

## *The Complete Obama Timeline*

*December 2014*

On December 1 the national debt tops \$18 trillion. According to ZeroHedge.com, "...total US debt has increased by 70% under Obama, from \$10.625 trillion on January 21, 2009 to \$18.005 trillion..." The additional \$7.375 trillion in debt represents about \$23,412 for each of the 315 million people living in the United States. (Whether Obama has plans to mint 18 \$1 trillion coins to pay off that debt is not known. In fact, whether Obama even knows or cares that the national debt has topped \$18 trillion is also not known. During his 2008 campaign, Obama called George W. Bush "unpatriotic" and "irresponsible" for having allowed the national debt to increase by \$4 trillion under his watch.) White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells TheBlaze.com that Obama "has been and continues to be mindful of the longer term challenges that remain when it comes to our deficit and debt. In the context of [Obama's] 2015 fiscal year budget, there is a roadmap for making important investments for accelerating economic growth and expanding economic opportunity for middle class families, strengthening security, all while improve the nation's fiscal outlook." Earnest brags, "We cut the deficit by two-thirds since [Obama] took office. That's the fastest sustained rate of deficit reduction since the end of World War II. We've made tremendous progress on this." (Of course, Obama first more than tripled the deficit before it started declining. Every one of Obama's deficits is still greater than the largest deficit of George W. Bush.) [68740, 68755, 68819, 68868, 68869]

While Obama continues to block construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, Russia's Gazprom announces it will build a massive pipeline from Russia, through Turkey, and to its border with Greece. According to RT.com, "The new pipeline to Turkey will have an annual capacity of 63 billion cubic meters. A total of 14 bcm [billion cubic meters] will be delivered to Turkey, which is Gazprom's second biggest customer in the region after Germany. Russia's energy minister Aleksandr Novak said that the new project will include a specially-constructed hub on the Turkish-Greek border for customers in southern Europe." [68976]

In Dubai, American Ibolya Ryan, a 47-year-old mother of two, is stabbed to death by a burqua-wearing Muslim woman in a shopping mall restroom. According to the Daily Mail, "An hour after the stabbing, the suspect then planted a home-made bomb outside the house of a Muslim Egyptian-American doctor... But the device, which was made of small gas cylinders, a lighter, glue and nails, was successfully dismantled after one of the man's sons found it." The killer, Dala al Hashemi, a Yemen-born Emirati national is later arrested in a raid on her house. The United Arab Emirates police tell ABC news the suspect was "'not [a] lone wolf' and her house was 'a base of operations.'" [68939, 68940]

About 20 protesters in Washington, D.C. block the 14th Street bridge—apparently believing that making people late for work will earn sympathy for convenience store

robbers in Ferguson, Missouri. (Why there are no arrests is not explained.) Protesters in New York City include members—or at least supporters—of RevCom.us—the Revolutionary Communist Party USA. (According to DailySignal.com, “The Chicago-based group, founded in 1975 and led by chairman Bob Avakian, advocates for socialism with the ‘final goal of a communist world.’”) [68716, 68767, 69710]

ABCNews.com reports, “The FBI on Sunday issued the strongest warning to date about possible attacks by the ISIS terrorist group against the U.S. military inside the homeland... In a joint intelligence bulletin issued overnight by the FBI with the Department of Homeland Security, officials strongly urged those who serve in uniform to scrub their social media accounts of anything that might bring unwanted attention from ‘violent extremists’ or would help the extremists learn individual service members’ identities. ‘The FBI and DHS recommend that current and former members of the military review their online social media accounts for any information that might serve to attract the attention of ISIL [ISIS] and its supporters,’ the federal bulletin sent to law enforcement agencies said, advising that troops ‘routinely exercise operational security in their interactions online.’” (This is tantamount to telling soldiers in World War II not to say anything mean about Hitler or Hirohito. Pamela Geller expresses the thoughts of many Americans, writing, “This is surrender. This is saying, we will respond to jihad attacks by curtailing our own activities and freedoms. This is cowardice. This is saying, We will walk around in fear of the jihadis instead of being resolute in defending ourselves against them. This is outrageous.”) [68797, 68798]

Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer responds to the FBI’s “advice”: “Let me say what a lot of us are thinking... If ISIS is using social media to track me, that’s a dream come true in my book. These guys are a bunch of bullies that just prey on the weak. I can’t travel over there anymore now that I’m out of the Marine Corps, so having them come to me would help out a lot. ISIS targeting the U.S. military is like a sheep targeting a lion. Hopefully one of these assholes actually shows up. They’ll definitely get more than they want at my place! Actually, I think this warning should be taken seriously by all military members. I would hate for ISIS to go to anyone else’s home and for me to miss the opportunity to meet and greet them. I’ll take the responsibility to be the liaison for the military. I live in Columbia, Kentucky—oops, is that too much information? Oh well.” [68812, 68813]

The Florida hurricane season ends, with a record nine consecutive years without a hurricane hitting the state. According to BizPacReview.com, “The longest previous respite lasted only five seasons, from 1980 to 1984.” (How the lull will be explained by global warming fear-mongers remains to be seen.) [68718, 68719]

Obama hosts a White House meeting with cabinet members to discuss the issue of surplus military items supplied to police departments. (Some have criticized the use of military vehicles by local police departments. That criticism escalated after the riots in Ferguson, Missouri.) Obama also has a meeting with “national civil rights leaders” (including race hustler Al Sharpton, who has visited the White House at least 61 times

since 2009), and another with police and elected officials of several cities and towns. According to DailyCaller.com, “They will ‘discuss how communities and law enforcement can work together to build trust to strengthen neighborhoods across the country,’ according to a White House statement.” Obama is “also sending Attorney General Eric Holder to give a speech in an African-American church in Atlanta.” (Although Ferguson Darren Wilson was not indicted for any actions taken against Michael Brown, and Brown was the lawbreaker in the incident, Obama is nevertheless focusing attention on “racist cops”—rather than families that fail to teach their children routine civility and respect for the law.) [68708, 68717, 68720, 68724, 68836, 69231, 69254]

Attending Obama’s second meeting is Rasheen Aldridge, director of Young Activists United and co-chair of Missouri Jobs with Justice. After the meeting Obama says, “One of the most powerful things that happened today was I had the opportunity to meet with some young people, including a couple of young outstanding leaders from the Ferguson community, Brittany Packnett and Rasheen Aldridge.” (On December 4 Aldridge joins a group of protesters in St. Louis who try to storm City Hall while chanting, “We shut shit down!” and is arrested for shoving a federal marshal. Obama has no comment.) [68889]

At his third meeting, Obama says, “I think Ferguson laid bare a problem that is not unique to St. Louis or that area, and is not unique to our times, and that is a simmering distrust that exists between too many police departments and too many communities of color. ... This is a problem that is national. It is a solvable problem, but it’s one that unfortunately spikes after one event, and then fades into the background until something else happens. ... And as I said last week, when any part of the American family does not feel like it is being treated fairly, that’s a problem for all of us. It’s not just a problem for some. It’s not just a problem for a particular community or a particular demographic. It means that we are not as strong as a country as we can be. And when applied to the criminal justice system, it means we’re not as effective in fighting crime as we could be.” [68785]

Obama proposes a \$263 million program for police training and 50,000 body cameras to be worn by police officers. (He does not propose training fathers to be decent role models for their children.) [68715, 68761, 68780]

Attorney General Eric Holder delivers an address at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia in which he announces he will be releasing Department of Justice guidelines for federal law enforcement personnel intended to reduce racial profiling by police officers. Holder says, “This will institute rigorous new standards, and robust safeguards, to help end racial profiling, once and for all. This new guidance will codify our commitment to the very highest standards of fair and effective policing.” According to Examiner.com, Holder’s policy “adds to President George W. Bush’s 2003 policy that addressed the consideration of race and ethnicity in conducting federal investigations. Holder and ... Obama have added bans on the use of other characteristics such as national origin, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. The new guidelines apply uniform

standards to all law enforcement, national security, and intelligence activities conducted by the Justice Department's law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, ATF, DEA and other enforcement agencies.” (Holder does not explain why, if profiling is wrong and immoral, his guidelines apply only to federal law enforcement officials and include exemptions for Border Patrol and TSA agents. His action is largely meaningless and little more than political theater. Most state and local law enforcement agencies across the country already have internal policies that address racial profiling and, guidelines or not, most police officers have enough sense to understand that crimes are far more likely to be committed by young men than old women. “Anti-profiling” rules absurdly expect law enforcement to disregard reality.) [68781, 68960, 69034, 69097]

Kurt Schlichter writes at Townhall.com that Obama's illegal immigrant amnesty is “an albatross” for Hillary Clinton. “...Hillary needs 50% + 1 to win. The Obama coalition/Democrat base has the Chablis-swilling limo libs from Marin County, the AFSCME-dues paying DMV diversity consultants, and the big screen-watching EBT cardholder vote nailed down. Everyone else, not so much anymore. And Obama is clearly fine with that. Hillary was supposed to do what Bill [Clinton] did and bring back those blue collar Dems—the people who make things with their hands, the people who didn't go to Wellesley, and the government employees like Officer Darren Wilson who actual perform a useful service. But Obama doesn't need or even want them, and he's happily driving them away to strengthen his own coalition. He's refused to stand up against the race hustlers and rioters. And he's hung the executive amnesty around Hillary's neck, ensuring that she'll spend the next two years promising not to undo it—in contrast the GOP nominee who will be talking about little else. Hillary faces two problems that have potentially mutually exclusive solutions. One is keeping the Obama coalition behind her, and it's already making noises about fleeing to Big Chief [Elizabeth] Warren. The other is expanding the coalition to once again include normal people. An executive amnesty she could undo with a pen stroke is not going to be any help with that. Nor are media images of businesses burning because some hardworking cop refused to allow himself to be murdered to please the likes of Al Sharpton. Hillary is already making moves to escape the trap Obama—who detests her—has set. It was no coincidence that Hillary's former fellow New York senator Chuck Schumer got up last week and confessed that Obamacare was an utter disaster for the Democrats. That was the signal—she's going to try to differentiate herself from [Obama's] Hope and Change by promising Hope and Change Back to the 1990s.” [68713]

“She has to navigate the tightest of tightropes in not alienating the Democrat base, a group that is still the majority of the coalition she'd need to win. That will be hard to do with Obama throwing rotting fruit at her as she tries to walk across the chasm. She's not up to it. Let's face it—Hillary is not a skilled politician any more than her daughter is a skilled journalist worth the \$600K NBC threw at her. Everything was handed to Hillary. She married into the White House, paid Bill back by backing him when he started interning the interns, and was presented with both a Senate seat and the State Department. Her entire resume reads, ‘I am Bill Clinton's nominal wife.’ Keep in mind that this is a woman who flunked the District of Columbia bar exam. To do that, you literally have to answer the question, ‘What is a tort?’ by drawing a picture of small cake. A few months

ago, it seemed that Hillary was unstoppable. But then we didn't fully take into account the massive incompetence, narcissism and vindictiveness of Barack Hussein Obama. Perhaps preventing the nightmare of President Hillary Rodham Clinton will be Obama's greatest—and only—legacy." [68713]

Hillary Clinton's dilemma is illustrated by a Latino Decisions poll that shows 85 percent of Hispanics would support her presidential run in 2016 *if* she renews Obama's amnesty action. If she fails to do so, support plunges to 37 percent. If Clinton were to support Obama's actions she will capture the Hispanic vote, but lose much of the white vote—and probably a substantial amount of the black vote as well. [68838]

Bloomberg.com reports that Thanksgiving weekend sales declined “an estimated 11 percent... from a year earlier,” according to the Washington-based National Retail Federation. “And more than 6 million shoppers who had been expected to hit stores never showed up. ...Consumer spending fell to \$50.9 billion over the past four days, down from \$57.4 billion in 2013, according to the NRF. It was the second year in a row that sales declined during the post-Thanksgiving Black Friday weekend, which had long been famous for long lines and frenzied crowds.” (The National Retail Federation illogically claims the 11 percent decline is the result of an “improving economy.”) [68733, 68734, 68744]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Two of ...Obama's top fundraisers will face confirmation votes in the U.S. Senate after being nominated for ambassadorships that they are far from qualified for. Noah Bryson Mamet and Colleen Bell together raised more than \$1 million to help elect and reelect Obama to the White House. Mamet in turn was nominated to be the ambassador to Argentina, while Bell was nominated to be the ambassador to Hungary. ...Though many of Obama's nominees have lacked the qualifications to properly serve as ambassadors, Mamet and Bell seem to be two of his worst choices. Mamet, who was chosen for Argentina, has never even been to the country. Asked by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) during his confirmation hearing whether he had ever been to Argentina, Mamet responded that he has ‘traveled pretty extensively around the world’ but hasn't ‘had a chance’ to go to Argentina. The State Department doesn't even know whether he speaks Spanish. Bell did not do much better when she was put on the spot during her confirmation hearing on the United States' strategic interests in Hungary. She failed to name a single one. Bell's failure to eloquently speak on the issue should not be a surprise, as the highlight of her résumé is that she was the producer for [the television] soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful*.” (In a partisan vote, both Mamet and Bell are confirmed by Senate Democrats on December 2.) [68737, 68768, 68782, 68828]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells ABC's Jonathan Karl that Obama will veto a federal budget that excludes funding for his illegal immigrant amnesty program. Earnest adds, “I don't believe that members of Congress or the majority of members of Congress, will go along with efforts to shut down the government in protest over [Obama's] executive actions on immigration.” (Of course, if Obama vetoes a funding bill he would be shutting down the government, not Congress. Earnest's remarks is to remind

“loyal journalists” that their job will be to blame the Republicans if Obama issues a veto.) [68738]

At Spectator.org Marilia Duffles writes, “Of course politicians get angry, but it is generally after long and frustrating negotiations where someone is not playing by the rules. But Obama seems to be always angry. Angry brains of narcissists are half-cocked because they still harbor the painful memories and continue to feel the fear of rejection. They seek vengeance to displace this anger and subconsciously direct it at individuals or entities who serve as stand-ins for those who hurt them in childhood. For Obama it’s people (e.g., McCain) who threaten his already fragile self-esteem because they’re also in a position of power or, again, with policy opposed to his. And people, like Bill and Hillary Clinton, who would undermine or outright block his easy path to grandeur and power—Obamacare, amnesty, you name the legacy—or remind him of his inexperience, his empty suit. These people all end up feeling his wrath or getting thrown under the bus somehow. Even his allies. Most recently, his undermining the re-election of previously supportive Democrats who couldn’t be allied with him during this year’s midterm election (‘I may not be on the ballot but my policies are’). The examples are endless. Obama’s decisions have never been for the ‘run-of-the-mill’ political reason like getting amnesty for five million immigrants because he needs to show it’s the Democrats who successfully acted on immigration. Instead, and like an angry teen-ager who defaces walls with graffiti, he effaces the Constitution instead with his feckless and reckless Executive Orders, no matter the consequences. He is *Homo politicus* on steroids. ...I dare say that angry brain is hell bent on directing his anger at the whole lot, the entity called America.” [68739]

“...[H]is angry brain is psychobiologically incapable of suppressing the strong cocktail of subconscious pain, anger and revenge streaming up from his limbic system. To Obama’s psyche, revenge will always be more valuable and necessary, than will the avoidance of the costs and consequences of his immature and destructive decisions and actions. ...Obama is not blameless. Part of his anger must be self-directed. He knew he wasn’t up to the job—he cognitively knows his weaknesses but his limbic system was bound to fall prey to the ultimate self-validation—the presidency—that would serve to fill that emotional void his parents created. Indeed, as the story goes on his first night [after his inauguration], standing on the White House rooftop with his friend from Hawaii, Obama said: Can you believe I actually got elected?” [68739]

FoxNews.com reports, “A longtime federal immigration attorney claims Immigration and Customs Enforcement managers mounted a campaign of ‘humiliation’ and ‘brutal scape-goating’ to purge officials they didn’t want, raising concerns from a top GOP lawmaker that the administration was trying to ‘force compliance’ with its controversial policies. The attorney, Patricia Vroom, made the allegations in a lawsuit filed last month. The lawsuit is getting renewed attention in the wake of ...Obama’s executive actions to let potentially millions of illegal immigrants stay in the country and work. In the suit, Vroom claimed she was rebuked for her ‘push-back’ on a prior effort to drop cases against illegal immigrants with identity theft convictions, and received a low performance rating at the

time. ‘It was part of an orchestrated, coordinated effort ...to purge [the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, OPLA] of senior Chief Counsel so that much younger, much less experienced, and thus much more impressionable individuals who were beholden to them, could be installed in their place,’ the lawsuit alleges.” [68708]

Judicial Watch reports, “The Chicago studios of talk-show superstar Oprah Winfrey and the iconic ‘Sears Tower’ (renamed Willis Tower) were the targets of a terrorist truck-bomb plot in 2009. But initially unbeknownst to federal authorities, two of the conspirators recently were arrested for unrelated state crimes in different parts of the country. The alleged bombers targeted Ms. Winfrey’s Harpo Studios because they resented her popularity and power, while the tower was selected because of its obvious landmark status. The bomb plot itself, planned in 2009, was inspired by militant Islamist hatred of American military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to law enforcement and other sources interviewed by Judicial Watch. Sources requested anonymity for fear of reprisal by terrorist bomb-plotter associates, as well as retaliation from embarrassed federal law enforcement agents who apparently mismanaged the subsequent counterterrorism case.” The FBI “has never released information on the 2009 targeting of Oprah, or explained why it has allowed conspirators to languish in county jails on lesser charges.” Pamela Geller asks, “Did Obama gag law enforcement in order to scrub jihad and Islamic terror from the minds of the American people...?” [68745, 68746, 68751, 68762]

An ISIS-related jihadist group in Egypt claims it was responsible for the August 6 killing of William Henderson, a U.S. citizen working for Qarun Petroleum Company. [68747]

TheBlaze.com reports, “After more than a year, the White House finally responded to an online petition asking that the Muslim Brotherhood be declared a terrorist organization, and the answer is no. ‘We have not seen credible evidence that the Muslim Brotherhood has renounced its decades-long commitment to non-violence,’ the White House said in response to a ‘We the People’ petition that garnered 213,146 signatures—more than twice the 100,000-signature threshold to trigger a response.” (It apparently took more than one year for the Obama administration to come up with its lawyerly, weasel-worded excuse. That the Muslim Brotherhood continues to *claim* it renounces violence is, of course, irrelevant. It continues to engage in and fund violence.) [68752, 68753]

Sharyl Attkisson reports, “The killer virus Ebola may not be front and center in the news, but it’s still in the forefront of efforts by health officials nationwide. As of today, more than 1,400 people in 44 states in the U.S. are being actively monitored by state and local health departments after returning from West Africa. The good news is that no new cases have been reported in the U.S. since Oct. 23. According to the Centers for Disease Control, which provided the figure, ‘They are being monitored because they came from one of the four countries with ongoing Ebola outbreaks.’ ...To date, ten people have been treated for Ebola in the U.S. since late September.” (Aside from Attkisson’s report, the story is ignored by the mainstream media. “Ebola czar,” Ronald Klain, is apparently doing what Obama wanted him to do: keep the issue quiet.) [68754, 68759, 69071]

Several members of the Congressional Black Caucus take to the floor of the House of Representatives in “hands up, don’t shoot” poses to “honor” Michael Brown and discuss “being black in America.” (It apparently does not matter to them that Brown did not have his hands up, did not say, “Don’t shoot,” and was attacking police officer Darren Wilson.) The next day, *Morning Joe* co-host Joe Scarborough says, “What is wrong with this country? What is wrong with these people? What’s wrong with these elected officials? They *know* it’s a lie. They know the cops didn’t shoot him with his hands in the air. They know it’s a lie and they’re doing this on the Capitol floor? ... Why don’t they put flying saucers on top of their heads and say, ‘If only Michael Brown had not been transported up to Venus. It’s just horrible. When will aliens stop coming down here and transporting people to Venus? This flying saucer on my head is an indication that we can no longer stand for aliens.’” [68760, 68777]

According to a Gallup poll, Obama’s approval rating among Hispanics has jumped from 54 to 68 percent as a result of his illegal immigrant amnesty action. [68778, 68779]

An Instagram user (“dreday\_4”) posts a photograph of Obama’s older daughter that emphasizes her posterior, with the words, “When her prom?” (It is assumed the ill-educated poster meant, “When is her prom?” In any event, Malia Obama is only 16 years old and such a remark is certainly outside the bounds of civility. An Arizona Cardinals football player named Darnell Dockett, age 33, then reposts the photo, adding, “Omgggg” (“Oh my God”) and “Lmfao” (“Laugh my fucking ass off”). Whether Dockett will face the same fate as Republican staffer Elizabeth Lauten, who criticized the Obama daughters for their short dresses and disinterested facial expressions at the Thanksgiving turkey pardoning “ceremony,” remains to be seen. This *Timeline* assumes, however, that Dockett will not lose his job.) [68789, 68790, 68791, 68792, 68829]

Obama’s former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, covers all bases for her likely 2016 presidential run by appearing at a fundraiser for the Keystone XL pipeline-supporting Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and then addressing the League of Conservation Voters—which opposes the pipeline. [68801, 68802]

On December 2 the House Judiciary Committee hears testimony from Constitutional experts about Obama’s illegal immigrant amnesty orders. (During the hearing, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) excoriates amnesty supporter Marielena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, after she suggests Republicans oppose Obama’s amnesty action because they are racists.) [68756, 68907, 68910]

Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, is grilled by the House Homeland Security Committee. Johnson tells the committee he is “fully comfortable” with Obama’s amnesty actions. Congressman Mike McCaul (R-TX) asks Johnson, “[Obama] said over 20 times that he did not have the legal authority to do this to take this executive action, and that this is not how democracy works. Do you agree with that prior



statement?” Johnson evades the question, responding, “Mr. Chairman, I know from 30 years as a lawyer that when, uh, someone paraphrases remarks from somebody, I want to see the full Q&A, I want to see the full context...” Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) asks, “What do you say to someone who believes [Obama] took action to change the law?” Johnson lies, saying, replies, “We did not change the law. We acted within the law.” Chaffetz then plays a November 25 video of Obama saying, “But, what you’re not paying attention to, is the fact that I just took an action to change the law.” Johnson argues that Obama “acted within existing law. He acted within our existing legal authority.” He smugly adds, “Listen, I’ve been a lawyer 30 years. Somebody plays me a [sic; an] eight-word excerpt from a broader speech, I know it to be suspicious.” The room erupts in laughter, but Johnson continues, “Okay? That [trap you set for me] was very nice.” [68775, 68795, 68806, 68827]

Through additional questioning, Chaffetz learns from Johnson that the Department of Homeland Security had not, as Johnson had previously promised, deported four terrorists who were caught crossing the border in September. (Two of the four are still being detained, and the other two were released from custody and are allegedly in Canada.) [68814, 68831, 68985]

Congressman Lou Bartlett (R-PA) asks Johnson, “Mr. Secretary, is it true that the illegal immigrants who are granted amnesty will not need to comply with the Affordable Care Act?” Johnson replies, “Those who are candidates for and are accepted into the Deferred Action Program will not be eligible for comprehensive health care, ACA.” Bartlett: “So therefore, an employer may have a decision to make: Do I keep the American worker and provide health insurance or pay a \$3,000 [ObamaCare] fine or do I get rid of the American worker and hire someone who I do not have to provide health insurance, and I won’t get fined. Is that a possibility?” Johnson: “I don’t see it that way.” Bartlett: “You don’t think any employers will see it that way?” Johnson: “I don’t think I see it that way. No. No, sir.” [68832]

HotAir.com astutely observes, “This guy [Johnson] very well might have been the next secretary of defense had Obama not made him his point man on what’ll come to be seen as one of the most notorious executive power grabs in American history. And the worst part, the thing that moves this from pathetic spin to outright deceit, is that Jeh Johnson knows better than almost anyone else in Washington just how disdainful of the law Obama is. Who was the Pentagon lawyer who warned O three years ago that the White House was violating the War Powers Act by engaging in ‘hostilities’ in Libya without congressional approval? Why, Jeh Johnson, of course. But rather than resign in protest, he kept his mouth shut—and got a cabinet position at DHS as thanks. According to [a *New York Times*] report from a few days ago, Johnson’s first proposal on executive amnesty back in May was far more modest than Obama wanted, probably because Johnson knew just how legally dubious a massive amnesty would be. Too bad, Obama told him; go back to the drawing board and find me some legal fig leaf I can use to legalize millions. So Johnson did it, and now he’s playing the stooge in front of Congress

for his boss. He deserves that defense job. In this administration, it's a consummate 'yes man' position. Who's more qualified than him?" [68807]

CBS's Major Garrett asks White House press secretary about Obama's statement in Chicago on November 25, "I just took an action to change the [immigration] law." Earnest replies, "He was speaking colloquially there." Earnest also attempts (unsuccessfully) to defend Obama's decision to choose daytime soap opera producer Colleen Bell to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. [68541, 68583, 68602, 68699, 68758, 68776, 68788, 68828]

*The Washington Post* reports, "A former Democratic congressional aide pleaded guilty Tuesday to sexually assaulting two women in 2010. Donny Ray Williams, 37, who served as a staff director for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee, pleaded guilty to third-degree sexual abuse, two misdemeanor counts of sexual abuse and one count of misdemeanor threats. ... Williams began his Capitol Hill career in 1999." He also worked for panels chaired by Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and for Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and socialist Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL). (The story will likely get far less media attention than was given to a GOP staffer who criticize Obama's daughters for their short dresses and disinterest in turkey pardoning.) [68808, 68876]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters, "We do not believe that [Obama] has the authority to do what he did [with his amnesty actions]. We are looking at a number of options in terms of how do we address this. This is a serious breach of our Constitution. It is a serious threat to our system of government. And frankly we have limited options and limited abilities to deal with it directly, but that's why we are continuing to talk to our members. We've not made decisions about how we are going to proceed. But we are in fact going to proceed. [Obama's] decision to take unilateral action on immigration, action he himself said exceeded his authority, makes it harder for the American people and our elected representatives to trust his word on any issue. I said before Thanksgiving that Republicans would fight his unilateral actions. We are looking at a variety options both for right now and when Republicans control both houses of the Congress next year. We'll continue to discuss with our members a number of options in terms of how we will deal with this—in consultation, again, with the members, but no decisions have been made at this point." (While Boehner is correct that Obama's amnesty action is a "serious breach of our Constitution," so are the income tax, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, welfare programs, ObamaCare, AMTRAK, the Department of Education, the FDA, the EPA, and countless other programs, laws, and agencies. Boehner's protestations are meaningless because he has no intention of blocking anything that is inconsistent with the Constitution.) [68784]

According to DailyCaller.com, "Pressure from GOP voters and legislators is forcing House Speaker John Boehner to part-way oppose ... Obama's personal amnesty for illegal immigrants, say GOP legislators. Boehner announced on Tuesday that he and his top

deputies were proposing to modify the almost-complete 2015 omnibus appropriations budget to block funding for a critical immigration agency after March 30. ‘They were doing [an unmodified] omnibus two weeks ago, that was the plan, and then they felt some heat,’ so they drafted the modified budget, Kansas GOP Rep. Tim Huelskamp told The Daily Caller. Without the modifications, the omnibus bill would fund easy implementation of Obama’s de facto amnesty for 12 million illegals. But even if Boehner’s plan stops the funding after March, the agency will still be able to implement Obama’s amnesty because it gets its funding via fees from potential immigrants, and because the spending bill does not specifically bar amnesty spending. The leadership’s four-month plan began failing late Tuesday because of rank-and-file opposition...” (In other words, Boehner and other establishment Republicans were more than willing to cave in to Obama and fund the government at existing levels through the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2015. The best House conservatives seem able to do is get a limited blocking of some funding though March. But, as noted, it makes no difference because Obama can proceed with his amnesty plans unless Republicans in both the House and the Senate manage to show some heretofore unseen backbone. By the end of March, Obama will have printed millions of work permit documents for illegal immigrants.) [68815, 68816, 68833, 68877]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that Ashton Carter, former Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (April 2009-October 2011), is expected to be Obama’s choice to replace outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. [49665, 68766, 68775, 68820, 69330]

