a disaster for the federal government—which cannot afford to pay 6 percent interest on \$16 trillion in debt. The government will either default on its debt or, more likely, simply print money—causing rampant price inflation.) [47552, 47553, 47556]

Walid Shoebat, a Jordanian-American who converted from Islam to Christianity and closely follows Middle East developments, writes, “Egypt's Attorney General Hisham Barakat is looking into evidence that arrested Muslim Brotherhood leaders accepted bribes from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, according to a report from Almesryoon, an Egyptian newspaper that cites a 'judicial source.' The trials that are scheduled to begin in Cairo on August 25th will feature a litany of charges against the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Included among them are murders, assassinations, prison escapes, sniping, indiscriminate killing of demonstrators, and collaborating with foreign governments, to include both the United States and Qatar. Evidence we have obtained lends credibility to the charges of 'gifts (bribes) being taken in U.S. dollars from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo' that were distributed to top ministerial level officials in the [Mohamed] Mursi [more commonly Morsi] government. ... The document ... lists 'gifts' which amount to bribes being paid to the Mursi government members in annual payments of between \$750,000 and \$850,000 in U.S. dollars each. The sums amount to tens of millions of dollars in bribes. The nature or purpose for these payments is unknown but is definitely marked as 'gifts.' ... Almesryoon reports that both the U.S. and Qatar paid bribes to Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood leaders. The document above serves as very strong evidence that Qatar did in fact do just that.” (The information is consistent with earlier reports from WND.com

that “The son of a jailed Muslim Brotherhood leader in Egypt is claiming his father has evidence that will land ...Obama in prison.” [47211, 47250, 47343, 47350, 47441, 47513, 47554, 47885]

The National Security Agency issues a statement: “Over the past decade, very rare instances of willful violations of NSA’s authorities have been found, but none under [the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] or the Patriot Act. NSA takes very seriously allegations of misconduct, and cooperates fully with any investigations—responding as appropriate. NSA has zero tolerance for willful violations of the agency’s authorities.” [47555]

At a town hall event in New York, Obama selects an audience member who is wearing an Obama t-shirt. He says, “You know, so, if you, uh, here’s a general rule in a ...town hall: if you want to get called on, wear [my] face on your shirt.” [47558]

The Wall Street Journal writes, “...Obama recently concluded a five-year campus speaking tour in which he explained to students how his financing programs were making college more affordable. Then on Thursday he kicked off a new campus speaking tour to tell students that college is unaffordable, and that the financing program he has championed faces increasing defaults. ‘We’ve got a crisis in terms of college affordability and student debt,’ said Mr. Obama, without a trace of irony at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The same man who three years ago forced through a plan to add \$1 trillion in student loans to the federal balance sheet over a decade said on Thursday, ‘Our economy can’t afford the trillion dollars in outstanding student loan debt, much of which may not get repaid because students don’t have the capacity to pay it.’ Naturally, [Obama] blamed somebody else and demanded more authority over higher education. ...Mr. Obama is trodding a well-worn political path. Politicians subsidize the purchase of a good or service, prices inevitably rise in response to this pumped-up demand, and then the pols [politicians] blame the provider of the good or service for responding to the incentives the politicians created. Think housing finance and medical care. Now ...Obama is attacking colleges for rationally raising tuitions and padding their payrolls in response to a subsidy machine that began in 1965. That’s when the feds launched a program to make college ‘affordable’ by offering a taxpayer guarantee on student loans. Federal grants and loans have been expanding ever since and it’s no coincidence that tuition prices have been rising faster than inflation for decades. The better answer is to stop the increases in grants and subsidized loans that Mr. Obama has so greatly accelerated. Let educators, students and their parents decide which courses and campus amenities provide the most educational value. As fervently as many professors abhor the idea of free people operating in a free market, they may decide it’s better than federal politicians running their universities.” [47584]

While Obama proposes spending even more tax dollars on college educations, it is worth noting that increasing numbers of high school students are totally unprepared for higher education. Takimag.com reports, “Despite an increase in education spending during Barack Obama’s [occupation of the White House], recent ACT test results show that only a quarter of America’s high-school graduates are sufficiently competent in reading, math,

English, and science ‘to succeed in college or a career.’ Asian students scored best (43%), followed in order by whites (33%), Pacific Islanders (19%), Hispanics (14%), and American Indians (10%). Rounding up the rear were black students, with a dismal 5% competency rate.” [47585]

FoxNews.com reports that the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, could not attend the Security Council meeting to discuss Syria because she was in Ireland “on a personal trip.” (Power has been in the position for only 19 days and has already taken a personal trip to Ireland and left town to give speeches.) [47561]

At FoxNews.com Adam Housley reports, “Two weeks after the Obama administration announced charges against suspects in the Benghazi attack, a large portion of the U.S. team that hunted the suspects and trained Libyans to help capture or kill them is leaving Libya permanently. Special operators in the region tell Fox News that while Benghazi targets have been identified for months, officials in Washington could ‘never pull the trigger.’ In fact, one source insists that much of the information on Benghazi suspects had been passed along to the White House after being vetted by the Department of Defense and the State Department—and at least one recommendation for direct action on a Benghazi suspect was given to ...Obama as recently as Aug. 7. Meanwhile, months after video, photo and voice documentation on the Benghazi suspects was first presented to high-level military leaders, the State Department and ultimately the White House, prison breaks in the country have eroded security. U.S. special forces have now been relegated to a ‘villa,’ a stopover for the operators before they’re shipped out of the country entirely.” One source states, “We put American special operations in harm’s way to develop a picture of these suspects and to seek justice and instead of acting, we stalled. We just let it slip and pass us by and now it’s going to be much more difficult. It’s already blowing up. Daily assassinations, bi-weekly prison escapes, we waited way too long.” [47562]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Obama administration issued a new policy Friday that says immigration agents should try not to arrest and deport illegal immigrant parents of minor children. The move adds to the categories of people the administration is trying not to deport. In a nine-page memo, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said agents should use ‘prosecutorial discretion’ to try to avoid detaining parents and, if parents are detained, agents should make sure they have the ability to visit with their children or participate in family court proceedings.” House Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert W. Goodlatte (R-VA) responds that Obama “has once again abused his authority and unilaterally refused to enforce our current immigration laws by directing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to stop removing broad categories of unlawful immigrants.” [47565]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service is targeting the veterans’ organization the American Legion, and a U.S. senator believes that Lois Lerner—a key figure in the IRS scandal—is to blame. ‘The IRS now requires American Legion posts to maintain dates of service and character of service records for all members... The penalty for not having the required proof of eligibility is, apparently, \$1,000 per day,’ the

American Legion stated.” Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) states, “On the heels of Americans’ anger over revelations that the IRS intentionally targeted certain groups, it has been brought to my attention that the IRS is now turning their sights toward our nation’s veterans. The IRS seems to be auditing veteran service organizations by requiring private member military service forms. If a post is unable or not willing to turn over this personal information, it’s possible they could face a fine of \$1,000 per day. I am deeply concerned about this revelation and will insist on answers. This policy seems to be crafted with the oversight of Lois Lerner and deserves, at a minimum, a thorough look to make certain the IRS is not overstepping bounds of privacy and respect for our nation’s heroes.” [47579]

On August 24 *The Guardian* reports, “Médecins sans Frontières [Doctors without Borders] has said hospitals it supports in Damascus treated thousands of patients for neurotoxicity, the first independent indication of the use of poison gas in a deadly incident on Wednesday in the Syrian capital. The medical charity said the hospitals received approximately 3,600 patients displaying neurotoxic symptoms in less than three hours on Wednesday morning, of which 355 reportedly died. ...Syrian state television said on Saturday that government soldiers had found chemical agents in rebel tunnels in the Damascus suburb of Jobar. ‘Army heroes are entering the tunnels of the terrorists and saw chemical agents,’ state television quoted a source as saying. ‘In some cases, soldiers are suffocating while entering Jobar.’ The report said an army unit was preparing to storm the suburb. Syrian activists, supported by the British government, believe [President Bashar al-] Assad’s forces launched a nerve and chemical gas attack in Jobar and other suburbs before dawn on Wednesday. Assad’s government has dismissed the accusation and its major ally Russia has suggested rebel fighters may have launched the attack themselves to provoke international action.” (A video showing Syrian rebels testing chemical weapons on rabbits, posted by LiveLeak.com, shows that Russia’s accusation may have some merit.) [47568, 47662, 47804]

At a rally in Washington, D.C. to mark the (August 28) 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech, his son, Martin Luther King III, tells the crowd of thousands, “Sadly, the tears of Trayvon Martin’s mother and father remind us that far too frequently the color of one’s skin remains a license to profile, arrest, and to even murder with no regard to the content of one’s character. Regressive ‘stand your ground’ laws must be repealed.” (King ignores the facts: George Zimmerman was found not guilty of all charges, Zimmerman killed Martin in self-defense; Martin was a thug whose “character” was less than admirable; and “stand your ground” laws tend to benefit black Americans more than whites.) Obama’s Attorney General, Eric “my people” Holder, also addresses the crowd. [47574]

Actor James Woods sends a Twitter message with a photograph of Obama laughing heartily with race hustler Al Sharpton, and labels it “...Obama prepares for his monumental speech addressing racial hatred in the wake of Delbert Belton murder...” [47651, 47652]

Obama meets with national security advisors to discuss the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The White House states, “the U.S. intelligence community continues to gather facts to ascertain what occurred.” [47578]

ABCNews.com reports, “A U.S. official said the Pentagon has crafted military options for limited U.S. air strikes in Syria that would send a message to the regime of President Bashar al Assad not to continue using chemical weapons against its civilians. There has been no ...decision [by Obama] to use the military options, and U.S. intelligence continues to investigate an apparent large-scale chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime this week that may have killed as many as 1,000 civilians. The official said the military options developed for consideration by the White House are limited in scope and would be intended to ‘deter or prevent’ the Assad regime from the further use of chemical weapons.” (Obama is apparently unfamiliar with the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson in a letter to Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. in the early 1860s: “When you strike at a king you must kill him.”) “The options are not intended to remove the Syrian president, who has tenaciously hung on to power as Syria’s two-year civil war has raged on. Traveling on a plane to Malaysia, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel confirmed to reporters that Obama had asked the Pentagon to provide military options in Syria in light of the reported use of chemical weapons against civilians by the civilian government.” (A limited-scope action by the U.S. military that is “not intended to remove” Assad arguably serves no purpose—except to reduce criticism of Obama for his 2012 “red line” threat. Even if U.S. military action—such as the launch of a few Tomahawk missiles—does “deter or prevent” Assad’s ability to use chemical weapons, it will not stop him from killing Syrians with non-chemical means. The “Obama doctrine” is apparently, “We don’t care how they kill you, as long as they don’t do it with chemical agents.”) [47582, 47681, 47700]

On August 25 Jonathan Karl reports at ABCNews.com, “The White House says there is ‘very little doubt’ that the Assad regime is responsible for the alleged chemical attack in Syria that is said to have taken place earlier this week. ‘Based on the reported number of victims, reported symptoms of those who were killed or injured, witness accounts, and other facts,’ a senior administration official tells ABC News, ‘There is very little doubt at this point that a chemical weapon was used by the Syrian regime against civilians in this incident. We are continuing to assess the facts so [that Obama] can make an informed decision about how to respond to this indiscriminate use of chemical weapons.’ White House officials also point out the attack was on rebel-held territory and apparently done using rockets that the rebels do not possess.” (There are, of course, no easy solutions to the Syrian crisis. Few are eager to support Syria’s brutal president, Bashar al-Assad, but the alternative—supporting rebels that likely include al-Qaeda factions and Muslim Brotherhood thugs eagerly waiting in the wings to take power—is certainly not in the best interests of the United States. Doing nothing might be the best course of action, but that is not easy with the temporary occupant of the Oval Office drawing red lines. Meanwhile, the nation awaits a decision by Valerie Jarrett.) [47586]

The New York Times reports on, but ridicules, growing feelings among Egyptians that the Obama administration has sided with the Muslim Brotherhood: “When the conversation

turns to politics, the predominant topic is a surprise to American ears: the conspiracy between the United States and the Muslim Brotherhood to destroy Egypt. However crackpot that view may sound, it is widespread among supporters of the military, which ousted the Muslim Brotherhood's elected president, Mohamed Morsi, last month." One Egyptian states, "Americans are with the Muslim Brotherhood. Okay, you did something good when you killed Osama bin Laden, but now you are with al-Qaeda. You support the terrorists." The *Times* writes, "[A]nti-American sentiment is being stoked by an outpouring of dubious pronouncements from both state and private news media. Anti-Americanism has even been given the ultimate imprimatur of state tolerance: billboards. One next door to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for instance, shows ...Obama with a beard like those worn by the Brotherhood, alongside a more flattering picture of the clean-shaven military leader, Gen. Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi." [47886, 47887]

Newsmax.com notes a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that shows "Federal employees in the United States receive significantly higher total compensation than do central-government workers in other developed nations... On average, American federal government workers receive 16 percent higher total compensation than do similar workers in other OECD nations, even after differences in the countries' average income levels are taken into account. Yet... several factors [suggest] that U.S. federal employees are on average less skilled than their foreign counterparts." [47583]

At WorldTribune.com Jeffrey T. Kuhner writes that Obama "has been exposed as a race-baiting hypocrite. Christopher Lane, a white Australian student, was murdered in Oklahoma last week, shot in the back while he was jogging. The perpetrators were black teenagers, who admitted they were 'bored' and decided to kill Mr. Lane for 'the fun of it.' The case has garnered massive international media attention. Mr. Obama's response: silence. He refuses to speak out on the issue. Contrast this with the Trayvon Martin case. [Obama] publicly denounced the killing of the 17-year-old black teenager prior to the trial of the shooter, George Zimmerman. In fact, Mr. Obama claimed that, if he had a 'son,' he would have 'looked just like Trayvon.' The implication was clear: By shooting Trayvon, Mr. Zimmerman had also targeted [Obama]. ...Think about this: The most powerful man in the world, elected not once but twice, used the Trayvon Martin case to argue he—like many blacks—is the victim of racism. His speech was not only racially polarizing. It was insulting. Zimmerman shot Trayvon not because of his skin color, but out of self-defense: the teen was in the process of smashing his head against the pavement. If Zimmerman had not used his gun, he would likely be dead today. The incident was never about race—until our liberal elites hijacked the story. By contrast, Lane never pounced on any of the black teens. He never attacked, punched or hit them. He was gunned down simply because he was an easy, white target. Yet, when asked if Obama had any comment on the heinous hate crime, Deputy White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest responded, that he was 'not familiar' with the Oklahoma case." [47587]

Kuhner continues, "And then when pressed by a FOX News reporter to explain why the double standard as [Obama] remains silent on Lane while lecturing America on Trayvon

Martin, Earnest lied. He said that Obama had never ‘extensively’ spoken about the Trayvon shooting. The administration is engaging in Orwellian mendacity to obfuscate the obvious truth: Obama will not denounce Lane’s murder because he was white and the perpetrators black. For liberals, blacks are always victims, and whites can only be aggressors. This is the great—and pernicious—hypocrisy of our time. ...By refusing to speak out on Mr. Lane’s death, Obama has shown conclusively that he is a demagogue, who plays the race card in order to inflame racial tensions, thereby galvanizing the minority electorate. He is our race-hustler-in-chief.” [47587]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Justice Department is trying to stop a school vouchers program in Louisiana that attempts to help families send their children to independent schools instead of under-performing public schools. ...[Louisiana Governor Bobby] Jindal—who last year expanded the program that started in 2008—said this weekend that the department’s action is ‘shameful’ and said ...Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder ‘are trying to keep kids trapped in failing public schools against the wishes of their parents.’” (A voucher program worked so well in Washington, D.C. that in 2009 it was cancelled by Obama, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), and the Democrats—despite that fact that it reduced per-pupil costs by 25 percent. The unions took precedence over the children in that budget decision. *The Wall Street Journal* wrote, “The ...Durbin Democrats aren’t worried that school choice doesn’t work. They’re worried that it does...” Legislators in the House and the Senate later restored the D.C. voucher funding.) [7017, 7018, 7019, 19523, 47588, 47594, 47627]

TimesofIsrael.com reports that Obama “is set to make a pre-Rosh Hashana conference call to some 1,000 US rabbis in which he will discuss key issues of the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the hopes that the spiritual leaders will raise enthusiasm for those talks among their congregants in their High Holiday speeches. Policy experts close to the administration told The Times of Israel that support for the negotiations would be a major part of what has become the traditional presidential Jewish New Year conference call to rabbis. They said [Obama] would also touch upon domestic issues, including immigration and economic recovery. Rosh Hashana starts this year on the eve of September 4.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller responds with justifiable outrage: “This is so reprehensible—where to begin? Why doesn’t Obama use elaborate gala iftar dinners to encourage the Muslim world to expunge the quran from the Islamic Jew-hatred that fuels the war on the Jews in Israel and the world? Why doesn’t Obama address the genocidal rhetoric broadcast daily in Muslim media against the Jews? Why doesn’t Obama use his ‘Muslim Outreach’ to warn the Muslim world that the US will withhold aid if the schools continue to teach Jew-hatred and incitement to violence? Is it too much to ask that this vicious anti-semite keep his bloody hands off of our high holy days? There are certainly enough Jewicidal schmucks posing as rabbis who will sell out the Jewish people on this. This is really disgusting.” (In 2009 Obama used a Rosh Hashana conference call to push ObamaCare. Because it was an election year, Obama used his 2012 call to talk tough about Iran.) [47589, 47590]

Russia warns the Obama administration not to repeat past mistakes in Syria by rushing to judgment and military action. Russia’s foreign ministry states, “We once again decisively

urge [the United States] not to repeat the mistakes of the past and not to allow actions that go against international law. Any unilateral military action bypassing the United Nations will ...lead to further escalation [in Syria] and will affect the already explosive situation in the Middle East in the most devastating way. Moscow said any military action would severely hamper joint U.S.-Russian efforts for an international peace conference to end a civil war that has killed more than 100,000 people. The threat to use force against the Syrian regime sends the Syrian opposition conflicting signals. All sponsors of the opposition, which have influence over it, must seek the fastest possible agreement from Bashar al-Assad's opponents to hold talks." Iran warns there will be "dire consequences for the White House" if the United States takes action against Syria—suggesting that Iran would attack Israel. [47592, 47596, 47600, 47601, 47616]

The Obama Timeline has long questioned why Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett has been given expensive, taxpayer-paid Secret Service protection, and in his book, *This Town*, Mark Leibovich brings up the subject. DailyCaller.com reports, "It turns out that some of her colleagues inside the White House are skeptical that actual, specific threats resulted in Jarrett's protection. Added Leibovich of Jarrett's White House colleagues: 'They suspected, rather, that Jarrett asked [Obama] to authorize a detail out of 'earpiece envy.'" (Some suspect that Jarrett, Obama's closet advisor, has been given protection because she is "Obama's brain." He reportedly makes no decisions without her input, but she allegedly makes many without his.) [47603]

On *Fox News Sunday* Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin responds to questions about the murder of Australian athlete Christopher Lane by three young thugs, and states, "I certainly am going to say something on behalf of the state of Oklahoma, to the family. It would be nice if our nation were to certainly express their condolences, how very sorry we are." Australians are understandably upset, says Fallin, but "people in Oklahoma are very upset too" and "the Obama administration should express its condolences. I certainly know that's what I'm going to do." [47608]

On *State of the Union*, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, "We do not have the votes right now" to de-fund ObamaCare. "We need 41 Republicans in the Senate or we need 218 Republicans in the House. ...And I'm convinced there's a new paradigm in politics that actually has Washington very uncomfortable. It has politicians in both parties very uncomfortable. And that new paradigm is the rise of the grassroots, the ability of grassroots activists to demand of their elected officials they do the right thing. And I believe if we see a grassroots tsunami, that is going to cause Republicans and Democrats to listen to the people. ...It is going to take a tsunami, and I'm going to do everything I can to encourage that tsunami." Cruz says ObamaCare is "not working and it's hurting Americans. And by the way, the people it's hurting the most are the most vulnerable among us. The people who are losing their jobs are young people, are Hispanics, are African Americans, are single moms. I don't think that's fair, I don't think that's right." [47615]

The Telegraph reports, "Britain is planning to join forces with America and launch military action against Syria within days in response to the gas attack believed to have

been carried out by President Bashar al-Assad's forces against his own people. Royal Navy vessels are being readied to take part in a possible series of cruise missile strikes, alongside the United States, as military commanders finalise a list of potential targets. Government sources said talks between the Prime Minister and international leaders, including Barack Obama, would continue, but that any military action that was agreed could begin within the next week." (At HotAir.com Bruce McQuain later asks, "And, of course, once we do intervene, then what? Who takes over if we're successful in toppling the Assad regime? Most people are aware of the fact that the opposition to the mostly secular Assad regime is a collection of Muslim extremist groups. How friendly are they going to be to the US? And, if it is true that Assad has a huge stockpile of chemical weapons, who will have control of them when he falls and how do those talking intervention plan on stopping that stockpile from falling into the wrong hands? One has to wonder if these questions have even been asked yet, and, if they have, what contingencies are in place to help shape the outcome. Or, as it seems is usual now days, will the Obama administration shoot first and ask questions later?") [47610, 47611]

Meanwhile, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll, "Americans strongly oppose U.S. intervention in Syria's civil war and believe Washington should stay out of the conflict even if reports that Syria's government used deadly chemicals to attack civilians are confirmed... About 60 percent of Americans surveyed said the United States should not intervene in Syria's civil war, while just 9 percent thought ...Obama should act." [47611, 47612]

On August 26 Katie Pavlich writes at Townhall.com, "A short and oversimplified version of what's going on in Syria looks like this: The rebels fighting the government have been taken over by al Qaeda and other terror groups. The government backing [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad has been getting help from Iranian terror groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Syrian civilians who are neither rebels nor on the side of the government are being slaughter[ed]: 100,000 people since 2011. At this point it looks like ...Obama is planning to go ahead with military action against Syria without UN or Congressional approval after the Brits go in first. Buckle your seat belts folks." (Engaging in a war without Congressional approval is arguably an impeachable offense—and he could have been impeached over his Libyan actions.) [47596, 47614]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel states, "The United States is looking at all options regarding the situation in Syria. We're working with our allies and the international community. We are analyzing the intelligence. And we will get the facts. And if there is any action taken, it will be concert with the international community and within the framework of legal justification." (Hagel does not indicate whether the wishes of the American people would be taken into consideration. Nor does he remind anyone of his 2012 statement: "I think we've got to be very wise and careful on this and continue to work with the multilateral institutions in the lead in Syria. I don't think America wants to be in the lead on this. What you have to do is manage the problem. You manage it to a higher ground of possible solutions, ultimately to try to get to a resolution. You don't have control over what's going on in Syria. ...You've got to be patient, smart, wise, manage the problem. ...We've got to understand great-power limitations. There are so

many uncontrollable variables at play in Syria and the Middle East. You work through the multilateral institutions that are available, the U.N., the Arab league. The last thing you want is an American-led or Western-led invasion into Syria.” [47597, 47621]

Secretary of State John Kerry says, “What we saw in Syria last week should shock the conscience of the world. ...[It] is a moral obscenity. By any standard it is inexcusable ...[and] it is undeniable [that Syria’s government used chemical weapons]. ...The meaning of this attack goes beyond the conflict in Syria itself. This is about the large-scale indiscriminate use of weapons that the civilized world long ago decided must never be used at all. ...This international norm cannot be violated with consequences. ...[Obama] will be making an informed decision about how to respond. ...Obama believes there must be accountability for those who would use the world’s most heinous weapons against the world’s most vulnerable people. Nothing is more serious.” (Some might argue that rebel fighters and their al-Qaeda helpers are not among “the world’s most vulnerable people.”) [47606, 47626]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, “The options facing [Obama with regard to Syria] are complicated, have far-reaching ramifications, and may require significant resources ...[I]f he chooses to act, [Obama] must explain his decision publicly, clearly, and resolutely. [Obama] is commander-in-chief. With that power comes obligations. One, of course, is to consult with Congress on the options he sees as a viable response. This consultation has not yet taken place, but it is an essential part of the process. More than just to Congress, [Obama] has an obligation to the American people to explain the rationale for the course of action he chooses.” Boehner wants Obama to explain why military action against Syria would be “critical to our national security; and what the broader strategy is to achieve stability”—especially because “surveys have shown that the American public is hesitant to intervene in Syria.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama will order a limited Tomahawk missile strike on several Syrian targets—without the approval of Congress, defying legislators to do anything about it. With Congressional approval or not, the military would have to be extraordinarily cautious with its strikes. It would likely launch missiles against Syrian military bases, especially air bases. Striking chemical weapons facilities—if their locations are known—would be incredibly risky. Such an action could not only release chemical agents into the atmosphere and kill civilians, it might make those weapons available to rebel fighters and al-Qaeda. That result could not be prevented unless U.S. ground troops were sent in to protect the sites—and the American public has no desire to risk those U.S. lives.) [47607]

DailyCaller.com reports that viewer-starved CNN “failed to get much of a bump in ratings Friday during a much-publicized interview with ...Obama conducted by Chris Cuomo. ...It finished in the overall ratings contest in third place behind Fox News Channel’s ‘Fox & Friends’ and MSNBC’s ‘Morning Joe,’ and was even beaten by HLN, CNN’s sister network, in the coveted 25–54 demo with 103,000 viewers.” [47605]

DailyCaller.com also reports that Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) “will introduce legislation to prohibit members of Congress and Congressional staff from receiving government health insurance subsidies under Obamacare. ...The legislation [called the

“James Madison Congressional Accountability Act”] comes in the wake of an Office of Personnel Management decision to allow members of Congress and their staff to keep their government contributions for health insurance when Obamacare is implemented.” [47630]

The Ulsterman Report visits with the unnamed White House insider, “an old-school Democrat who has felt for some time the political party of his once ‘big show’ political days is now a long gone and likely never to return remnant of the past.” The insider expresses anger that the GOP did not do more to attack Attorney General Eric Holder: “I think some Republican f*cks forgot what a set of real brass ones feel like. I think the American people are too f*cking pre-occupied with whatever crap it is they call livin’ to pay attention to high crimes that should have had these people run out on rails by now. I think the people that had the power to act, didn’t. And that is that, man. Those people... sh*t, we gave them the leads. We gave them the names. They gave us sh*t. Promises of doing something, attitude like they cared. But in the end... hell no. A bunch of posturing back-slapping bullsh*t. Count ’em up yourself! How many times we go at the DOJ? How many times we have to? I mean really, man? Who gets away with this much incoming? Before this White House, nobody. Nobody got away with this much sh*t. I blame Democrats and I blame Republicans, and I blame millions of Americans so dumb and stupid and lazy who have allowed this sh*t to go on like it has. F*ck ’em. And I sincerely mean that, son. F*ck ’em. ...This country has gone to hell. You know it. I know it. The rest of ’em—they don’t care. So I’ll say it again—f*ck ’em.” [47618]

The insider tells Ulsterman he heard that close Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett “is planning her exit from the White House. That it’s in the works. ...Oh, hell yeah [it’s her choice]. And I doubt she’ll be giving up her influence one bit. Guessing it’s something to do with paving the road for her expanded role beyond the White House, which means what she’s really up to is setting up the public profiles of [Obama] and [his wife]. They are planning on something that will outshine the Clinton Initiative stuff by billions of dollars. It’s all money and influence for them now, nothing more. These last eight years is all about setting up the next thirty, and Jarrett is going to be right in the middle of all of it.” In visiting Jarrett twice while he was in Martha’s Vineyard Obama “was openly acting like Jarrett’s b*tch. They ain’t even trying to pretend that isn’t the case anymore. It’s weird, but it’s what I saw, it’s what others saw, it’s what everyone inside the White House knows. She’s the president. Now you’ll have some people read that and think no way, that’s just not possible, and go back to sticking their heads up their asses. No, the real deal is Valerie Jarrett is and has always been swinging the biggest stick inside this administration. Anyone want to offer up proof otherwise, I’d love to see it.” [47618]

The insider tells Ulsterman he prefers not to discuss Benghazi because it is “too f*cking painful. And I’m not just talking about the four dead Americans. I’m talking about the thousands of dead from the weapons they’re smuggling. I’m talking about how corrupt the disclosure process has been. I’m talking about the complicity of the media to help cover it up. You take the IRS, which I still think has real political heat that could burn this White House, you take the Solyndra sh*t, all the other stuff... it’s Benghazi that has me the most spooked. That thing... you bring it up to military. I know some, right? They

won't discuss it. Clam up. Give you that 'time to move on' look. It's weird. And lots of people have asked where Obama was that night, right? Not one definitive answer from the White House. Not one. Now I know for a fact that's a major red flag. White House protocol demands we... not the public, but you know, staff, they know [his] location at all times. [I'm] Talking 24/7. He's in the can taking a sh*t? We know. But this White House is telling us they don't really know where [Obama] was when we have an ambassador under attack? Bullsh*t. And that's what we call a sloppy cover up, which means it was rushed, which means they were panicked, which means it was a real deal, serious f*ck up." [47618]

The insider rules out the possibility of impeachment: "Impeachment? Don't even hold out hope for nothing like that now. Look, I'd give up my right nut to see it happen. I really would, but it ain't happening, so stop wasting time and energy trying to wish it would. Move on from that sideshow, son. Obama has his second term, he has the opportunity to pay off the investors, Holder is still locked in as the firewall, and last I checked, Obama still had that dark skin to run to every time somebody even thinks of calling him out on something. ...I haven't made Obama's skin color and issue—HE HAS. Every damn day he's reminding us, just in case we might of forgot, that he has dark skin, and America has been so beat down by the race guilt bullsh*t, it works. People back off. And that my friend, is about as dangerous a political environment as I've ever seen in all my life." [47618]

"Oh! [I] Almost forgot! Did you catch the little thing, Obama's friend, his uh... the body man guy [Reggie Love]. What he said about Bin Laden? How [Obama] was playing cards [during the operation to get Osama bin Laden]. ...That wasn't about the Obama killing – it was about Benghazi. It was a set up. A test run. You see? Obama don't need to always be there 24/7 during an emergency, right? It was creating a viable excuse scenario, get it? When I came across that story I wasn't thinking sh*t about Bin Laden, it was all pointing to Benghazi. The question of where Obama was that night. What was he doing? That body man interview thing... that was a plant. A set up. I knew it as soon as I read it. It's trying to explain Obama's absence at times when most people would think he was right there handling a situation. Or trying to at least. And now think about it. Who is that protecting? I mean really—who does that kind of explanation really serve? Put it into Benghazi terms. Who doesn't want their name linked to whatever chain of command took place that night? ...[I]f somebody is going out there and saying [Obama], during times of crisis, is somebody who might step away for some time, hours, whatever, to go play f*cking cards, who is that really protecting? It ain't Obama, I'll tell you that right now. Makes him look like the weak ass fool those of us who've seen him up close know he is. ...So who gets cover from somebody going out and saying [Obama] has no problem stepping away from a crisis to go play cards? See, they're trying to make his absence seem normal. Who is the one who really benefits from that kind of normal? ...Valerie f*cking Jarrett. She's making the calls. She's speaking for [Obama]. That's how she puts it. 'These orders are directly from [Obama].' You know, something along those lines. So when people start asking, 'but where was [Obama]?', you see, they already have the scenario of him leaving a crisis to go play cards. They just shrug it off. Get the media to spin it as Obama's cool character, right? Man, he can just shut it off when he needs to.