Terrorists in Kenya kill at least 36 workers at a quarry in the village of Korome. The White House later states, “We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the at least 38 individuals killed yesterday.” (At Townhall.com Leah Barkoukis notes what the Obama administration did not. The Muslim jihadists first separated the Christians and a few others from Muslims, made them lie down and then shot each of them in the head at close range.) [68853, 68854]

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports that the Department of Justice “is seeking to treat one of [Obama’s] closest friends, Dr. Eric E. Whitaker, as a ‘hostile witness’ in the ongoing trial of Leon Dingle Jr., a Chicago businessman charged with stealing more than \$3 million in taxpayer money in a fraud scheme involving state grants. Federal prosecutors filed the hostile-witness motion Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Springfield, where Dingle is on trial. They cited three instances in which they said state grant money awarded to Dingle ended up benefiting Whitaker, who hasn’t been charged with any crime. The motion comes after Whitaker backed off a deal he struck in 2012 to cooperate with authorities investigating fraud involving grants from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which he headed under former Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He stopped cooperating after being asked about his relationship with Quinshaunta R. Golden, who was his chief of staff at the state agency and oversaw the awarding of millions of dollars in state grants and contracts to Dingle, according to prosecutors. Prosecutors had questioned Whitaker about whether he’d had a ‘sexual relationship’ with Golden, a lawyer for Dingle revealed at an Oct. 1

pretrial hearing. In their 13-page motion, prosecutors said Whitaker is ‘a witness clearly hostile to the government’ not only for refusing to cooperate, but also because of his ties to Dingle.” (Whitaker whines, “Almost everybody who’s been indicted or scrutinized has been African-American. ... Personally, I’m upset about this process and how I’ve been made to look like I’m on trial.” Of course, it is not the fault of the prosecutors that nine of the 10 people charged happen to be black.) [68822, 68823, 68890, 69066, 69114]

*Timeline* readers are aware of Whitaker’s shady business dealings. While an Illinois state senator, Obama had arranged for Whitaker to be hired as the head of the Illinois Department of Public Health, at a salary of \$150,000. Whitaker later ran the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he approved funds for a non-profit organization called “Let’s Talk, Let’s Test” (LTLT), which has been investigated by the U.S. attorney’s office for misuse of Illinois taxpayer funds. The organization, which was founded to fight the spread of AIDS in the black community, 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. HIV test kits were distributed in black neighborhoods by the organization’s “blinged” \$45,196 Hummer, which the Sun-Times notes was “bought, at least partly, with state funds.” At HotAir.com Noah Rothman writes, “For never having done anything wrong, Eric Whitaker sure knows a lot of criminals and fraudsters. It seems he had no compunction about associating with these individuals closely while he was also spending a lot of time with [Obama]. Chicago politics was always rather unsavory, but this is a mess. And it could get messier.” (Michelle Malkin notes, “This is no casual acquaintance. Obama and Whitaker are tighter than skinny jeans on One Direction bandmates.”) [110, 111, 112, 664, 1945, 4310, 5056, 11060, 11505, 67631, 67914, 68822, 68823, 68890, 69066]

FoxNews.com reports, “Eight Environmental Protection Agency employees who racked up a total of more than ten years’ worth of paid ‘administrative leave’ between 2011 and 2014—valued at more than \$1,096,000—apparently did so because they were involved in ‘cases of alleged serious misconduct.’” [68783]

Former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius tells USA Today comments on ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber’s remarks about the stupidity of American voters: “He was not author of the bill itself. He didn’t influence the members of Congress who actually wrote the legislation. He is making some headlines, which is unfortunate because I think he’s harming the very product that he helped to push forward.” But she adds, “A lot of Americans have no idea what insurance is about. I think the financial literacy of a lot of people, particularly people who did not have insurance coverage or whose employers chose their coverage and kind of present it to them, is very low—and that has been a sort of stunning revelation. It’s not because people hid it from folks. It’s because this is a complicated product.” (In other words, “Americans are stupid.”) [68825]

According to a Gallup poll, 42 percent of Americans consider themselves Republicans, and 41 percent consider themselves Democrats. (In the month before the November 4 election, the Democrats held the edge, 43-39 percent.) [68786]

Sarah Saldana, Obama's pick to head the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, says in a written statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee she believes Obama's actions of illegal immigrant amnesty are legal. In her letter, obtained by DailyCaller.com, Saldaña writes, "I believe that [Obama], as others before him, has legal authority to take Executive action to address areas within the purview of the Executive branch. It is my understanding that the recently announced Executive action pertaining to immigration was reviewed, shaped, and considered by a number of people in whom I have great confidence, including Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Attorney General Eric Holder." [68793]

According to a November 25-30 ABC/Washington Post poll, 39 percent of adults approve of Obama's handling of the Ferguson issue, while 52 percent disapprove. For white adults, the approval/disapproval percentage are 34/58; for Hispanics, 41/47; and for blacks, 63/30. [68803, 68804]

ABC News reports via Twitter, "Pentagon: 'We have indications' Iran has conducted airstrikes on ISIS in Iraq using F-4 fighter jets over last several days." [68811, 68826]

On December 3 NBC health reporter Dr. Nancy Snyderman returns to the Today program, with "A lot of medical stories to tell." (One will probably not be about her defying an ebola confinement in order to get takeout food.) [68809]

The vastly overrated Hillary Clinton delivers an address at Georgetown University—to many empty seats and no one in the balcony. Unfortunately for Clinton, some in attendance take note of what she says, including: "This is what we call smart power. Using every possible tool and partner to advance peace and security. Leaving no one on the sidelines. Showing respect even for one's enemies. Trying to understand, in so far as psychologically possible, empathize with their perspective and point of view. Helping to define the problems, determine the solutions. That is what we believe in the 21st century will change, change the prospects for peace." On *On the Record*, retired Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North comments, "This is unilateral disarmament. This is not someone who's a write-in candidate. She just wrote off being president of the United States." (Pamela Geller writes, "That Hillary is a serious candidate for President in 2016 speaks to the low state of American politics. What has she done? What is her claim to fame except to be a cuckquean (female equivalent of a cuckold)? And we are supposed to admire her for being a doormat for a cheat and liar? For swapping spit with [Yasser] Arafat's wife? Hillary Clinton is everything wrong with the left.") [90, 68834, 68835, 68874, 68898, 68899, 68908, 68921, 69025, 69039]

Assuming Clinton runs for president in 2016, her opponents will most certainly contrast her “empathize with the enemy” comment with her “What difference does it make?” Benghazi remark. On the one hand, some may argue that Clinton is political “toast.” Yet after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks Obama wrote in the *Hyde Park Herald*, that the essence of the tragedy “derives from the fundamental absence of empathy on the part of the attackers: an inability to imagine, or connect with, the humanity and suffering of others,” that the terrorist attackers “lacked empathy,” and their attitude “...grows out of a climate of poverty and ignorance, helplessness and despair.” Obama absurdly argued that the terrorists could not “imagine” the “suffering of others,” but that suffering was, of course, *precisely* what they wanted to accomplish. Obama got away with the remarks because the mainstream media covered for him in 2008. Whether the media will provide such monumental cover for Clinton in 2016 remains to be seen—and may depend on whether she is challenged by media favorite Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). [90, 68834, 68835, 68874, 68898, 68899, 68908, 68921, 69025, 69039]

While House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) talks publicly about opposing Obama’s amnesty action, behind the scenes he is working with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to round up Democrat votes for the 2015 funding bill—votes he will need to offset the loss of Republican House members who are jumping ship because the proposal will do nothing to stop Obama. According to DailyCaller.com, “Boehner’s draft bill funds the entire government for 2015, but makes merely token efforts to stop ...Obama’s agencies from implementing his unpopular amnesty, according to rank-and-file GOP legislators. ...Late Wednesday night, the Washington Post reported that top Democrat Rep. Steny Hoyer [D-MD] also said Boehner’s aides had asked him to deliver Democratic votes to ensure passage of the amnesty-funding bill. GOP Rep. Mark Amodei [R-NV] made the same claim to National Review.” [68861, 68862, 68871, 68872, 69023]

At a meeting of the House Rules Committee, its chairman, Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX) says, “I’m going to use my assets and resources in the new year to work with this Congress... to have a well-understood agreement about what the law should be, and how we as communities, and farm communities, and tech communities, create circumstances where we can have people be in this country and work, and where not one person is quote ‘thrown out’ or ‘deported.’” (In other words, despite what many Republicans say in response to Obama’s illegal immigrant amnesty action, they are in agreement that they have no plans to deport anyone who can provide businesses with cheap labor.) Congressman Luiz Gutierrez (D-IL) responds, “My heart was filled with a lot of joy when you said that people who are working here, who don’t present a danger, basically should be set aside, that those aren’t the people we should be going after.” [68979, 68980, 68981]

Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reminds readers that in March 2007 Obama marched with members of the New Black Panthers Party in Selma, Alabama. Standing behind Obama as he spoke was Panther leader Malik Shabazz and Panther “minister of war” Najee Muhammed. (Shabazz was one of the club-wielding thugs charged with intimidating voters at a polling place in Philadelphia on election day in November 2008. Although the

prosecution won the case against Shabazz, after Obama entered the White House he had Attorney General Eric Holder drop the charges.) Pavlich notes, “Earlier this year, ...Obama nominated cop-killer advocate Debo Adebile to head up the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice. The cop-killer Adebile voluntarily advocated for during his time as the head of the NAACP legal defense fund is former Black Panther Party member Mumia abu-Jamal. ...Thankfully, Adebile’s nomination was blocked in the Senate.” Pavlich writes, “This is who ...Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder are. Members of the New Black Panther Party are people they not only relate to, but stand by at all costs. This is exactly why they’ve turned Ferguson into a race case with zero evidence to prove their claims. *This* is why Ferguson is so important to them and despite what the majority in the media would have Americans believe, these associations greatly matter and provide the context for the actions of Obama and Holder moving forward.” [68805, 68817]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The communist and racist New Black Panther Party plotted to bomb St. Louis’ Gateway Arch and assassinate local law enforcement officials, but the Justice Department so far has limited its prosecution of the group to an indictment of two members on minor gun charges. The soft treatment for activities that normally would have brought federal terrorism charges appears to be part of efforts by Attorney General Eric Holder and the Justice Department to ‘go soft’ on the racist group, according to former Justice official J. Christian Adams. ‘I have always been perplexed why these guys get special treatment,’ said Adams, who worked in the Justice Department Civil Rights Division... Two members of the Panthers, Brandon Orlando Baldwin and Olajuwon Ali Davis, were indicted Nov. 19 on federal weapons charges in St. Louis. The two-page indictment, however, made no mention of the bombing or assassination plot. It stated that the two men had made false statements to a Cabela’s sporting goods store in seeking to purchase two .45 caliber pistols. Adams said he viewed the U.S. attorney’s failure to include the pipe bomb charges in the indictment as a significant omission. The use of pipe bombs in a conspiracy or plot normally would result in filing of federal terrorism charges, he said. ‘Here, once again, you have Justice giving these guys soft treatment,’ Adams said in an interview.” [68817]

State Department official Robert Bradtke tells a House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee that the administration has not revoked the passports of any U.S. citizens who have traveled to Syria or Iraq to fight with ISIS. Bradtke says, “As Secretary [of State John] Kerry said, he does have the authority to revoke passports. And this is something we would only do in relatively rare and unique circumstances because of the importance for average Americans [to] have the freedom to travel.” [68330, 68887]

The House of Representatives votes 378-46 to renew dozens of expiring tax cuts for individuals and businesses.

Obama and Hillary Clinton meet in the White House. According to a White House official, “they met privately in the Oval Office for about an hour to catch-up and enjoy an informal discussion on a wide range of issues.” [68850]

Just days after Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) argued the Democrats made a mistake by pushing ObamaCare rather than jobs bills in 2009-2010, retiring Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) tells TheHill.com the Democrats erred by not passing a full-blown, socialist, “single-payer” version of the health care legislation. Harkin says, “We had the power to do it in a way that would have simplified healthcare, made it more efficient and made it less costly and we didn’t do it. So I look back and say we should have either done it the correct way or not done anything at all. What we did is we muddled through and we got a system that is complex, convoluted, needs probably some corrections and still rewards the insurance companies extensively. ... We had the votes to do that and we blew it.” [68851, 68852]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “A December 1 bulletin from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) details the immediate opening of 1,000 permanent federal employee positions at a new operational facility that will open soon in Crystal City, Virginia. Newly hired employees will be tasked with approving applications submitted by illegal immigrants taking advantage of ... Obama’s recently announced executive amnesty program.” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) states, “This facility is a clear symbol of [Obama’s] defiance of the American people, their laws, and their Constitution. He is hiring federal employees to carry out a directive that violates the laws Congress has passed in order to foist on the nation laws Congress has repeatedly refused to pass. Some have suggested that implementing this amnesty would not have a financial cost, but this action unmistakably demonstrates otherwise. Moreover, the USCIS employees themselves have made plain that taxpayers will be on the hook, warning through their union that the agency is an ‘approval machine’ that will ‘rubber stamp’ applications for amnesty.” [68839, 68848, 68870]

Reuters reports, “A coalition of 17 U.S. states sued the Obama administration on Wednesday saying it acted illegally by issuing an executive order to ease the threat of deportation for millions of immigrants who are in the country without the proper documents. The case being led by Texas and filed at the Federal Court in the Southern District of Texas said the executive order announced by Obama last month violated constitutional limits on presidential powers. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican and the Texas governor-elect, said the lawsuit is not asking for monetary damages but is seeking to have the order declared illegal.” (By December 10 seven more states join the lawsuit.) [68867, 68873, 69140]

CNSNews.com reports, “According to a new report from its Office of the Inspector General, the Social Security Administration received 89.7 million W-2s in the ten years from 2003 through 2012 that it cannot attribute to any legal worker in the United States because the name and Social Security Number on the W-2 do not match. ... The Social Security taxes paid on these no-match W-2s are put into what SSA calls the ‘Earnings Suspense File’ and are not credited to any worker. Nearly fifteen years ago, the IG issued a report warning that the number of these types of earnings reports was growing—and linked them to the employment of illegal aliens.” (Americans are expected to believe that



there are only 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States, yet 89.7 million employees over 1 10-year period filled out W-2 forms with bogus Social Security numbers.) [68878]

At DCClothesline.com Dave Hodges makes the case that Obama should be removed from the White House on the basis of mental illness and the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Hodges writes, “History has shown that most of the brutal dictators of the past have share two, or three mental illnesses. These illnesses include Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD), Paranoid Personality Disorder (PPD) and Antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). Given the direction of the country, it is legitimate to ask whether or not [Obama] is indeed mentally ill.” Hodges lists symptoms of persons with mental illness:

*“Narcissistic Personality Disorder*

Is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love; Believes that he or she is “special” and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people (or institutions); Requires excessive admiration; Has a very strong sense of entitlement, e.g., unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment or automatic compliance with his or her expectations; Is exploitative of others, e.g., takes advantage of others to achieve his or her own ends; Lacks empathy, e.g., is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others; Is often envious of others or believes that others are envious of him or her; Regularly shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes

*Paranoid Personality Disorder*

Suspects, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting, harming, or deceiving him or her; Is preoccupied with unjustified doubts about the loyalty or trustworthiness of friends or associates; Is reluctant to confide in others because of unwarranted fear that the information will be used maliciously against him or her; Reads hidden demeaning or threatening meanings into benign remarks or events; Persistently bears grudges (i.e., is unforgiving of insults, injuries, or slights); Perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation that are not apparent to others, and is quick to react angrily or to counterattack; Has recurrent suspicions, without justification, regarding fidelity of spouse or sexual partner

*Antisocial Personality Disorder*

Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest; Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure; Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead; Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults; Reckless disregard for safety of self or others; Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations; Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt an individual. They may display a glib, superficial charm and can be quite voluble and verbally facile (e.g., using technical terms

or jargon that might impress someone who is unfamiliar with the topic). Lack of empathy, inflated self-appraisal, and superficial charm are features that have been commonly included in traditional conceptions of psychopathy and may be particularly distinguishing of Antisocial Personality Disorder in prison or forensic settings where criminal, delinquent, or aggressive acts are likely to be nonspecific. These individuals may also be irresponsible and exploitative in their sexual relationships (see the work of Jerome Corsi in this regard).” (*Timeline* readers are left to decide for themselves whether Obama exhibits enough of these character disorders for him to be a danger to himself or the nation.) [68846]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “A lawyer says a grand jury in New York City has declined to indict a white police officer on criminal charges in the [alleged] chokehold death of an unarmed black man in July. Jonathon Moore, an attorney for the victim’s family, said Wednesday he was told there would be no indictment of Officer Daniel Pantaleo in the death of 43-year-old Eric Garner. Garner was stopped in Staten Island on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes. Amateur video shot by an onlooker showed Garner refusing to be handcuffed. Pantaleo responded by putting Garner in an apparent chokehold, which is banned under NYPD policy. Garner was heard yelling, ‘I can’t breathe!’” (A person who cannot breathe is generally unable to say anything.) Protesters respond to the lack of indictment by setting a police car ablaze, blocking the West Side Highway, and preventing an ambulance from passing 47th Street at Madison Avenue. Others march outside the headquarters and studios of Fox News, chanting, “Fuck Fox News!”—apparently unaware that several Fox commentators, including columnist Charles Krauthammer, are quite surprised that the officer will not face charges. Krauthammer calls the decision “incomprehensible.” Bill O’Reilly tells his audience, “I was extremely troubled. [If I were the officer] I would have loosened my grip. I desperately wish the officer would have done that.” Judge Andrew Napolitano says “this is not a fair application of the law.” [68837, 68840, 68841, 68842, 68845, 68856, 68857, 68859, 68864, 68865, 68866, 68891, 68957, 68984, 69446]

Some of the professionally-printed protest signs are provided by the Service Employees International Union. Video of the Garner incident shows him resisting arrest and being grabbed around the neck by a police officer, with several other officers helping to take Garner to the ground. (The diabetic, grossly overweight Garner died in the ambulance, not strangulation at the arrest scene. A medical examiner spokeswoman says Garner’s death was caused by “...the compression of his chest and prone positioning during physical restraint by police... Asthma, heart disease and obesity were contributing factors...” The video does not show that he was confronted because business owners had called the police for help in keeping Garner from harassing their customers, that he was out of jail on bail from a previous arrest, that he was a felon who had been arrested 31 times, that the officer in charge at the scene was also black, or that the 23-member grand jury included nine non-white jurors. Nevertheless, to many observers, the video clearly suggests that the police used excessive force and the death may have been avoided.) [68837, 68840, 68841, 68842, 68845, 68856, 68857, 68859, 68864, 68865, 68866, 68891, 68957, 68984, 69446]

Asked about the Garner case, Obama says, “It is incumbent upon all of us as Americans regardless of race, region, faith—that we recognize this is an American problem and not just a black problem or a brown problem or a native American problem—this is an American problem when anybody in this country is not being treated equally under the law that’s a problem and it’s my job... to help solve it.” (Obama is suggesting that race was a factor in Garner’s death—as if police officers do not also improperly use force and abuse their state-supported power when a white person resists arrest. Race did not cause Garner’s death; it was the result of resisting arrest, being morbidly obese, and police overreaction. Both Gardner and Michael Brown would be alive had they not broken the law and fought with police officers. That is not to suggest that the police officers might not have been able to arrest Garner and Brown without deadly results, but actions have consequences, and the ill-advised actions of the victims and the police are of far more significance than their skin color.) Obama makes the remarkable (and monumentally false) claim, “My tradition is not to remark on cases where there still may be an investigation.” [68843, 68844, 68863, 68928, 68934]

On December 4 the House of Representatives votes 219-197 to block Obama’s amnesty action. (The measure will, of course, be ignored in the Senate, and would be vetoed by Obama even if it were to pass. The simple truth is that Obama holds the cards. No matter what the House does, Obama is protected by the Senate—because the Republicans would never be able to round up 67 votes for the two-thirds majority needed to overturn a veto or convict Obama after an impeachment action by the House.) [68855, 68858, 68893, 68922]

By a vote of 300-119, the House of Representatives passes a \$585 billion, 1,648-page defense spending bill. [68880, 68909, 68924]

China surpasses the United States as the world’s largest economy, with the release of GDP estimates by the International Monetary Fund of \$17.6 trillion and \$17.4 trillion, respectively. [69011]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Hours before the Obama administration revealed Thursday that a secret U.S. special forces mission had failed to rescue American hostage Luke Somers [a photojournalist] in Yemen last month, al Qaeda’s branch in the nation circulated a harrowing video giving Washington three days to meet unspecified demands or face ‘consequences’ for Mr. Somers. With speculation swirling that the threatening video may be what prompted administration officials to reveal the botched rescue mission, some in Washington were quick to warn the White House against negotiating with the terrorists. ‘The Obama administration must not waiver from the United States’ long-standing policy of not negotiating with terrorists,’ said Rep. Michael McCaul, the chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. The Texas Republican asserted that ...Obama set a dangerous precedent for such negotiations earlier this year by authorizing the release of five former high-level Taliban officials from Guantanamo Bay in exchange for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, an American held hostage in Afghanistan for five years.” [68879, 68888]

CNSNews.com reports, “The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$466,642 in taxpayer dollars to Magee-Women’s Research Institute and Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pa., to study and compare the intimate relationships of obese and non-obese girls.” [68925]

Several companies have learned that complying with the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) means violating other laws. Deroy Murdock writes at NationalReview.com, “These firms are complying with Obamacare, which lets them offer wellness programs to their employees. These activities help workers lose weight, quit smoking, receive regular checkups, and otherwise become healthier. As an incentive, Obamacare offers participating employees as much as a 50 percent reduction in out-of-pocket medical expenses. Workers who avoid such programs, however, could face resulting surcharges of up to \$4,000. The comically titled ‘Affordable Care Act’ requires that employees in these programs undergo medical tests to qualify for lower premiums. Unfortunately, such exams violate the Americans with Disabilities Act. In short, the ADA is allergic to the ACA. So, in a truly staggering plot twist, Obama’s Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has sued New Jersey-based Honeywell, as well as Orion Energy Systems and Flambeau. The latter two enterprises are headquartered in Wisconsin. These companies’ efforts to follow Obamacare have landed them in federal court. In Obama’s America, even cooperative companies face federal wrath.” [68895, 68896]

Joel Gehrke writes at NationalReview.com, “A trio of senators crossed the Capitol last night to discuss the congressional response to ... Obama’s recent executive orders on immigration. The consensus: Republican leadership doesn’t want to fight Obama, so the lawmakers have to hope that grassroots activists can goad their colleagues into a more aggressive posture.” Senators Jeff Sessions (R-AL), David Vitter (R-LA), and Mike Lee (R-UT) “met with a group of House members last night in the office of Arizona Representative Matt Salmon. Vitter also organized a conference call with some House Republicans Wednesday afternoon. The purpose of the two encounters, which happened on the same day that Texas Senator Ted Cruz met with Iowa Representative Steve King, was to emphasize that ‘the first bill that you guys do was really our best and only chance,’ according to one Senate aide; the Senate hawks won’t be able to instigate a fight if the House passes a bill that provides longer-term funding.” (In other words, if the House caves in to Obama on amnesty, there will be no hope for a fight, let alone a victory, in the Senate.) “In the evening meeting, the lawmakers compared notes about their distrust for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH). ‘There is a general belief that, despite the rhetoric from leadership after the executive order was announced, they really have no desire to do anything substantive to fight this,’ one lawmaker who attended the meeting explained to NRO in a series of text messages. ‘Part of it is that leadership (as proxies for the Chamber [of Commerce]) wants the amnesty; Obama’s order provides a way to deliver cheap labor to the Chamber without having to vote for it. Part of it is an absolute fear of any conflict, including even a partial ‘shutdown.’ ... House leaders are expected to partner with Democrats, so the conservative rank-and-file opponents think they’ll need the outside activist groups to ramp up the pressure on other lawmakers.” [68881]

Arguably, Americans who voted for Republicans on November 4 wasted their votes because they will get the same legislation under the GOP as they would have gotten had the Democrats retained control of the Senate. Five million or more illegal immigrants will get work permits. No one in the House or Senate will have the courage to stand up against Obama. (They will *say* things against Obama but will not *act* against him.) Government funding will be continued at current levels through September 2015. By that time everyone's focus will have shifted to the 2016 presidential campaign and no one in Congress will give a damn about what they promised in order to get elected in 2014. Obama knows that is what will happen, which is why he has no qualms about breaking the law. His goal is to encourage in-fighting within the Republican Party to make it easier for the Democrats to retain the White House and win back the Senate in 2016.