Some bullsh*t like that, when the real truth is Barack Obama could give a sh*t about ambassadors or soldiers, and he doesn't really make many of the decision anyways, so please defer to Valerie Jarrett.” [47618]

Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury, tells legislators the debt limit will have to be raised by mid-October—because the government is again running out of cash to pay its bills and must borrow even more money.

Newsmax.com reports, “Donald Trump went on the offensive Monday, hitting the airwaves to fire back at claims from New York’s attorney general that his Trump University is a fraud. The billionaire real-estate developer made it clear that he believes a \$40 million lawsuit from New York’s attorney general, Democrat Eric Schneiderman, is politically motivated—and could even have come at the behest of ...Obama. Trump said on both MSNBC’s ‘Morning Joe’ and on Fox News’ ‘Fox and Friends’ that Schneiderman had met Obama last week, less than 48 hours before the suit was filed. ‘They [met] on Thursday evening,’ Trump said on Fox. ‘I get sued on Saturday at 1 o’clock. Think of it. What government agency in the history of this country has ever brought a suit on a Saturday? I never heard of such a thing. It was a terribly drawn suit—incompetently drawn suit,’ Trump added. ‘They obviously did it very quickly.’ On ‘Morning Joe,’ he said ‘Maybe it was because of Obama, I don’t know, you people are going to have to check it out.’” [47620]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “New orders for manufactured durable goods in July decreased \$17.8 billion or 7.3 percent to \$226.6 billion.” Also at reduced levels were orders for transportation equipment, non-defense aircraft and parts, shipments of manufactured durable goods, and computers and electronic products. (Whether the declines are anomalies or an indication of a worsening economy remains to be seen.) [47628, 47647]

Asked whether Obama will seek approval from Congress to attack Syria, White House press secretary Jay Carney responds, “I’m not going to speculate about a decision that has not been made. I’m not going to itemize calls... [but] we are consulting with members of Congress.” (In other words, Obama will act without Congressional approval but will first tell sympathetic members of Congress he will authorize a strike.) Asked if Obama will seek United Nations approval, Carney says, “You’re getting in to a hypothetical about a decision that has not been made. ...[Obama] is consulting with the international community.” (In other words, Obama—who often whined about George W. Bush “acting unilaterally”—will not seek U.N. approval because he knows Russia or China will veto any military action against Syria.) It is worth noting that then-Senator Joe Biden (D-MD) said on July 30, 1998, “The rationale for vesting the power to launch war in Congress was simple. The Framers’ views were dominated by their experience with the British King, who had unfettered power to start wars. Such powers the Framers were determined to deny the President.” In 2007 Biden said, “The president has no constitutional authority to take this country to war... unless we’re attacked or unless there is proof that we are about to be attacked. ...The president has no authority to unilaterally attack Iran, and if he does, as Foreign Relations Committee chairman, I will move to impeach.” (Unless

Biden can point to where the U.S Constitution has been changed to affect his viewpoint, he would have to argue against military action in Syria without Congressional approval; and someone should tell Biden that the process of impeachment originates in the House of Representatives, not the Senate.) In 2007 then-Senator Obama said, “The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation.” (Obama’s view of the U.S. Constitution has apparently changed since 2007, even though the document itself has not.) [47633, 47638, 47639, 47660, 47672, 47673, 47674]

In an interview with *Izvestia*, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad denies using chemical weapons. He says, “How is it possible that any country would use chemical weapons, or any weapons of mass destruction, in an area where its own forces are located? This is preposterous! These accusations are completely politicized and come on the back of the advances made by the Syrian Army against the terrorists.” LATimes.com notes that “Syrian authorities and their Russian allies have charged that it was the rebels who unleashed chemical agents in a bid to discredit the government and spur a U.S.-led military attack on Syrian forces. The opposition has denied using chemical arms.” [47650]

At IsraelNationalNews.com David Lev reports, “As talk and rumors of an impending Western attack against Syria mount, a top Syrian official said Monday that if attacked, his country would react—against Israel. Speaking to an Arabic-language radio station operated by the United States, Syria’s Deputy Information Minister Halaf Al-Maftah said that Israel would face not only Syria in the event that the US, Britain and France attempted to unseat Bashar al-Assad. A coalition consisting of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria would respond to any attack against Assad with a response against Israel. In addition, terrorist groups in Syria and Lebanon would attack Israel with full force.” [47657]

On August 27 *The Telegraph* reports, “Saudi Arabia has secretly offered Russia a sweeping deal to control the global oil market and safeguard Russia’s gas contracts, if the Kremlin backs away from the Assad regime in Syria.” [47622]

The Washington Times reports, “Testimony from victims strongly suggests it was the rebels, not the Syrian government, that used Sarin nerve gas during a recent incident in the revolution-wracked nation, a senior U.N. diplomat said Monday. Carla del Ponte, a member of the U.N. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, told Swiss TV there were ‘strong, concrete suspicions but not yet incontrovertible proof,’ that rebels seeking to oust Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad had used the nerve agent. But she said her panel had not yet seen any evidence of Syrian government forces using chemical weapons, according to the BBC, but she added that more investigation was needed.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller comments, “The West is being manipulated. Why would Assad use chemical weapons when he is winning? Why incur the wrath of the Western powers when he has the upper hand? Al Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood are playing the West like a fiddle.” (On June 6, 2013 TurkishWeekly.net reported, “Russia has called on Turkey to share its findings in the case of Syrian rebels who were

seized on the Turkish-Syrian border with a 2kg cylinder full of nerve gas sarin. Russia's top foreign official Sergei Lavrov today said the Kremlin wanted to get clear on the issue of chemical weapons used in Syria, since the allegation had taken on the role of a trading card in the conflict, becoming a focus of constant provocations. 'I do not rule out that some force may want to use it [the rumour] to say that the 'red line' has been crossed and a foreign intervention is needed,' the minister said. 'We are still waiting on a comprehensive report from our Turkish colleagues,' he added, citing the incident when a gang of terrorists carrying a canister with nerve gas sarin was arrested inside the Turkish territory about two weeks ago.' [47624, 47814, 47844]

NBCNews.com reports, "The United States could hit Syria with three days of missile strikes, perhaps beginning Thursday [August 29], in an attack meant more to send a message to the Syrian regime than to cripple its military, senior U.S. officials told NBC News. The disclosure added to a growing drumbeat around the world for military action against Syria, believed to have used chemical weapons in recent days against scores of civilians and rebels who have been fighting the government for two years. In three days of strikes, the Pentagon could assess the effectiveness of the first wave and target what was missed in further rounds, the officials said." (The statement certainly does send a statement" to the Syrian regime: "You have at least two days to scatter your aircraft and any other military equipment you don't want to lose.") [47626, 47842]

Additionally, *The New York Times* reports that Obama "is considering military action against Syria that is intended [only] to 'deter and degrade' President Bashar al-Assad's government's ability to launch chemical weapons, but is not aimed at ousting Mr. Assad from power or forcing him to the negotiating table, administration officials said Tuesday. The strikes would instead be aimed at military units that have carried out chemical attacks, the headquarters overseeing the effort and the rockets and artillery that have launched the attacks, according to the options being reviewed within the administration. An American official said that the initial target lists included fewer than 50 sites, including air bases where Syria's Russian-made attack helicopters are deployed. The list includes command and control centers as well as a variety of conventional military targets." (If Assad reads the *Times* he will know which Syrian sites will be targeted. That gives him time to relocate equipment—probably to civilian centers where an attack would result in civilian casualties.) [47676]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Students in a rural Kentucky county—and their parents—are the latest to join a growing national chorus of scorn for the healthy school lunches touted by first lady Michelle Obama. 'They say it tastes like vomit,' said Harlan County Public Schools board member Myra Mosley at a contentious board meeting last week, reports *The Harlan Daily Enterprise*." (Increasing numbers of schools are dropping out of the federal lunch program because they are losing money—as children skip the offered meals and bring lunches from home. According to CBSNews.com, the Caitlin, Illinois school district lost \$30,000 under the program last year, and "In upstate New York, a few districts have quit the program, including the Schenectady-area Burnt Hills Ballston Lake system, whose five lunchrooms ended the year \$100,000 in the red." Many students have gone through the day hungry, unable to be satisfied with a "2-ounce-per-day limit on

grains and meats.” High school athletes are even more impacted, and have struggled with the daily limit of 750–850 lunch calorie limits.) [47629, 47655]

CNSNews.com reports, “The U.S. government will fund \$313 million in home mortgages for Palestinians living on the West Bank, according to a Government Accountability Office report released Monday. The U.S. will also guarantee \$110 million in loans to small and medium-sized businesses located on the West Bank. The mortgage and business-loan activities will be conducted by the federal Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). ‘OPIC is the U.S. Government’s development finance institution,’ says OPIC’s website. ‘OPIC provides financial products, such as loans and guaranties; political risk insurance; and support for investment funds, all of which help American businesses expand into emerging markets.’” [47637]

RollCall.com reports that Senators David Vitter (R-LA) Mike Enzi (R-WY) “introduced legislation Tuesday that would make members, political appointees, [Obama] and the vice president pay out of pocket for the full cost of their health care through exchanges set up by Obamacare. ‘If Obamacare is good enough for the American people, it should be good enough for Congress, the President and Vice President, and other policy makers in Washington,’ Enzi said in a statement. ‘I’ve said from the beginning that this law wouldn’t work and we see that proof daily with the endless exemptions, delays, and subsidies being authorized by [Obama]. There’s no excuse for trying to let certain individuals and businesses off the hook when the American people are already paying the price of bad policy.’ The bill responds to an administrative fix to the health law implemented by the Office of Personnel Management and would require all Congressional staff members—not just some—to enter an exchange. Vitter’s and Enzi’s offices said in a press release that their bill would prohibit staffers ‘from receiving any contribution greater than what they would receive if they were not employed by a congressional office,’ which is essentially the fix OPM made for staff.” [47641]

Obama’s approval ratings falls to 42 percent in the Gallup poll. [47642]

On CNBC, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew warns, “Congress should come back and they should act [on raising the debt limit]. [Obama] will not negotiate conditions on the debt limit. What we need in our economy is some certainty. We don’t need another self-inflicted wound. We don’t need another crisis at the last minute.” (By “certainty,” Lew means “continue the borrowing and spending as usual.) [47644]

The Ulsterman Report concludes part two of his interview with the White House insider, who emphasizes the importance of the 2014 elections: “Lame duck the prick [Obama]. Better do it! ’Cause they [Obama and the Democrats] got a whole slew of sh*t they wanna [sic] do next, and they need both houses of Congress to do it easy. See, I’m not saying they won’t try either way, right? You get that? Executive order the sh*t out of America either way. Difference is, if you got a Congress with some balls to say no, then it slows it down. Maybe pushes it back some, and that’s what the country needs. We all need it, a f*cking breather from this sh*t. Am I right? ...[In] 2014, pick up a few more [seats] in the Senate, maybe another ten or so in the House, and push Obama the hell

back. That's what we need. And by then, we're rolling onto 2016. ...[I'm] Not saying 2014 will be clean—hell no. But they [Democrats] can't steal it easy [as in 2012], and I don't think they can steal it hard. ...Now when you say you [have] got readers who are throwing up their hands and saying why bother [voting]? Ah, now that's a whole different thing. THAT's a big f*cking problem. That's what Democrats have wanted for a long time. Make all of you just give up. Turn you all into a bunch of pathetic wimps. And by the looks of it, seems like it's working, right?" [47645]

The insider notes that "...Obama ain't running in 2016. He's an anomaly. I underestimated it before, how deep people's guilt, fear, the whole skin color bullsh*t. I knew it would play a part, but after a couple years, [I] figured people would be over it. Media didn't let that happen though, and this White House played that [race] card over and over again. It's pretty much the only card they got left, right? But it works. I talked about it with you years back—White Guilt. Man, even when I was saying it to you then, [I] had no idea how deep it went. This country is so damn obsessed with all that sh*t. Get over it, right? White, black, brown, red, grey, gay—who gives a f*ck?" Looking ahead to 2016, the insider points out that Hillary Clinton "ain't Bill, and she ain't Obama.[The] Woman has so much baggage going into it. And the media don't [sic] love her like Obama. They'll support her, of course, but there ain't no real love there. Voter apathy will be higher. And she'll be challenged, and she just don't do well being challenged. ...[Bill Clinton is] a politician, [but Hillary Clinton is] an ideologue. Not as bad as Obama is, but similar like that. ...Bill Clinton, now he's a lot of things... some of them not so good, but he works. He likes the work. Obama, he hates the work. Laziest son-of-a-bitch who has ever been elected. That boy... see now, people gonna call that racist but... well f*ck them too. That boy likes the speeches, but he sure as sh*t don't like the work of government. So his people, they all do that part for him, and they are pitiful at it. Worst group of people I've ever seen. Just terrible. Terrible! ...[Hillary Clinton will] work—she's just not so good at it. Let me say it like this... Bill is a great politician because he has amazing instincts. He knows when to you know, push, and he knows when to pull. Hillary, not so much. She just don't have the political intelligence Bill does. Never has. And frankly, she's not very likeable, and that does play a big part in the whole thing." [47645]

The insider continues, "I'm not locking into Democrat or Republican. Wish the country would do more of that—vote for the best candidate. That's all. Just... you know, who's the right person for the job? Simple. Don't get yourself dragged down into all the political party bullsh*t. ...Always felt that way, it's just for a long time, I could believe that Democrats were by and large the ones who represented my own values. Now, well, not so much. Same damn feeling a lot of lifelong Republicans are feeling right now. We ain't so different them and me. This country, the way it's now... not what we signed up for. We don't recognize it. Maybe everyone who gets to a certain age has the same feeling... I don't know. Just... if I had advice to give to your readers, it would be to still vote, but don't vote party. Vote... vote the person. [I] Know it sounds simple, and know I ain't the first one to say it, but it's true man. Politics today... it ain't right. It's all twisted up and there's so little love of country. That's the part I don't recognize in us. All of us, right? It just ain't there. Love for this country. All but gone in most people." [47645]

The insider comments on some of the potential 2016 GOP presidential candidates, calling New Jersey Governor Chris Christie “a tough one to pin down. And that sh*t with [hugging] Obama in 2012... what the hell? Why? Can he win the nomination? I don’t know, will Republicans go with another East Coast Republican again? He’s got the tough guy thing to counter that, but in the end, I don’t think he gets the nomination. He might... but right now, I don’t think so.” The insider calls Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) “smart. [He] Can use his daddy’s fundraising machine, though I just heard a few days back a lot of Ron Paul’s supporters think Rand Paul is too middle of the road. They don’t understand that it’s Rand Paul’s ability to appear moderate even though I’d say he’s definitely right of center, that makes him appealing to more people and therefore, uh, he’s a threat to both the GOP leadership, and to a lesser extent, the Democrats. Don’t know if he’s ready for prime time just yet—but the guy is a real voice in the Republican Party right now for sure. He’s interesting—I’ll give him that.” Of Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) the insider says, “If anyone appeals to the pissed off attitudes of a whole lot of voters—it’s Ted Cruz. He just has that... you know, let’s kick some ass about him that frankly, and there’s folks I know who’d be horrified of my saying this—I like him for that. I think it’s a voice that needs to be heard right now. The GOP establishment though, they hate him. Absolutely hate him, so he [had] best watch his back.” Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) “Hurt himself with the conservative base on immigration. When you got people... spittin’ nails over an issue, Rubio misplayed his hand on that. Rookie mistake. But... you know, not impossible to overcome. I like the guy for the most part. He has a sincerity about him that plays well across the board. Not sure if he can overcome the others though. We’ll see.” [47645]

The insider reflects on the past few years with Obama: “It’s the whole race thing. The Obama Plan I think I called it back then. ...I know it must have sounded crazy to people at first. You see, the White House then was still talking up its unification, we’re all Americans bullsh*t. Post racial president crap—never was the plan. NEVER. They always wanted to use race to divide up this country and make it weaker. The race card, the riots, the media coverage... man, it all came to pass. And it’s still being done all around us and it’s got me real worried. Some of us... you know, we’re old enough to remember how tense things got before. With race. This White House man, they are putting gas to the flame, and a whole lot of people are gonna get burned. Already have—but it could be more. A lot more, and that makes me so damn sad, so damn pissed off, because that ain’t what we’re about. Not for a long time, but that’s where this White House wants to put us. The Old Man [Wall Street insider] saw it before I did, right? Remember that? He recognized what it was all about. And these f*cking Democrats today, they are so short sighted they just see it as some re-election tool. No, what it is could be mass destruction. Talking about people’s lives here—and like I just said, that ain’t what we’re supposed to be about. You can only push people against the wall so many times before they’ve had enough and up and push back. You can feel that... millions of people are reaching a breaking point. They’ve had enough, and that worries me ’cause that’s when things can get real ugly real fast. So, I wish I had been wrong about that. Wish [Obama] wasn’t so damn stupid and lazy, and willing to play the race

card so dangerously. But he is—they are. Just like I said. It's all coming true... all around us now. ...I'll sure be glad when these eight years are over though." [47645]

According to *The New York Times*, Clinton operative Harold Ickes has been given a position on the Democrat National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee—a sure sign that efforts are already underway to guarantee the 2016 Democrat presidential nomination for Hillary Clinton. “Mr. Ickes, 73, is a fixture in the Clinton's world. He ran Bill Clinton's New York campaign in the 1992 Democratic primary and served as a deputy chief of staff in Mr. Clinton's White House. He was a top adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign, and Mrs. Clinton's chief liaison at the D.N.C. during her primary battle against Barack Obama.” (Obama arguably wrested the 2008 nomination from Clinton because of rule changes that cheated her out of delegates in several states. She will not allow that to happen again in 2016.) [47663]

The White House issues a statement on the murder of Australian athlete Christopher Zane by three teen-aged thugs in Oklahoma: “As [Obama] has expressed on too many tragic occasions, there is an extra measure of evil in an act of violence that cuts a young life short. [Obama] and [the] first lady's thoughts and prayers are with Chris Lane's family and friends in these trying times.” (The victim's name was Christopher, not Chris, and the meaningless statement is arguably worse than no statement.) [47646]

At FreedomOutpost.com Dean Garrison states there is “growing evidence” that “Syrian rebels launched [the] chemical attacks” that are being blamed on the regime of President Bashar al-Assad. Garrison notes that Abdola Al-Jaledi, a “former high-ranking member” of the al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusrah front, claims his colleagues are in possession of chemical weapons. On August 22 Syrian television played two intercepted telephone conversations in which terrorists from the “Shuhada al-Bayada Battallion” admitted they had chemical weapons and had used them in the countryside near Homs, Syria. On January 28, 2013 InfoWars.com posted “Alleged hacked emails from [British] defense contractor Britam [Defence] reveal a plan ‘approved by Washington’ and funded by Qatar to stage a chemical weapons attack in Syria and blame it on the Assad regime, fulfilling what the Obama administration has made clear is a ‘red line’ that would mandate US military intervention.” One email, from Britam's Business Developer Director David Goulding to Britam founder Philip Doughty, reads, “We've got a new offer. It's about Syria again. Qataris propose an attractive deal and swear that the idea is approved by Washington. We'll have to deliver a CW [chemical weapon] to Homs, a Soviet origin g-shell from Libya similar to those that Assad should have. They want us to deploy our Ukrainian personnel that should speak Russian and make a video record. Frankly, I don't think it's a good idea but the sums proposed are enormous. Your opinion?” InfoWars.com's Paul Joseph Watson writes, “The fact that the plan involves delivering a CW (chemical weapon) that is ‘similar to those Assad should have,’ clearly suggests that the idea is to stage a false flag chemical weapons attack that could be blamed on Assad by Gulf states like Qatar and NATO powers. If the claim that such a plot was ‘approved by Washington’ can be verified, then the Obama administration is complicit in a war crime.” [47649, 47658, 47659]

Obama is scheduled to deliver an address at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. (Many expect that Obama's speech will be about himself, rather than King, and will focus on the color of skin rather than the content of character—and *The Obama Timeline* would most certainly not recommend betting against that supposition.)

Outgoing Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano claims, "our borders are now better staffed and better protected than any time in our nation's history, and illegal crossings have dropped to near 40-year lows. Over the past four and a half years, we have invested historic resources to prevent illegal cross-border activity." (According to a report from the Government Accountability Office, the "Border Patrol reported achieving varying levels of operational control of 873 (44 percent) of the nearly 2,000 southwest border miles.") [47684]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "As the U.S. marches toward war with Syria, thousands of Assad-sympathizers bombarded ... Obama's Facebook page with threats of retaliation. Comments from seemingly original profiles represented Syrians from the cities of Homs, Tartus, Damascus and Aleppo and more." One much-repeated comment is, "We will burn the cities of the United States if it attacked Syria, and will remove Israel from the map." Others include, "To the American people: Have you ever asked yourselves why your flag is burning all over the world by protesters? We always distinguish between the American regime and the American people... but if the American people remain silent they will be murders as their government. Wake-up Americans and stand for humanity," and "You will attack my people based on still unconfirmed reports? The rebels have all the advantage in claiming this happened while killing children themselves. U.S. has been arming and fighting Al Qaeda so long and you cannot see this because you want war and nothing will stop your blood thirst. Bomb one more country and we will rain fire from the sky." [47654]

In *The Independent*, Robert Fisk writes, "If Barack Obama decides to attack the Syrian regime, he has ensured—for the very first time in history—that the United States will be on the same side as al-Qa'ida. ... The men who destroyed so many thousands on 9/11 will then be fighting alongside the very nation whose innocents they so cruelly murdered almost exactly 12 years ago. Quite an achievement for Obama, [British Prime Minister David] Cameron, [French President Francois] Hollande and the rest of the miniature warlords. ... While the Americans drone al-Qa'ida to death in Yemen and Pakistan—along, of course, with the usual flock of civilians—they will be giving them, with the help of Messrs Cameron, Hollande and the other Little General-politicians, material assistance in Syria by hitting al-Qa'ida's enemies. Indeed, you can bet your bottom dollar that the one target the Americans will not strike in Syria will be al-Qa'ida or the Nusra front. ... In Iraq, we went to war on the basis of lies originally uttered by fakers and conmen. Now it's war by YouTube. This doesn't mean that the terrible images of the gassed and dying Syrian civilians are false. It does mean that any evidence to the contrary is going to have to be suppressed. For example, no-one is going to be interested in persistent reports in Beirut that three Hezbollah members—fighting alongside government troops in Damascus—were apparently struck down by the same gas on the

same day, supposedly in tunnels. They are now said to be undergoing treatment in a Beirut hospital. So if Syrian government forces used gas, how come Hezbollah men might have been stricken too? Blowback? ...Sure, we are told that it will be a short strike on Syria, in and out, a couple of days. That's what Obama likes to think. But think Iran. Think Hezbollah. I rather suspect—if Obama does go ahead—that this one will run and run.” [47656]

“Sharia Unveiled” posts video of Obama-backed Free Syrian Army rebels executing two teen-aged boys for supporting President Bashar al-Assad. [47664]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “Who else recalls the hoops George W. Bush had to jump through to go into Iraq? Who else remembers the endless documentation from every US intel agency and the intel from our allies across the world concerning Saddam Hussein's WMD? Years of intel. And majority validation by Democrats and Republicans (who can forget Hillary?) And still Bush was monstrously vilified. Now we have a puffed-up, truly great phony going into Syria without knowing who is using chemical weapons. Or whose chemical weapons? The WMD the Democrats didn't exist? Saddam's? ...An Iranian proxy vs Al Qaeda/Muslim Brotherhood opposition. Only a puffed up moron would jump into those shark infested waters. At least Assad protected the millions of religious minorities in Syria. No congressional approval, no UN vote—just a self important buffoon hurling the United States into catastrophic action. Where is the statecraft? What can we expect Syria (or Egypt and Libya, for that matter) to look like after Obama wreaks havoc and assists in Muslim Brotherhood/Al Qaeda reigns of terror in 10 years, 20 years? Who will stop this tyrant?” [47665]

The BBC reports, “Russia and China have stepped up their warnings against military intervention in Syria, with Moscow saying any such action would have ‘catastrophic consequences’ for the region. ...Russian foreign ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich has called on the international community to show ‘prudence’ over the crisis and observe international law. ‘Attempts to bypass the Security Council, once again to create artificial groundless excuses for a military intervention in the region are fraught with new suffering in Syria and catastrophic consequences for other countries of the Middle East and North Africa,’ he said in a statement.” [47729]

On *Hannity*, author Ann Coulter says, “There's a lot of military action the commander-in-chief can take [with regard to Syria]. I do not think [Obama] should take it here. And I do not think—unfortunately, he is a Democrat and Democrats generally they intervene when it is directly contrary to the interest of the United States. They seem to think it's selfish to do something that will help the United States such as invade Iraq, take out a dictator and preside over several democratic elections. No, that they're against. This is now the second time under the Obama administration that America has engaged in a military intervention—a continuation of a war in one case—solely so that [Obama] wouldn't look like an idiot for something he said. Escalating the war in Afghanistan—the only reason he did that was that this rhetorical device to attack the war in Iraq, to say, that was a war ...of convenience, whereas Afghanistan—that's the real war. What does he think he's accomplishing in Afghanistan? And here, it's because he said the chemical

weapons were used, that's a 'red line.' ...I mean, we know that actually is happening in Syria. But it does remind me, to go back to another useless Democrat president, Bill Clinton, when he went into Bosnia. And [former Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright and Secretary of Defense [William] Cohen claimed... that hundreds of thousands of civilians were being murdered by [Slobodan] Milosevic. And the U.N. goes and digs up bodies and they find a few thousand men of military age. They wanted to intervene in Bosnia and specifically said, Madeleine Albright did, Bill Clinton did, 'This is America at its best, because it serves no territorial interest, no national security interest of ours. ...This is what Democrats tell us. And again, the only reason Obama escalated a war in Afghanistan—where there is no point to regime change, there are more goats than flush toilets there—the literacy rate is literally 19 percent. That is not a joke. The life expectancy is 44. What are we doing in Afghanistan? He's allowing Americans to die in Afghanistan because of a line he used on the campaign trail and that's what's happening in Syria now. He said the 'red line' if chemical weapons are used, and now that's why we have to intervene?'" [47671]

On August 28 Fort Hood terrorist Major Nidal Malik Hasan is sentenced to death by a military jury. [47653, 47669, 47686]

In Washington, D.C., the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech turns into a succession of Democrat politicians doing their best not to honor King but to encourage Democrat victories in the 2014 mid-term elections. (Some observers claim it sounded more like a night at the Democrat National Convention than a commemoration of a major civil rights event.) Bill Clinton whines, "A great democracy does not make it harder to vote than it does to buy an assault weapon," completely disregarding the fact that voting is, of course, far easier than buying a gun. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), is not invited to speak at the event, even though he is the only black in the U.S. Senate. (Scott is, however, a conservative Republican—which explains the "oversight.") Leftists counter that both George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush were both invited to speak—but inviting one former president who is too old and fragile to attend and another who just had heart stent surgery is largely a meaningless gesture. (Event planners may just as well have invited Abraham Lincoln to address the crowd.) [47666, 47667, 47668, 47677, 47706, 47736]

At the King event, former Atlanta mayor Andrew Young declares that Trayvon Martin was a martyr, Jimmy Carter complains about "stand your ground" laws, Bill Clinton delivers a not-so-subtle rebuke of Obama ("Martin Luther King did not live and die to hear his heirs whine about political gridlock."), and Obama delivers a predictable speech, complaining about a lack of jobs—that his 2009 stimulus legislation was supposed to create. The event draws about 20,000 people; 100,000 were expected to attend. [47689, 47694, 47696, 47707, 47708]

KTRH.com posts a video of a January 21, 2002 address by Obama at the University of Chicago in which he ridiculed Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advocacy of non-violence. A bitter Obama said, "The philosophy of non-violence only makes sense if the powerful can be made to recognize themselves are powerless. It only makes sense if the powerless can

be made to recognize themselves as powerful. You know, the principle of empathy gives broader meaning, by the way, to Dr. King's philosophy of non-violence. I don't know if you've noticed, but rich people are all for non-violence. Why wouldn't they be? They've got what they want! They want to make sure folks aren't gonna [sic] take their stuff! But the principle of empathy recognizes that there are more subtle forms of violence to which we are answerable. The spirit of empathy condemns not only the use of fire hoses and attack dogs to keep people down, but also accountants and tax loopholes to keep people down. I'm not saying what Enron executives did to their employees is the moral equivalent of what Bull Connor did to black folks, but I'll tell you what: the employees of Enron feel violated. When a company town sees its plant closing because some distant executives made some decision despite the wage concessions, despite the tax breaks, and they see their entire economy collapsing, they feel violence." [47685]

Conservative actress Stacy Dash sends Twitter messages with quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 1963 speech—and is attacked by leftists for using the word "Negro." (The word was in the King quote: "The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people. For many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied to our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We can not walk alone.") The people criticizing Dash are probably not also condemning the sale of "Trayvon Martin Luther King" t-shirts at the Washington, D.C. event. [47675, 47679]