In an article about the too-close relationship between major banks and the Federal Reserve, FT.com writes, "As the financial crisis raged in September 2008, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley sought sanctuary from the Federal Reserve. The last two big independent broker-dealers were allowed to become bank holding companies, giving them access to government liquidity that could keep them afloat. Goldman drafted its own statement, quoting Lloyd Blankfein, chief executive, as saying: 'We believe that Goldman Sachs, under Federal Reserve supervision, will be regarded as an even more secure institution.' According to people familiar with the matter, Goldman then drafted another release and sent it to the New York Fed. This one was to be used as the central bank's own statement. How you see that incident depends on where you sit. From the investment bank it was seen as prudent to try to ensure that the transformation was seen as strengthening Goldman, not as a sign of weakness. 'It was realised that it was a bit presumptuous but there was a lot of concern that the Fed's press release could cause problems,' said one person familiar with the incident. From the outside world, it is striking that a bank could feel comfortable even trying to put words in the mouth of its regulator. From inside the New York Fed it was viewed as an example of the overweening arrogance of Goldman. ...LinkedIn shows at least 40 profiles of people who list the New York Fed and Goldman in their job history." ZeroHedge.com's Tyler Durden comments, "And while the FT is kind enough to digest that piece of shocking information for the rest of the 'stupid voters,' the bottom line is simple: the Federal Reserve of Goldman Sachs (in New York and everywhere else), is the bank that not only calls all the shots and makes the rules, but it also writes the words on the Fed's teleprompter (as for Obama's, not even Goldman would bother with that)." [68996, 68997]

While the Obama administration brags that health insurance premiums for the ObamaCare "silver-level" policies will increase only slightly in 2015, according to FreeBeacon.com critics charge that is the result of modifications to the plans that increase deductibles, more restricted provider networks, and increased co-payment requirements. [68915]

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki is asked by a reporter for a reaction the Egypt's dropping of charges against former president Hosni Mubarak. Reading her response, she says, "Well, generally, uh, we continue to believe that, uh, upholding impartial standards of accountability will advance the political consensus on which Egypt's long-term stability and economic growth depends, but beyond that I would refer you to the Egyptian government for any further comment." The Associated Press' Matt Lee observes that her response "means nothing." Psaki responds, "In general, we believe that, uh, impartial standards and the justice system should work as planned, but I don't have any more specifics..." Lee: "What you have said... says nothing. It's like saying, 'Well, we support the right of people to breathe.'" After the press conference ends, Psaki continues talking without knowing her microphone is still live. She says, "That Egypt line is ridiculous." (In other words, "The statement I was given to read is absurd.") [68906, 68917]

In response to suggestions that Congress not invite Obama to deliver his January State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress to show disdain for his illegal amnesty action, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, "The more [Obama] talks about his ideas, the more unpopular he becomes. Why would I want to deprive him of that opportunity?" (The U.S. Constitution requires only that presidents "shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient..." That information can be in writing. HotAir.com points out, "Boehner's reasoning is cute, and in line with a point made many times by conservatives in the past: The more Obama talks, the flatter his popularity gets. If you want to undermine him, the best thing you can do is hand him a microphone. Okay, but... Obama's going to deliver a SOTU address on TV no matter what Boehner does. Disinviting him won't stop him from talking, rest assured; he'd deliver his speech from the White House instead. Or, to make the optics especially bad for Republicans, he'd book an auditorium somewhere and invite his own sympathetic audience—congressional Democrats, liberal veterans, DREAMers, Ferguson protesters, Hassan Rouhani. For once, he'd have an enthusiastic crowd for the SOTU instead of the usual boring half-applaud-half-silent partisan reaction. And all the media would want to talk about, of course, is the fact that Republicans didn't show up to hear [Obama] even though the Republican House that actually impeached Bill Clinton in December 1998 had him back a month later to deliver the State of the Union. How does Boehner win there?") [68892, 68894, 68920]

Meanwhile, members of the Congressional Black Caucus call for Obama to invite the families of Michael Brown and Eric Garner to his State of the Union address. Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) says, "I think that would be appropriate and fitting. It would help educate and sensitize other members and humanize some of the issues that we're going to confront." (Lewis does not suggest inviting the family of Zemir Begic, a white man who was killed with hammer blows by several black youths in St. Louis.) Congressman Hank "Guam will tip over!" Johnson says, "Those families are symbols of an issue that needs to be urgently addressed in America. I think it would be an excellent idea." Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY) says, "It would be good that we put a face to the injustices that have occurred as a result of the criminal justice system that hasn't

been lifted to a point of colorblindness.” (There is no evidence that race played a part in the deaths of Brown or Garner.) Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) says, “Appropriately, people who have experienced tragedies like that would be the right kind of guests to have.” (Jackson Lee does not suggest inviting the people whose businesses were burned down in the Ferguson riots.) [68916, 68927]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Obama administration is refusing to discuss reports that emerged early Thursday claiming that the White House is considering imposing sanctions on Israel for continuing construction on Jewish homes in Jerusalem. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf dodged several questions on Thursday when confronted with reports that the administration had held secret internal meetings to discuss taking action against Israel for its ongoing building in East Jerusalem. The classified meetings were reportedly held several weeks ago and included officials from both the State Department and White House, according to the Israeli daily Ha’aretz, which first reported on the meetings. ...When asked to address the reports Thursday afternoon, Harf declined to take a stance. ‘I’m obviously not going to comment one way or another on reported internal deliberations,’ she said. ‘We’ve made clear our position on settlement activity publicly and that hasn’t changed.’” Congressman Mark Meadows (R-NC) and dozens of other legislators write Obama, stating, “We urge you and your administration to clarify these reports immediately. Israel is one of our strongest allies, and the mere notion that the administration would unilaterally impose sanctions against Israel is not only unwise, but is extremely worrisome. Such reports send a clear message to our friends and enemies alike that such alliances with the United States government can no longer be unquestionably trusted. ...At a time when you have requested an additional seven months to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear weapons program, any attempts to undermine the U.S.’s support of Israel will only further diminish the administration’s ability to get congressional support for any potential agreement with Iran.” [68884, 68885, 68943, 68944]

The Obama administration opposes Israeli construction in East Jerusalem because the Palestinians want the area as their capitol. (Or, more accurately, the Palestinians want *all* of Jerusalem and Israel and the removal of *all* Jews.) The United States implementing sanctions against Israel for building houses in East Jerusalem is tantamount to Russia imposing sanctions against the United States because Texans build houses in San Antonio and some Mexicans still want the land back. This *Timeline* believes Obama is shamelessly attempting to influence upcoming elections in Israel. That is, even with the threat of sanctions that may never be imposed he is sending a signal: “Elect a new prime minister who is more ‘flexible’ than Binyamin Netanyahu or you will be punished by the United States.” If Obama attempts to implement sanctions he will face monumental resistance from Congress. One “senior congressional aide” says, “If these reports are true, this would mark a new era of unprecedented hostility from the White House against our strongest ally in the Middle East. It’s impossible not to notice the irony of the administration mulling sanctions on Israel while threatening to veto new sanctions against Iran. [Obama] should be forewarned that taking such action against Israel would yield tremendous pushback from Congress.” Noah Pollak, executive director of the pro-Israel organization Emergency Committee for Israel, comments, “The Obama

administration is against sanctions on Iran, but for them on Israel. “Is [White House deputy national security adviser] Ben Rhodes wearing a green [Palestinian] headband to work these days?” White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “I’m not going to talk about any sort of internal deliberations inside the administration and certainly not inside the White House.” (Translation: “We want to deliver a message to Israeli voters that they should elect someone Obama finds more willing than Netanyahu to throw their nation under the bus.”) Pamela Geller writes, “Apparently Obama wants the Jewish capital, Jerusalem, *judenrein*, cleansed of all Jews. Unprecedented. It would be like FDR helping Hitler build the camps. If I believed in such things, I’d say Obama was the devil himself. Wow.” [68884, 68885, 68943, 68944, 69336]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Congress is set to make victims of the 2009 Fort Hood shootings eligible for Purple Hearts and combat injury benefits after the Obama administration has denied them the status for the past five years. House Republicans, working with the Democratic-controlled Senate Armed Services Committee, added a provision to the defense authorization bill that would give battlefield recognition for the victims of the deadliest attack on a domestic military installation in U.S. history. It passed on a voice vote with strong bipartisan support. ...The victims have long asked the Pentagon to label the attack terrorism so they would be eligible for the Purple Hearts and added combat-related benefits. But Defense Secretaries Robert Gates, Leon Panetta and Chuck Hagel have stuck to the original assessment that the attack by Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Hassan was an act of workplace violence.” (In prior years, Obama has threatened to veto legislation that calls for Purple Hearts to be awarded to the Fort Hood victims.) [68886, 68926]

Jake Tapper reports at CNN.com, “Under fire from CIA contractors who were first-hand witnesses to the events in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012, the House Intelligence Committee on Thursday reaffirmed the committee’s report on the events that day. John Tiegen and Kris Paronto, CIA contractors who were on the ground in Benghazi the night of September 11, 2012, called the report ‘full of inaccuracies’ and asserted in a statement that ‘the authors of the report printed them anyway despite testimony and other truthful information that proved those statements wrong.’ The two men, part of a team who wrote the book ‘13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened In Benghazi,’ issued a statement that details 13 findings in the committee report that they call false. A spokeswoman for the House Intelligence Committee says the committee is preparing a point-by-point response to the CIA contractors’ point-by-point response. ...The most serious of the thirteen ‘false findings’ take issue with how much the CIA chief of base, referred to as ‘Bob,’ hindered their ability to try and rescue their colleagues. ...Paronto directly told the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Michigan, ‘that he was delayed and was told to wait twice,’ their statement said, adding that ‘Bob’ specifically used the words ‘stand down’ to Tiegen. Paronto also told the committee that the delay—which the CIA contractors assert lasted at least 27 minutes, though the committee puts it at 21 minutes—‘was a severe military tactical mistake made by leadership figures who had little to no military training or experience in combat operations, and the delay cost the lives of Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith due to them dying from smoke inhalation—something that takes time.’



...The report has also been assailed by Senate Republicans such as Lindsey Graham of South Carolina who told CNN's Gloria Borger that the report is 'full of crap,' and Rand Paul of Kentucky, who wrote "it might be time to rename the House 'Intelligence' Committee.'" [68936, 68937, 68938]

Addressing the Ferguson, Missouri incidents on *Hannity*, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) is pressed by host Sean Hannity about members of Congress using the "hands up, don't shoot" narrative when there was eyewitness testimony stating that Michael Brown never raised his hands in surrender to officer Darren Wilson. A combative Holmes Norton says, "The fact is that there was conflicting testimony... That's not my concern. My concern is to start conversation with the police departments. If you want to talk to people who have other concerns, have them on your show. ...I am a lawyer, I have not read the transcript, I haven't read the transcript because my interest is not in what happened. My interest is in what should happen, where we go forward from here. That is my interest, thank you very much." [68903, 68904, 68905, 69022]

On December 5 the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that a respectable 321,000 jobs were created in November—but the number of unemployed increased by 115,000. The unemployment rate remains unchanged at 5.8 percent. According to the ADP survey, the nation added only 208,000 jobs in November. Regardless of which number is closer to reality, neither is enough to significantly help the tens of millions of unemployed Americans—let alone satisfy five million illegal immigrants to whom Obama will soon be issuing work permits. The U-6 unemployment rate—which counts people who gave up looking for a job or who are working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment—is 11.4 percent. About one in every six men between the ages of 25-54 is unemployed. The workforce participation rate remains a dismal 62.8 percent. (Only 62.8 percent of working age Americans have jobs. For Americans age 16-54 the participation rate is a dismal 46 percent, about 10 points lower than in the year 2000.) There are still about three million fewer full-time workers in the United States than there were in the early years of the Bush administration. Former director of the Office of Management and Budget, David Stockman, noting Talleyrand's "They learned nothing and forgot nothing," writes, "So, yes, our monetary central planners forget nothing. It doesn't matter what the actual results have been. Like the original Bourbons, the small posse of unelected academics and policy apparatchiks which control the nation's all-powerful central bank most surely believe they have a divine right to run the printing presses as they see fit—even if it accomplishes nothing for the 99% of Americans who don't have family offices or tickets to the hedge fund casino." [68882, 68875, 68897, 68918, 68953, 68954, 68967, 68987, 69099, 69105, 69133, 69216]

After criticism by leading leftist Jews in the United States, John Hagee, pastor of a "megachurch" in San Antonio, Texas, apologizes for saying in a November 23 speech that Obama was anti-semitic—when he meant to say only that Obama is anti-Israel. (Pamela Geller writes, "It is a distinction without a difference. Anti-Israel is antisemitic. Anti-Jewish state is anti-Jewish. ...The Jews, once again, are being served up to our enemies by Jewish lay leadership. Echoed by the worst of the kapo-esque traitors, the Anti-Defamation League, who slammed Hagee for calling Obama anti-Semitic, saying it

was a ‘serious denigration and distortion of the term.’ *Have the Jews learned nothing?*” [69038]

Obama formally introduces Ashton Carter as his nominee to replace Chuck Hagel as Secretary of Defense. Obama says, “Ash is rightly regarded as one of our nation’s foremost national-security leaders. He’s played a key role in devising our defense strategy.” Carter says, “If confirmed in this job, I pledge to you [Obama] my most candid strategic advice, and I pledge also that you will receive equally candid military advice.” (Carter may be Obama’s third choice. At least two others on Obama’s list of candidates reportedly turned the job down.) [68883, 68912, 68919, 69330]

InvestigativeProject.org reports that Interpol has issued a bulletin “seeking the arrest of the Muslim Brotherhood’s most influential cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi. The bulletin was sparse on details but said that Egypt wanted the 88-year-old Qaradawi ‘to serve a sentence’ for crimes including ‘incitement and assistance to commit intentional murder.’ Qaradawi lives in Qatar. He also is alleged to have had a hand in a massive prison break of Brotherhood members and others during the revolution against then-dictator Hosni Mubarak. Mohamed Morsi, a Brotherhood official who went on to become Egypt’s president in 2012, was among those who escaped.” Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer adds, “Qaradawi is the most renowned and influential Muslim cleric in the world today. In January 2009, during a Friday sermon broadcast on Al-Jazeera, he prayed that Allah would kill all the Jews...” Pamela Geller writes, “What a marked, stark difference between this indictment and Obama’s wooing of Qaradawi and the Muslim Brotherhood. Back in 2011, the Hindu reports that the Obama administration has turned to Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the Muslim Brotherhood’s leading jurist, to mediate secret negotiations between the United States and the Taliban. This should wake people up, but it won’t, because the enemedia is in the pocket of jihadists and Islamic supremacists.” After the radical Muslim Brotherhood took over the Egyptian government, the White House issued a statement: “The United States strongly believes that the new Egyptian government must be empowered with real authority immediately.” Al-Qaradawi, who has stated, “I support Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and Hizbullah. I oppose the peace that Israel and America wish to dictate. This peace is an illusion. I support martyrdom.” In 1999 al-Qaradawi was banned from entering the United States because of his support for suicide bombings, yet he remains the “chairman-in-absentia” of the Muslim American Society’s Islamic American University. He was banned from Egypt by President Hosni Mubarak, but returned in 2011. Many naive American leftists consider al-Qaradawi a “moderate” Muslim. [17749, 17750, 17751, 17806, 17807, 17947, 17948, 17984, 17985, 26759, 27113, 27816, 68945, 68946]

In December 2011 Andrew C. McCarthy, author and senior fellow at the National Review Institute, commented on the Obama administration’s decision to hold secret negotiations with the Taliban through the al-Qaradawi—perhaps the most dangerous jihadist in the world. McCarthy wrote, “The surrender is complete now. ...After thousands of young Americans have laid down their lives to protect the United States from jihadist terror, ...Obama apparently seeks to end the war by asking Qaradawi, a jihad-stoking enemy of the United States, to help him strike a deal that will install our

Taliban enemies as part of the sharia state we have been building in Afghanistan. If the Hindu report is accurate, the price tag will include the release of Taliban prisoners from Gitmo—an element of the deal Reuters has also reported. The administration will also agree to the lifting of U.N. sanctions against the Taliban, and recognition of the Taliban as a legitimate political party (yes, just like the Muslim Brotherhood!). In return, the Taliban will pretend to forswear violence, to sever ties with al-Qaeda, and to cooperate with the rival Karzai regime. It would mark one of the most shameful chapters in American history.” [17749, 17750, 17751, 17806, 17807, 17947, 17948, 17984, 17985, 26759, 27113, 27816, 68945, 68946]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “A prominent Palestinian-American rights group that ordinarily advocates nonviolent protests held a conference in Chicago last month that included a lecture on how to ‘navigate the fine line between legal activism and material support for terrorism.’ At the event, sponsored by American Muslims for Palestine, a Milwaukee attorney and board member of the group accused U.S. policymakers of working to ‘criminalize the support of the Palestinian people.’ The American government was doing this at ‘the behest of the Israeli government, its lobby,’ added American Muslims for Palestine Vice President Munjed Ahmad, by forbidding charitable assistance to groups that are designated as foreign terrorist organizations and their supporters. ‘We have to ensure that whatever we do, we’re not providing assistance to these so-called terrorist organizations,’ Ahmad continued, seeming to question the legal justification for labeling them as such. ...Ahmad encouraged attendees to ‘continue to assist and advocate for Palestinians morally and even financially,’ while being careful to steer clear of terrorism financing laws. ...In his public remarks, Ahmad stopped short of providing any specific techniques for how to navigate around terrorism financing laws.” [68947]

In Yemen, American hostage Luke Somers is killed by al-Qaeda terrorists during a failed attempt to rescue him by a U.S. special operations team. FoxNews.com reports, “Luke Somers was still alive, but badly injured when the team reached him, a Yemeni national security official told Fox News. The official said Somers was shot by militants. None of the special forces members were injured. [Defense Secretary Chuck] Hagel said in [a] statement that the rescue bid was conducted in partnership with... Yemen’s government and its security forces. Ten militants were killed between the rescue attempt and the drone strike prior to the mission, the Yemeni official confirmed. South African hostage Pierre Korkie was the other hostage killed in the operation, the Gift of the Givers, a South African aid group confirmed. ...Yemen’s national security chief, Maj. Gen. Ali al-Ahmadi, said the militants planned to kill Luke Somers on Saturday [December 6]. ‘Al Qaeda promised to conduct the execution... so there was an attempt to save them but unfortunately they shot the hostage before or during the attack,’ al-Ahmadi said at a conference in Manama, Bahrain. ‘He was freed but unfortunately he was dead.’ Yemen’s local Al Qaeda branch, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, posted a video Thursday [December 4] that showed Somers, threatening to kill him in three days if the United States didn’t meet the group’s demands, which weren’t specified. He was kidnapped in September 2013 from Sanaa.” Obama later releases a statement condemning the “barbaric murder” of Somers and noting that information “indicated that Luke’s life was in imminent danger. Based on this assessment, and as soon as there was reliable

intelligence and an operational plan, I authorized a rescue attempt.” (Strangely, Obama once again refers to an American victim by his first name. Inasmuch as Obama had never met Somers, one would expect him to be referred to as “Mr. Somers” or “Luke Somers.”) [68948, 68949, 68950, 68961, 68962, 68969, 68970, 68993]

NPR.org, “An investigation by the New Jersey Legislature has cleared Gov. Chris Christie in an apparently politically motivated scheme that closed some lanes of the George Washington Bridge last year, leading to major traffic jams and a political firestorm. The investigation could find no evidence that Christie was involved in the scheme.” (Whether there is a suicide watch for MSNBC commentators is not known.) The mainstream media, which eagerly reported on the controversy when there were accusations that Christie was involved, spends almost no time reporting that he was exonerated. [68900, 68901, 68911, 69124]

Judicial Watch reports “that on September 9, 2014, it received documents from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) revealing that the Obama administration paid Baptist Children and Family Services (BCFS) \$182,129,786 to provide ‘basic shelter care’ to 2,400 ‘unaccompanied alien children’ (UAC) for four months in 2014. The BCFS budget included charges for \$104,215,608 for UACs at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and an additional \$77,914,178 for UACs at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. ...According to the documents obtained by Judicial Watch, the cost to the American taxpayer was \$86,846.34 per illegal alien child at Ft. Sill, for a total to \$104,215,608 for 1,200 UACs from June 12 to October 18. The bill also included \$2,648,800 in compensation for 30 members of the BCFS ‘Incident Management Team’ (IMT), for a total to \$88,293 per IMT member for the four-month period. The \$77,914,178 to care for 1,200 children at Lackland AFB amounted to a cost to the taxpayer of \$64,928 per illegal alien child from May 18 to September 18. The Lackland bill included \$20,000 for a ‘cable television screen/projector set up’ and 20 shower stalls at \$1,000 each.” [68902]

On behalf of his and 17 other states, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott files a motion in federal court asking the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas to issue a preliminary injunction halting Obama’s changes to immigration rules. The motion states that Obama “has turned the Constitution on its head by suggesting that he has legislative powers and that Congress has veto powers that must be exercised to thwart his executive actions. This is not how our system works. The constitutional separation of powers requires Congress to pass a law and the President to execute it; the President can no more pass his own laws (or ‘execute’ nonexistent ones) than Congress can exercise the veto or pardon powers.” At Townhall.com Conn Carroll explains, “To prevail on a motion for preliminary injunction, a plaintiff must establish four things: 1) that he is likely to succeed on the merits; 2) that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm without preliminary relief; 3) that the balance of equities are in his favor; and 4) that an injunction is in the public interest. The full motion... relies heavily on Obama’s own statements, as well as statements from his political allies, to show that the plaintiffs meet all four criteria. Specifically, the motion notes that not only did Obama previously say his new deferred action program was beyond his powers, but even after he announced it he

admitted his plan was ‘an action to change the law.’ Plaintiffs also note it will be ‘difficult or impossible to undo [Obama’s] lawlessness after the Defendants start granting deferred action’ since Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) has promised to ‘have hundreds of thousands, if not millions [of people] with their documents, ready to submit them’ as soon as the program is open. ... The motion asks for a hearing before the court before December 31, 2014.” (The case is being heard by Judge Andrew S. Hanen, a George W. Bush appointee who previously rebuked the Department of Homeland Security for not following immigration laws.) [69007, 69008, 69018, 69028, 69083]

Fox News’ Ed Henry asks White House press secretary Josh Earnest, “[H]ow can you be telling Congress, ‘Don’t issue more sanctions against Iran’ at the same time you’re considering sanctions against an ally in Israel?” Earnest replies, “...I’m not going to comment on those reports about our discussions as it relates to Israel.” Henry: “But you are talking about sanctions? You’re leaving that door wide open here?” Earnest: “I’m not saying I’m not willing to talk about those conversations.” Henry: “So you’re not considering sanctions?” Earnest: “I’m not saying I’m not willing to talk about those kinds of conversations. But what I am saying is that we have been clear about what our strategy is against Iran. There is a historically tough sanctions regime in place against Iran. Those sanctions that were put in place by Congress and implemented by this administration have been effective, both in terms of exacting a heavy toll on the Iranian economy. We’ve seen [that] their economic output [has] been significantly negatively affected by this. We’ve seen significant decline in the value of their currency. There are a lot of ways to measure the impact of this sanctions regime. We do believe that while productive talks continue, that it would be unwise to put in place additional sanctions on Iran only because of the success of that sanctions regime [sic; regimen] depends upon the ability and willingness of our partners around the globe to enforce the sanctions regime [sic; regimen]. As we know, there’s not a whole lot of business conducted between the United States and Iran directly. We’re relying on other countries that actually do more business with Iran to abide by the sanctions regime. So far we have gotten that international buy-in that has really cracked down on the Iranian economy. It has prompted the Iranian leadership to come to the negotiating table with the United States and our P5+1 partners to try to resolve the international community’s concerns about their nuclear program. So, we have been clear about what our strategy is as it relates to Iran. I’m less willing to talk about any internal conversations about Israel.” (In other words, “Yes, Obama is considering sanctions against Israel.”) [69012, 69013]

NYTimes.com reports, “The federal civil rights investigation into the chokehold death of Eric Garner could present a new complication for Loretta E. Lynch’s nomination as attorney general, because she will be heading the inquiry as the United States attorney for the Eastern District of New York even as she undergoes scrutiny in the new Republican-controlled Senate. Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee said Thursday that the Garner case would no doubt be raised, as would questions about Ms. Lynch’s view of the federal government’s asserting itself in recent cases in which white law enforcement officers have not faced state charges after being involved in the deaths of black Americans.” [68913, 68958, 68959]

A civilian engineer with the U.S. Navy, Mostafa Ahmed Awwad, is charged Friday with giving drawings of the military's new aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, to an Egyptian intelligence officer—who was, in fact, an FBI agent. According to WashingtonPost.com, “Awwad’s alleged plot was a startling one, potentially threatening the security of a carrier that officials have hailed as a technological marvel. The ship—which will weigh 100,000 tons and hold 4,660 staffers and 75 aircraft—is expected to cost \$13 billion to complete. It is being built in Virginia. Authorities alleged in court filings that Awwad, a civilian who worked in the Nuclear Engineering and Planning Department at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, had a secret clearance and that some of the materials he provided to the undercover agent were not supposed to be released to non-U.S. citizens, or contained technical data that was subject to U.S. export laws. The court filings stated that Awwad was born in Saudi Arabia but had married a U.S. citizen in Cairo in 2007 and went about becoming a U.S. citizen then.” [68972, 68973, 68983]

FoxNew.com reports, “The energy industry and coal-producing states are projecting a wave of power plant closures in the final two years of the Obama administration as Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] regulations take hold. The goal of the agency’s campaign is to cut down on carbon pollution. However, industry groups and agencies say the EPA’s demands are simply too difficult to meet and will lead to powering down many facilities—eliminating hundreds of jobs and hurting cash-strapped state economies. ‘It’s a game we can’t win,’ Alan Minier, chairman of the Wyoming Public Service Commission, told FoxNews.com. The number of projected closures has steadily risen. Though estimates vary, according to the Institute for Energy Research a total of 37 states including Wyoming are seeing closures. The group lists nearly 170 plants that have closed or are closing, or are being converted to other purposes. ...In Wyoming, for example, four coal-fired power plants are set to be prematurely shuttered because they fall short of the requirements imposed by the Obama administration to curb carbon emissions.” [68914]

DailyCaller.com notes that in June 2014 Harvard law professor Lawrence Tribe wrote that the EPA’s rule “demonstrates the risk of allowing an unaccountable administrative agency to ‘make’ law and attempt to impose the burden of global climate change on an unlucky and unfortunate few. EPA’s singling out of a mere handful of emitters and limiting (or curtailing) their property is exactly the type of overreaching the Fifth Amendment seeks to prevent.” The EPA’s plan “violates principles of federalism and seeks to commandeer state governments in violation of the Tenth Amendment. It raises serious questions under the Fifth Amendment as well, because it retroactively abrogates the federal government’s policy of promoting coal as an energy source. Private companies—and whole communities—reasonably relied on the federal government’s commitment to the support of coal.” (The Tenth Amendment reads, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” The Fifth Amendment reads, in part, “No person... [shall be] deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”) [68931, 68932, 68933]

Deadline.com reports, “The White House legend that is Barack and Michelle Obama’s romance is heading to the screen. *Southside With You*, a drama in the vein of *Before Sunrise*, chronicles the summer 1989 afternoon when [Barack Obama] wooed his future First Lady on an epic first date across Chicago’s South Side. *Get On Up*’s Tika Sumpter will play Michelle Obama (née Robinson), while the search is on to cast the young Barack. ...Filming is set to begin in July on location in Chicago.” Co-producer Tracey Bing says, “Stephanie [Allain] and I are excited to produce this smart and timeless film that sheds light on one of the great love stories of our time. [Script writer] Richard [Tanne] really captures the essence of that romantic connection between Barack and Michelle that is so evident in the way that they look at each other. We are looking forward to finding the perfect Barack.” (At WND.com Aaron Klein writes, “[D]escriptions of that first date one summer afternoon in 1989 seem to have scrubbed a significant detail. In 2009, Michelle Obama said the first date included a trip to a ‘community meeting’ in which Barack Obama paraphrased radical community organizer Saul Alinsky.” Mrs. Obama has stated, “As he talked to the residents in that community center, he talked about two concepts. He talked about ‘the world as it is’ and ‘the world as it should be.’ And I talked about this throughout the entire campaign. What he said, that all too often, is that we accept the distance between those two ideas.”) [68929, 68992, 69074, 69102]

According to FoxNews.com, “Senior officials at the Social Security Administration (SSA) tried to hide a damning report on a \$300 million computer system that lawmakers have called a ‘boondoggle’ in order to protect ...Obama’s nominee to lead the agency... Whistleblower Michael Keegan told FoxNews.com that McKinsey & Company, a consulting firm, issued a draft report in December 2013 saying the agency had spent \$288 million over six years for a new computer system processing disability claims that has yet to launch. But Keegan said he was present at a meeting of senior officials in May of this year where they decided to sit on the report as long as Carolyn Colvin’s nomination for commissioner was pending. ‘They hid the report. ...There is absolutely no way that [Colvin] could be in the dark’ on the effort to hide it.” [68935]

On the eve of the runoff election for the U.S. Senate seat in Louisiana, flyers are distributed and posted in the city of Lafayette warning residents that if they don’t vote to reelect Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) they will lose “Section 8 Housing Assistance; Affordable Healthcare & Medical Card; SNAP aka food stamp assistance; Early Childhood development programs; Childcare assistance; Social Security until age 70; Medicaid for early disability; Minimum wage increase; Childhood dental assistance; WIC assistance; Head of Household Tax exemptions; Educational Assistance such as grants for college.” The flyer, “Paid for and Distributed by a Concerned Citizen,” also states, “Support Senator Mary Landrieu and send a message that we support [Obama] and we will no longer allow anyone to disrespect him.” (Landrieu is likely to lose to Republican challenger Bill Cassidy by a substantial margin, even if the state’s poorest voters are frightened into turning out in large numbers to “save their federal handouts.” Landrieu’s most recent, and ludicrous, defense for her ObamaCare vote is that it prevented Obama from implementing a single-payer system.) [68941, 68942, 68952, 68956]

On December 6 Fortune.com reports that Ebola czar Ron Klain “is planning a late-winter return to the private sector. Klain has committed to former AOL chief Steve Case that by March 1, he’ll be back on the job as president of Case Holdings and general counsel for Case’s venture firm Revolution LLC, Case tells Fortune. An administration official confirmed the plan.” [68955, 69019]

Columbia Law School announces that “students who feel that their performance on examinations will be sufficiently impaired due to the effects of these recent events [related to Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City] may petition Dean Alice Rigas to have an examination rescheduled.” Students at Harvard and Georgetown law schools also request that final exams be delayed because of the “trauma” they experienced over the grand jury decisions in the Brown and Garner cases. [69014, 69045, 69046]