The Atlantic reports, "The Obama administration's plans to carry out a limited air strike against Syria may be delayed until Tuesday [September 3] thanks to political opposition in the U.K. Parliament. How would British opposition to an American military action throw off the whole schedule? The U.S. and the U.K., according to a *Guardian* report, seem to be jointly pursuing support for a military strike. And while it looks like [Obama] believes he has all the support he needs to move those plans forward, things have become more complicated in the U.K. Because of that, the U.S. is apparently giving [Prime Minister David] Cameron a 'lifeline' so he can quell an anticipated 'revolt' in Parliament, as opposition to military action in Syria grows there. The U.S. has repeatedly refused to give a timeline for what everyone's assuming will be a limited, retaliatory military air strike against Syria as punishment for a deadly chemical attack. And while a number of details on the administration's plans for retaliation have leaked to the media, [Obama], on Wednesday, repeated his assertion that he has not yet made a decision on Syria [and is] still considering the options on the table." (The timetable will be more than awkward for Obama, as he will board Air Force One for the G20 summit in Russia on September 3.) It appears as though Obama will not only be ordering a military strike against Syria without first getting the approval of Congress, it appears that he will also not bother with a televised address to the nation—and he is unlikely to do so from Air Force One or from Moscow. [47670, 47678]

New Hampshire's *Union Leader* writes, "Last August ...Obama drew his line in the Syrian sand. '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.’ A year later two things are clear: 1) There was no equation; it was just Obama talking nonsense. 2.) He bluffed without a plan. It is an axiom of statecraft that one does not go rattling sabers if one is not prepared to stain them with an enemy’s blood. Or as Napoleon put it, ‘One should never forbid what one lacks the power to prevent.’ In Obama’s case, we can replace ‘power’ with ‘will.’ In 2007, Obama was brimming with indignation that the United States would go to war without the approval of Congress. Now he is preparing to do exactly that for the second time. With Syria, it is for the worst reason: so [Obama] can save face. The United States of America has no business attacking Syria. Our national security is not at stake. The one and only reason we are on the verge of war is because [Obama] thought it personally advantageous to rattle the sabers just before the 2012 election. It is schoolyard diplomacy, but with real missiles.” [47775]

On behalf of the Senate Conservatives Fund, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin states, “This beast [ObamaCare] must be stopped—by not funding it. Today, [my husband] Todd and I joined with many of our fellow citizens to urge those in the U.S. Senate to not fund Obamacare. The time to take serious action to stop Obamacare is now. ...The time for rhetoric and ceremonial votes in Congress is over. ...Those in the Senate and those seeking to serve there must stand strong against this devastating program before it reveals its true face now recognized by both sides of the aisle as the bureaucratic and economic beast that will deny our families, our businesses, and our sick the ability to access health care. Join us in urging senators—Don’t fund Obamacare! Just remember: if you fund it, you own it!” [47680]

After meeting with national security officials, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issues a statement: “The State of Israel is ready for any scenario. We are not part of the civil war in Syria, but if we identify any attempt whatsoever to harm us, we will respond and we will respond in strength.” (Syria has warned that Israel will be targeted for retaliation if it is attacked by the United States.) [47683]

WND.com reports, “Iran is threatening to launch a massive missile strike against Israel if the United States attacks Syria for using chemical weapons against its own people, which could touch off a full-blown war in the region. ‘The day of reckoning is near,’ according to Hossein Shariatmadari, the chief editor of Keyhan newspaper, an outlet controlled by Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. An Op-Ed penned by Shariatmadari Tuesday warned that the impending confrontation between the West and Syria would ‘provide the long-awaited opportunity for revenge against Israel and America. ...Because of the failure of the intended proxy war, America and some Arab and European countries are preparing to attack Syria on the false claims that the Assad regime has used chemical weapons. However, America can certainly start the war but it won’t be the one to end it. ...Muslims should welcome the news of an attack on Syria as it will provide the long-awaited opportunity for revenge, which should destroy the enemies of Islam.’” (Some might argue that Obama is naive and does not fully understand the ramifications of an attack on Syria. Others might argue that he is totally aware—and hopeful—that Israel will be attacked and even destroyed in retaliation for his actions.) [47687]

Reuters reports, “The Obama administration has delayed a step crucial to the launch of the new healthcare law, the signing of final agreements with insurance plans to be sold on federal health insurance exchanges starting October 1. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) notified insurance companies on Tuesday that it would not sign final agreements with the plans between September 5 and 9, as originally anticipated, but would wait until mid-September instead, according to insurance industry sources. ...The reason for the hold-up was unclear. Sources attributed it to technology problems involving the display of insurance products within the federal information technology system.” (*Three years* after the passage of ObamaCare, the Department of Health and Human Services remains unable to set up the insurance exchanges by the October 1, 2013 effective date.) [47688, 47695, 47713]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) sends a letter to Obama asking him to “make the case to the American people and Congress for how potential military action will secure American national security interests, preserve America’s credibility, deter the future use of chemical weapons, and, critically, be a part of our broader policy and strategy. ...It will take ...leadership and a clear explanation of our policy, our interests, and our objectives to gain public and Congressional support for any military action against Syria. After spending the last 12 years fighting those who seek to harm our fellow citizens, our interests, and our allies, we all have a greater appreciation of what it means for our country to enter into conflict. It will take that public support and congressional will to sustain the Administration’s efforts, and our military, as well as their families, deserve to have the confidence that we collectively have their backs—and a thorough strategy in place. ...In addition, it is essential you address on what basis any use of force would be legally justified and how the justification comports with the exclusive authority of congressional authorization under Article 1 of the Constitution.” (The House and Senate will not return from summer recess until September 9.) [47690, 47714]

On the PBS *News Hour*, Obama says, “I have not made a decision” on a military strike against Syria. “I think it’s important that if, in fact, we make a choice to have repercussions for the use of chemical weapons, then the Assad regime ...will have received a pretty strong signal that, in fact, it [had] better not do it again. ...We have concluded that the Syrian government in fact carried these out, and if that’s so, then there need to be international consequences. I have no interest in any kind of open-ended conflict in Syria. But we do have to make sure that when countries break international norms on chemical weapons they are held accountable.” (It was a certainty that Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons to kill thousands of Kurds in northern Iraq, yet Obama opposed the 2003 invasion and did not want accountability then.) [47691, 47711]

Examiner.com reports, “Syrian Pres. Bashar al-Assad and his family arrived in Tehran Aug 28, landing at Khomeini Airport aboard his presidential jet. Iranian foreign ministry sources confirmed this with the Lebanese newspaper a-Nahar. Accompanying the Assad family was a group of senior Syrian government officials who together with Assad are officially there to hold talks with the Iranian government about a Syrian response to a possible US strike on Syrian WMD assets which is expected to take place in the near

future. As this information made its way into a-Nahar, Syrian Army generals continued their dire warning that if Syria is attacked, ‘Israel will burn’ and that if Syria weakens, ‘certain irresponsible groups’ will be formed that would endanger Israel.” [47693]

At FrontPageMag.com Jihad Watch director Robert Spencer writes, “American military intervention in Syria is likely to begin this week, and one thing we know amid the general confusion is that the objective is not to oust Bashar Assad: White House spokesman Jay Carney said Tuesday: ‘I want to make clear that the options that we are considering are not about regime change. They are about responding to a clear violation of international standard that prohibits the use of chemical weapons.’ How the Obama Administration plans to deal with Assad’s alleged use of chemical weapons without challenging his grip on power is unclear, but then again, so is everything else about this misadventure. Epitomizing the muddle surrounding the likely attack on Syria was former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. In endorsing his country’s likely participation in a strike on Syria, Blair said that it was necessary to prevent the country from becoming a ‘breeding ground for extremism.’ Blair is several months too late. Syria is *already* a breeding ground for ‘extremism.’ ...Barack Obama has aided jihadists and Islamic supremacists before, in Libya and Egypt—and that is exactly what he is about to do again. ...Given the fact that both the American and the British governments are dedicated to denying the reality of Islamic jihad and ignoring how Islamic jihadis use core texts and teachings of Islam to justify violence and supremacism, it’s extraordinarily unlikely that U.S. or British forces will be able to tell the difference between Sharia supremacists and secularists, or act effectively in favor of the latter, if indeed there are any significant secularist forces left in Syria. ...Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin had it right when he said that ‘the West behaves towards the Islamic world like a monkey with a grenade.’ The monkey, in the form of U.S. and British forces, is about to throw the grenade into Syria; we can only hope that other forces in the world that are far more powerful and sinister than Bashar Assad will not take advantage of this new depletion of already-depleted U.S. forces to give our tottering economy and weakened military a final push over the edge. But Barack Obama and [British Prime Minister] David Cameron will ultimately discover that they can’t tempt fate forever.” [47698]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “U.S. intelligence agencies earlier this month uncovered new evidence that al Qaeda-linked terrorists in Benghazi are training foreign jihadists to fight with Syria’s Islamist rebels, according to U.S. officials. Ansar al-Sharia, the al Qaeda-affiliated militia that U.S. officials say orchestrated the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. diplomatic compound and a CIA facility in Benghazi, is running several training camps for jihadists in Benghazi and nearby Darnah, another port city further east, said officials who discussed some details of the camps on condition of anonymity. The officials said the terror training camps have been in operation since at least May and are part of a network that funnels foreign fighters to Syrian rebel groups, including the Al-Nusra Front, the most organized of the Islamist rebel groups fighting the Bashar al-Assad regime in Damascus.” (In other words, by assisting the rebels in their fight against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, *Obama is aiding al-Qaeda.*) [47704, 47705]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) final rule on Obamacare’s individual mandate, released this week, uses the term ‘Shared Responsibility Payment’ more than 50 times to describe the mandate’s non-compliance penalty, which the Supreme Court in 2012 defined as a tax. The IRS also used the term ‘shared responsibility penalty’ in the rule, which does not identify the individual mandate as a tax.” [47709]

Reuters reports, “Syria’s deputy foreign minister said on Wednesday that the United States, Britain and France helped ‘terrorists’ use chemical weapons in Syria, and that the same groups would soon use them against Europe. Speaking to reporters outside the Four Seasons hotel in Damascus, Faisal Maqdad said he had presented U.N. chemical weapons inspectors with evidence that ‘armed terrorist groups’ had used sarin gas in all the sites of alleged attacks. ‘We repeat that the terrorist groups are the ones that used (chemical weapons) with the help of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, and this has to stop,’ he said. ‘This means these chemical weapons will soon be used by the same groups against the people of Europe,’ he added.” [47724, 47814]

Meanwhile, gas masks are distributed to Israeli citizens, who worry that if the United States attacks Syria the retaliation by Syria and Hezbollah terrorists will be directed against the Jewish state. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu states, “There is no reason to change daily routines. At the same time, we are prepared for any scenario.” [47725]

On *Hannity*, retired Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North notes that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad “has got allies like Russia. He’s got allies like Iran. They are capable of doing things to us that could be very injurious—not just to Israel.” North also warns that lobbing a few missiles into Syria won’t change Assad’s actions: “They’re good for setting the pace for shock and awe for a real campaign that’s going to continue and, number two, making a weak president feel powerful. That’s what Bill Clinton did [in Iraq, to divert attention from impeachment proceedings]; that’s what Barack Obama’s doing.” [47710]

On August 29 the Associated Press reports, “The intelligence linking Syrian President Bashar Assad or his inner circle to an alleged chemical weapons attack is no ‘slam dunk,’ with questions remaining about who actually controls some of Syria’s chemical weapons stores and doubts about whether Assad himself ordered the strike, U.S. intelligence officials say. ...Obama declared unequivocally Wednesday that the Syrian government was responsible, while laying the groundwork for an expected U.S. military strike. ...However, multiple U.S. officials used the phrase ‘not a slam dunk’ to describe the intelligence picture—a reference to then-CIA Director George Tenet’s insistence in 2002 that U.S. intelligence showing Iraq had weapons of mass destruction was a ‘slam dunk’—intelligence that turned out to be wrong. A report by the Office of the Director for National Intelligence outlining that evidence against Syria is thick with caveats. It builds a case that Assad’s forces are most likely responsible while outlining gaps in the U.S. intelligence picture. Relevant congressional committees were to be briefed on that evidence by teleconference call on Thursday [August 29], U.S. officials and congressional aides said.” [47701, 47702, 47712, 47766, 47932]

TheNational.ae reports, “Syrian authorities have moved prisoners from their jail cells to installations the government believes could be targets of western military strikes, pro-democracy activists in Damascus and the opposition said yesterday.” (The Syrian government is no doubt doing its best to insure that if the U.S. military strikes, civilians will be killed in the attacks. Bash al-Assad will then have a powerful propaganda tool, with photos of innocent victims of Obama being broadcast by the media.) [47956]

While Americans wonder if Obama will take them to war, WashingtonTimes.com reports, “[T]he White House 2013 Christmas ornament is going on sale with the slogan, ‘Peace on Earth.’ The White House Historical Association is advertising the new ornament on its website and on signs around town, including one in Lafayette Park across from the White House. This year’s ornament honors Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president, who pushed for a precursor to the United Nations. ...The ornament is available for \$18.95.” [47786]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “Voters think America’s a better place since Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous ‘I have a dream’ speech 50 years ago this week, but nearly nine-out-of-10 say race relations have gotten worse or remained about the same since the election of [Obama]. ...[J]ust 10% believe race relations in the United States are better since the election of Barack Obama in November 2008. Forty-three percent (43%) think race relations have gotten worse since Obama’s election. Forty-four percent (44%) say they’re about the same.” [47703]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The White House announced on Thursday that it intends to ‘ban almost all re-imports of military surplus firearms to private entities’ through executive order, which would effectively shut down the 110-year-old Civilian Marksmanship Program [CMP]. In a Fact Sheet published on Whitehouse.gov today referencing the upcoming executive order the ban on importing military weapons is designed to ‘keep military-grade firearms off our streets.’ ...The CMP tightly controls the distribution of obsolete military weapons. The program was created by the U.S. Congress as part of the 1903 War Department Appropriations Act with the purpose of allowing civilians to hone their marksmanship skills, should they later be called into military service. Participants receiving firearms through the CMP must comply with all state and federal firearm laws and undergo a background check conducted by a dealer holding a Federal Firearms License in order to receive the gun. Additionally, they must also be a member of a CMP affiliated shooting club, making participating in the program more difficult than anyone trying to purchase a firearm through usual retail channels.” [47738]

In Great Britain, the House of Commons defeats a motion—by a vote of 285–272—endorsing participation in military action against Syria. (The vote is a blow to Obama, who sought British involvement.) Meanwhile, more than 100 Congressmen and Senators from both U.S. political parties send Obama a letter calling on him to get Congressional approval for military action: “If you deem that military action in Syria is necessary, Congress can reconvene at your request. We stand ready to come back into session, consider the facts before us, and share the burden of decisions made regarding U.S.

involvement in the quickly escalating Syrian conflict.” (According to the *Daily Mail*, “The last time a Prime Minister was defeated over an issue of war and peace was in 1782.”) Some might argue that Great Britain—toward which Obama has demonstrated a fair amount of disdain—will have saved Obama from himself if its Syria vote leads Obama to not launch a military strike. [47715, 47716, 47718, 47721, 47722, 47730, 47741]

In addition to the House of Commons, *The New York Times* pours cold water on Obama’s Syria attack plans, writing that the administration “has yet to make a convincing legal or strategic case for military action against Syria. Unless linked to a broader strategy for weakening the Assad regime—and forcing it either out of power or into real negotiations—the use of force might prove worse than useless.” [47719]

DailyCaller.com charges, “The Obama administration has selectively used intelligence to justify military strikes on Syria, former military officers with access to the original intelligence reports say, in a manner that goes far beyond what critics charged the Bush administration of doing in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war. According to these officers, who served in top positions in the United States, Britain, France, Israel, and Jordan, a Syrian military communication intercepted by Israel’s famed Unit 8200 electronic intelligence outfit *has been doctored so that it leads a reader to just the opposite conclusion reached by the original report* [emphasis added]. The doctored report was leaked to a private Internet-based newsletter that boasts of close ties to the Israeli intelligence community, and led to news reports that the United States now had firm evidence showing that the Syrian government had ordered the chemical weapons attack on August 21 against a rebel-controlled suburb of Damascus. The doctored report was picked up on Israel’s Channel 2 TV on Aug. 24, then by Focus magazine in Germany, the Times of Israel, and eventually by The Cable in Washington, DC. According to the doctored report, the chemical attack was carried out by the 155th Brigade of the 4th Armored Division of the Syrian Army, an elite unit commanded by Maher al-Assad, the president’s brother. However, the original communication intercepted by Unit 8200 between a major in command of the rocket troops assigned to the 155th Brigade of the 4th Armored Division, and the general staff, shows just the opposite. The general staff officer asked the major if he was responsible for the chemical weapons attack. From the tone of the conversation, it was clear that ‘the Syrian general staff were out of their minds with panic that an unauthorized strike had been launched by the 155th Brigade in express defiance of their instructions,’ the former officers say. According to the transcript of the original Unit 8200 report, the major ‘hotly denied firing any of his missiles’ and invited the general staff to come and verify that all his weapons were present. The report contains a note at the end that the major was interrogated by Syrian intelligence for three days, then returned to command of his unit. ‘All of his weapons were accounted for,’ the report stated.” [47723]

At NewYorker.com satirist Andy Borowitz writes, “Attempting to quell criticism of his proposal for a limited military mission in Syria, ...Obama floated a more modest strategy today, saying that any U.S. action in Syria would have ‘no objective whatsoever.’ ‘Let me be clear,’ he said in an interview on CNN. ‘Our goal will not be to effect régime

change, or alter the balance of power in Syria, or bring the civil war there to an end. We will simply do something random there for one or two days and then leave. I want to reassure our allies and the people of Syria that what we are about to undertake, if we undertake it at all, will have no purpose or goal,' he said. 'This is consistent with U.S. foreign policy of the past.'" [48018]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson reports, "The Pentagon announced this morning that it has transferred two Guantanamo detainees to a country where al-Qaeda is flourishing. Nabil Said Hadjarab, a 34-year-old Algerian who trained in Afghanistan, 'participated in hostilities' against coalition forces and was 'assessed to be a member of the al-Qaida Global Jihad Support Network,' was considered a 'medium' risk and recommended for transfer, according to DoD documents. He was captured in December 2001 after being injured in a U.S. strike and was transferred to Gitmo in February 2002. 'He may pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies,' the 2007 assessment document said. ...Mutia Sadiq Ahmad Sayyab, a 37-year-old Algerian, was assessed in 2007 to be a 'probable' al-Qaeda member and attended the Moroccan Armed Islamic Group-sponsored IED training at a guesthouse in Afghanistan. He studied at a madrassa in Syria and was arrested in Pakistan in 2001 after receiving training in Afghanistan. Sayyab was transferred to U.S. custody in January 2002, and he was labeled a medium risk to the U.S. and of high intelligence value." [47726, 47727]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller asks, "Obama is going to bat—for what? Obama is alienating world powers—for what? For the Muslim Brotherhood? For Al Qaeda? We have no national security interest in Syria... but we are condescendingly told that military intervention is for humanitarian reasons. In reality, a war between Iran and Al Qaeda/Muslim Brotherhood is good for humanity—let these vicious savages kill each other. Where is Obama's humanitarian concern for the 12,000 Christians who have been slaughtered by the Muslim group Boko Haram in Nigeria? He won't even designate them a terror group. Where is the humanitarian intervention on behalf of the Coptic Christians in Egypt? The Buddhists in Thailand? The Christians in Ethiopia? The Jews of Israel? The Christians of Iraq?" [47728]

Despite the furor over the IRS targeting of conservative groups for discriminatory treatment, the agency continues to make unreasonable demands of Tea Party groups seeking tax-exempt status. WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The initial firestorm surrounding the Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative groups may have subsided, but tea party leaders say the situation has only become worse and may lead to more lawsuits against the embattled agency. New documents show the depth of information the IRS is seeking from Tea Party Patriots, a leading conservative group that first applied for 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status in late 2010 and one of many organizations singled out for extra scrutiny by the Obama administration." (Needless to say, it should not take more than two years to determine if a group should be granted tax-exempt status. The intentional delays by the IRS are intended to make it more difficult for conservative organizations to raise funds because donors are unable to itemize them as tax-deductible.) [47731]

Aetna, Inc. announces it will not sell individual health insurance policies in the ObamaCare health exchange in the state of New York. [47760]

Information obtained by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden shows a budget of \$52.6 billion for fiscal year 2013 national intelligence agencies and programs. According to Washington Post.com, “Spending by the CIA has surged past that of every other spy agency, with \$14.7 billion in requested funding for 2013. The figure vastly exceeds outside estimates and is nearly 50 percent above that of the National Security Agency, which conducts eavesdropping operations and has long been considered the behemoth of the community.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes additional billions of dollars each year are spent on “off-budget” intelligence programs that are not listed in the documents obtained by Snowden. National Review’s Jonah Goldberg quips, “The Russians and Chinese are bathing in the [Snowden NSA] documents like a young Bill Clinton stumbling upon a trunk full of old *Playboys*.”) [47739]

At NationalReview.com Charles Krauthammer writes, “Having leaked to the world, and thus to Syrian president Bashar Assad, a detailed briefing of the coming U.S. air attack on Syria—(1) the source (offshore warships and perhaps a bomber or two), (2) the weapon (cruise missiles), (3) the duration (two or three days), (4) the purpose (punishment, not ‘regime change’)—perhaps we should be publishing the exact time the bombs will fall, lest we disrupt dinner in Damascus. So much for the element of surprise. Into his third year of dithering, two years after declaring Assad had to go, one year after drawing—then erasing—his own red line on chemical weapons, Barack Obama has been stirred to action. Or more accurately, shamed into action. Which is the worst possible reason. A president doesn’t commit soldiers to a war for which he has zero enthusiasm. Nor does one go to war for demonstration purposes. Want to send a message? Call Western Union. A Tomahawk missile is for killing. A serious instrument of war demands a serious purpose. ...If Obama is planning a message-sending three-day attack, preceded by leaks telling the Syrians to move their important military assets to safety, better that he do nothing. Why run the considerable risk if nothing important is changed? ...Would the American people support [an attack on Syria]? They are justifiably war-weary and want no part of this conflict. And why should they? In three years, Obama has done nothing to prepare the country for such a serious engagement. Not one speech. No explanation of what’s at stake. ...If you are going to do this, Mr. [Obama], do it constitutionally. And seriously. This is not about you and your conscience. It’s about applying American power to do precisely what you now deny this is about—helping Assad go, as you told the world he must. Otherwise, just send Assad a text message. You might incur a roaming charge, but it’s still cheaper than a three-day, highly telegraphed, perfectly useless demonstration strike.” [47740]

At PJMedia.com Richard Fernandez writes, “It’s over for ...Obama’s plan to launch a ‘limited but decisive’ strike on Syria. ...Now, with Britain out of the operation, Obama faces the prospect of going into Syria almost literally alone, without the UN, NATO, Congress, or even the UK to back him up. Two courses are now open to him. He can climb down as best he can and pretend he’s changed his mind or he can go forward risking a wider war for nothing. As Andy Borowitz of *The New Yorker* said in a satirical

piece, Obama has tried to mollify the antiwar left by promising the Syria strike ‘would have no objective.’ It would just be a couple of days worth of random drive-by shooting without strategic content and therefore moral. Yet a climb-down would represent a public and devastating humiliation of the man who once believe he bestrode the world. It would also represent a huge propaganda victory for Assad. The alternative would be for Obama to double down and order an attack on his own authority despite having, as [Harvard Law School] Professor [Jack] Goldsmith noted, no apparent legal leg to stand on. He would risk starting a wider war that he doesn’t even want to win, and possibly illegally to boot. ...Whichever way it goes, Obama’s plan for a ‘limited but decisive’ attack on Assad is probably over. George Will advised [Obama] to quit talking himself into trouble. ‘The administration now would do well to do something that the head of it has an irresistible urge not to do: Stop talking. If a fourth military intervention is coming, it will not be to decisively alter events, which we cannot do, in a nation vital to U.S. interests, which Syria is not. Rather, its purpose will be to rescue Obama from his words.’ The bigger question is whether Obama himself is now over.” [47743]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The Obama administration’s plan to launch a military strike against Syria is being received with serious reservations by many in the U.S. military, which is coping with the scars of two lengthy wars and a rapidly contracting budget, according to current and former officers. Having assumed for months that the United States was unlikely to intervene militarily in Syria, the Defense Department has been thrust onto a war footing that has made many in the armed services uneasy, according to interviews with more than a dozen military officers ranging from captains to a four-star general. ...Some questioned the use of military force as a punitive measure and suggested that the White House lacks a coherent strategy. If the administration is ambivalent about the wisdom of defeating or crippling the Syrian leader, possibly setting the stage for Damascus to fall to fundamentalist rebels, they said, the military objective of strikes on Assad’s military targets is at best ambiguous. ‘There’s a broad naiveté in the political class about America’s obligations in foreign policy issues, and scary simplicity about the effects that employing American military power can achieve,’ said retired Lt. Gen. Gregory S. Newbold, who served as director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the run-up to the Iraq war, noting that many of his contemporaries are alarmed by the plan.” [47744, 47757]

On August 30 NBCNews.com reports, “Nearly 80 percent of Americans believe ...Obama should receive congressional approval before using force in Syria, but the nation is divided over the scope of any potential strike, a new NBC News poll shows. The White House telephone briefing with top members of Congress left many wanting a lot more details on the mission, as Britain chooses not to strike. ...Fifty percent of Americans believe the United States should not intervene in the wake of suspected chemical weapons attacks by Syrian President Bashar Assad, according to the poll. But the public is more supportive of military action when it’s limited to launching cruise missiles from U.S. naval ships—50 percent favor that kind of intervention, while 44 percent oppose it.” [47732, 47733, 47756]

The New York Times' public editor Margaret Sullivan writes, "Here's my take: I've been observing The Times's Syria coverage and its editorials for many weeks, with an eye to this question [of objectivity]. While The Times has offered deep and rich coverage from both Washington and the Syrian region, the tone cannot be described as consistently skeptical. I have noticed in recent weeks the ways that other major newspapers have signaled to their readers that they mean to question the government's assertions. For example, although it may seem superficial, The Washington Post has sent a strong message when it has repeatedly used the word 'alleged' in its main headlines to describe the chemical weapons attacks." [47884]

At the State Department, Secretary of State John Kerry tells reporters, "Decisions must now be made" with regard to Syria—after which Obama says at the White House, "I have not made a final decision about various actions that might be taken. We're not considering any open-ended commitment. We're not considering any boots-on-the-ground approach. ... As you've seen today we released our unclassified assessment detailing with high confidence that the Syrian regime carried out the chemical weapons attack that killed well over a thousand people including hundreds of children. This follows the horrific images that shocked us all. This kind of attack is a challenge to the world. We cannot accept a world where women and children and innocent civilians are gassed on a terrible scale. [Obama is apparently willing to accept the gassing of women and children on a limited scale.] This kind of attack threatens our national security interests by violating well established international norms against the use of chemical weapons by further threatening friends and allies in the region like Israel and Turkey and Jordan and it increases the chance of chemical weapons being used in the future and falling into the hands of terrorists who might use them against us. ... I have said before and I meant what I said, the world has an obligation to make sure we maintain the norm against the use of chemical weapons. I've had my military and my team look at a wide range of options. [Obama's "my military" wording is arguably both strange and worrisome. It is the United States military, not *his* military. Its purpose is to protect and defend the nation, *not* run errands for Obama.] We have consulted with allies, we have consulted with Congress and have been in conversations with all the interested parties and in no event are considering any kind of military action that would involve boots on the ground, that would involve a long-term campaign but we are looking at the possibility of a limited, narrow act that would help make sure that not only Syria but others around the world understand that the international community cares about maintaining this chemical weapons ban and norm." (It is worth noting that in March 2012 Obama told reporters, "For us to take military action unilaterally [in Syria], as some have suggested, or to think that somehow that there is some simple solution, I think is a mistake." Seventeen months later, Obama is poised to take unilateral action in Syria.) [47734, 47735, 47737, 47745, 47750, 47751, 47751, 47762, 47763, 47767]

Rush Limbaugh comments, "I think these guys [in the Obama administration] have a problem. They've convinced everybody that America's intel sources lie. I mean, they had everybody believing that for five years in the Bush years. Intel sources lied about Iraq. They lied about weapons of mass destruction, and a couple of other things, too. Now they cite them. You know, everything these clowns do has a consequence." [47750]

On Fox News, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters comments on Kerry's speech: "Melodrama is not a substitute for a strategy. There are two key points here. One, for all the cue-the-violence sorrow, he did not explain why there is a real and present danger to the United States that merits the use of our military forces. He did not seem to grasp that the Assad regime is not targeting America with its chemical weapons but, if the Assad regime falls—and I have no sympathy for that regime—if the Assad regime falls and al-Qaeda and other Islamists get their hands on those chemical weapons, then we face a danger. The other point I'd like to make is that the hypocrisy in Kerry's remarks was absolutely stunning and revolting. When he called Assad a thug and a murderer who killed thousands of his own people with poison gas, he described Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein killed over a million people. Where was Kerry [then]? Where was Obama then? Is there a difference... was Saddam Hussein a good dictator who used good poison gas? That was all melodrama [in Kerry's statement], appealing to the emotions. We need hard-headed, rational analysis and strategy." (Peters does not mention that Kerry used a dramatic photograph of dozens of child victims of chemical warfare to defend his position—but the photograph was from Iraq in 2003. The BBC has also used the 2003 image, tricking people into thinking it was from Syria in 2013.) [47768, 47772]

Peters also comments that an attack on Syria would be "the most phenomenally stupid misuse of our military I've ever seen. No one in this administration has been able to explain what tangible vital security interest we have in Syria or in stopping this fighting. This military demonstration—and that's what it's going to be—is about Obama shooting off his mouth about red lines and chemical weapons. Now he feels he has to do something. He doesn't want to do too much, he doesn't want to do too little. He's not thinking through the potential consequences, and I see no, no way... in which a military attack on Syria is worth it for the United States or will end well. ...Where's the rest of the world? Where are the neighbors? The Arab League said it doesn't want us to attack. They obviously don't care about poison gas being used on Muslims. ...The Saudis back the Salafists. The Turks and Qataris back the Muslim Brotherhood. This is complex and byzantine. It's a local fight, a civil war, a family feud, and, you know, cops don't like getting in the middle of family feuds. To just back it up just a little bit, again what is our vital security interest? WMD? I abhor the use of chemical weapons. It's correct that they're forbidden. They should be, they must be. But Assad's enemies are al-Qaeda and its franchises who've killed tens if not hundreds of thousands of Muslims at this point. And what's the choice? Is it better to be tortured to death by al-Qaeda, be burned alive in your Christian church by al-Qaeda or to be gassed? By the way, I'm still not completely sure the Assad regime was behind the gas attack. ...I'm not convinced they're intelligently gaming out what could happen because Obama has no close trusted military advisers. He's got ideologues in there and people thinking politics. But, look, what does Hezbollah do [in response]? Probably, maybe a few token missiles at Israel. I don't think anything big because Hezbollah knows they'd get hammered. I would worry much more about Iran responding asymmetrically in the Persian Gulf." [47776]