Senior Al-Qaeda militant Adnan el Shukrijumah is killed by the Pakistan army. According to WND.com, “He was also a nuclear technician—one the FBI described as al-Qaida’s global operations chief, a position previously held by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, mastermind of the 9-11 attacks. Shukrijumah was born in Saudi Arabia and lived for several years in the U.S. He was named in a U.S. federal indictment as a conspirator in the case against three men accused of plotting suicide-bomb attacks on New York’s subway system in 2009. He is also suspected of having played a role in plotting al-Qaida attacks in Panama, Norway and the U.K. His death is the first major terrorist casualty since June, when the Pakistani military launched a major operation to clean up the largest militant sanctuary on the country’s soil. ...Shukrijumah was a trained nuclear technician and accomplished pilot who was singled out by Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri to serve as the field commander for the next terrorist attack on U.S. soil. He had been identified as a key figure in what has been called the ‘American Hiroshima’ plot—an al-Qaida plan to detonate one or more nuclear weapons in the U.S. ...Adnan Shukrijumah attended flight schools in Florida and Norman, Oklahoma, along with Mohammad Atta and the other 9/11 operatives, and he became a highly skilled commercial jet pilot, although he, like Atta and the other terrorists, never applied for a license with the Federal Aviation Administration.” [68963, 68971]

The U.S. military releases three Pakistani detainees it had been holding in Afghanistan to the Pakistani government in Islamabad. *The Guardian* reports, “The US did not name the prisoners but two Pakistani intelligence officials say [Taliban commander] Latif Mehsud was among them.” [68998, 68999, 69318]

TheHill.com reports, ‘Reggie Love is writing a book about his experiences working as ...Obama’s ‘bodyman.’ Love, who served as Obama’s personal aide on his first campaign and in the White House, was known to have a close connection to [Obama]. The book... is called *Power Forward: My Presidential Education*, and is set to be released on Feb. 3. The title is a reference to Love’s past playing on the Duke University basketball team. The publisher, Simon & Schuster, points out that Love ‘was mentored by Coach Krzyzewski and ...Obama.’” [68965]



Obama undergoes tests for a sore throat that reveal he has acid reflux. Obama's doctor, Captain Ronny Jackson, states that his "symptoms are consistent with soft tissue inflammation related to acid reflux and will be treated accordingly." Reuters writes, "Acid reflux is a condition in which the stomach contents flow back up from the stomach into the esophagus, causing such symptoms as heartburn and sore throat. Obama, 53, went to Walter Reed military hospital for a fiber optic exam of his throat and since swelling was detected, doctors decided to perform a CT scan as well, Jackson said. ...Jackson did not give any cause for Obama's case of the illness. There are many risk factors for acid reflux, including smoking, use of alcohol and hiatal hernia, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Most people respond to lifestyle changes and medicines, although many patients need to continue on medication to control their symptoms." (Obama routinely chews Nicorette gum because he is still addicted to the nicotine in cigarettes—which he may or may not still be smoking when he is in private. WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler notes some of the side effects of using Nicorette: "acid or sour stomach, belching, coughing, heartburn, indigestion, mouth and throat irritation, stomach discomfort, upset, or pain.") [68968, 69072, 69073, 69091]

According to the Associated Press, "White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Jackson suggested that Obama have the diagnostic test done on Saturday afternoon because [Obama] had free time in his schedule. Rain kept Obama off the golf course, where he spends most Saturdays when the weather permits. 'The quickly scheduled test is a matter of convenience for [Obama], not a matter of urgency,' Earnest said." [69091]

At WND.com Dr. Jane M. Orient later comments on Obama's immediate medical treatment: "Now suppose you, as a beneficiary of Obamacare, developed this symptom. There would be no motorcade to an iconic medical center. Instead, you would need to seek an appointment with your PCP (primary care provider). Several weeks later, you might see the first available 'provider'—probably a nurse practitioner or physician assistant. To become a patient in the 'medical home,' you would need an electronic health record (EHR). It would document your complete 'health' history, including an extensive sexual, drug, alcohol and smoking history. Many practices now ask about gun ownership and even about how many guns are stored. ...Sore throat? There will be [an ObamaCare] protocol for that. ...To culture or not to culture? To give antibiotics or not? To test for mononucleosis or not? ...The provider will probably shine a flashlight on your throat, possibly feel for lymph nodes and maybe do a rapid Strep screen. Then you'll get something for symptomatic relief and perchance an antibiotic. If someone thinks of acid reflux (not diagnosable by CT), you, too, will be on the purple pill—and get another smoking lecture. If the provider thinks you might need a consultant or a CT scan, she will hesitate. She has to worry about penalties for "overutilization," in addition to deciding whether to endure the preauthorization hassle, which likely means hours on the phone. If approved, say after multiple courses of treatment fail, you will get the scan only at the convenience of the provider, no matter what you have to cancel. Your provider might miss something, but she'll be doing what is best on average and most cost-effective, as determined by government-approved experts. When Obamacare talks about eliminating 'disparities,' it does not mean the special treatment for the political elite. Remember that

on George Orwell's socialist 'Animal Farm,' all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." [69218]

In a runoff election, Congressman Bill Cassidy (R-LA) easily (54-46 percent) defeats Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), giving the GOP its ninth senate victory and 54 Senate seats when the new Congress is sworn in. Republicans also win two additional House seats, giving them a 246-188 advantage in January. (Landrieu's Senate seat has been held by a Democrat for 132 years. In January, counting Landrieu, half of the 60 Democrats who voted for ObamaCare in 2010 will have left the Senate as a result of an election loss, retirement, or death. Newsmax.com notes that Obama has entered the record books for having the most mid-term losses for his party: "The record previously was held by Harry Truman. Truman's Democratic Party lost 74 seats in 1946 and 1950, while under Obama the Democrats have lost a total of 75 seats in 2010 and 2014. He could lose one more if Republican Martha McSally beats Democratic Rep. Ron Barber in Arizona in an election recount... McSally is currently ahead by only 200 votes.") [68964, 68966, 68978, 68982, 69005, 69006, 69015, 69024, 69395, 69582]

On December 7 the Department of Defense announces it has transferred six terrorists from the detainee center at Guantanamo to Uruguay. According to NYTimes.com, "Each of the six detainees had long been recommended for release if the receiving country could meet security conditions, but they remained at Guantánamo because they come from home countries with troubled security conditions. Earlier this year, Uruguay's president, José Mujica, offered to take them in, and the deal was ready to go in March. But [Defense Secretary Chuck] Hagel waited until July to notify Congress that he was approving the deal. The following month, when the United States sent a plane to Guantánamo to bring the men out, Mr. Mujica balked, preferring to avoid the media spectacle of their arrival in the middle of an election campaign to choose his successor. Then, Uruguay's presidential election went into a runoff, which was held on Nov. 30. During the delay, administration officials insisted that the transfers would take place eventually." Mujica "emphasized that Uruguay would not place restrictions on the mobility of the six men, saying that their arrival with refugee status meant that 'the first day they want to leave, they can go.'" (Mujica, like Brazil's socialist president, Dilma Rousseff, is a former terrorist with a prison record.) [68986]

*The Kansas City Star* reports, "Campaign reports filed late last week revealed that key Democrats funneled money to [so-called 'independent' candidate] Greg Orman's campaign for the U.S. Senate in Kansas. A political committee known as the Senate Majority PAC run by former advisers to Majority Leader Harry Reid [D-NV] sent about \$1.5 million to two other campaign committees that were backing Orman's campaign. ... The money exchange was secret until last week's reports because they were made on or after Oct. 16, meaning they didn't have to be disclosed until last week. Political interests often exploit that loophole to keep some transactions secret until after the election. In this case, Reid's advisers wanted to keep the donations from public view because they didn't want to fuel the idea that Democrats were backing Orman. That was one of incumbent Republican Sen. Pat Roberts' chief arguments against Orman in bright-

red Kansas, which was that ideologically the independent was more closely aligned to the Democrats than to Republicans.” [69123]

DailyCaller.com posts an excerpt of an Obama interview with BET to be aired December 8. Obama says racism “isn’t going to be solved overnight. This is something that is deeply rooted in our society, it’s deeply rooted in our history. ...When you’re dealing with something as deeply rooted as racism or bias in any society, you have to have vigilance [sic; you have to be vigilant], but you have to recognize that it’s going to take some time, and you just have to be steady.” (In the case of Obama and his Attorney General, Eric Holder, many observers believe they are not only “vigilant,” they are looking for racism where it does not exist.) Interviewer Jeff Johnson later tells CNN, “I think the difference between the African-American community and the Latino community is that there have been much fewer interviews [with Obama] on television with African-American press, and so I think this interview was incredibly important because there have been fewer interviews with African-American press.” [68988, 69294]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Rush Limbaugh observes, “The point is, this is a trick. I think the [threat of a government] shutdown’s a trick. You know what, here’s what it really means, Chris [Wallace], the [establishment] Republicans want what Obama wants on immigration, and they are using the government shutdown as an excuse to not stop him. Because the truth of matter is they agree with him: [Mitt] Romney agrees with it, Jeb Bush agrees with it, [the] Chamber of Commerce agrees with it. Obviously, the Republican establishment doesn’t want to stop Obama on comprehensive immigration reform. And very conveniently, here’s this government shutdown: ‘Oh, we can’t act because they’ll blame us. They’ll be mad at us for shutting down the government.’ It’s absurd. I think it’s ridiculous, and the American people are being let down here. They’re voting, they are expressing their desires, they want this stuff stopped and the Republican Party is not listening.” [68989, 69017]

During the program’s panel discussion, columnist George Will comments, “Let me try to say this as politely as possible; the English language is not Hillary Clinton’s close friend. She’s just not a fluent speaker, and we’re going to have a lot of experience with it, we’ve had it already, we’ll have a lot more going forward. She thinks—what she was saying was a crashing banality in the most artless way possible. She said we ought to try to understand the other guy [the enemy], get inside his mind, understand his motivation. Fine, that’s how you say it. Instead she had to talk about a gaseous New Age rhetoric about ‘respect’ and ‘empathy’ and all this. She was saying nothing particularly controversial, but she was saying it in an unfortunate way.” [68991]

On *State of the Union*, former President George W. Bush says he believes his brother Jeb Bush could defeat Hillary Clinton if they are the 2016 presidential nominees. [68990]

Also on *State of the Union*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, criticizes the expected release of a Senate Democrat report about CIA torture techniques used in the past. Rogers warns, “Our foreign partners are telling us this will cause violence and deaths. Foreign leaders have approached the government

and said, 'You do this, this will cause violence and deaths.' Our own intelligence community has assessed that this will cause violence and deaths. ... We have seen what happens when other incidents are used in the propaganda terrorist machine to incite violence. Think of the cartoons [of Mohammed] in Denmark, and how many people died as a result. Think of the burning of the Qur'ans, how many people died as a result. They will use this [report release] to incite violence." Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, tells the *Los Angeles Times*, "We have to get this report out." TheBlaze.com reports, "The report amounts to the first public accounting of the CIA's use of torture on Al Qaeda detainees held in secret facilities in Europe and Asia in the years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. U.S. officials who have read it say it includes disturbing new details about the CIA's use of such techniques as sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces, humiliation and the simulated drowning process known as waterboarding. ... Obama has acknowledged, 'We tortured some folks.' The report also says the torture failed to produce life-saving intelligence, a conclusion disputed by current and former intelligence officials, including CIA director John Brennan." Rogers also appears on *Face the Nation*, where he says, "This will be used by our enemies to motivate people to attack Americans and American facilities overseas." [69009, 69026, 69027, 69030]

Former CIA director Michael Hayden states, "The CIA workforce will feel as if it has been tried and convicted in absentia since the Senate Democrats and their staff didn't talk to anyone actively involved in the program. Second, this will be used by our enemies to motivate people to attack Americans and American facilities overseas, and I am genuinely concerned by that, as was the secretary of state and the director of national intelligence. There are countries out there who have cooperated with us on the war on terror at some political risk that are relying on American discretion. I can't imagine anyone out there going forward in the future who would be willing to do anything that even smacks of political danger. ... To say that we relentlessly, over an expanded period of time, lied to everyone about a program that wasn't doing any good, that beggars the imagination." [69009, 69026]

Examiner.com reports, "A top Iranian official is claiming that Secretary of State John Kerry is misleading the American people at best, or totally lying to Americans at worst, about making progress in nuclear talks and extending negotiations to Summer of 2015, according to a news story... released by the Iranian government-controlled Fars News Agency. ... Fars News Agency is reporting... that the western media reports claiming Iran stopped its testing on new centrifuge machines is [sic; are] not true at all and the trend of research and development on uranium enrichment is moving along at the AEOI [Atomic Energy Organization of Iran]. The Iranian news service also claims that 'producing fuel plates from uranium oxide is being carried out based on the AEOI's plans.'" [68994, 69065]

According to a *Military Times* survey, "active-duty troops reported a stunning drop in how they rated their overall quality of life: Just 56 percent call it good or excellent, down from 91 percent in 2009. The survey, conducted in July and August, found that 73 percent of troops would recommend a military career to others, down from 85 percent in

2009. And troops reported a significant decline in their desire to re-enlist, with 63 percent citing an intention to do so, compared with 72 percent a few years ago. ...In 2009, 87 percent of active-duty troops who participated in Military Times' survey rated their pay and allowances 'good' or 'excellent.' This year, the figure was just 44 percent. When asked how quality of life might change over the next several years, 70 percent of respondents predicted it would decline further." [68995, 69002]

Comedian Stephen Colbert hosts the Kennedy Center Honors. Colbert jokes that seeing Michelle Obama sitting next to her husband must mean she is not running for office. (Honorees are Al Green, Patricia McBride, Lily Tomlin, Sting, and Tom Hanks. The event is recorded for broadcast on December 30. Whether Colbert's joke will be aired is not known.) [69016]

On *Justice With Judge Jeanine*, Judge Jeanine Pirro slams Obama for "stok[ing] the flames of racial hatred, resentment and divisiveness. A man who instead of healing our nation, instead of overcoming any racial divide prefers to take sides, based not on facts but on color, to prejudice situations based not on sworn testimony and evidence but on conjecture and a one size fits all resentment, to peddle the narrative of a national problem between law enforcement and young people of color. Every young American who loses his life should be the concern of the man in the White House. But why is it that we only hear from him when death involves a person of color? But James Foley, an American who never committed a crime and was beheaded, is nothing more than a blip in [Obama's] golf game. Mr. [Obama], why do you send White House officials to [Michael] Brown's funeral but no one to James Foley's memorial service? ...Why not speak about young African Americans killed by other African Americans? Black-on-black crime? The kind of crime for which your home town of Chicago is so infamous? Instead, you see racism everywhere." [69067]

"...As anarchy reigned and protesters looted stores and burned buildings of hard-working Americans—many African-American—where were you? Or do you believe that those crimes are justification for a perceived injustice? Simple collateral damage—like Occupy Wall Street? That tax-paying Americans need to just suffer through and then pay for? But no, you fan the flames of resentment, trumpeting your own investigation that you could have completed by now, only prolonging the anger. Suggesting, yes, folks, this is yet another white injustice, and I'm going to reverse it with a federal civil rights investigation, when you know there isn't a smidgeon—your word—of evidence to support the claim. ...And you bring in the greatest charlatan of them all [Al Sharpton], a man who makes a living inciting racial hatred, a tax cheat and a liar, who claimed an African-American girl [Tawana Brawley] was raped by a white man—stirring the pot of racial hatred that resulted in a defamation judgment against him—to sit with you at the citadel of power in the White House to discuss how law enforcement should be more sensitive. ...Bill Clinton moved Americans from welfare to 'workfare.' You turn back the hands of time. With you [in the White House], things aren't so great for African-Americans. The poverty rate among African-Americans has gone up since you took office. Fewer African Americans own homes. The number of African-Americans on food stamps rose from 6 million to almost 11 million since you took office. Mr. [Obama], you

seem to forget, you weren't just elected by one group. You were elected by all of us: Republicans and Democrats, blacks and whites. Why don't you act like you're the [leader] of all of us?" [69067]

On December 8 Politico reports that Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) may choose not to run for reelection in 2016: "Few of her friends believe she will run for a fifth term. Boxer has stopped raising money and is not taking steps to assemble a campaign. With Republicans taking over the Senate, she is about to relinquish her chairmanship of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee." (Both the 74-year-old Boxer and 81-year-old Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) were elected to the Senate in 1992.) [69003, 69004]

The Duke of Cambridge (Prince William) meets with Obama at the White House to discuss endangered species. (William is second in line to succeed his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, after his father; Obama only wants to be king.) Whether Obama presented William with an iPod containing his speeches is not known. [69020, 69021]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that after a speech in Washington delivered earlier in the year, Ayaan Hirsi Ali recalled meeting Vice President Joe Biden. He informed her that 'ISIS had nothing to do with Islam.' When she disagreed with him, Biden actually responded: 'Let me tell you one or two things about Islam.' 'I politely left the conversation at that,' Hirsi Ali said, to laughter. 'I wasn't used to arguing with vice presidents.'" Jihad Watch's Robert Spencer writes, "Even though Ayaan Hirsi Ali was raised a Muslim in a Muslim country, and Joe Biden has almost certainly never opened a Qur'an, Biden believed he knew more about Islam than she did. Why? Because her opinion of the religion was negative, and the possibility that such a view could have any merit whatsoever is inconceivable in Washington circles. Those who hold it *must* be ignorant." Pamela Geller writes, "Biden is either clueless or complicit, but his asinine view reflects Western liberal thinking." [69179, 69280, 69181]

Jihad Watch reports, "An Al Qaeda terrorist on the FBI's most wanted list for years crossed back and forth into the United States from Mexico to meet fellow militant Islamists in Texas and piloted an aircraft into the Cielo Dorado airfield in Anthony, New Mexico, law enforcement sources tell Judicial Watch. The same Al Qaeda operative helped plan the 2009 bombing of talk-show superstar Oprah Winfrey's Chicago studios and the iconic Sears Tower (renamed Willis Tower), a story that Judicial Watch broke just last week. His name is Adnan G. El Shukrijumah (also known as 'Javier Robles') and over the weekend he was killed in Pakistan, according to military officials in the Islamic republic. ...Shukrijumah, 39, probably could have qualified for Obama's amnesty. He was born in Saudi Arabia and moved to the U.S. with his family as a youngster in the mid-1990s. As a teenager he lived in South Florida's Broward County and he attended the local community college where he took computer science and chemistry classes, according to the area's newspaper. His mother, Zurah Adbu Ahmed, still lives in South Florida, the paper reports." (Pamela Geller writes, "He crossed the border with impunity, even though he was on the FBI's most wanted list. Why wasn't he ever noticed or

arrested? Was Obama's FBI too busy conducting 'outreach' meetings at mosques to devote any time or attention to apprehending him?") [69182, 69183]

Newsbusters.org reports, "According to recently-retired ABC News journalist Ann Compton, Barack Obama launches into 'profanity-laced' tirades against the press in off-the-record meetings with reporters. In a C-SPAN interview, Compton also derided [Obama] for leading 'the most opaque' administration of 'any I have covered.' The journalist, who retired in August after a 40-year career, revealed to C-SPAN's Brian Lamb: 'I have seen in the last year Barack Obama really angry twice. Both were off-the-record times. One, profanity-laced where he thought the press was making too much of scandals that he did not think were scandals. She explained, 'And I don't find him apologetic. But I find him willing to stand up to the press and look them in the eye, even though it was off the record and just give us hell.'" (Compton does not explain why she waited until she retired to relate the truth about Obama.) [69029]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Since 2009, 112 solar energy companies in the United States and European Union have declared bankruptcy, closed their doors or been acquired by competitors under suboptimal conditions, according to a list put together by Greentech Media." [69031]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, "The head of the office of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei insists that US President Barack Obama is chasing after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, according to footage provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). 'When you see the [U.S. leader] knocking on every door just to meet our [Iranian] president for a few minutes, this is no trivial matter,' Mohammad Golpayegani stated in an IRINN (Iranian news channel) broadcast. 'Some people lurk in the UN corridor just to get the chance to shake (Obama's) hand, and he does not deign to even do that. Yet [Obama] sends mediators and goes to such efforts (in order to meet Iranian President Hassan Rouhani),' he continued. 'This demonstrates our strength.' The statement follows news that Obama had sent a secret letter to Khamenei in October without informing its regional partners (Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) in which he called for cooperation against Islamic State (ISIS) and a nuclear agreement." [69040, 69041]

TheBlaze.com reports, "New video of protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, reportedly shows the stepfather of Michael Brown [Louis Head] warning he was going to 'start a riot.' KMOX-AM reported it happened the night a local grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who shot and killed Brown. Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, is seen in the video standing on top of a car yelling to the crowd but at times, unable to talk from crying. Brown's stepfather can be heard in the background saying, 'If I get up there, I'm going to start a riot.' In the moments before and after that comment, he and protesters chant, 'Burn this b\*\*\*h down!'" [69064]

Kathleen McCartney, president of Smith College in Massachusetts, is criticized by leftist students and forced to apologize for sending an email about the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner with the subject line, "All Lives Matter"—because they felt she should

only have written, “Black Lives Matter.” (As an example, one student complained that McCartney’s message “minimizes the anti-blackness of this the current situation; yes, all lives matter, but not all lives are being targeted for police brutality.”) [69156, 69157, 69159]

On *America’s Newsroom*, Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume comments on the coming release of a Senate Democrat report on CIA interrogation techniques: “I think it’s explicable frankly. [Senator] Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] is driving this. The Republicans on the committee, they’re the minority of course now, are not for the release of this report and I think they dispute its findings, many of them do. It is a massive document as has been reported. Dianne Feinstein has long been considered one of Congress’s true grown-ups. And it is not as if she’s releasing a report to lay bare practices may still be ongoing, and therefore need to be exposed and changed. These practices were discontinued long ago, discontinued basically while President George W. Bush was still in office. So it has been a long time since we’ve been doing any of this, so the need to release this document with a lot of gory details at this stage of the game is hard to find. It is just inexplicable to me.” [69032, 69047]

K. T. McFarland, who served in national security posts in the Nixon, Ford, and Reagan administrations, writes, “In its ideological zeal to punish America, the outgoing Democratically-controlled Senate plans to make public a report that, according to Fox News, will examine ‘the alleged use of torture by the CIA.’ Although the 6,000 page full report will remain classified, the 500 page summary is expected to be released to the public in coming days. According to press reports from those who are familiar with the study, it is expected to portray the American intelligence community in the worst possible light. The report’s release and details about CIA interrogations that took place a decade ago will endanger Americans abroad today, destroy essential relationships with foreign intelligence communities going forward, and cripple American human intelligence gathering networks for a generation. Put bluntly, Democrats in the Senate are behaving like tenants who got evicted and decide to trash the house on their way out the door.” [69033, 69047]

“There is nothing to be gained by releasing the report. The CIA’s actions in the immediate aftermath of September 11 attacks have long since ceased. Although ...Obama has approved release of the report’s summary, even Secretary of State John Kerry has warned that the report’s release will put Americans and U.S. embassies at risk of retaliation. So why do this now? Perhaps Democrats in Congress think that by excoriating our intelligence community before the entire world they will expiate the sins of the previous administration. Yes, it’s another chance it’s to *blame Bush!* This is the apology tour on steroids. ...Public release of this report will do immeasurable harm. It will encourage terrorists around the world to launch revenge attacks. It will cause foreign intelligence agencies to clam up and no longer cooperate with US intelligence for fear that their sources and method will be blown. It will cause every American intelligence officer to go into the defensive crouch—don’t stick your head out to protect America because years later somebody in government who wants to score political points will chop it off. ...Releasing the report to the public will do considerable harm to our efforts



to gather essential intelligence about those hoping to do us harm. It will be a self-inflicted wound. The next time we are caught unprepared it won't just be with 747s flying into buildings it could be with weapons too terrible to contemplate." [69033]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, "The administration has for months been preparing for the release of this report. There are some indications that the release of this report could lead to a greater risk that is posed to U.S. facilities and individuals all around the world. So the administration has taken the prudent step to ensure that the proper security precautions are in place at U.S. facilities around the globe." (The administration has known for months that the release of the report will place Americans around the world at risk, yet has done nothing to prevent that release.) [69078, 69079]

FoxNews.com reports, "[A]n advisory has been sent urging U.S. personnel overseas to reassess security measures in anticipation of the release. The message directs all overseas posts, including those used by CIA personnel, to 'review their security posture' for a 'range of reactions that might occur.' A similar statement was being sent to military combatant commands to assess their readiness. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said... the combatant commands have been urged to 'take appropriate force protection measures within their areas of responsibility.'" [69079]

Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Jim Risch (R-ID) state, "We are concerned that this release could endanger the lives of Americans overseas, jeopardize U.S. relations with foreign partners, potentially incite violence, create political problems for our allies, and be used as a recruitment tool for our enemies. Simply put, this release is reckless and irresponsible." [69070]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments, "When you hear [Obama's] spokesman say that they know [the release of the Senate's CIA interrogation report] could endanger Americans, you ask yourself why would [Obama] insist on the release of this, knowing that it could harm, lead to the death of, Americans serving under him as commander in chief, and Americans held hostage, and Americans in position where they are vulnerable. What exactly does he gain here? Do we not know about this already? Does it have to be gone into detail and released now? His own Secretary of State is going around... trying to get this withheld because he knows the danger. And it isn't only the direct danger to Americans abroad or being held hostage. The second casualty will be timidity, as former CIA director [Michael] Hayden has said, it will impose in the CIA in the future. Will you ever take a risk in defense of the national security if you think you're going to be hung out to dry later? But most important, I think, is the fact—what intelligence service abroad is going to help us when they are going to be exposed and pilloried around the world? The administration always talks about smart diplomacy, you know, the other guys, Bush and others, used brute force, sort of thoughtless, the use of American power, but they're real smart, they use human intelligence—[but] we're going to lose all this. We're not going to have any allies in the world, and because we have so little human intelligence as a result of the drone program that kills the enemy and never captures them—nobody has gone to Guantanamo in the six years of the Obama

administration—we rely on the eyes and ears of others... who is going to help us after this? Nobody.” (The drone attacks not only kill enemy combatants, making it impossible to gain information from them, they also kill civilians. Some might wonder how killing civilians can be considered more acceptable than sleep-deprivation techniques used to obtain information from a captured terrorist.) [69069]

Obama appears on the comedy program *The Colbert Report*. Colbert asks, “You realize you’re an emperor now; it has been declared. You are Barackus Maximus I. Why did you burn the Constitution and become an emperor?” Obama responds, “You know, actually, Stephen, everything that we have done is scrupulously within the law, and has been done by previous Democratic and Republican presidents. We can’t deport 11 million folks who are here, the vast majority of whom are good people who are just trying to get ahead and trying to make sure their families can get ahead. So instead of devoting a whole lot of resources on separating families, grabbing some mom who’s working at a hotel or some dad who’s working in a kitchen somewhere, and separating them out, let’s focus on deporting felons.” [69068, 69082, 69127]

At the White House Christmas Party, Congressman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) warns Obama about the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. Bachmann later relates, “I asked [Obama] to be very serious and to think about this, because if Iran obtains a nuclear weapon on his watch, the course of history will change. ...He smiled and laughed and was fairly patronizing, and said, ‘Well, you know, it just isn’t that easy, Michele, but that’s OK,’ like I’m some little woman who doesn’t know what I’m talking about.” BizPacReview.com writes, “Actually, Bachmann, who served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, knows enough about the mad mullahs to know they they’ve been pretty clear about what they’ll do if they ever join the nuclear club. ‘They have stated unequivocally they will bomb the United States, they will bomb Israel,’ Bachmann said. ‘They will use this weapon if they have it.’ ...But Bachmann might be giving [Obama] a bad rap on the gender front if she thought he was being condescending and patronizing because she’s a woman. He’s like that with everybody.” [69228]

On December 9 *The Times of India* reports that ISIS fighters “have beheaded four Christian children in Iraq for refusing to convert to Islam... Canon Andrew White, who is known as the ‘vicar of Baghdad,’ told Orthodox Christian Network that the killings happened in a Christian enclave close to Baghdad which has been taken over by ISIS... He spoke of how ISIS has ‘hounded’ the Christians out of Iraq, and how ‘they killed in huge numbers, they chopped their children in half, they chopped their heads off, and they moved north and it was so terrible what happened.’” According to White, ISIS terrorists “said to one man, an adult, ‘Either you say the words of conversion to Islam or we kill all your children.’ He was desperate, [so] he said the words. And then he phoned me, and said, ‘Abouna [Father], I said the words, does that mean that Yeshua [Jesus] doesn’t love me anymore?’ I said, ‘Yeshua still loves you, he will always love you.’” ISIS later returned “and said to the children, ‘You say the words that you will follow Mohammed.’ The children, all under 15, four of them, said, ‘No, we love Yeshua, we have always loved we have always followed Yeshua, Yeshua has always been with us.’ They [ISIS fighters] said, ‘Say the words.’ They [the children] said, ‘No, we can’t.’ They chopped all

their heads off. How do you respond to that? You just cry.” (Obama has no comment.) [69035, 69036]

Pamela Geller reports that ISIS is distributing pamphlets that justify the taking of female slaves and describe the rules of ownership. (One of the rules: “It is permissible to beat the female slave... [but] it is forbidden to hit the face.”) Geller notes, “Just to be clear, this is all according to Islamic law (sharia).” (Obama and the National Organization for Women have no comment.) Amazingly, when the issue of the “slave rules pamphlet” comes up at a hearing, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) expresses total amazement—as if she cannot comprehend that there are such evil people in the world—and says, “If this is real, people need to understand this. ... Well, it’s disgusting. As a woman sitting here, and men who care about women, this is unreal.” (Boxer may have heard Obama and others repeat “religion of peace” so often that she believed it.) [69037, 69137, 69206]

NowTheEndBegins.com reports, “Another witness of the shooting of Michael Brown has been found dead in a dry channel near River Des Peres in Missouri, local authorities confirmed. The man has been identified as 23-year-old Shawn Gray, a black man who testified during the grand jury proceedings over the killing of Brown by former police officer Darren Wilson. According to relatives and friends, Gray was last seen leaving a restaurant on Thanksgiving Day. The manner and cause of his death are pending autopsy results. However, his family is demanding answers and say the death could have been premeditated murder. Another witness, DeAndre Joshua, also a young black man, was found shot dead and his car was torched outside the same neighborhood where Brown was killed. Two witnesses of the Brown shooting have now been found dead under suspicious circumstances, while local authorities have not announced any leads in either case, and the press has provided minimal coverage.” [69109, 69110, 69111]

According to a Bloomberg Politics Poll, 39 percent of Americans support Obama’s amnesty action; 56 percent oppose it; and 5 percent are unsure. Only 24 percent of Americans believe the country is “on the right track.” The Republican Party’s favorable/unfavorable ratings are 45/47; the Democrat ratings are 41/50. [69106]

MIT professor and ObamaCare consultant Jonathan Gruber and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) administrator Marilyn Tavenner testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. (It is worth noting that the Obama administration unsuccessfully attempted to avoid having Tavenner sit next to Gruber at the hearing.) Gruber states, “I did not write Governor Mitt Romney’s health care plan. I am not the architect of ObamaCare. ... In excerpts of these videos I am shown making a series of glib, thoughtless, and sometimes downright insulting comments. I tried to make myself seem smarter by demeaning others. ... I made a series of inexcusable comments. I apologize. ... I behaved badly [in calling Americans stupid, among other things], and I will have to live with that, but my own inexcusable arrogance is not a flaw in the Affordable Care Act. Let me be very clear, I do not think that the Affordable Care Act was passed in a non-transparent fashion. The issues I raised in my comments, such as redistribution of risk through insurance market reform and the structure of the Cadillac tax, were roundly debated throughout 2009 and early 2010 before the law was passed.