Peters notes that oil prices have been rising: "Iran doesn't have to do much to drive maritime insurance companies to cancel policies, [it can just] basically close down the oil

supply from the Gulf, shut the Strait of Hormuz. Or you can attack one ship. There are all sorts of things you can do, and we don't know what they're going to do. But before you use United States military in an attack on Syria, you need to weigh all the potential consequences. You can't do what Bush did in Baghdad or Obama did in Libya. You can't assume that everything's going to come up roses. You have to assume the worst case and prepare for it, and based on the military deployments I see, we are not prepared for a worst case. Are we willing, if worse really came to worst, are we willing for a military confrontation with Iran in the Persian Gulf because Assad used chemical weapons? We've got to think it through." Peters believes there will be U.S military action against Syria "because Obama feels that his personal credibility is on the line. He's going to try to get halfway pregnant. He's already told the Syrians that we're coming, so there's no surprise. They're going to drain out their headquarters, buildings and disperse their weapons. It's going to be a larger, uglier version of Bill Clinton in '98 churning up some sand with cruise missiles and declaring victory. This will not end well." [47776]

At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston writes, "Kerry said that the Syria strike will not resemble Iraq or Afghanistan, and he's obviously right: Unlike those previous wars, the Syria strike will not have public approval, congressional approval, UN approval, a coalition of nations fighting alongside us, and a clear military objective. ...The action itself, the Obama administration has already described as 'limited' and a 'shot across the bow.' [Former U.S. ambassador to the U.N] John Bolton pointed out on Fox that shots across the bow are missed shots—by definition. If you're shooting across the bow, you're just warning your adversary. You're not actually hurting him. The Middle East doesn't respond well to shots across bows. Assad will be strengthened just by surviving. Russia will quickly step in to replace any military hardware our expensive smart bombs destroy. In this case—outsourcing the substantive speech to Kerry, scheduling the unilateral non-war across the Labor Day weekend—one could be forgiven for thinking that Barack Obama is nothing more than a overpowered coward whose own words on war mean absolutely nothing to him." [47763]

Meanwhile, the 11-year-old son of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad [reportedly] taunts Obama and ridicules the United States in a Facebook message: "12 hours we waited... 48 hours, they said, we're waiting... [T]hey may have said [they have] the best army in the world, maybe the best airplanes, ships, tanks than ours, but soldiers? No one has soldiers like the ones we do in Syria[;] if you ask me what rank would I rank American 'soldiers,' I wouldn't rank 'em in the worst because the worst are [at least] soldiers[.] [B]ut America doesn't have soldiers, what it has is some cowards with new technology [who] will claim themselves liberators, they said they supported 'revolution' but actually they made it, right now we're all syrian [sic] it doesn't matter if your [sic] with or against because that's democracy, the ability to express yourself in your own way so... I just want them to attack sooo much, because I want them to make this huge mistake of beginning something that they don't know the end of it..." [47753, 47754, 47771]

DailyCaller.com's DC Morning observes, "The Obama Doctrine begins with deriding your predecessor for acting unilaterally—even though he put together a coalition of four dozen countries for his military actions—before planning an operation where you

actually act unilaterally. In fact, you act so unilaterally that even America's number one military ally, Great Britain, doesn't participate. Then, you telegraph everything you are planning to do to the enemy through leaks. Finally, you get a senior administration official to tell the press something monumentally stupid like [Obama] is trying to craft a military response 'just muscular enough not to get mocked.' It appears to TheDC Morning that Hillary Clinton's 2008 campaign ad didn't quite get it right. It's not just that ...Obama appears unprepared for a 3:00 a.m. call. It seems he is unprepared for a 3:00 p.m. call as well."

White House deputy press secretary John Earnest tells reporters that Obama "has assessed that the clear violation of an international norm against the use of chemical weapons goes to the core national security interests of the United States of America. And there are any number of reasons for that. It includes the large stockpile of chemical weapons that the Assad regime maintains. It includes the volatility of not just the country, but also the region. It involves the relationships that we have with other countries in the region, including our allies like Turkey and Israel and our close partners and friends like the nation of Jordan. It also involves the facilities that the United States maintains in the region. So there are a number of ways in which the violation of this clear international norm has an impact on our, on our core national security interests." (The same arguments could have been made a decade earlier when Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons against Kurds in northern Iraq—yet Obama opposed military action.) [47742]

Jimmy Carter argues against taking military action against Syria, calling instead for a "peace conference." The former president's Carter Center states, "It is imperative to determine the facts of the attack and present them to the public. Those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must bear personal responsibility. The chemical attack should be a catalyst for redoubling efforts to convene a peace conference, to end hostilities, and urgently to find a political solution. ...[A]ll should seek to leverage the consensus among the entire international community, including Russia and Iran, condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria and bringing under U.N. oversight the country's stockpile of such weapons." [47746]

Actor James Woods—no fan of Obama—sends several Twitter messages: "Perhaps Britain's decision makers factored the Benghazi betrayal and cover-up into their decision not to get into the trenches with Obama." "Britain's world role in doubt... Perhaps Britain didn't want to follow a community organizer into quicksand..." [47747, 47748]

The Ulsterman Report hears from the unnamed Republican insider, who states, "Whispers growing in D.C. of the possibility Libyan chemical weapons were part of the gunrunning operation out of Benghazi. Small amount to be used by rebel forces to create favor among American public for a more 'robust' military intervention. I first heard this version three weeks ago. Repeated last week, and then again today, all by different individuals. I resisted the scenario, but was told Assad had no reason to use those weapons and in such a small amount. For what purpose? He is apparently winning the civil war by a wide margin. Rebel forces were disintegrating. Russia was providing continued support. Why do something that had no logistical benefit but would only give

the United States reason to intervene? Libya had stores of such weapons. From Benghazi to Turkey and then to the Syrian rebel forces which are for the most part being led by Al-Qaeda and factions of the Muslim Brotherhood. Know you have felt there was something similar to this situation going on with Benghazi. Was that feeling sourced by someone I'm not aware of? If so, I'd keep in touch because that version is now gaining some attention up here." [47749]

The insider continues, "Was also told another thing right after Kerry did his tears of terror talk today. He was so certain of who fired the missiles and where, and when. He had absolutely no doubt on the Intel. Funny how for days and weeks after Benghazi they didn't have a clue and then excused all their so called mistakes to the 'fog of war.' That doesn't make sense to me. They want Americans to believe they are so right on Syria while accepting their reasons for being so wrong on Benghazi. Leadership is mute on the CIA/chemical weapons transfer. Most members are still away on break, but the phone tree is lighting up. Know of one Congressman who says he's willing to make the accusation public. Bad idea at this point. Need to wait and see, but he's not one of mine so I have no input there. If this administration has gone this far off the edge, people will never trust this government again. Me included. This is one time I don't want something that might hurt my political opponents to be proven right. This seems too much, even for this administration, but some people are quietly making some very compelling cases that it might really have happened. Will follow up again soon." [47749]

Intellihub.com reports, "The primary 'witness' that the mainstream media is using as a source in Syria has been caught staging fake news segments. Recent video evidence proves that 'Syria Danny,' the supposed activist who has been begging for military intervention on CNN, is really just a paid actor and a liar. ...[One] video shows him contradicting himself while off air, and even asking crew members to 'get the gunfire sounds ready' for his video conference with Anderson Cooper on CNN." [47758]

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), a former helicopter pilot who lost both legs in Iraq, states, "It's military families like mine that are the first to bleed when our nation makes this kind of commitment. It's my obligation to make sure our government honors our troops willingness to sacrifice when we make such a decision. ...In the days ahead I will be seeking more information from our military and intelligence communities, but until I feel it's imperative to our national security, I will not support preemptive intervention in Syria." [47759]

IllinoisPolicy.org reports, "The media is swirling with rumors that the Obama administration is considering subsidizing health premiums for Big Labor members who already have insurance—using funds intended for uninsured, low-income Americans. If true, this will be yet another example of the Obama administration giving preferential treatment to special interests while subjugating individual Americans to the high costs and destructive effects of ObamaCare. ... If the Obama administration caves to this pressure and awards health insurance premium subsidies to unions using money intended for the uninsured, this move would amount to little more than the administration blatantly (and some would argue illegally) paying off political cronies at the expense of low-

income Americans. Make no mistake: Any reprieve for Big Labor would not only be a disgraceful chapter of American political history; but it would also be a tacit admission of just how destructive this law will be to Americans' ability to keep and afford the health insurance they now have." (*The Wall Street Journal* writes, "Union officials have repeatedly told the administration that the higher costs of these multiemployer plans could make it less appealing for employers to hire union workers or prompt them to drop the coverage altogether. The plans cover more than 20 million people." Why labor union leaders were not smart enough to realize when they were pushing ObamaCare in 2010 that would have unintended negative consequences is not known.) [47755, 47791]

Obama's approval/disapproval ratings are 44/48 percent in an August 28–29 NBC News poll. On foreign policy, the ratings are 41/49; on Syria in particular they are 35/44. [47761, 47762, 47769]

Obama advises Congress that he will act to limit 2014 military pay raises to 1.0 percent, even though a 1.8 percent increase is called for by a Congressional formula. [47870]

In a lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch, the federal Circuit Court for the District of Columbia rules that Obama can keep secret White House visitor records. (Over the years, the administration has released some, but not all, visitor log records. Records from the first half of 2009 are among those most heavily guarded by the "most transparent administration" in history.) [47800]

ForeignPolicy.com reports, "American intelligence agencies had indications three days beforehand that the Syrian regime was poised to launch a lethal chemical attack that killed more than a thousand people and has set the stage for a possible U.S. military strike on Syria. The disclosure—part of a larger U.S. intelligence briefing on Syria's chemical attacks—raises all sorts of uncomfortable questions for the American government. First and foremost: What, if anything, did it do to notify the Syrian opposition of the pending attack? In a call with reporters Friday afternoon [August 30], senior administration officials did not address whether this information was shared with rebel groups in advance of the attack. A White House spokeswoman declined to comment on whether the information had been shared. But at least some members of the Syrian opposition are already lashing out at the U.S. government for not acting ahead of time to prevent the worst chemical attack in a quarter-century. 'If you knew, why did you take no action?' asked Dlshad Othman, a Syrian activist and secure-communications expert who has recently relocated to the United States. He added that none of his contacts had any sort of prior warning about the nerve gas assault—although such an attack was always a constant fear." (There are two possible explanations: Obama administration incompetence, or a desire to allow the chemical weapons attack.) [47773]

Examiner.com reports, "In a report that is sure to be considered blockbuster news, the [Syrian] rebels told Dale Gavlak, a reporter who has written for the Associated Press, NPR and BBC, they are responsible for the chemical attack last week. Gavlak is a Middle Eastern journalist who filed the report about the rebels claiming responsibility on the Mint Press News website, which is affiliated with AP. In that report allegedly the rebels

told [her] the chemical attack was a result of mishandling chemical weapons. This news should deflate the accusations, against the Assad regime, coming from the U.S., Britain, France and the Arab League. Since the chemical attacks last week, the Assad government was immediately blamed. ...The father of a rebel who was killed in what's now being called an accident by many in Ghouta and Damascus said: 'My son came to me two weeks ago asking what I thought the weapons were that he had been asked to carry,' said Abu Abdel-Moneim. The father said at least 12 rebels including his son were killed by the chemical weapons. Allegedly they were killed in the tunnel that was used to store the chemicals. These were provided by a Saudi militant, known as Abu Ayesha. He is said to be leading a fighting battalion in the effort to unseat Assad. ...Gavlak reports [she] was told by rebels that the gas 'attack' was the result of rebels mishandling the chemical weapons they acquired from the Saudis." (Some videos reportedly show bags of chemicals, captured in rebel territory, labeled, "made in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Factory for Chlorine and Alkalis.") [47781, 47782, 47796, 47797, 47804, 47805]

On CNN, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) states, "I think some may feel and [Obama] may be one who feels that he's losing his international power or acclaim if he doesn't follow—he said there was a red line with chemical weapons and he feels incumbent to act. But the thing is just to act to save face is not a strategic objective. He's already pre-announced that if he does attack, he's going to do it in a very limited fashion and he's not going to be for regime change. To me this sort of sounds like we're not going to win. He's for stalemate. When I've had private conversations with the administration, that's what I hear. They're not for victory for either side. They're for equalizing the battle and having stalemate. But I see it in personal perspective. I have three sons. I don't see sending one of my sons to war or your son to war to fight for stalemate. I think this should be a clear-cut strategic objective that helps the United States. And we should know that whoever wins the war, whoever we're supporting, will be a friend of the United States. I'm not certain that either side or any of the multiple sides of this war will ultimately be a friend to the United States. ...I would ask the question, what is the strategic objective? Is it simply to say shame on you for launching and using chemical weapons? I would like to know who used the chemical weapons. In all likelihood it probably was the Syrian government. But it really isn't to their advantage. It's actually more to the advantage of the rebels to have launched this attack because the whole world now is uniting against Assad. I would want to know, though, would the surgical strikes that are favored, would they somehow eliminate chemical weapons and stop him from using these again? If it's not regime change, it may well incite the Russians to become more involved, the Iranians to become more involved. It may well incite gas attacks on Tel Aviv or Israel. What happens then? Will Israel feel restrained this time the way they did in the Gulf War? Or will Israel respond in not just a proportional fashion but an overwhelming fashion to now obliterate as much of Iran's military capacity if Iran gets involved? There's [sic] a lot of unknowns about this. And, you know, Eisenhower said that when the violence begins, you can throw out all your plans. But you certainly have to think about before you begin offensive actions what the possible ramifications are if this spins out of control." [47777]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer points out that Iran is "a rising power, it's an aggressive one. It's a have-not power. It wants a place in the sun. It's acquiring nukes and

it scares the hell out of the Arabs. It's a Persian country. And it now has a client in Syria. The war is being driven by Iran. There's actual evidence that Iranian agents, the Revolutionary Guards were involved in the poison gas. Iran controls Hezbollah, which spreads terror in the Middle East and in the region. And Iran is the one driving the war. Iran is looking and it's also developing the nukes, of course. The problem is that if you get into this war, even in the limited and I think almost absurd way Obama is doing—he has given them so much notice that even if we dropped all the ammunition [from] the three or four [U.S. war] ships, everything of importance [in Syria] has [already] been moved. Iran is strengthened. And the question is it's going to look as if the U.S.—the U.K. has already walked away, Iran is in the driver's seat, America is slinking away. And the problem is if you make a miscalculation here and you let Iran imagine that it is in charge, it threatens to attack Israel—Syria as well as Hezbollah—Israel will respond fiercely and it could get out of control. So, it isn't as if Obama imagines, you know, he says, 'I'll do a narrow thing, I'll do a limited thing, it's not going to be boots on the ground,' as if he's pleading with Assad, you know, 'don't take it seriously. It is just going to be a few bombs in the desert.' Well, if he miscalculates and the Iranians or Hezbollah react, we could have a regional war, a major regional war." [47779]

On Fox News, former Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) says Obama risks impeachment if he strikes Syria without Congressional approval: "Yes, and I'll tell you why, because there [is] no imminent or actual threat to the United States of America. If there was, then people expect [Obama] to defend us, but in this case, [Obama] is going on his own. In a previous clip, he said he would go in and said... he said, 'I meant what I said. I have not made a final decision.' Well, it's not 'I, the president,' it's 'we, the people of the United States who formed the constitution.' And Article 1, Section 8 says only the Congress has the power to take this country to war. That's a fundamental principle and if [Obama] throws that away, disregards that, I think that there will be consequences for him. That's why he has to go to Congress. The people, through their directly elected representatives, have a right to be heard. If the people in the U.K. can be represented by their parliament and [Prime Minister David] Cameron agreed with the will of the people through their representatives, then why can't ...Obama do the same thing?" [47778, 47802]

At NationalReview.com Mark Steyn writes, "I see the Obama 'reset' is going so swimmingly that [he] is now threatening to go to war against a dictator who gassed his own people. Don't worry, this isn't anything like the dictator who gassed his own people that the discredited warmonger Bush spent 2002 and early 2003 staggering ever more punchily around the country inveighing against. The 2003 dictator who gassed his own people was the leader of the Baath Party of Iraq. The 2013 dictator who gassed his own people is the leader of the Baath Party of Syria. Whole other ball of wax. The administration's ingenious plan is to lose this war in far less time than we usually take. In the unimprovable formulation of an unnamed official speaking to the Los Angeles Times, the White House is carefully calibrating a military action 'just muscular enough not to get mocked.' That would make a great caption for a Vanity Fair photo shoot of Obama gamboling in the surf at Martha's Vineyard, but as a military strategy it's not exactly Alexander the Great or the Duke of Wellington. ...Under the Obama 'reset,' even the

Coalition of the Willing is unwilling. ‘It’s clear to me that the British Parliament and the British people do not wish to see military action,’ said the prime minister. So the Brits are out, and, if he goes at all, Obama will be waging war without even Austin Powers’s Union Jack fig leaf.” [47784, 47803]

Steyn notes, “...For a quarter-century, from Kuwait to Kosovo to Kandahar, the civilized world has gone to war only in order to save or liberate Muslims. The Pentagon is little more than central dispatch for the U.S. military’s Muslim Fast Squad. And what do we have to show for it? Liberating Syria isn’t like liberating the Netherlands: In the Middle East, the enemy of our enemy is also our enemy. Yes, those BBC images of schoolchildren with burning flesh are heart-rending. So we’ll get rid of Assad and install the local branch of al-Qaeda or the Muslim Brotherhood or whatever plucky neophyte democrat makes it to the presidential palace first—and then, instead of napalmed schoolyards, there will be, as in Egypt, burning Christian churches and women raped for going uncovered. So what do we want in Syria? Obama can’t say, other than for him to look muscular without being mocked, like a camp bodybuilder admiring himself in the gym mirror. ...[T]he hyperpower is going to war because Obama wandered off prompter and accidentally made a threat. So he has to make good on it, or America will lose its credibility. But he only wants to make good on it in a perfunctory and ineffectual way. So America will lose its credibility anyway.” [47784, 47803]

In *The Telegraph*, Nile Gardiner writes, “There can be no doubt that [Prime Minister] David Cameron’s defeat in the House of Commons was a huge blow to ...Obama, and has dominated the US news networks this morning. The absence of Britain in any American-led military action significantly weakens Obama’s position on the world stage, and dramatically undercuts the Obama administration. The vote reflected not only a lack of confidence in the Commons in the prime minister’s Syria strategy, it also demonstrated a striking lack of confidence in Barack Obama and US leadership. ...George W. Bush was a conviction president on foreign policy matters, driven by a clear sense of the national interest. President Bush emphatically made his case to the American people and to the world, explaining why he believed the use of force was necessary, and dozens of countries decided to follow him. In the case of Barack Obama, whose foreign policy has been weak-kneed, confused and strategically incoherent, [he] hasn’t effectively made the case for military intervention in Syria, and has made no serious effort to cultivate support both at home and abroad. President Bush may not have been greatly loved on the world stage, but he was respected by America’s allies, and feared by his enemies. In marked contrast, Obama hasn’t generated a lot of respect abroad, and he certainly isn’t feared.” [47798, 47818]

On *On the Record*, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton tells Greta Van Susteren, “I think [Obama’s] credibility is irreparably damaged” by his Syria statements and actions. “I don’t think it is repairable. I think what we have to do now is explain to the rest of the world that basically we’re in a twelve hundred day period when [Obama] is not going to be effective but that doesn’t mean America can’t be reinstated into its proper place once you get a real president in Washington. ...[Obama is] not going to change in the last twelve hundred days [of his administration]. It’s just going to get

worse. ...I don't think this particular [Syria] episode is so much worse than the last four-and-a-half years; it's simply emblematic of [Obama's] comfort level with a declining, less powerful America, because he thinks that it's America's strength in the world that causes the problems, so a weaker America will lead to a more peaceful world. That's his view. ...The best that could happen [from an Obama strike on Syria] would be that Iran and others do draw the conclusion that there's a price to be paid for pursuing weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical, or biological—[but] I think there's almost zero chance they will draw that lesson. In fact, I think the odds are almost overwhelming that they'll draw the wrong conclusion, that they can get away with it." [47806]

On August 31 Russian President Vladimir Putin states, "I would like to address Obama as a Nobel Peace Prize laureate: Before using force in Syria, it would be good to think about future casualties. Russia is urging you to think twice before making a decision on an operation in Syria." Putin argues it would have been "utter nonsense" for Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, to use chemical weapons and that the rebels used them in an effort to draw the United States into their war. [47770]

Obama caves in and says he will ask for Congressional support for a strike on Syria. He states, "I have decided that the United States should take military action against Syrian regime targets... I'm confident we can hold the Assad regime accountable for their [sic; its] use of chemical weapons, deter this kind of behavior, and degrade their capacity to carry it out. ...The chairman of the Joint Chiefs [of Staff] has informed me that we are prepared to strike whenever we choose. Moreover, the chairman has indicated to me that our capacity to execute this mission is not time-sensitive; it will be effective tomorrow, or next week, or one month from now. And I'm prepared to give that order. ...While I believe I have the authority to carry out this military action without specific congressional authorization, I know that the country will be stronger if we take this course, and our actions will be even more effective. Today I'm asking Congress to send a message to the world." (It is unlikely that Obama has ever read and understood Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, but he may have read the advice of Abraham Lincoln: "We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot." Or he may simply have read the polls and realized there would be talk of impeachment if he acted without Congressional approval. Additionally, if his Syrian adventure has disastrous results Obama can shift some of the blame to Congress.) During his remarks, Obama declares, "I think we have both a moral obligation and a national security interest in both ending the slaughter in Syria and ensuring a stable Syria." (Some, like Craig Andresen at TheNationalPatriot.org, argue that the United States also had a moral obligation and national security interest in protecting an ambassador and three other Americans who were left by Obama and Hillary Clinton to die in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012.) [47774, 47775, 47781, 47785, 47788, 47789, 47792, 47793, 47795, 47799, 47801, 47829]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, "About 25 minutes after concluding his remarks, Mr. Obama departed the White House with Mr. Biden in a motorcade to play golf at Fort Belvoir in suburban Virginia." ZeroHedge.com astutely observes, "After bringing the world to the edge of WWII and nearly giving the first order to launch the ironically

named Patriot missile, then dramatically punting in the very last second whether to invade Syria to Congress, something he should have done from the every beginning, Obama went on to do what he does best.” (Even though golf may be what Obama “does best,” he is reportedly not very good at that either.) [47774, 47788, 47789,

Charles Krauthammer responds to Obama’s statement, saying, “[T]he most astonishing thing is the lack of any urgency. ...Congress will be back in a week. [Obama] says, ‘I can strike in a day or a week or a month,’ as if he is a judge handing down a sentence and the execution can be any time in the future. There is a war going on. Do you think everybody is going to hold their breath, hold their arms, step aside until Obama decides when he wants to go to Congress? Look, I think he should go to Congress. I think it’s absolutely necessary, but he’s done no preparation. What they should have done—I mean, this is sort of amateur hour. When there were the first [chemical] attacks six months ago or, if you like, when we had the current attacks, he should immediately have called in the Congress the way the prime minister of Britain had called in the parliament, had a debate and got a resolution and then went out and told the world we are going to do x or we are not going to do x. But the idea that you make the case, you leak the details, you tell the world this has to be done, and then you say, ‘Well, I’ll take my time, I’ll go to Congress, and we’ll see’—this should be done in three days. It isn’t as if people aren’t aware of the arguments. You should go out there, bring them [Members of Congress] in, have it done by the end of the week, and the world I think will have a little higher respect, but this looks as if—if you’re a cynic, meaning if you’re sitting in Syria or in Iran or in Moscow—it looks like [Obama] boxed himself into a corner and is looking for a way out.” [47780]

AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller writes that Obama “is many things; brave is not among them. Put Obama and warrior in a sentence together and you are sure to get a chuckle. So is this any surprise? He is unprincipled, weak and cowardly. You can’t ‘lead from behind’ when no one is in front of you (or the side, for that matter).” [47799]

The White House submits to Congress an Armed Forces Authorization Resolution, stating that Obama is “authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in connection with the use of chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in the conflict in Syria in order to (1) prevent or deter the use or proliferation (including the transfer to terrorist groups or other state or non-state actors), within, to or from Syria, of any weapons of mass destruction, including chemical or biological weapons or components of or materials used in such weapons; or (2) protect the United States and its allies and partners against the threat posed by such weapons.” (Some will view Obama’s proposal as too open-ended, and Congress will almost certainly scale back the limits of what he might be allowed to do in Syria.) [47783, 47812]

Fox News reporters James Rosen reports, “A senior State Department official tells Fox News [that Obama’s] decision to take military action in Syria still stands, and will indeed be carried out, regardless of whether Congress votes next week to approve the use of such force. The official said that every major player on the National Security Council—

including the commander-in-chief—was in accord last night on the need for military action, and that [Obama’s] decision to seek a congressional debate and vote was a surprise to most if not all of them. However, the aide insisted the request for Congress to vote did not supplant [Obama’s] earlier decision to use force in Syria, only delayed its implementation. ‘That’s going to happen, anyway,’ the source told me, adding that that was why [Obama], in his rose Garden remarks [of August 31], was careful to establish that he believes he has the authority to launch such strikes even without congressional authorization. Other senior administration officials, outside of the Department of State, would not confirm as much, telling reporters only that the door had been left open for [Obama] to proceed without congressional authorization. ... This tracked with bulletins reporting that [Secretary of State John] Kerry has spoken to the Syrian rebel leadership and conveyed to them the administration’s determination to respond to the August 21 attack.” [47787, 47793, 44794]

John Bolton, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, tells WND.com he expects Obama will attack Syria the evening of August 31 or in the early morning hours of September 1. Bolton says “It’s simply scheduling,” noting that Obama will soon leave for the G20 summit in Russia. On Fox News, Bolton says, “This is absolutely stunning. I’ve been trying to fill in the blank of the following sentence: ‘Barack Obama is the weakest president since...’ And I have to say, the best I can come up with is James Buchanan who watched the country dissolve into the Civil War. We’re watching the collapse of American influence in the Middle East and really more broadly. And I say that as somebody who has been opposed to use of force in Syria. I have to ask if your secretary of state, John Kerry, given the two very strong statements that he has made on this subject since the first indication of the chemical weapons used 10 days ago took place: Are you now thinking of resigning as a matter of principle, having laid out the case, whether you agree or disagree with Kerry, that the United States has to use force here, to see [Obama] take this step. ... I’ll leave it to others to say whether Congress can approve it, but you know he needs 60 votes in the Senate to authorize force, and it’s very hard to see that he’s going to get it. And having said, ‘I’ve made up my mind to use force, but now I’ll ask Congress’—a failure to get it here tells the Ayatollahs in Teheran it is smooth sailing toward nuclear weapons unless Israel strikes. ... I favor a strong president and a strong foreign policy and strong America in the world. It was a very foolish thing to make the statement about the red line last August. He did it in the heat of a presidential campaign but the fact is as the economists say in the sunk cost fallacy, just because you do one very foolish thing, as you look ahead on your policy, you don’t make things better by doing a second foolish thing. We’re going to take a hit for his statement last August but we don’t need to compound it. He’s now compounded it twice over. He’s saying again today that the military strike will be very limited but he’s going further by saying he’s not sure he’s going to do it unless he gets authority. I think this is a mistake twice compounded now.” [47790, 47827]

At a town hall meeting, a college student notes that presidents have an obligation to follow and defend the U.S. Constitution, refers to a list of offenses committed by Obama, and asks Congressman Michael Burgess (R-TX), “Why aren’t you doing your job, and why haven’t you impeached [Obama] yet?” Burgess essentially responds that

impeachment proceedings in the House would serve no purpose because the Senate would never vote to indict Obama. [47808]

Richard Grenell, former director of communications and public diplomacy for the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, states, “I think [Obama’s] move today is a devastating blow to his credibility internationally. I’ve already heard from many people around the world—it’s really a shocking move. [Obama] looks weak. This sends a terrible message to the moderates in every country, not just in the Middle East but really around the world. But let’s be very clear: there are a lot of people who are very happy to see the United States relegated to ‘just another country.’ At the U.N., I’m sure there’s a celebration going on because the United States doesn’t look like the leader. It looks like we want to do something, but [Obama] has really hedged today and is really making a mockery of what we thought the United States’ reputation would be about coming in and defending those people around the world when they’re in need. The problem here is that philosophically [Obama] laid down a [red line] marker nine weeks before the election last year... and now, by hedging, he really looks foolish. I think the long-term view of his reputation is going to be: he looks incredibly weak and he looks like he doesn’t know what he’s doing. And, more importantly, what I’m concerned about is internationally the message that it sends at the U.N. and other countries is really a devastating blow; his credibility is completely ruined.” [47813]

A White house photo is released showing Obama in the Oval Office with Vice President Joe Biden. Obama is standing at his desk, talking on the telephone, with one foot on the desk. (More than a few Americans are peeved over the many instances of Obama with his disrespectful feet on their desk.) [47819, 47820, 47821, 47823, 47833, 47989, 48553]

At TheDailyBeast.com, Michael Tomasky writes, “Obama is still in a spot. After all, he might be forced into a position where, after all this tough talk about century-old international norms, he can’t take action [in Syria]. Depending on how things play out, this could do enormous damage to his international standing. And more importantly, Assad would go unpunished. All of which makes this week one of the most important in Obama’s tenure. The argument to the Republicans in the House and the American people is simple. He’s fulfilled his constitutional duties. Will Congress fulfill its moral ones, or is their hatred of Obama so great that they will instead choose the side of a monstrous murderer?” (Tomasky apparently believes that opposition to a war in Syria—which is arguably not in the national security interests of the United States—can only be based on “hatred of Obama.” In other words, “If you oppose war in Syria you are a racist.”) [47878]