Reasonable people can disagree about the merits of these policies, but it is completely clear that these issues were debated thoroughly during the drafting and passage of the ACA.” (In other words, “I am only one of many people who deceived the public, so don’t pin all the blame on me.”) Gruber is correct that he was not “the” architect of ObamaCare, but he was certainly one of several key individuals who were instrumental in shaping the final structure of the legislation, and he drafted portions of the legislation. To no one’s surprise, Gruber is upbraided by Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC). [69042, 69043, 69044, 69050, 69051, 69058, 69088, 69115]

Committee chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA) asks Gruber, “When you made these repeated comments [about the stupidity of Americans] in an intellectual community with lots of other like-minded people, did anyone ever come up to you and tell you that what you were saying was inappropriate?” Gruber replies, “Not that I recall.” Issa: “I guess what you said was popular in that community.” [69095]

Asked how much money he received from the taxpayers for advising the government on ObamaCare, Gruber refers the committee to his lawyer. [69060, 69086]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) asks Gruber, “Will you provide copies of all the work products you provided to the federal government related to the Affordable Care Act, [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov), or any other health care reform proposals?” Gruber refers the committee to his lawyer. [69129]

Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC) addresses Gruber: “Dr. Gruber, you know, as everyone knows and American people know when [Obama] said, ‘If you like your plan you can keep it,’ it turns out it was the lie of the year. This was a very significant thing [to] my constituents in North Carolina and, according to the North Carolina Department of Insurance, 473,000 lost their health insurance because of ObamaCare. So, this is perplexing. You had a moment of clarity and honesty where you said it was a lack of transparency that helps pass Obamacare. And I concur. And I appreciate your honesty. I think it is horrific, though, that you participated in some level on obscuring the truth from the American people in order to pass this bill. Now, you apologized for that and I thank you for that. The American people hear you loud and clear. And as a matter of morality for you to apologize is really a tough thing to do publicly but I thank you for doing that. When I think about my constituents, though, did you think that there would be such a large number of folks that would lose their health insurance?” Gruber replies, “I don’t know the exact number in North Carolina, but—” McHenry: “Well, it is 473,000 according to the Department of Insurance and *Raleigh News and Observer*.” Gruber: “What I was focused was the net increase in newly insured we had under the law which has been quite substantial.” McHenry: “So it’s not relevant to your calculation that there would be people that would lose their health insurance?” Gruber: “That was part of the calculation.” McHenry: “It was. So there is churn, would you say?” Gruber: “There’s always been a churn.” McHenry: “Would you think it was such a large number that would lose their plans, though?” Gruber: “I don’t recall the exact numbers I modeled but we did model some individuals who would lose existing plans and move to new forms of coverage.” McHenry: “I think you anticipated—you’re obviously very well prepared. I

think you anticipated this question. Is it similar or dissimilar to the number that you calculated?” Gruber: “I don’t know of the national estimate of how many people have lost health insurance so I don’t know how to compare to what I projected.” McHenry: “Was there discussion at senior levels in the White House and HHS about this potential loss of people’s health insurance plans?” Gruber: “I don’t recall whether they were when I was there. I can’t speak [to what was discussed] when I wasn’t.” [69093]

Congressman John Mica (R-FL) asks Marilyn Tavenner, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, “[W]hen we started all of this, we had, I heard between 44 and 45 million people that were uninsured. That was just a general figure I heard. Is that what you would estimate?” She replies, “I don’t have that number.” Mica: “Well, okay you should have the number, particularly in your position. But we’ll just say 44. I’ll take the lower number. Now you came and you gave us some statistics, last May, 7.3 million signed up and then that was revised and you apologized today for the error... That’s 6.9 million people [now], approximately. There are somewhere between 4 million and 5 million people who had insurance before we had Obamacare that lost their insurance coverage. That’s the estimate I’ve heard. Would you agree with that?” Tavenner: “I don’t know that number.” Mica: “Okay. Well again I think you should because this is important. The whole thing is how many people are we covering? If we have 44 million, and you had 4 million or 5 million people that were insured, I’m one of the people. One reason you probably don’t have more admissions is my deductible is three times as much [as it used to be]. My premiums have gone up. The premiums I would say for most Americans listening or participating have gone up. ... We’ve seen an exception. I [know of a] family who’ve had pre-existing conditions, and actually I’ve seen what they’re doing. They are gaming the system. They get the [medical] service, and then they drop the care [ the insurance]. So, that’s also gone down as far as admissions...” [69094]

Mica asks Gruber how much money he has been paid for his ObamaCare consulting with the federal government and with several states, to which Gruber responds, “I, I don’t exactly know.” Mica: “You can’t recall. Well, again, I think it would be helpful if you could supply the committee the amount of money, and I’m told it’s over \$2.5 million. You’re just one of the vendors. Some of them had contracts for more than \$1 billion. But the whole thing gets back to [the number of] people that we have that are still uninsured. We have, according to the document I’ve got, 41 million people [who] still don’t have health care. ... We have over 40 million people without health insurance. This [ObamaCare program] isn’t a success in my estimation. I’d like to... divide the billions of dollars we’ve spent on this program because the consultants who took advantage of it, and enriched themselves, and we still have 40-some million people [uninsured].” [69094]

With a straight face (her only other face is angry), Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) says, “The passing of the ACC [sic; ACA, or Affordable Care Act] was an extremely transparent process.” [69059, 69063]

After the hearing, free-market policy analyst Phil Kerpen, president of American Commitment, Chairman of the Internet Freedom Coalition, and author of the book

*Democracy Denied*, greets Gruber and says, “Thank you for helping us destroy the shitty law you passed.” [69054]

Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich tweets. “Republicans totally blew it at this hearing. This guy [Gruber] is talking all about the emotional side of Obamacare and no one is telling the horrors.” “And the Democrats brought a guy regardless to talk all about joys of Obamacare, GOP failed to bring someone who has suffered.” “HEY REPUBLICANS: Why don't you have a witness on this panel to explain how their life was RUINED by Obamacare? COME ON!” “When asked to provide the number of people who would lose insurance due to Obamacare in his model, Gruber says ‘refer to my counsel.’” “Hearing over. Pro-tip for GOP: Next time Dems invite pajama boy to testify, counter w/ a millennial woman whose life has been ruined by Ocare.” (While it no doubt satisfies some to see Gruber raked over the coals for lying about ObamaCare, the Republicans foolishly allow the Democrats to deliver a “greater good” narrative. That is, “Gruber may be an egotistical jerk, but his heart was in the right place: ‘helping the uninsured.’”) In general, the Republicans on the committee fail to emphasize the millions of Americans whose lives and family budgets were made worse because of ObamaCare. However, Congresswoman Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) does a respectable job of tearing into Gruber. Lummis, whose husband died of a heart attack after being refused a test because of ObamaCare, tells Gruber, “Your glibness has real consequences for American patients. Get over your damn glibness.” (Although the hearing gave Congressmen the chance to criticize Gruber, it will have little impact because they are unlikely to repeal ObamaCare. The Democrats may ultimately benefit from the hearing, because ObamaCare will still exist and considerable anger will have been deflected from them to Gruber.) [69052, 69053, 69055, 69056, 69085, 69103, 69104]

Judicial Watch releases “internal Department of Justice (DOJ) documents revealing that former IRS official Lois Lerner had been in contact with DOJ officials about the possible criminal prosecution of tax-exempt entities two full years before what the IRS conceded was its ‘absolutely inappropriate’ 2012 targeting of the organizations. According to the newly obtained documents, Lerner met with top Obama DOJ Election Crimes Branch officials as early as October 2010. The new documents were obtained through a Judicial Watch Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed against the DOJ on July 21, 2014 (Judicial Watch v. Department of Justice (No. 14-cv-01239)), after the agency failed to respond to an April 21, 2014, FOIA request...” Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton states, “These new documents dramatically show how the Justice Department is up to its neck in the IRS scandal and can’t be trusted to investigate crimes associated with the IRS abuses that targeted Obama’s critics. And it is of particular concern that the DOJ’s Public Integrity Section, which would ordinarily investigate the IRS abuses, is now implicated in the IRS crimes. No wonder the Department of Justice under Eric Holder has done no serious investigation of the Obama IRS scandal. It is shameful how Establishment Washington has let slide by Obama’s abuse of the IRS and the Justice Department. Only as a result of Judicial Watch’s independent investigations did the American people learn about the IRS-DOJ prosecution discussions of Obama’s political enemies and how the IRS sent, in violation of law, confidential taxpayer information to

the FBI and DOJ in 2010. Richard Nixon was impeached for less.” [69048, 69049, 69081, 69215]

Defending his illegal immigrant amnesty action in an appearance in Nashville, Tennessee, Obama refers to the story of the birth of Jesus, noting that there was “no room at the inn” for Joseph and Mary. (That, of course, has absolutely nothing to do with illegal immigration. Joseph and Mary were not illegal immigrants. According to the Gospel of Luke, 2:1-7, they were complying with government census orders: “In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.” After the birth of Jesus in the stable, the family returned to Nazareth, where Jesus worked as a carpenter. Joseph was certainly not given a “federal work permit” to remain in Bethlehem, let alone given taxpayer-subsided housing, food stamps, welfare benefits, and Medicaid.) [69061, 69062, 69118]

The smug Obama also says, “The good book says don’t throw stones in glass houses... I think that’s true in politics as it is in life.” (Obama should be asked to show where in the Bible he found the throwing stones advice. The proverb dates back to perhaps the 14th century, but does not appear in the Bible. On the other hand, by “the good book” Obama may mean something other than the Bible, such as *The Communist Manifesto*, *Rules For Radicals*, the Qu’ran or *Dreams From My Father*.) DailyCaller.com’s Jim Treacher writes, “This is a new level of dishonest narcissism, even for Obama. But I suppose it’s no surprise. He makes up stuff that isn’t in the Constitution all the time. Why not make up stuff that isn’t in the Bible? It’s all the same. Those guys are dead, and he has a lot of power, so too bad. I used to think he said this kind of stuff to gaslight us, to make us question our very perceptions of reality. But that’s not it. He’s just a liar, and he’s not particularly good at it. The only people he ever manages to fool are leftists and the media.” [69061, 69062, 69118]

Obama tells the audience (which includes some illegal immigrants), “What we’re saying essentially is... You’re not going to be deported. What we’re also saying, though, is that for those who have American children or children who are legal permanent residents, that you can actually register and submit yourself to a criminal background check, pay any back taxes and commit to paying future taxes, and if you do that, you’ll actually get a piece of paper that gives you an assurance that you can work and live here without fear of deportation.” Taunting Republicans, Obama says, “It’s true that a future administration might try to reverse some of our policies, uh, but I’ll, I’ll be honest with you, I think that the American people basically have a good heart [sic; good hearts] and want, uh, to treat people fairly, and every surveys [sic; survey] shows that if, in fact, somebody has come out, subjected themselves to a background check, registered, paid their taxes, that the American people support allowing them to stay.” (The American people worry that the background checks will be ineffectual and sloppily conducted. How does one check the background of someone who has been “living in the shadows” for years and using false

identification? The American people worry that the illegal immigrants will end up not paying back taxes. How does the IRS calculate the taxes owed by someone who has worked illegally for cash or under several stolen or fraudulent Social Security numbers?) Obama continues, “So, I think any future administration that tried to punish people for doing the right thing, uh, uh, uh, I think would not have the support of the American people. ...Does that mean everybody’s gonna [sic; going to] listen to me? On the other side? Not necessarily. Uh, they’re pretty sure I’m an illegal immigrant, and, uh—that’s, that was a joke, uh, but, um, but, you know, there’re [there are] gonna [sic] be some who just disagree with you.” (Some with psychiatric training might argue that Obama’s illegal immigrant reference about himself suggests he is essentially admitting it, in the same way that William Ayers jokes that he was the ghostwriter of *Dreams From My Father*.) [69089, 69112, 69113]

According to a Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research poll, 80 percent of Palestinians support recent terrorist attacks by individuals who stabbed Israeli citizens or rammed their cars into crowds of pedestrians. [69100, 69101]

Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee release their report on CIA detention and interrogation practices after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) says the report is “based on some 6.3 million documents” and the CIA’s actions are “a stain on our values.” (Although the Senate staffers reviewed documents, they apparently did not want to hear the other side of the story because they chose to interview *no one* who was involved in the procedures. John Yoo, the former Department of Justice attorney who drafted the interrogation memoranda, tells Newsmax.com, “This committee, the Feinstein committee, chose not to interview anybody. They did not interview any of the government officials including myself. Didn’t even call, didn’t even ask me. I would’ve been happy to testify. This means that the report has to be bias and flawed. It’s as if in a court a judge had said, ‘Okay, the prosecution gets to make its case and we’re not going to call any witnesses and the defense never gets to show up.’”) Key Democrats were well aware of the CIA’s detention and interrogation programs; they were brief by the agency in 2002. They raised no objections at the time, yet are now outraged. Feinstein’s purpose in releasing the partisan and biased report is not obvious, but it is apparently with Obama’s sanction—regardless of what the White House may say. The interrogation procedures ended during the Bush administration; Feinstein cannot claim that the report is intended to stop them.) [69057, 69075, 69084, 69198, 69223, 69230, 69435]

Among the report’s conclusion are: “#1: The CIA’s use of its enhanced interrogation techniques was not an effective means of acquiring intelligence or gaining cooperation from detainees.” (The report states that “seven of the 39 CIA detainees known to have been subjected to the CIA’s enhanced interrogation techniques produced no intelligence while in CIA custody.” Apparently the report’s authors do not consider it important that intelligence information *was* obtained from 32 of the 39 detainees.) “#2: The CIA’s justification for the use of its enhanced intelligence techniques rested on inaccurate claims of their effectiveness.” “#3: The interrogations of CIA detainees were brutal and far worse than the CIA represented to policymakers and others.” (But key Senator and



House leaders were aware that the CIA was using the most controversial of the techniques, “waterboarding.”) “#4: The conditions of confinement for CIA detainees were harsher than the CIA had represented to policymakers and others.” “#5: The CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to the Department of Justice, impeding a proper legal analysis of the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program.” “#6: The CIA has actively avoided or impeded Congressional oversight of the program.” [69435]

Obama states that the CIA’s interrogation procedures under President George W. Bush “did significant damage to America’s standing in the world and made it harder to pursue our interests with allies and partners,” and “some of the actions that were taken were contrary to our values.” Obama shamelessly claims he “unequivocally banned torture” after he entered the White House—even though the Bush administration ended the practices before Obama took office. (In any event, Obama, Feinstein, and others critical of the detainment and interrogation program should be asked this question: “If you knew that waterboarding an al-Qaeda member on September 10, 2001 would have provided the government with information enabling it to stop the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, would you have stopped the CIA from doing so?” Some might argue that using “enhanced interrogation techniques” on a terrorist in order to save more than 3,000 lives is immoral; others might argue that it would be immoral not to do so. Obama, Feinstein and others should also be forced to meet with World War II veterans to listen to their first-hand accounts of the brutality of war, after which they may look at waterboarding as tame. Henry Mark Holzer writes, “Setting aside the Democrats’ ulterior political motive, their congenital anti-national-defense philosophy, and their strutting posture as saviors of humanity, their opposition to ‘torture’ is rationally and morally indefensible. Indeed, the conduct hypocritically condemned in the report—principally ‘waterboarding’—is considerably less affronting to the human body than Obama’s drone strikes that not only kill but leave some targets (and innocents) literal basket cases.”) [69097]

Laurence M. Vance later writes at LewRockwell.com, “Torture is torture. If waterboarding, rectal feeding, sleep deprivation, prolonged standing, and being shackled naked to the floor are not forms of torture, then nothing is torture. If forcing someone to stand naked for days on end and not go to sleep because you douse him with cold water is not torture, then no one in history has ever been tortured. Calling torture by the euphemisms ‘harsh interrogation tactics’ and ‘enhanced interrogation techniques’ doesn’t make torture not torture. If the wives and children of CIA director John Brennan or former CIA directors George Tenet, Porter Goss, and Michael Hayden were kidnapped and subjected to “harsh” or “enhanced” CIA tactics and techniques to gain inside information about the CIA, Brennan, Tenet, Goss, and Hayden would call it torture and want to kill with their bare hands the kidnapper. Torture is always immoral. Torture is always immoral, always despicable, always wrong. It doesn’t matter if a majority of Americans polled approve of ‘enhanced interrogation techniques.’ And it doesn’t matter if it results in important ‘information.’ The end does not justify the means. Effective or not, torture is still barbaric, still sadistic. Legal or not, torture is still un-American and anti-American. Torture is wrong simply because it is wrong...” [69702]

The Associated Press' Julie Pace reports, "American embassies, military units and other U.S. interests are preparing for possible security threats related to the release of a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities after the 9/11 terror attacks. ... Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said 'there is certainly the possibility that the release of this report could cause unrest' and therefore combatant commands have been directed to take protective measures. U.S. officials who have read the report say it includes disturbing new details about the CIA's use of such techniques as sleep deprivation, confinement in small spaces, humiliation and the simulated drowning process known as waterboarding. It alleges that the harsh interrogations failed to produce unique and life-saving intelligence—a conclusion [strongly] disputed by current and former intelligence officials, including CIA Director John Brennan." [69076]

Former Vice President Dick Cheney comments, "What I keep hearing out there is they portray this as a rogue operation and the agency [the CIA] was way out of bounds and then they lied about it. I think that's all a bunch of hoey. The program was authorized. The agency did not want to proceed without authorization, and it was also reviewed legally by the Justice Department before they undertook the program." Cheney says the report's conclusion that the CIA misled the White House "is just a crock." He believes the CIA operatives "deserve a lot of praise. As far as I'm concerned, they ought to be decorated, not criticized." [69077]

CIA Director John Brennan states, "Our review indicates that interrogations of detainees on whom [enhanced interrogation techniques] were used did produce intelligence that helped thwart attack plans, capture terrorists, and save lives. The intelligence gained from the program was critical to our understanding of al-Qa'ida and continues to inform our counterterrorism efforts to this day. ... While we made mistakes, the record does not support the [Senate] Study's inference that the Agency systematically and intentionally misled each of these audiences on the effectiveness of the program. As noted in the Minority views and in a number of additional views of Members, no interviews were conducted of any CIA officers involved in the program, which would have provided Members with valuable context and perspective surrounding these events. ... In carrying out that program, we did not always live up to the high standards that we set for ourselves and that the American people expect of us. As an Agency, we have learned from those mistakes, which is why my predecessors and I have implemented various remedial measures over the years to address institutional deficiencies." [69090]

At WJS.com, former CIA Directors George J. Tenet, Porter J. Goss, and General Michael V. Hayden, and former CIA Deputy Directors John E. McLaughlin, Vice Admiral Albert M. Calland, and Stephen R. Kappes write, "The Senate Intelligence Committee's report on Central Intelligence Agency detention and interrogation of terrorists, prepared only by the Democratic majority staff, is a missed opportunity to deliver a serious and balanced study of an important public policy question. The committee has given us instead a one-sided study marred by errors of fact and interpretation—essentially a poorly done and partisan attack on the agency that has done the most to protect America after the 9/11 attacks. Examining how the CIA handled these matters is an important subject of continuing relevance to a nation still at war. In no way would we claim that we did

everything perfectly, especially in the emergency and often-chaotic circumstances we confronted in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. As in all wars, there were undoubtedly things in our program that should not have happened. When we learned of them, we reported such instances to the CIA inspector general or the Justice Department and sought to take corrective action. The country and the CIA would have benefited from a more balanced study of these programs and a corresponding set of recommendations. The committee's report is not that study. It offers not a single recommendation. ...What is wrong with the committee's report? First, its claim that the CIA's interrogation program was ineffective in producing intelligence that helped us disrupt, capture, or kill terrorists is just not accurate. The program was invaluable in three critical ways: It led to the capture of senior al Qaeda operatives, thereby removing them from the battlefield. It led to the disruption of terrorist plots and prevented mass casualty attacks, saving American and Allied lives. It added enormously to what we knew about al Qaeda as an organization and therefore informed our approaches on how best to attack, thwart and degrade it." [69057]

"...The majority on the Senate Intelligence Committee... claims that the takedown of [Osama] bin Laden was not facilitated by information from the interrogation program. They are wrong. There is no doubt that information provided by the totality of detainees in CIA custody, those who were subjected to interrogation and those who were not, was essential to bringing bin Laden to justice. The CIA never would have focused on the individual who turned out to be bin Laden's personal courier without the detention and interrogation program. ...The second significant problem with the Senate Intelligence Committee's report is its claim that the CIA routinely went beyond the interrogation techniques as authorized by the Justice Department. That claim is wrong. ...Third, the report's argument that the CIA misled the Justice Department, the White House, Congress, and the American people is also flat-out wrong. Much of the report's reasoning for this claim rests on its argument that the interrogation program should not have been called effective, an argument that does not stand up to the facts. Fourth, the majority left out something critical to understanding the program: context. The detention and interrogation program was formulated in the aftermath of the murders of close to 3,000 people on 9/11. This was a time when: We had evidence that al Qaeda was planning a second wave of attacks on the U.S. We had certain knowledge that bin Laden had met with Pakistani nuclear scientists and wanted nuclear weapons. We had reports that nuclear weapons were being smuggled into New York City. We had hard evidence that al Qaeda was trying to manufacture anthrax. It felt like the classic 'ticking time bomb' scenario—every single day." [69057].

"In this atmosphere, time was of the essence and the CIA felt a deep responsibility to ensure that an attack like 9/11 would never happen again. We designed the detention and interrogation programs at a time when "relationship building" was not working with brutal killers who did not hesitate to behead innocents. These detainees had received highly effective counter-interrogation training while in al Qaeda training camps. And yet it was clear they possessed information that could disrupt plots and save American lives. The Senate committee's report says that the CIA at that point had little experience or expertise in capture, detention or interrogation of terrorists. We agree. But we were

charged by the president with doing these things in emergency circumstances—at a time when there was no respite from threat and no luxury of time to act. Our hope is that no one ever has to face such circumstances again. The Senate committee’s report ignores this context.” [69057]

“...The CIA briefed Congress approximately 30 times. Initially, at presidential direction the briefings were restricted to the so-called Gang of Eight of top congressional leaders—a limitation permitted under covert-action laws. The briefings were detailed and graphic and drew reactions that ranged from approval to no objection. The briefings held nothing back. Congress’s view in those days was very different from today. In a briefing to the Senate Intelligence Committee after the capture of KSM [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed] in 2003, committee members made clear that they wanted the CIA to be extremely aggressive in learning what KSM knew about additional plots. One senator leaned forward and forcefully asked: ‘Do you have all the authorities you need to do what you need to do?’ ...We can only conclude that the committee members or staff did not want to risk having to deal with data that did not fit their construct. Which is another reason why the study is so flawed. What went on in preparing the report is clear: The staff picked up the signal at the outset that this study was to have a certain outcome, especially with respect to the question of whether the interrogation program produced intelligence that helped stop terrorists. The staff members then ‘cherry picked’ their way through six million pages of documents, ignoring some data and highlighting others, to construct their argument against the program’s effectiveness. In the intelligence profession, that is called politicization.” [69057]

“As lamentable as the inaccuracies of the majority document are—and the impact they will have on the public’s understanding of the program—some consequences are alarming: Many CIA officers will be concerned that being involved in legally approved sensitive actions can open them to politically driven scrutiny and censure from a future administration. Foreign intelligence partners will have even less confidence that Washington, already hemorrhaging with leaks, will be able to protect their cooperation from public scrutiny. They will cooperate less with the United States. Terrorists, having acquired now the largest haven (in the Middle East and North Africa) and string of successes they have had in a decade, will have yet another valuable recruitment tool. All of this means more danger for the American people and for our allies. Anyone who has led a U.S. intelligence agency supports strong congressional oversight. It is essential as a check on leadership judgment in a profession that deals constantly with uncertainty, crises and the potential for surprise. We have all experienced and benefited from that in our careers, including at times when the judgment of overseers was critical. When oversight works well, it is balanced, constructively critical and discreet—and offers sound recommendations. The Senate Intelligence Committee’s report is disrespectful of that standard. It’s fair to ask whether the interrogation program was the right policy, but the committee never takes on this toughest of questions.” [69057]

“On that important issue it is important to know that the dilemma CIA officers struggled with in the aftermath of 9/11 was one that would cause discomfort for those enamored of today’s easy simplicities: Faced with post-9/11 circumstances, CIA officers knew that

many would later question their decisions—as we now see—but they also believed that they would be morally culpable for the deaths of fellow citizens if they failed to gain information that could stop the next attacks. Between 1998 and 2001, the al Qaeda leadership in South Asia attacked two U.S. embassies in East Africa, a U.S. warship in the port of Aden, Yemen, and the American homeland—the most deadly single foreign attack on the U.S. in the country’s history. The al Qaeda leadership has not managed another attack on the homeland in the 13 years since, despite a strong desire to do so. The CIA’s aggressive counterterrorism policies and programs are responsible for that success.” [69057]

WeeklyStandard.com posts a lengthy document written by “a longtime U.S. military and intelligence interrogator with extensive knowledge of the enhanced interrogation techniques used by the CIA on some high-value detainees.” The former “senior interrogator” gives his side of the terrorist interrogation story. [69138, 69139]

Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee issue their own report about the CIA’s terrorist detention and interrogation program. They state, “We have no doubt that the CIA’s detention program saved lives and played a vital role in weakening Al Qaeda while the program was in operation. ... The rendition, detention, and interrogation program they created, of which enhanced interrogation was only a small part, enabled a stream of collection and intelligence validation that was unprecedented. The most important capability this program provided had nothing to do with enhanced interrogation—it was the ability to hold and question terrorists, who, if released, would certainly return to the fight, but whose guilt would be difficult to establish in a criminal proceeding without compromising sensitive sources and methods.” [69092]

Republican leadership in the House of Representatives assembles a 1,603-page, \$1.2 trillion spending bill (reported also as \$1.1 trillion and \$1.01 trillion) that would fund the government through September 2015 and the Department of Homeland Security through February 27. (In other words, the GOP caves in, will not reduce total federal spending, and will allow Obama to pursue his illegal immigrant amnesty program for at least two months. The claim is that the House and Senate will then stop Obama’s amnesty, but the Republicans will not have the 67 votes needed to override any Obama veto.)  
Congressmen Matt Salmon (R-AZ), Mike Mulvaney (R-SC), and Eric Cantor (R-VA) draft an amendment prohibiting use of federal funds to implement Obama’s amnesty policies—an amendment that GOP leadership is not likely to even bring up for a vote, even though they seem eager to include a substantial amount of “pork” and policy riders in the spending bill. Meanwhile, a growing number of House Democrats plan on voting against the bill. (At least one budget is cut in the legislation: The IRS is given \$1.5 billion less than Obama requested.) [69087, 69108, 69126, 69134, 69135, 69402]

The Los Angeles Unified School District gives all students a letter to take home to their parents that states, “We stand by all of our DREAMers and our families that can benefit from ... Obama’s Executive Action on Immigration.” According to DailyCaller.com, the letter tells parents “they can trust the city’s schools to provide reliable information about Obama’s executive order without having to fear that their illegal status will be disclosed

to anybody. The district also promised to help parents and students access any educational records they may need in order to apply for a legal reprieve from deportation. By doing so, it says it will be able to prevent deportations, thereby increasing stability for families and preventing ‘fear or sadness’ for students who have family members in danger of deportation.” [69155]

Predictably, some in the mainstream media attempt to turn the Senate Democrat report on CIA actions into a “blame America” and “blame Bush vehicle.” On NBC, Brian Williams asks former CIA director Michael Hayden, “How are we better than our enemies morally in light of what we all read about today?” and “What if you, God forbid, members of your family, had to undergo some of the treatments we are reading about in this report? Can you personalize it in that way?” (Williams should be asked what he might expect the CIA to do if members of his family were been kidnapped by ISIS and the CIA captured a terrorist who knew where they were being held.) On CBS, Scott Pelley asks former acting CIA Director Mike Morell, “[D]id the CIA mislead the White House and the Congress?” and “Are you ashamed?” [69119, 69120]

NBC’s chief foreign correspondent, Richard Engel, says on MSNBC’s *NewsNation*, “I think this [Senate Democrat report] is really about changing the narrative of American history. This process went on, it was a brutal process. It was legal at the time, whether it should have been legal or not, I think, is highly debatable. It was legal at the time. The CIA was asked to do it. The CIA was passing on its intelligence to the President [George W. Bush]. So everyone in the world knew what was going on, including by the way, the Senate, which is now pretending to be a bit of a babe in the woods. They knew what was going on at the time and in many cases were quite happy with the intelligence they were getting. I think this is about rewriting the narrative of history. When we look back, how are we going to remember the period? Are we going to remember a period in which the rogue evil CIA was beating people, in some cases to death, and the politicians didn’t know about it? Or are we going to look back and say the politicians were plenty aware of this, the CIA beat people to death, and then [the] Senate tried to come out and say, ‘Well, you know, we didn’t know anything about it,’ and trying to wash their hands of the situation? And to be honest, I think it’s a little bit of the latter. ...But I think this is really more about settling scores between this Intelligence Committee and the CIA. Notice it’s just really the CIA that’s being taken to task here. ...I mean, [abuse of detainees at] Abu Ghraib [prison in Iraq] was carried out by the military, those were MPs. So the military did things. Also, why aren’t any of the politicians? If you’re going go for a full accountability, why not go for the President? He was getting this intelligence every day. What about Condi [Rice]? What about—where do you stop? Why just the CIA? So I think there’s some, there’s [sic; there are] some political scores being settled here between the committee, [Senator Dianne] Feinstein’s committee, and the Agency.” [69125, 69128]

A combative Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) tells CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, “Look, there is no perfect time to release this report. This began 12 years ago. We have worked for five-and-a-half years to document records as to what happened. ...Is it possible that something would happen [because of the release of the report]? Yes. But it’s possible that something

happens even without this. There have been beheadings. There have been attacks without this report coming out. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't clean our house. It doesn't mean that an Intelligence Committee that has worked for five-and-a-half years to put together a cogent report that we believe will stand the test of time shouldn't release it. The world is an unstable place. You know as well as I do, ISIL is pure evil. They may seize upon it, they may not. But they are going to continue to behead. They are going to continue to destroy. They are going to continue to kill innocent people until they are stopped. And I deeply believe that." Blitzer asks, "But if Americans are killed as a result of this report and they tell you that, I assume you would feel guilty about that." Feinstein: "I would feel very badly, of course. I mean what do you think, Wolf Blitzer? But we lose control. At the end of this year, the Republicans take control [of the Senate]. And there's some evidence that this report would never see the light of day. We believe it should see the light of day..." [69132]

On MSNBC, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) says the CIA should "absolutely" apologize to the terrorists for its interrogation methods. (The clueless Speier is essentially calling for the CIA operatives to place targets on their backs—unless she expects them to apologize using pseudonyms.) [69165, 69166, 69203]

For the *first time*, the *NBC Nightly News* reports on Jonathan Gruber. The Media Research Center reports, "Williams began the 2-minute-and-12-second segment by remarking that 'it is unlikely that most Americans have heard the name Jonathan Gruber until a few weeks ago, when a video emerged of him insulting their intelligence.' His statement can be viewed as rather ironic, considering the fact that the viewers of his own program were kept in the dark on the ObamaCare architect, depriving them knowledge of the story until now." (Earlier in the day, Fox News broadcast almost 55 minutes of Gruber's Congressional testimony. CNN and MSNBC aired nothing from the live proceedings.) [69121, 69122]

Former CIA official Jose Rodriguez appears on *Hannity*. Sean Hannity says, "Did I just hear [Senator] Dianne Feinstein [D-CA] acknowledge this report may cause more violence, that we can't prevent that? Well, that would tell me if they didn't release the report, it could prevent more violence, could it not?" Rodriguez replies, "Yes. I mean, I think it's a very dark day for the CIA. I think the CIA's been thrown under the bus. And you know, the CIA is the country's paramount intelligence service, and it has a very important mission, and the mission is to protect American interests, to protect the homeland, to safeguard American lives, and it needs to be held accountable when it screws up. You know, there's a lot of moving parts and a lot of risk taken when we do very complex counterterrorism covert action. In this case, I believe that, you know, we've been thrown under the bus, and the politicians are playing political football with the CIA. ... There are about 40 instances where we briefed the Senate and the House intelligence committees over the life of the program from 2002 to 2009. And we briefed Dianne Feinstein and [Congresswoman] Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] and [Senator Jay] Rockefeller [D-WV] and many others all the time. And we at the outset, at the beginning, back in 2001, I remember very clearly them telling me, you know, the problem that you guys have is that you are risk adverse [sic; risk-averse]. You need to use the authorities that we have given

you to go out there and destroy this organization and to kill [Osama] bin Laden. So we feel that we briefed them and briefed them thoroughly, and they are, you know, hypocritical. ... We waterboarded three people during the life of the program. That's it. Three persons. I don't know where they get the other numbers." [69096, 69173, 69230]

Hannity notes that U.S. drones strikes in Pakistan have killed between "400 and 950 civilians including 168 to 200 children. Can you explain to me how the drone program under Obama is not far more morally problematic than enhanced interrogation? What do you make of Dianne Feinstein's silence on that issue in comparison?" Rodriguez responds, "Yeah, it's very interesting because, you know, this administration actually does not take any prisoners. They prefer to kill them from afar using drones. And somehow they feel that because they kill from a distance somehow it's more ethical, more ethical than the difficult and messy and unpleasant task and mission of actually interrogating prisoners..." [69096, 69173]

In an interview with Black Entertainment Television, Obama says of the riots in Ferguson, Missouri and other demonstrations across the country, "What we've now seen, on television, for everybody to see, gives us an opportunity, I think, ta, ta [sic; to] finally have the kind of conversation that's been a long time coming. ... I think, as long as they're peaceful, I think they're necessary. Uh, when they turn violent, then they're counterproductive. But, uh... and that's why I had 'em [sic; them] in the Oval Office, some of these [non-violent] folks who've been organizing these protests, because the old adage, 'power concedes nothing without a fight,' I think that's true but what's also true is that a country's conscience sometimes has to be triggered by some inconvenience, because I think a lot of people who saw the Eric Garner video are troubled, even if they haven't had that same experience themselves. Even if they're not African-American or Latino. I think there are a lotta [sic; lot of] good, well-meaning people, I think there're probably a lot of police officers who mighta [sic; might have] looked at that and said, 'That is a tragedy, what happened, and we've gotta [sic; got to] figure out wh— how ta [sic], uh, bring it in ta, ta [sic] these kinds of tragedies [sic].' Then, attention spans move on, right? There's the next thing. Uh, there's some international crisis, or there's something that happens here, and change doesn't really occur. And the value of peaceful protests, uh, activism, organizing, it reminds the society this is not yet done..." (HotAir.com later writes, "One flawed but obvious question that must have occurred to some voters watching [Obama] admit that the protests are 'necessary' was why they're still necessary six years into [an administration] that promised to transform America, particularly in matters of race.") [69130, 69131]

On December 10 a United Nations official (probably to the surprise of no one) calls for those involved in the CIA's detention and enhanced interrogation program to be prosecuted. CNSNews.com reports, "In a statement issued in Geneva, Ben Emmerson, the U.N.'s 'special rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights,' called the conduct covered by the [U.S. Senate Intelligence] committee report a 'criminal conspiracy.' 'The individuals responsible for the criminal conspiracy revealed in today's report must be brought to justice, and must face criminal penalties commensurate with the gravity of their crimes,' he said. 'The fact that the policies revealed in this report were authorized at



a high level within the U.S. government provides no excuse whatsoever. Indeed, it reinforces the need for criminal accountability,' Emmerson said. Under international law, he said, those who engaged in acts of torture, as well as senior U.S. government officials 'who devised, planned and authorized these crimes,' could not be granted immunity. Emmerson, a British international human rights lawyer, said CIA officials who carried out excesses could not hide behind the defense that they were following orders, but should be prosecuted. 'However, the heaviest penalties should be reserved for those most seriously implicated in the planning and purported authorization of these crimes,' he added. 'Former Bush administration officials who have admitted their involvement in the program should also face criminal prosecution for their acts.'" (Some might argue that Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, and other key Democrats wanted the report released *precisely* so that the United Nations could initiate proceedings against George W. Bush, former Vice President Dick Cheney, and other key Bush administration officials. By allowing the United Nations to push international prosecutions the Democrats can "wash their hands" of the issue, while keeping "evil Republicans" in the news even into the 2016 campaign season.) [69117, 69148]

At USA Today.com former Senator Bob Kerrey (D-NE) writes, "I do not need to read the [Senate Democrat report on CIA activities] report to know that the Democratic staff alone wrote it. The Republicans checked out early when they determined that their counterparts started out with the premise that the CIA was guilty and then worked to prove it. When Congress created the intelligence committees in the 1970s, the purpose was for people's representatives to stand above the fray and render balanced judgments about this most sensitive aspect of national security. This committee departed from that high road and slipped into the same partisan mode that marks most of what happens on Capitol Hill these days. ... It is important for all of us to remember how unprepared we were for the attacks of September 11, 2001 and how unprepared we were to do the things necessary to keep the country from being attacked again. There was no operating manual to guide the choices and decisions made by the men and women in charge of protecting us. I will continue to read the report to learn of the mistakes we apparently made. I do not need to read the report in full to know this: We have not been attacked since and for that I am very grateful. ... The worse consequence of a partisan report can be seen in this disturbing fact: It contains no recommendations. This is perhaps the most significant missed opportunity, because no one would claim the program was perfect or without its problems. But equally, no one with real experience would claim it was the completely ineffective and superfluous effort this report alleges." [69136]

Obama and his wife help sort Christmas gifts at a Toys-For-Tots event sponsored by the U.S. Marines. CBS's Mark Knoller tweets, "Obama anguishes over which gender and age group best for each of the toys he's sorting" because he "wants to put toy tool kit in box for girls but is told it should go in the box for boys." [69106, 69107]

UTSanDiego.com reports that the Americans for Prosperity Foundation has "filed a federal First Amendment lawsuit this week accusing California Attorney General Kamala Harris of engaging in the kind of activity that was the subject of the recent scandal involving the Internal Revenue Service." The conservative organization "is saying the

state of California is improperly demanding information about its donors—and is threatening unusually harsh penalties if the group doesn't comply. One other conservative group has filed a separate lawsuit against the attorney general, which is now in the Ninth Circuit. ...Like some other states, California requires these groups to register with the attorney general every year. In its lawsuit, the AFP Foundation says it has been filing its 990 with the state every year since 2001. But recently Harris' office rejected the report as incomplete because it doesn't include the donor lists. This appears to be a new policy.” (The IRS collects such donor information but is legally required to keep it private. Since Obama entered the White House, however, the IRS has illegally leaked the information from time to time—for political purposes. To expect that a state would keep the information secure is absurd—especially with an attorney general like the leftist Harris, who has been called “the darling of the Obama activist base of the party.” As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Harris is the sister-in-law of Tony West—who Obama appointed as Assistant Attorney General, in charge of the Department of Justice's Civil Division. West, a major fundraiser for Obama in California, was a member of the “GITMO 9”—a group of attorneys who represented terrorists held at the detainee center at Guantanamo. West also represented John Walker Lindh, the “American Taliban” captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and helped him avoid a death sentence. West was the lead attorney in the Obama administration's lawsuit against Arizona's legislation against illegal immigrants.) [28420, 28424, 28425, 28426, 28481, 28482, 28483, 28484, 69221, 69222]

The Associated Press reports, “Primary care doctors caring for low-income patients will face steep fee cuts next year as a temporary program in ...Obama's health care law expires. That could squeeze access just when millions of new patients are gaining Medicaid coverage. A study Wednesday from the nonpartisan Urban Institute estimated fee reductions will average about 40 percent nationwide. But they could reach 50 percent or more for primary care doctors in California, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois—big states that have all expanded Medicaid under the health law. Meager pay for doctors has been a persistent problem for Medicaid, the safety-net health insurance program. Low-income people unable to find a family doctor instead flock to hospital emergency rooms, where treatment is more expensive and not usually focused on prevention. To improve access for the poor, the health law increased Medicaid fees for frontline primary care doctors for two years, 2013 and 2014, with Washington paying the full cost. The goal was to bring rates up to what Medicare pays for similar services. ...Doctors probably won't dump their current Medicaid patients, but they'll take a hard look at accepting new ones, said Dr. Robert Wergin, a practitioner in rural Milford, Neb., and president of the American Academy of Family Physicians. ‘You are going to be paid less, so you are going to have to look at your practice and find ways to eke it out,’ Wergin said.” [69193]

Louisiana resident Richard David Hayes files a criminal complaint against Obama claiming “crimes of fraud, usurpation, abuse of office and treason against the united States...” [69142]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton knew the Obama White House's Benghazi talking points BEFORE the White House even sent them

around to administration officials. Hillary Clinton used the administration's exact talking point blaming the attack on a YouTube video before Obama's White House speechwriter Ben Rhodes drafted it to prepare Susan Rice for Sunday morning talk shows days later." On September 13 Clinton said, "I also want to take a moment to address the video circulating on the Internet that has led to these protests in a number of countries. Let me state very clearly—and I hope it is obvious—that the United States Government had absolutely nothing to do with this video. We absolutely reject its content and message... To us, to me personally, this video is disgusting and reprehensible. It appears to have a deeply cynical purpose: to denigrate a great religion and to provoke rage. But as I said yesterday, there is no justification, none at all, for responding to this video with violence." On September 14 Rhodes said, "We've made our views on the video crystal clear. The United States Government had nothing to do with it. We reject its message and its content. We find it disgusting and reprehensible. But there is no justification at all for responding to this movie with violence." (It is not a coincidence that Clinton and Rhodes used the identical language "disgusting and reprehensible" and "there is no justification... at all for responding to this video with violence." Clearly, "the fix was in" to blame the attack on a YouTube video.) [69153]

At a hearing of the House Select Committee on Benghazi, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Gregory Starr is questioned about why U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens was even in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, rather than in Tripoli. Starr reluctantly refers Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) to Anne Patterson, the current Assistant Secretary of the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau who was then the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt. WBDaily.com observes, "The admission by Starr that the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt at the time of the Benghazi attacks—who has been despised by Egyptians who demanded the removal of Mohammed Mursi [Morsi] in 2013—is more than just slightly significant. Evidence of Egyptian involvement in Benghazi, coupled with Patterson's alleged collaboration with that Muslim Brotherhood government could have serious implications. Hopefully, this admission by Starr will prompt the committee to call Patterson to testify. If that happens, the questions had better be sharper than they were in either the first or second hearing." (This *Timeline* believes that Patterson may have been the person through which Obama and close advisor Valerie Jarrett communicated with Morsi. Jarrett concocted a kidnapping scheme in which Stevens would be captured and exchanged for the "blind sheikh," Omar Abdel Rahman. Morsi had promised Brotherhood members he would obtain the release of Rahman. The trade would make Obama look like a hero for "saving Steven's life" right before the November 2012 election. Morsi, or perhaps the CIA, made sure that an anti-Mohammed video was produced and posted on YouTube.com as an excuse for the demonstrations in Cairo and Benghazi. But the kidnapers—who were heard yelling in Arabic, "Don't Shoot us! We were sent by Morsi!"—erred and inadvertently killed Stevens and three other Americans, thereby ruining the plan. If this theory is correct, everyone involved, including Obama, Jarrett, and Patterson—and perhaps Hillary Clinton—should be tried for treason.) [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305, 69170]

WND.com reports, "A judge has sided with Maricopa County [Arizona] Sheriff Joe Arpaio in the first clash in what is expected to be a major court fight over the legality of

...Obama's executive immigration actions, ordering a fast track for case arguments and hearings. Two Justice Department lawyers representing Obama in the case had asked for the deadline for their initial response to be delayed until late January. But U.S. District Judge Beryl A. Howell in Washington, D.C., granted a motion by Arpaio's attorney, Larry Klayman of FreedomWatch, to move things along quickly. Howell ordered Obama to respond to Arpaio's motion for a preliminary injunction—to protect the U.S. while the court considers the constitutionality of Obama's actions—by Dec. 15. A full preliminary injunction hearing is set for Dec. 22. We are very pleased that Judge Howell has ordered an expedited hearing on our motion for preliminary injunction which asks to preserve the status quo and stop the implementation of ...Obama's executive order. The executive order violates the Constitution, as it seeks to circumvent the powers which the Framers delegated to Congress.” [69144]

At ThePostEmail.com J. B. Williams provides some historical information about the term “natural born citizen” and how it came to be added to the U.S. Constitution. (Although supporters of Obama—as well as supporters of Marco Rubio, Bobby Jindal, Ted Cruz, Rick Santorum, and Nikki Haley—refuse to accept the historical meaning of the term, it means born on U.S. soil to two U.S.-citizen parents.) [69150]

Newly-released documents show that former IRS official Lois Lerner was communicating with the Department of Justice (DOJ) as early as October 2010 about attempts to go after conservative non-profit organizations. The IRS sent the DOJ a database of more than one million pages of documents related to the 501(c)(4) groups that, according to Forbes.com, “contained confidential taxpayer information.” Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton states, “No wonder the Department of Justice under Eric Holder has done no serious investigation of the Obama IRS scandal. These new documents dramatically show how the Justice Department is up to its neck in the IRS scandal and can't be trusted to investigate crimes associated with the IRS abuses that targeted Obama's critics. Richard Nixon was impeached for less.” [69177, 69178, 69204]

Addressing the Ninth Margaret Thatcher Freedom Lecture at the Heritage Foundation, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, “We're gathered here today to talk about one of the greatest resources that America's traditionally enjoyed, which is the power of friendships across the globe. One of the sad legacies we've seen over the last six years is the fraying of friendships and alliances across the world. Today, the consequences of the Obama/Clinton foreign policy is that our friends no longer trust us and our enemies no longer fear us. That is profoundly dangerous for America and is profoundly dangerous for the world. ...My advice is: Pick your allies wisely. Support and reassure them. And then insist that they fulfill their promises and commit their resources. Then as now, we should heed the words of Lady Thatcher. We should embrace peace through strength. We should stand by our friends. And we should defend the values of the United States of America.” [69145]

Former Vice President Dick Cheney tells Fox News' Bret Baier the 6,000-page Feinstein report is a “load of crap” and says it is “a flat-out lie” to claim that no valuable intelligence was gained from the enhanced interrogation techniques the CIA used on

captured terrorists. “I think it’s a terrible piece of work, basically,” Cheney says. “It seems to me it’s deeply flawed; they didn’t bother to interview key people involved in the program. And I think that it’s sort of a classic example which you see too often in Washington, where a group of politicians get together and sort of throw the professionals under the bus. We have seen it before, I can remember, in Iran-Contra. What happened here was we asked the Agency [the CIA] to go and take steps and put in place programs that are designed to catch the bastards that killed 3,000 of us on 9/11, and that’s exactly what they did, and they deserve a lot of credit, not the kind of condemnation they’re receiving from Senate Democrats. ...The men and women of the CIA did exactly what we wanted them to do. Three thousand Americans died on 9/11 because of what these guys did. How nice do you want to be to the murderers of 3,000 Americans?” [69149, 69154, 69223]

Sarah Palin writes, “Grant me this use of America’s voice: When you cut through all the ‘inside baseball’ stuff in this Omnibus Spending Bill that’s in front of Congress, you’re left with two cold hard facts: this bill doesn’t defund Obama’s amnesty (so he gets to reward lawbreakers with your tax dollars) and it adds to our dangerous, unsustainable debt. It also breaks campaign promises made by quite a few of our incumbent politicians on both sides of the aisle. Hey, if you thought we wanted more of the same as we worked our butts off to get good folks elected in November, then why did we vote to oust liberals who got America into this mess in the first place? Guess what, GOP: our victory party is over and voters are wide awake and trusting you to keep your promises to America. Get a handle on your debt. Stop Obama’s amnesty to illegal aliens. Support our military. Bottom line: we elected you to stop Obama’s ‘fundamental transformation of America.’ Do it—especially you Republicans who promised to do it. Or face America’s wrath next go ’round because an elephant never forgets.” [69162, 69163]

On December 11 Judge Andrew Napolitano writes at LewRockwell.com, “When the head of the CIA’s torture unit decided to destroy videotapes of his team’s horrific work, he unwittingly set in motion a series of events that led to the release this week of the most massive, detailed documentation of unlawful behavior by high-ranking government officials and intentional infliction of pain on noncombatants by the United States government since the Civil War era. ...The CIA charter permits Congress to regulate the CIA in secret. Congress has established two secret congressional committees, one from the Senate and one from the House, to serve as monitors and regulators of CIA activities. The stated reason for the secrecy is to keep our enemies from knowing what the CIA is doing. The effect of the secrecy has been a muzzled Congress, lied to by law-breaking and rogue CIA officials. Until now. When the Senate Intelligence Committee staff learned of the destroyed videotapes (a federal crime the Justice Department declined to prosecute) and reported that destruction to Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), the committee chair, she ordered an investigation to determine whether the CIA officials who had briefed her committee had told the truth. If they had been truthful, she reasoned, why destroy the tapes?” (It is worth noting that the CIA destroyed the tapes because it feared the Senate Intelligence Committee would use them to make public the names of CIA operatives, putting their lives at risk. The CIA did not trust the Senate Democrats to properly redact the information they were gathering. It is also worth noting that although

three terrorists were waterboarded by the CIA, none were forced to choose between being burned alive or jumping from the 80th floor of a World Trade Center tower.) [69143, 69147]

“In order to conduct that investigation, Feinstein ordered the CIA to make available to her committee’s investigators whatever documents and digital data the investigators sought. During the course of the investigation, Senate investigators suspected their computers had been hacked. When they brought those suspicions to Feinstein, she ordered another investigation, this one aimed at identifying the hackers. That investigation revealed that the CIA itself was spying on its own Senate investigators. When she approached CIA Director John Brennan about this, he denied it. When she went to the floor of the Senate—where her vow of secrecy may lawfully be disregarded—to reveal that the CIA had spied on her and her fellow Senators and their investigators, the CIA denied it. When she released incontrovertible evidence of CIA domestic spying, Brennan admitted that his agents had spied on their regulators (another federal crime the feds declined to prosecute), but claimed it was needed because the regulators had exceeded their authority in examining CIA documents. ...If the allegations in the report are true, we have war criminals, perjurers, computer hackers and thugs on the government payroll. We also have dupes. The most politically successful argument the torture lobby has made is that we are all safer because of these dirty deeds. This Senate [Democrat] report refutes that argument by demonstrating that no serious actionable intelligence came from the torture. ...What should we make of this report on government torture? In a free society in which the government works for us, we have a right to know what it is doing in our names, and we have a reasonable expectation that the laws the government enforces against us it will enforce against itself. But don’t hold your breath waiting for that to happen.” [69143]

Fox News’ Ed Henry asks White House press secretary Josh Earnest, “I want to ask a little bit about why there haven’t been prosecutions [of CIA interrogators] as well. The ACLU is saying that putting out this [Feinstein] report and talking about it is not enough. They’re saying there should be prosecutions for people who approved these brutal tactics. Isn’t it cowardly for the administration to basically say the law was broken, there was torture, and yet, we’re just simply not going to prosecute anyone. If you really believe the law was broken, why isn’t [Obama] making sure that the law is followed from here on out on torture by prosecuting people.” Earnest responds, “The determination about whether or not the law has been broken is made by a career prosecutor. Federal prosecutors have looked into this. They reviewed all the evidence, including all of the evidence that was considered by the committee that wrote this report. What those federal prosecutors have said is that they did not find sufficient evidence to indict anyone. That is their decision.” Henry: “Chris Anders of the ACLU is saying if the Justice Department looked at this Senate [Democrat] report, he says there is [sic; are] 500 pages of crime after crime. [Obama] is basically, by banning this on his second day in office as he’s said over and over again, that he believes this is against the law. And there’s now over 500 pages in the public domain saying there’s [sic; there was] crime after crime. So how can the Justice Department look at that if you really believe that the law was broken here?”

How can they not—” Earnest: “If you have questions about the Justice Department investigation, you should consult with them. [Obama] was not making a legal...” [69174]

Henry: “Was it common sense though? [Obama] was saying, ‘This is outside the law, I had to ban it.’ And now we have 500 pages saying the law was broken.” Earnest: “Let’s be real clear about what [Obama] was saying. [He] was saying that these tactics were entirely inconsistent with our values as Americans, and that they undermine our moral authority, which is one of the most powerful tools in our arsenal to protect the American people. [Obama] was definitive about that. That’s why he outlawed these tactics on his second full day in office. [The practices had already been ended by President Bush.] The questions about legality are questions that should be answered by federal career prosecutors outside of any political influence or interference. This is their decision to make. They reviewed all the evidence. But for the conclusions that they reached, and why they reached those conclusions, you should check with them. I do think they’d be willing to talk about that.” Henry: “[Obama] himself weighs in on immigration, for example. He says again and again, ‘America is a nation of laws.’ If the law is broken, why is he not making sure that people pay a price for that?” Earnest: “Because the way that our law, the way that our system of criminal justice works is that we have federal career politician prosecutors, who are insulated from political pressure who can go back and look into these matters and dig into them, and they looked at the same evidence that was reviewed by the committee that wrote this report, and you can talk to them about their conclusions and why they reached them. [Obama] reached his own conclusion though about whether or not these tactics were consistent with American values. He decided that they were not, and that’s why on his second full day in office, he unequivocally banned them from use, and has been, ever since, working to rebuild our moral authority across the globe. To rebuild the kind of relationships that took a hit as a result of these tactics, and I think because of those efforts, because of our commitment to living up to those values, we’ve made the country safer.” [69174]

Although Obama is still determined to close the detainee center at Guantanamo, even if it means releasing all the remaining terrorists imprisoned there, a Fox News poll shows that by a 59-29 percent margin Americans want any captured ISIS fighters to be sent there. Additionally, 81 percent expect ISIS to attempt an attack on the United States in the near future. Also according to the poll, a record-high 58 percent of Americans want ObamaCare repealed. [69141, 69146]

According to a BBC World Service study, radical Islamist attacks resulted in 5,042 deaths in the month of November. [69184, 69185, 69191]

FoxNews.com reports, “Dominic Di-Natale, a globetrotting journalist whose work at Fox News Channel and other news organizations took him to Usama [Osama] bin Laden’s compound, demonstrations in Egypt’s Tahrir Square and, more recently, to the scene of racially charged riots in Ferguson, Mo., has died. The coroner in Jefferson County, Colo., where Di-Natale owned property, said the veteran journalist took his own life. Officials discovered Di-Natale’s body Wednesday after being alerted by a friend who knew of his state of mind regarding serious undisclosed health issues.” (At TheDailySheeple.com

Lily Dane later writes, “Call me a conspiracy theorist, but when I heard about Di-Natale’s death, the first thing that popped into my mind was this: *Who killed him?* It isn’t that far-fetched to suspect foul play when a journalist who covered controversial stories suddenly dies. I can think of two notable examples immediately. One is Andrew Breitbart, who, at age 43 (the same age as Di-Natale), collapsed and died on the street in front of his house on March 1, 2012—just hours before he was set to release damning video footage that [he claimed] could have destroyed Barack Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign. And then there’s the disturbing case of Michael Hastings, a journalist who died in a mysterious car crash on June 18, 2013. Hastings was preparing to publish a major investigative piece tied to the undercover agent who is suspected of sanitizing President Obama’s passport records prior to the 2008 presidential election. He also was investigating abuses by the CIA and NSA. ...Maybe Di-Natale had a serious illness. Maybe he had just been diagnosed with a life-threatening condition. Maybe he really did take his own life. Or, maybe he knew too much.”) [75976, 75977, 75978]

In the first two months of fiscal year 2015 (October and November of 2014), the federal government collected a record \$404 billion in taxes—and still ran a deficit of \$178 billion. CNSNews.com notes, “[T]he Treasury spent \$1.44 for each \$1.00 in tax receipts. Given that there are 115,831,000 households in the United States, according to the Census Bureau, the Treasury spent \$5,030 per household in the first two months of fiscal 2015. The \$178,531,000,000 deficit the Treasury ran in those two months equaled \$1,541 per household.” Meanwhile, for 37 months in a row there have been more than 46 million Americans receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits. [69167, 69168]

The Federal Communications Commission approves an additional \$1.5 billion in spending for Internet access and other technologies in schools—to be paid for with a service charge on telephone bills. [69190]

WND.com reports, “The federal government is preparing for another ‘surge’ in refugees and this time they won’t be coming illegally from Central America. The U.S. State Department announced this week that the first major contingent of Syrian refugees, 9,000 of them, have been hand-selected by the United Nations for resettlement into communities across the United States. ...WND reported in September that Syrians would make up the next big wave of Muslim refugees coming to the U.S., as resettlement agencies were lobbying for the U.S. to accept at least 75,000 Syrian refugees over the next five years. Until now, the U.S. had accepted only 300 of the more than 3.2 million refugees created by the Syrian civil war in which ISIS, El Nusra and other Sunni Muslim jihadist rebels are locked in a protracted battle with the Shiite regime of Bashar al-Assad. But the U.S. government has been the most active of all nations in accepting Islamic refugees from other war-torn countries, such as Iraq, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Now, the Syrians will be added to the mix. They are cleared for refugee status by the U.N. high commissioner on refugees (UNHCR), who assigns them to various countries. Once granted refugee status by the U.N. they are screened by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for any ties to terrorist organizations. The State Department announcement makes it clear that the 9,000 refugees represent just the beginning of an extended program to accept more Syrians. ...The State Department



announcement was careful to explain that the U.S. will take in only those Syrians who are ‘persecuted by their government.’ Christians in Syria are being killed by ISIS and other Muslim rebels, not by ‘their government,’ but the Sunni Muslims are being killed by the Shiite-led government.” (In other words, the government will be allowing thousands of Syrian Muslims into the United States, not Christians.) “...The United States has accepted nearly 2 million refugees from Muslim countries since 1992... The authority for the resettlement program is the Refugee Act of 1980, signed into law by President Jimmy Carter.” [69694]

DailyCaller.com reports, “In a massive leak where executives’ salaries, unfinished scripts, and contracts were made public, emails exchanged between Sony Pictures Entertainment executives were also leaked. In a series of newly-leaked emails, Hollywood film producer Scott Rudin and Sony Pictures Chair Amy Pascal traded insults about Barack Obama, jokingly predicting which movies starring black people were his favorite. Obama was set to attend a breakfast held at Jeffrey Katzenberg’s home, Dreamworks Animation CEO, and the day before Rudin and Pascal joked about potential conversation topics at ‘at this stupid Jeffrey breakfast,’ Variety reports. Rudin told Pascal to ask if Obama would like ‘to finance some movies.’ ‘I doubt it. Should I ask him if he liked DJANGO?’ Pascal asked Rudin, referring to Quentin Tarantino’s slave flick, ‘Django Unchained.’” They then note other black films as possible Obama favorites. (CBS and NBC choose not to report the story—which would have been all over their news reports if Rudin and Pascal were not Hollywood leftists.) [69176, 69200, 69201, 69227, 69360, 69436, 69452, 69834, 69836, 69841]

Pascal later apologizes—not to Obama but to race hustler Al Sharpton. Sharpton then refuses the apology, whines that there is a “lack of diversity” in Hollywood, and demands that Sony take actions to “respect the African American community and reflect that respect in their hiring and business practices.” Pascal meets with Sharpton for 90 minutes and agrees to “having a working group deal with the racial bias and lack of diversity in Hollywood.” (Al Sharpton is essentially a “shakedown artist” and extortionist. He demands corporate donations to his National Action Network in exchange for his not criticizing them and claiming they engage in racist practices. Even if the businesses have done nothing wrong, paying off Sharpton is cheaper than trying to fight him.) [69176, 69200, 69201, 69227, 69360, 69436, 69452, 69834, 69836, 69841]

DailyCaller.com also reports that the Federal Housing and Finance Administration has ordered Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac “to begin diverting some of their profits to low-income housing funds” despite the fact that the two agencies “have yet to repay a \$188 billion taxpayer bailout.” Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), chairman of the Financial Services Committee, states, “Director [Mel] Watt’s decision to activate the Fannie and Freddie slush fund may be an early Christmas present for Acorn-like, liberal housing activists, but it’s a lump of coal in the stocking of every American taxpayer.” Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Jack Reed (D-NH) approve of the action, stating, “It will allow more renters to find the homes they need at prices they can afford and will help with economic development initiatives in low income or rural areas.” Warren adds, “Making sure people have access to housing

must be a top priority, and these important funds will provide hundreds of millions of dollars each year to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for families in need.” (The government is once again encouraging the approval of high-risk, subprime mortgages—which contributed to the economic collapse of 2008.) [69187, 69255]

Establishment Republican leaders in the House of Representatives join forces with Obama in an attempt to gain approval of a \$1.1 trillion spending bill that is opposed by conservative Republicans. According to FoxNews.com, “...Obama and Vice President Biden were calling House Democrats appealing for their support. White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough also arrived on the Hill late Thursday to meet with the Democratic caucus. Meanwhile, House GOP leaders were trying to sway conservative members who, for different reasons, were opposed to the package. Unclear is whether the push can produce a bipartisan majority to approve the package. Earlier in the day, the bill narrowly cleared an important procedural hurdle, on a 214-212 test vote. But the tight vote, which almost failed, exposed serious problems—all Democrats voted against it, while 16 Republicans defected. GOP leaders then delayed a final vote, signaling they did not yet have enough support lined up to pass the legislation. A spending bill of some kind is needed to avert a government shutdown after the midnight deadline. A senior House GOP source told Fox News it is ‘very close.’ Many conservatives continue to oppose the bill because it does not attack Obama’s immigration executive actions, while liberal Democrats are angry over provisions dealing with campaign spending and financial regulation. If House Speaker John Boehner [R-OH] loses more than 17 Republicans, he needs to turn to Democrats and it’s unclear whether any would support the bill. ... White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said earlier that Obama supports the bill and would sign it—despite having reservations about certain provisions. But House Democrats were flexing their muscle, pushing back not only against GOP leaders but Obama’s lobbying effort. In a rare public rebuke of [Obama], Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] said she was ‘enormously disappointed’ he had decided to embrace the bill, which she described as an attempt at legislative blackmail by House Republicans.” (Pelosi helped craft the bill—and then feigns anger over its passage.) [69152, 69160, 69192]

Senator Elizabeth “Wampum” Warren (D-MA), angry that the House government funding bill rolls back some of the provisions of the Dodd-Frank financial legislation, says on the Senate floor, “And now, no debate and no discussion, Republicans in the House of Representatives are threatening to shut down the government if they don’t get a chance to repeal it. That raises a simple question. Why? If this rule brings more stability to our financial system. If this rule helps prevent future government bailouts. Why in the world would anyone want to repeal it? Let alone hold the entire government hostage to ram through this appeal.” (The House bill, of course, funds the government so that it will not be shut down. Warren is either stunningly ignorant or, more likely, shamelessly using a false “shut down the government” charge to score political points with the portion of the electorate Jonathan Gruber has labeled stupid.) [69158, 69160, 69161, 69164, 69172, 69229]

Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA) comments, “I have to assume [Warren is] running for president,” and that she knows her “constituents have no clue...” The mainstream media,

of course, portrays Warren as a champion of the people for protesting the legislation, rather than a government shutdown instigator. At Townhall.com Kevin Glass writes, “Instead of ‘Why Democrats Want to Shut Down the Government,’ we get ‘Warren tells House Dems not to support omnibus.’ Instead of ‘Elizabeth Warren and the shutdown caucus,’ we get ‘Spending bill teeters amid Democratic discontent.’ Instead of ‘Elizabeth Warren Is Protesting the Shutdown She Asked For’ we have ‘Elizabeth Warren Joins Revolt Against Wall Street Deal In Government Shutdown Talks.’ Last year, [Senator] Ted Cruz’s [R-TX] push against the government spending deal was all about how Ted Cruz wants a shutdown. But when Elizabeth Warren threatens to torpedo a spending deal that will result in a shutdown, it’s all about her courage in standing up to Wall Street and her populist movement against fat cats.” On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer calls Warren’s shutdown threat “Spectacular hypocrisy, a festival of hypocrisy. And of course the media loves it when its a liberal Democrat who leads the fight, ‘she’s a principled politician,’ whereas when it’s Ted Cruz, ‘he’s a terrorist,’ essentially. ... This works for her... Her star is rising. And this week will be remembered as the beginning of her [2016 presidential] campaign” (NBC’s Kelly O’Donnell, in fact, calls Warren “the liberal wing’s newest star.”) [69158, 69160, 69161, 69164, 69172, 69229, 69257, 69329]

According to Daily Caller.com, “The Capitol Hill switchboard has been overwhelmed by calls to Congress. The 202 224-3121 number is jammed, likely by people protesting House Speaker John Boehner’s 2015 government funding bill, which allows funding for ... Obama’s unpopular decision to stop enforcing immigration law, and to award work-permits to at least 5 million illegal immigrants. Boehner’s effort to fund the \$1.1 trillion bill and amnesty is being backed by ... Obama, whose deputies are pushing Democrats to support Boehner’s bill.” [69175]

By a vote of 219-206 the \$1.1 trillion spending bill passes in the House of Representatives. A majority of Democrats vote against the legislation, but 57 vote in favor of the bill to get it passed; 67 Republicans vote no; 10 Congressmen do not vote. (The Drudge Report’s Matt Drudge tweets, “Obama got EVERYTHING. NSA dirt on Boehner must be incredible. Chicago wins.”) [69169, 69171, 69186, 69189, 69196, 69197, 69199, 69211, 69212, 69283]

The conservative group Heritage Action states, “The Washington Establishment is desperately hoping voters and lawmakers will forget about today’s ugliness, but the deception and shenanigans are different this time. This legislation funds ... Obama’s unilateral, unlawful actions, which include granting quasi-legal status, work permits and Social Security numbers to those who are in the country illegally.” [69186]

The leftist group Common Cause states, “With this vote, a majority of the people’s representatives in the House have agreed to an unprecedented sell-out of the public interest. We are dismayed at reports that a majority of senators and the White House are prepared to support it; we implore them to reconsider.” [69186]

Conservative radio talk show host Laura Ingraham blasts the establishment Republicans, saying they acted “to please Barack Obama and infuriate the base of the party. ... We have Republicans turning their backs on the very people that [sic; who] built this majority. ... We will not forget the betrayal. And there will come a time where you will come calling on us. You will need us to help you. When that day comes, don’t be surprised if many of those rock-ribbed conservatives across the country... will not answer the call to help you because you’ve beaten them down so badly. You’ve betrayed them so terribly. You’re not going to betray them a third time.” [69217]

Veteran conservative activist Richard Viguerie comments, “I don’t know any other way to say it than that they [Republican legislators] lied to the American voters. The first impression they made was to betray the voters, betray their landslide victory and surrender. They just absolutely surrendered to [the] exceedingly unpopular [Obama]; so, shame on them. ... [In 2016] I think you’re going to see the highest percent of Republican members of Congress challenged in primaries that we’ve ever seen in the history of America. ... It’s clear that the Republican leaders ... want amnesty to go away. They want to give amnesty to 11 million illegal aliens and get that off of their desk. ... When Republicans and Democrats talk about compromise in Washington, that’s code for, ‘We’re [Republicans are also] gonna grow the government, maybe not as much as the Democrats want. ... The American people are going to understand very clearly in the coming days what’s happened here, and I think this is going to make it exceedingly difficult for the Republican leaders to continue their outrageous betrayal of the American people.” [69220]

On *Hannity*, host Sean Hannity slams House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), saying, “John ‘Gruber’ Boehner, two days after the election, [was] talking tough on the issue of amnesty. But unfortunately, that is all it was, because, it’s conservatives who feel like they have been burned, as the speaker aligned himself with [Obama], with [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid [D-NV], [Congressman] Steny Hoyer [D-MD], and [Vice President] Joe Biden to pass a spending bill just a short time ago... John Boehner ‘Grubered conservatives tonight and by that, I mean the conservative base in particular. And [Congresswoman] Michele Bachmann [R-MN] hit the nail on the head; he never would have done this before the election. He has no inspiring vision and, to me, he’s everything that’s wrong with Washington. He’s a Democratic Party Lite. He doesn’t have those bold color differences that Reagan talked about. And in my view, he shouldn’t be the speaker. He should be replaced.” (In some circles Boehner is referred to as “Obama’s bitch.”) [69188, 69194]

On December 12 Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, tweets, “Last night I subpoenaed [Jonathan] Gruber for all docs [documents] and comms [communications] with federal/state/local gov employees related to aspects of his work on ObamaCare.” (It is unclear exactly when Gruber’s hard drive will crash.) [69195]

By a vote of 89-11 the Senate passes the defense spending bill. [69202]

In an interview with Breitbart.com, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin says the just-passed spending bill “stinks to high heaven. Did arrogant politicians not get the memo that Obama’s agenda was decisively defeated in last month’s historic midterm landslide? Good Lord, America said loud and clear not just ‘no’ but ‘hell no’ to Obama’s failed policies. Americans who pay attention said absolutely no to Obama’s amnesty for illegal aliens. We also said no to the mother-of-all unfunded mandates, ObamaCare, and voters believed promises that they would ratchet down the \$18 trillion debt. Well, our bad for apathetically trusting politicians. No, on second thought, it’s not ‘our bad.’ Some of us warned and worked hard to elect candidates who would buck the status quo. Many conscientious Americans did all they could to open the eyes of low-information voters. It was tough going up against Obama’s lapdogs in the media and the power liberals have to play their politics of personal destruction against commonsense conservatives. But really how out-of-touch do these politicians have to be to misunderstand our recent mandate to stop Barack Obama’s fundamental transformation of the greatest nation on earth? ...The Republican Leadership in the House just flipped American voters the bird by sidelining the new Congress we just elected. I want the names of all 162 yahoos [House Republicans who voted for passage of the legislation] who would squander the opportunity to respect the will of the people and get America on the right track. Please print their names so we can ask them, ‘What the heck are you thinking?!’ And thank you to the 67 House Republicans who did vote no. Let’s remind everyone of their names also.” [69205]

“...This is an example of the GOP establishment campaigning one way and then governing another. It’s quite nauseating. They promised they would do everything in their power to stop Obama’s executive amnesty—I heard their darn campaign speeches promising to do so!—and yet when they have the power to do so (power that we the voters just gave them) they tacitly endorse Obama’s failed agenda. They’re shining that boot that liberals have on the neck of our economy. They’re carrying Barack Obama’s water even more so than Nancy Pelosi if you can believe it. ...Constitutional conservatives who understand government’s balance of power and the grave danger in Obama’s lawlessness, and those of us who want smart and principled leadership, should be perplexed and disappointed if stale leadership [e.g., House Speaker John Boehner] is re-elected, considering that the midterm election was all about ‘the status quo has got to go.’ It’s time for new energy and steel-spined commitment to stop Obama’s bizarre behavior against this country! Surely there are more of us than not who know that our Founders’ memory, our vets, and our children deserve better than what we’re underneath today. Keep the faith that there are more of us than there are of them who think broken campaign promises and a broken government are just dandy.” [69205]

A group of about 300 former Obama staffers post a letter to Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) urging her to run for president in 2016. They write, “We believed in an unlikely candidate who no one thought had a chance. We worked for him—and against all odds, we won in Iowa. We organized like no campaign had organized before—and won the Democratic primary. We built a movement—and the country elected the first-ever African American... We know that the improbable is far from impossible. Now, former staffers from ...Obama’s campaigns, along with former staffers from OFA [Organizing

For Action], are joining with the thousands of Americans who are calling on Elizabeth Warren to run for president in 2016. Rising income inequality is the challenge of our times, and we want someone who will stand up for working families and take on the Wall Street banks and special interests that took down our economy.” [69207, 69208, 69241, 69296]

Meanwhile, D. W. Ulsterman writes, “Whispers of a Warren 2016 movement are growing louder with each passing day, and Warren’s very public stance this week against the budget agreement has some far-left deep pockets considering her a more likely choice than Hillary in 2016—a consideration well known to the Clinton camp that apparently has Hillary herself increasingly troubled, feeling both betrayed and angry. ‘They’re making her out to be some kind of saint, the Saint of 2016! It’s ridiculous!’ So went the alleged outburst last night by the former Secretary of State, Senator, and First Lady as she received numerous messages from supporters working Congress and reporting back to her of Warren’s own moves to use the budget fight to further her own standing within the party. It was a fight that had the Mainstream Media making Warren’s fight to be a great act of noble politics.” [69216]

“A long-time Capitol Hill source said this regarding the seeming impasse between the Clinton Machine and the emerging Warren 2016 recruiting effort: ‘Senator Warren is being courted by a number of powerful donors to make a run at 2016 and she seems to be giving it serious consideration. Over the last year her staff seem to be seeing themselves as the ‘real’ Democrats of the party and Hillary as more of a has-been who can’t win. Warren knows that if she wants to run 2016 might be her best chance. She’ll be in her late 60’s by then. People are saying there could be a big economic ‘plummet’ right before the 2016 vote. This would be similar timing to what happened in 2008. Warren staff are crowing that their anti Wall St. cred[entia]ls would make them appealing to a lot of voters if that were to happen because Americans now look to government to save them when faced with an economic crisis. I would call both her and Clinton to be very weak candidates, but I felt the same way about a certain half term senator in 2007 and learned then that the media can pretty much manipulate the process and convince voters what is real and what isn’t. That also means Republicans need a very strong candidate who can cut through that crap with a clear and consistent message of smaller government, personal freedom, liberty etc. That’s a whole other topic though for another time.’” [69216, 69296]

According to TheTradingReport.com, the \$1.1 trillion spending bill “includes some new provisions that may come as a shock to millions of American pension holders. In a bipartisan deal that also included leaders of unions and retirement fund management companies, pension recipients who depend on the money promised to them during their working years may see significant cuts to their monthly disbursements.” According to MSN.com, “The deal is aimed at helping [some multiemployer pension] plans such as the Teamster’ Central States Fund.” (The provisions “help” the underfunded retirement plans by allowing them to slash retiree benefits in an effort to keep the plans solvent.) “In 1980, the Central States fund had four active participants for every retiree. Now, there are nearly five retirees or inactive members for every worker, because many unionized firms

have gone out of business in the decades since deregulation, Thomas C. Nyhan, executive director of Central States, told Congress earlier this year. The fund has about \$18 billion in assets and pays out annual benefits of \$2.8 billion to retirees. But it receives just \$700 million each year from employers. Even given the string stock market returns of recent years, that puts the plan on course to run out of money within the next 10 to 15 years, Nyhan has said.” [69209, 69210, 69214]

WND.com reports that the Intelligence Reauthorization Bill of 2015, which was approved by Congress and is awaiting Obama’s signature, includes “congressional authority for the acquisition, retention and dissemination of Americans’ private communications.” Congressman Justin Amash (R-MI) calls it “one of the most egregious sections of law I’ve encountered during my time as a representative ... [It] grants the executive branch virtually unlimited access to the communications of every American.” In a court document Freedom Watch’s Larry Klayman states, “The NSA’s unbridled and unconstitutional surveillance of Americans has been expanded rather than contracted, and the court should respectfully take judicial notice of this fact in issuing its opinion. It is thus even more important now that this court address the conduct of the defendants. It is clear that if left unchecked the government defendants will continue and even expand upon their unconstitutional surveillance programs.” (While shameless politicians publicly condemn the NSA for spying on Americans, they are giving it the power to continue that spying without a court order.) [69219]

In a Friday night record dump, the Department of Justice releases declassified intelligence documents related to Bush administration actions after the September 11 terrorist attacks. [69242]

On December 13 the Senate approves the \$1.1 trillion spending resolution by a vote of 56-40. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) forces a vote on the constitutionality of Obama’s illegal immigrant amnesty; it fails 22-74—meaning there are only 22 Senate Republicans willing to go on record in support of the U.S. Constitution and against Obama’s illegal action. (The Republicans once again shoot themselves in the foot. They approve funding of the government through September 2015, while funding the Department of Homeland Security only through February. There is no possible way the new Congress will be able to claw back any of that funding, as Obama will simply veto any bills that call for reducing spending—and the Republicans will not have the 67 votes needed to reverse a veto. Obama will hold the upper hand with his immigration policies as well, as the House and Senate dare not threaten a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. Obama and the mainstream media will pummel the GOP over such a showdown, claiming that Republicans are willing to risk the safety of all Americans solely because they want to deport little children from Mexico. The Republicans have thrown away any leverage they had by rolling over, and they may as well stay home until it is time to pass the 2015-2016 budget. Obama will most certainly enjoy his Christmas vacation in Hawaii.) [69224, 69225, 69226, 69232, 69236, 69238, 69251, 69253, 69356]

ISIS releases a video showing the beheading of a Syrian soldier in Deir Al-Zour. According to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), “A masked ISIS

fighter threatens that all Syrian soldiers captured by ISIS will face a similar fate. The man also threatens ...Obama with beheading. The video also shows several kids playing with the severed head while threatening Syrian soldiers with death.” [69567, 69568]

On December 14 former Vice President Dick Cheney appears on *Meet the Press* and objects when Chuck Todd asks, “You say, uh, waterboarding is not torture, then why did we prosecute Japanese soldiers [at the end of World War II]?” Cheney responds that they were prosecuted “for a lot of stuff, not for waterboarding; they did an awful lot of other stuff. To draw some kind of moral equivalence between waterboarding, judged by our Justice Department not to be torture, and what the Japanese did with the Bataan Death March, the slaughter of thousands of Americans, with the “rape of Nanking,” and all of the other crimes they committed—that’s an outrage. It’s a really cheap shot, Chuck, to even try to draw a parallel between the Japanese who were prosecuted for war crimes after World War II and what we did with waterboarding—three individuals, all of whom were guilty and participated in the 9/11 attacks.” (This *Timeline* refers readers—and the execrable Chuck Todd—to *Surviving the Sword: Prisoners of the Japanese in the Far East, 1942-1945*, by Brian MacArthur.) [69233, 69234, 69235, 69239]

Cheney notes, “The notion that we were not identified at the White House about what was going on [with the CIA detention and interrogation programs] is not true. I sat through a lengthy session in ’04 with the inspector general of the CIA as he reviewed the state of the program at that time. The suggestion, for example, that the president [George W. Bush] did not know is wrong, it’s a lie and it is not true. ...He was briefed—I was heavily involved as was, especially, the national security council and Condoleezza Rice [Condoleezza Rice]. The president writes about it in his own book.” Todd interjects, “Well, three pages in his book he talks about it. You were briefed directly, he was briefed indirectly most of the time. Is that fair to say?” Cheney responds, “That’s not fair to say. What happened was he and I met every single morning with the director of the CIA, with the national security adviser. Six days a week, we reviewed everything, basically, in the intelligence arena. That’s where we got most of our information, that and the written PDB (President’s Daily Brief). This man [Bush] knew what we were doing. He authorized it. He approved it. The statement by the Senate Democrats, for partisan purposes, that the president didn’t know what was going on is just a flat-out lie. It’s a cheap shot, piece of political business [the Senate Democrat report] that was not bipartisan, nor was it involved [with] any discussion with the people involved with the program. Why would you even give that credence?” [69239]

Cheney disputes the claim that the CIA’s interrogation of terrorists resulted in no useful information, telling Todd, “The techniques that we did indeed use, the president authorized, that produced results, that gave us information we needed to be able to safeguard the nation against further attacks, the people tracked down those guilty for 9/11 did in fact work. If you will look at it, and look at what the people running the agency said, and what [CIA official] Jose Rodriguez said, who ran the program, is a good man, that, as I said the other day, I won’t use the word on the show... but it is a crock. The whole report has not been released. Go read what the directors of the agencies said about the report. They were extremely critical of it, as were the Republicans who were on the



committee. It's a flawed report. It didn't begin to approach what's required by way of responsible oversight." Todd: "Does it plant any seed of doubt in your mind?" Cheney: "No. Absolutely not." Todd: "No seed of doubt in your mind whether it worked or not?" Cheney: "No, it did work. it absolutely did work." [69240]

On *State of the Union*, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) emphasized disunity among Republicans while downplaying differences within the Democrat party. He calls Senator Elizabeth Warren's (D-MA) criticism of the \$1.1 trillion spending bill "constructive" and "not like [Senator] Ted Cruz [R-TX]." (Threatening to shut down the government is irresponsible when done by a Republicanism, but "constructive when done by a Democrat.) [69237]

In New York City, thousands of demonstrators march to protest the police killings of black youths. Some chant, "Kill the police!" "We want dead cops!" "How do you spell racist: NYPD" "What do we want? DEAD COPS!" and "Kill the pigs!" Examiner.com reports, "According to former CBS TV news correspondent, now serving as NYPD deputy commissioner for public affairs, John Miller, told reporters that two [police] lieutenants were 'knocked to the ground... and kicked by various people... [they were] kicked in the face and in the head.' Other incidents of cops being beaten or violently swarmed by protesters were ignored by the news media, who preferred the dramatics of Al Sharpton and local Sharpton-wannabes, said a number of police officials." Protesters also break windows of a police car. (Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have no comment.) [69260, 69261, 69532]

Attorney General Eric "my people" Holder tells the *Chicago Tribune* he admires NBA players like Derrick Rose and LeBron James for wearing "I Can't Breathe" t-shirts: "Whether they want to be or not, they are role models, they are seen as people who young men especially want to be like. For them to get out there and to express in that way a social conscience, I think goes back to maybe people that these guys don't even know or my son has a vague awareness of, to Jackie Robinson, who is seen as not only a great athlete, but as an involved, thinking, caring black man. And to have LeBron, Derrick Rose and others who wore those 'I Can't Breathe' shirts, that shows a level of involvement. It shows a depth to them beyond just being great ballplayers. And it's all about our democracy, and who we are as a country that our celebrities, our athletic celebrities, can use their status to express I think what I call a social and political point. I think that's a good thing." (Holder is promoting the mistaken belief that the cause of Eric Garner's death, a New York City man resisting arrest, was a police move used to bring him to the ground. In fact, the morbidly obese man died in the ambulance. Holder does not suggest what the police should do to control a 350-pound man who is resisting arrest.) [69408, 69409]

On December 15 a hostage situation concludes in Sydney, Australia. A Muslim gunman held more than a dozen people hostage in a cafe. Two hostages and the gunman are killed. The Iranian-born terrorist, Man Haron Monis (also known as Sheikh Haron) had previously been charged with 40 sexual offenses during his first six years in Australia and had been charged with being an accessory to the murder of his ex-wife Noleen Hayson

Pal. Pal was brutally stabbed and set on fire, allegedly by Monis' second wife, Amirah Droudis—who has stated, “Yes, we are happy about the punishment of September 11. Yes, we are happy about the punishment in Bali. Yes, we are happy about the punishment of the Holocaust and any other punishment that God sends to us.” Monis was on a national security watch list in Australia and had been on welfare for 10 years. (Why he had not been deported or jailed is not reported.) CNN quickly pushes the “lone wolf” theory, apparently believing—without any proof—that Monis never had any contact with other jihadists, and various television commentators express unjustified concerns about a backlash against Muslims. The gunman wears a headband that states, in Arabic, “We are your soldiers O Muhammad.” Although he also displays a black flag with the Arabic words, “There is no God but God and Mohammed is the prophet of God,” MSNBC’s Jose Diaz-Balart remarks, “It’s still too early to tell” if Islam has anything to do with the situation and “[It] Could very well be he’s hiding behind the flag of Islam to just deal with his own criminal past.” According to *The Daily Telegraph*, in 2009 Monis “delivered a chilling lecture decrying religions other than Islam and calling for an ‘Islamic society’ to a packed hall in Western Sydney.” Monis “speaking in parables littered with violent references—called for Islamic justice and for a caliphate with one religion.” [69243, 69244, 69245, 69246, 69247, 69248, 69249, 69252, 69258, 69259, 69267, 69268, 69269, 69272, 69273, 69274, 69275, 69276, 69277, 69278, 69279, 69280, 69281, 69288, 69324, 69325, 69326, 69327, 69379, 69481, 69777, 69778, 69780]

Cafe customer Katrina Dawson, age 38, reportedly died of a heart attack as she shielded a pregnant friend. Cafe manager Tori Johnson was shot and killed by Monis when he attempted to take his gun. Monis was killed by the police. [69319]

A disgusting HuffingtonPost.com headline reads, “Gay Hero of Sydney Hostage Crisis Died a Second Class Citizen.” (That Tori Johnson died heroically has nothing to do with the fact that he was gay. The “story” is that a murdering Islamic jihadist held innocent people hostage and in fear for their lives for hours, not that Australia does not permit gay marriage.) Pamela Geller writes, “The Huffington Post, which does more to advance the jihad cause than even CAIR, has taken an incredible act of heroism during the Islamic siege in Sydney and twisted it to its own depraved ends. How did the Huffington Post report on the savage jihad in Sydney? *By making it about gay marriage.* The Huff Hos exploited Tori Johnson’s exceptional act of humanity to attack the West and all Western nations. Does Huff Po’s James Peron [the article’s author] even know what second class citizen means under Islamic law? The dhimmis (religious minorities in Muslim countries under Islamic law) are second ‘second class citizens’—a sub-class status denied basic human rights. Christians in a Muslim country are sub-class citizens. Women under sharia, whose testimony is worth a fraction of a man’s, are sub-class citizens. Blacks in Mauritania, living as slaves under Muslim slave owners, are sub-class citizens.” [69320, 69321]

The leftist Web site Vox.com’s Max Fisher demands that people “Stop asking Muslims to condemn terrorism. It’s bigoted and Islamophobic.” Fisher argues that we would not “expect Christians to condemn [Oklahoma City bomber] Timothy McVeigh. Similarly, if someone blames all Jews for the act of, say, extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank,

we immediately and correctly reject that position as prejudiced. We understand that such an accusation is hateful and wrong—but not when it is applied to Muslims.” (Fisher ignores several critical points: First, a substantial number of people—especially on the far left—do indeed expect all Christians to condemn acts of violence by other Christians. Second, millions of people around the world—especially Muslims and Americans on the far left—blame Israel for just about *every* act of violence in the Middle East. Lastly, of course, Muslims are expected to denounce the violent acts of other Muslims *because there are thousands of such acts each year*. That several abortionists were murdered by Christians over a period of many years is not reflective of Christianity as a whole, especially when other Christians speak out against such violence. But when tens of thousands of innocent people are persecuted, tortured, and murdered each year by Islamic jihadists, those actions cannot be considered exceptions—especially when polls show that substantial numbers of Muslims support such atrocities. For a Christian or Jew or Buddhist to commit murder *in defiance of his religion* is not the same as a Muslim committing murder *in the name of his religion*. A Christian who commits murder *knows* it is a sin and does it anyway. A Muslim who kills non-Muslims does *not* believe it is a sin. In fact, he believes he is *required* to do so by his religion.) [69322, 69323, 69379]

Pamela Geller comments, “And I suppose asking Germans to condemn Nazism is Germanophobic, or it that Naziphobic? Ridiculous in either case, but illustrative of what we are dealing with, sort of a mass mob Stockholm syndrome on the left. But in fact, asking Muslims to condemn jihad is something they will not do. They cannot do it. It is, in effect, condemning Islam. Rote condemnations of the ‘killing of innocent civilians’ are meaningless, because in Islam, non-Muslims are not considered ‘innocent.’ When the toll of jihadi wars becomes impossible to ignore, Muslim leaders offer limp-wristed condemnations of beheadings and such, but never condemn the Islamic texts and teachings that command such actions. They give Western media and corrupt politicians just enough to silence criticism of the most brutal and extreme ideology on the face of the earth. No one is suggesting all Muslims are terrorists. That is not the question. The world is roiling in the wake of the global jihad that is inspired by Islamic texts and teachings that command it. When are Muslims going to talk about that and do what must be done to expunge those quranic teachings that command these holy wars?” [69322, 69323]

FBI statistics show that concerns of a “Muslim backlash” are unfounded. Islamism-Watch.org reports on the FBI’s newly-released hate crime statistics for 2013: “Of the 5,928 incidents of hate crime tabulated in 2013, 135 (2.3 percent) were anti-Islamic, an increase of five over the prior year but still slightly below the annual average of 139 from 2002 to 2011. ...There were 1,031 incidents inspired by religion last year, 625 (60.6 percent) of which were anti-Jewish. Anti-Islamic ones constituted just 13.1 percent. Anti-Islamic incidents were also outnumbered by those targeting blacks (1,856), whites (653), gay men (750), lesbians (160), LGBTs in general (277), Hispanics (331), and people of other ethnicities (324). Anti-Asian incidents (135) equaled anti-Islamic ones. ...On April 15, 2013, Muslim terrorists murdered three and injured hundreds at the Boston Marathon, prompting familiar warnings about an imminent anti-Muslim backlash. The FBI’s findings are proof that such collective punishment did not materialize—as it almost never does. How have Islamist groups greeted the FBI data? With silence. It is the sound of

disappointment on the part of radicals who need Muslim victims, preferably real ones, to serve as human shields for the Islamist agenda.” [69410, 69411]

ISIS releases a video that shows the beheading of a Syrian soldier and calls Obama an “infidel” who should also be beheaded. [69270, 69271]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) addresses the Senate: “I rise to speak in opposition to the nomination of Sarah Saldana. Ms. Saldana has been nominated to head the nation’s top immigration law enforcement agency, which has been at the epicenter of this administration’s refusal to enforce our nation’s immigration laws. When asked whether she rejects [Obama’s] unlawful action to unilaterally grant legal residence and work permits to five million individuals illegally in the country, Ms. Saldana, currently the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, responded ‘no.’ Her answer reflects a remarkable disregard for the rule of law that demonstrates that, if confirmed, she will continue the pattern of lawlessness perpetuated by [Obama] and the political leadership of the Department of Homeland Security.” (Saldana is confirmed by the Senate on December 16, by a vote of 55-39.) [69285, 69307]

The Senate confirms Obama’s controversial, young, and inexperienced Surgeon General nominee, Vivek Murthy, by a vote of 51-43—with the help of a yes vote from one liberal Republican Senator, Mark Kirk of Illinois. Murthy’s claim to fame is being co-founder of the anti-gun group Doctors for America—also known as “Docs vs. Glocks.” (The organization, which supported ObamaCare, was first known as Doctors for Obama.) Murthy, who practices medicine on a part-time basis, considers guns a “public health issue,” and supports laws that would require doctors to ask patients if they own weapons. Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tweets, “Congrats Barack Obama on getting a Surgeon General who extols the health benefits of restricting 2nd Amdt rights.” (Paul is mistaken; Murthy more likely would rather eliminate Second Amendment rights than merely restrict them.) [69250, 69286, 69287, 69292, 69298, 69300, 69348]

In an interview with Shark-tank.com, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) questions why Obama grants visas to officials from anti-American regimes but not to pro-Americans from places like Honduras. Diaz-Balart says that Obama “does give visas to the sons and daughters of the Castros, to members of the Maduro regime, who are among the most violent of the human rights abusers against the students.” Obama is “against the legislation to [impose] sanctions” and “doesn’t even want to deny the visas to these thug from either Castro, Castro’s Cuba, or Maduro’s Venezuela.” Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), sponsor of the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection bill, doubts that Obama will sign the legislation. (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, in June 2009 Honduran president Manuel Zelaya coordinated an illegal referendum to scrap his nation’s constitution and make it possible for him to remain president for life. After the Honduran Supreme Court ruled against Zelaya, he led a mob to the military installation where the ballots, printed for Zelaya in Venezuela by Hugo Chavez, were stored. Zelaya was arrested and exiled to Costa Rica. Obama sided with the thug Zelaya—and against the citizens of Honduras and democracy—and said he would not recognize any other leader. Honduran citizens congregated by the thousands to celebrate

the arrest of Zelaya, happy to have rid themselves of a Chavez-style thug. Although Obama took what seemed like an eternity to utter any strong words of condemnation against the brutal treatment of demonstrators in Iran during its elections, he stated his support for Zelaya within hours of his arrest and deportation. Honduran citizens were outraged over Obama's support of Zelaya, who they considered a puppet of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.) [3644, 3645, 3650, 3655, 3666, 3709, 3714, 3735, 3768, 3769, 4917, 69262, 69263]

At Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey, ...Obama tells what he thinks is a joke to the assembled airmen: "Every year, you never stop serving. You never stop giving. You guys are like Santa in fatigues." He pauses for laughter... that never comes. [69264, 69293]

Filling in for Rush Limbaugh, author Mark Steyn observes that Obama "has unilaterally rewritten U.S. immigration law. He doesn't have the power to do that. But that rule doesn't matter... he did it, he did it. This is why, by the way, why things trend Democrat. Because Democrats just do what they want, they don't worry about the rules. [Obama's] idea of law is what you can get away with. And so he figures he can get away with this immigration amnesty, and that what he can get away with trumps the U.S. Constitution. And he's right about that, because when [Senator] Ted Cruz [R-TX] had his vote, he lost 74-22. ...It's not just a policy difference. It is about whether [Obama] has the right to do it. Whether he's acting beyond the law like some Latin-American caudillo, or Kim Jong-Un when he has one of his uncles executed over in Pyongyang, or some of these other one-man states. [Obama] thinks it's a one-man state and what he does trumps what the legislature does. And 74 of the 100 United States Senators agree with that." [69265]

Talk show host Mark Levin tells his radio audience that with their approval of the \$1.1 trillion spending bill "The overwhelming majority of Republicans in the House and Senate voted for ObamaCare, voted for amnesty, voted to violate the Constitution and violated their oaths of office, and undermined the last election, and undermined your franchise. None of this was presented to you before you voted on the first Tuesday of November. None of these people said that they are working on a massive spending bill with Obama that will fund ObamaCare and whatever imperial amnesty he executes—not one of them! I will not participate in this scam. I will not participate in the dissolution of this Republic. I will not participate in the propaganda machine that has become the Republican Party and its mouthpieces and cheerleaders in the pseudo conservative media, whether it's cable TV or radio or websites. This budget was passed in the House with lie piled on lie." [69299]

Obama signs into law the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014. The legislation allows multiemployer pension funds to reduce retiree benefits if the plan is underfunded but at least 20 percent. WashingtonTimes.com writes, "In another words, Congress and [Obama] let workers who spent decades toiling away to vest in retirement programs take the hit for union managers who failed to keep pensions fully funded. In all, more than 10 million U.S. workers rely on multiemployer pension plans. About 1 million of those could get notices next year informing them that the pension benefits they were promised

when they signed on to their jobs may be cut. Only those older than 75 get any relief.” [69715]

Dr. James Mitchell, one of the people involved in the CIA’s terrorist interrogation program, appears on *The Kelly File*. Mitchell, who participated in the waterboarding of Muhammed Hussein Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Sheik Muhammed, tells Megyn Kelly, “It was clear that there was a second wave [of attacks] coming [after September 11, 2001]. There was [sic; were] all these fears about nuclear devices and anthrax and multiple people dying.” Mitchell states, “Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told me personally, ‘Your country will turn on you, the liberal media will turn on you, the people will grow tired of this, they will turn on you. And when they do, you are going to be abandoned.’” Mitchell, who has received threats against his life, criticizes the one-sided Senate Intelligence Committee report and says, “I do not mind giving my life for my country, but I do mind giving my life for a food fight for political reasons between two groups of people who should be able to work it out like adults.” [69290, 69295]

Author, attorney, and radio talk show host Mark Levin tells his audience he is fed up with establishment Republicans: “I want to tell the Republican leadership, the RNC, the NRSC, the NCCC, the NAACP—whatever they call themselves in the Republican Party—I am one inch away from leaving you. And I bet I speak for hundreds of thousands of people. One inch. You think this is a joke? You think you can lie to the American people? Do you think you can lie to Republicans and lie to conservatives about how you're going to defund ObamaCare, run millions of dollars on ads on that to get re-elected, on how you're gonna fight unconstitutional amnesty? Tooth and nail? You think you can lie to us with impunity? And repeatedly? I don’t care how many millionaires and billionaires you have in your damn back pocket. ...I don’t care about your damn procedures, and neither does anybody else. We read what you have to say about Ted Cruz and Mike Lee in of all places Politico, that liberal rag. You sound like a bunch of munchkins! Backbenchers! Immature! Stupid! Childish comments! I don’t know what this is gonna add up to. I don’t know why we’re here. I’ve seen this movie before. And you’re so ineffective. And you’re so impotent. We’ve seen this movie before, and you still can’t get off your ass and do something about it. ... ‘Well, we might shut down the government!’ I worked for a president [Ronald Reagan] who shut down the damn government over half a dozen times. It’s not the end of the world. And it wasn’t the end of the world last year. Our Constitution’s in tatters. Our Constitution is in tatters and you just voted, many of you, to rubber-stamp what Obama did. And that’s how he saw it. And he’s smiling all over today, and he’s going on his Hawaii trip for 17 days, while you pathetic politicians can’t even muster the seriousness to vote the right way. The republic is in decline. We live in a post-constitutional period.” [69306]

On December 16 Taliban fighters storm a school in Pakistan, killing 132 students and 10 teachers. They douse one teacher with gasoline, set her on fire, and force students to watch her die in agony. Some victims are beheaded, but many are shot in the head. NYTimes.com reports, “At least 145 people were dead by the time the last of the nine attackers was killed, government officials and medical workers said. A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban confirmed that his group was responsible for the attack and said it was

in retaliation for the military's offensive against militants in the North Waziristan tribal district. ...The attackers stormed through the school, lobbing hand grenades and indiscriminately shooting. ...Mushtaq Ghani, the information minister for Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province, confirmed that most of the victims had been killed by gunshots to the head." [69282, 69290, 69291, 69297, 69372, 69377, 69423, 69811]

Strangely, some reports of the killings at the Pakistan school include images of a six-year-old killed at the Sandy Hook school in Connecticut in 2012. At the very least, the anomaly suggests some very sloppy journalism. [69811, 69819, 69821]

The Taliban group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) takes "credit" for the massacre. (TTP's second in command, Latif Mehsud, was reportedly one of three detainees the U.S. military turned over to the Pakistani government on December 6. [68998, 68999, 69317, 69318, 69373])

Obama issues a statement: "The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms today's horrific attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan. Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims, their families, and loved ones. By targeting students and teachers in this heinous attack, terrorists have once again shown their depravity. We stand with the people of Pakistan, and reiterate the commitment of the United States to support the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and to promote peace and stability in the region." (Obama does not mention the Taliban.) [69375]

In a story about the cafe hostage incident in Sydney, Australia, *The Daily Telegraph* reports that "Halal certification authority boss Nadia El-Mouelhy... left the siege site only minutes before the gunman stormed the cafe." He reportedly said, "I think it's pathetic. This isn't Islam, this is stupidity... disgust[ing]. I hope these people go away for a very long time." Pamela Geller has reported that the cafe "refuses to be halal certified [and that] may be why they were targeted." El-Mouelhy later claims he was not, in fact, at the scene, and calls the media "bigots" for its reports. But both *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph* confirmed that he and his wife were at the cafe minutes before the attack. (There would be no reason for both newspapers to fabricate their story. Some might suspect that El-Mouelhy signaled to the terrorist that they had left the cafe and it was "safe" for him to enter.) [69246, 69447, 69448]

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush states that he has decided to "actively explore the possibility of running for President of the United States." (Wall Street and the Federal Reserve will be more than pleased if the 2016 race is between liberal Republican Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, as neither will "rock the establishment boat." Neither of the two would work to slash federal spending or reduce job-killing regulations. First and foremost, Bush's entry into the 2016 contest means the Republican establishment will do everything in its power to prevent a conservative or "tea party" candidate from winning the nomination.) [69266, 69301, 69302, 69328, 69342, 69343, 69344, 69345, 69346]

Author Brad Thor tweets, "...let me be perfectly clear. If Jeb Bush is the nominee, I will never vote Republican again." [69353]

On *Morning Joe*, former Obama political advisor David Axelrod says, "If Jeb Bush can get through a Republican primary without trimming his sails on the issues... he will be a very formidable general election candidate. ...If Jeb sticks to his guns on these issues, he's got tremendous appeal to the Hispanic community." (Axelrod is intentionally spouting nonsense. He knows full well that Bush would probably not stand a chance in the general election if he faces Hillary Clinton. Axelrod, along with many mainstream media leftists, will be working overtime to try to convince Republican voters that they should support Bush in the GOP primaries. Like Mitt Romney, John McCain, and Bob Dole, Bush has no strong conservative credentials and will give voters no clear choice in 2016. Conservatives will stay home in drives. Media leftists played the same game in 2008, pushing "Maverick" McCain through the primaries—only to vehemently pound on him after he won the nomination. The media will be gathering all the dirt it can on Bush, holding it until the most opportune time for them to unleash it: after he wins the nomination.) [69335]

At Townhall.com Conn Carroll warns that "Obama's executive amnesty will enable millions of illegal immigrants to collect billions in tax credits once Obama's plan is fully implemented. ...[T]he IRS is not allowed to give Earned Income Tax Credits to anyone without a Social Security Number. But many illegal immigrants will now be able to get a SSN through Obama's amnesty program. After it is fully implemented, therefore, the IRS will be giving out EITC payments to millions of currently illegal immigrants. ...[N]ot only will many illegal immigrants not be paying taxes under Obama's amnesty program, they will, in fact, be getting checks from U.S. taxpayers instead." [69284]

Judge Arthur J. Schwab, in the western district of Pennsylvania, writes that parts of Obama's illegal immigrant amnesty order are unconstitutional. Schwab states that Obama's "unilateral legislative action violates the separation of powers provided for in the United States Constitution as well as the Take Care Clause, and therefore is unconstitutional. ...[I]naction by Congress does not make unconstitutional executive action constitutional... [and Obama's] executive action goes beyond prosecutorial discretions—it is legislation." WashingtonTimes.com explains, "The memo came as part of a deportation case before the judge, and Judge Schwab's order does not invalidate [Obama's] policies. But it serves as a warning shot as other direct challenges to the new amnesty begin to make their way through the courts. A federal judge in Washington, D.C., will hear one of those challenges in oral arguments next week, and a similar case is proceeding in Texas." According to GodfatherPolitics.com, Obama administration attorneys reportedly argued that judges have no power to review Obama's actions and decisions—which essentially means he is (or thinks he is) a dictator. (CBS, NBC, and ABC ignore the story on their evening newscasts.) [69303, 69309, 69310, 69334, 69337, 69338, 69339, 69347, 69428, 69497, 69498, 69509, 69510, 69589]

The White House announces that Obama and his family will leave for Hawaii on December 19 and return to Washington, D.C. on January 4. [69304, 69305]



Real estate developer Donald Trump tweets a Christmas card that tells Obama “You’re Fired! Besides that—Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.” [69466]

Judicial Watch reports, “Despite a 5-year-old congressional ban on federal funding for the notably corrupt Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)... a chunk of taxpayer money went to an affiliate serving as an Obamacare ‘navigator.’ The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) violated the ACORN funding ban by awarding a Louisiana nonprofit called Southern United Neighborhoods (SUN) a \$1.3 million Obamacare navigator grant to recruit customers for [Obama’s] disastrous healthcare law and help them ‘navigate’ the complicated insurance exchanges. ...The group shares its address—and government grants—with another like-minded nonprofit called United Labor Unions Council Local 100, established by Wade Rathke, the radical left-wing community organizer that [sic; who] also founded ACORN. It’s not clear in the documents obtained by JW how much of the \$1.3 million HHS grant actually went to Rathke’s local, which is one of SUN’s four partner organizations, but the point remains that the group is an ACORN successor specifically prevented by federal law from receiving taxpayer dollars.” [69371]

By a vote of 55-38 the Senate confirms Anthony Blinken for the position of Deputy Secretary of State, despite Senator John McCain’s (R-AZ) statement that Obama’s nominee is “one of the worst selections of a very bad lot [Obama] has chosen...” [69308]

USAToday.com points out that when Obama’s “executive orders” are combined with “executive memoranda,” he has issued more than any other White House occupant since Jimmy Carter. “By issuing his directives as ‘memoranda’ rather than executive orders, Obama has downplayed the extent of his executive actions.” (This allows the Obama administration to claim that he has issued fewer executive orders than George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H. W. Bush, or Ronald Reagan.) Kenneth Lowande, a political science doctoral student at the University of Virginia, observes, “The difference may be one of political messaging. An executive order immediately evokes potentially damaging questions of ‘imperial overreach.’” (There is no legal distinction between an executive order and an executive memorandum. To an unemployed oil worker it makes little difference whether Obama’s December 16 ban on oil and gas exploration in Bristol Bay, Alaska was an “order” or a “memorandum.”) [69316, 69352, 69421, 69491]

On December 17 American Alan Gross is released from a Cuban prison after more than five years in captivity. Cuba also releases an unnamed U.S. intelligence agent who had been imprisoned for almost 20 years. (No one outside the U.S. government knows how many Americans are being held by foreign governments.) A senior Obama administration official states, “Mr. Gross was released on humanitarian grounds by the Cuban government at the request of the United States.” In fact, Gross and the U.S. agent were exchanged for three Cuban spies that were imprisoned in the United States. According to the Chicago *Sun-Times*, “The United States and Cuba have agreed to establish diplomatic relations and open economic and travel ties, marking the most significant shift in U.S. policy toward the communist island in decades, American officials said Wednesday. The

announcement comes amid a series of new confidence-building measures between the longtime foes, including the release of American Alan Gross, as well as a swap for a U.S. intelligence asset held in Cuba and the freeing of three Cubans jailed in the U.S.” (The Cuban spies were responsible for the deaths of three Americans and one U.S. resident when information they gave the Castro regime led to their plane being shot down over international waters.) [69311, 69312, 69314, 69315, 69341, 69351, 69366, 69367]

Obama and Cuban dictator Raul Castro (who once had 72 political enemies executed in the same day and buried with a bulldozer) “spoke by phone for more than 45 minutes Tuesday... Wednesday’s announcements follow more than a year of secret talks between U.S. and Cuban officials in Canada and the Vatican. U.S. officials said Pope Francis was personally engaged in the process and sent separate letters to Obama and Castro this summer urging them to restart relations.” Although U.S officials state that Gross is not a spy, the *Sun-Times* notes that “Gross was detained in December 2009 while working to set up Internet access as a subcontractor for the U.S. government’s U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID], which does work promoting democracy in the communist country. It was his fifth trip to Cuba to work with Jewish communities on setting up Internet access that bypassed local censorship. Cuba considers USAID’s programs illegal attempts by the U.S. to undermine its government, and Gross was tried and sentenced to 15 years in prison.” (USAID has long been used as a cover by the CIA.) Regardless of Gross’ mission in Cuba, it is clear that the Castro regime held him for five years the sole purpose of exchanging him for its own spies—and whatever else they could get from the gullible Obama. Gross was valuable to the Castro brothers solely because he is a U.S. citizen. [69311, 69312, 69314, 69315, 69341, 69351, 69366, 69367, 69404]

Obama states, “In the most significant changes in our policy in more than fifty years, we will end an outdated approach that, for decades, has failed to advance our interests, and instead we will begin to normalize relations between our two countries. Through these changes, we intend to create more opportunities for the American and Cuban people, and begin a new chapter among the nations of the Americas. There’s a complicated history between the United States and Cuba.” (It is not complicated. The United States had good relations with Cuba until the communists took over and destroyed the island nation.) “I was born in 1961—just over two years after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba, and just a few months after the Bay of Pigs invasion, which tried to overthrow his regime.” (Obama is here blaming the United States for trying to oust Castro—a goal Obama apparently considers unjustified. He no doubt considers his efforts to oust Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Moammar Gaddafi in Libya as justified, of course.) “Over the next several decades, the relationship between our countries played out against the backdrop of the Cold War, and America’s steadfast opposition to communism. We are separated by just over 90 miles. But year after year, an ideological and economic barrier hardened between our two countries.” [69382]

“...Proudly, the United States has supported democracy and human rights in Cuba through these five decades.” (No, the United States has *tried* to establish democracy and human rights protections in Cuba.) “We have done so primarily through policies that

aimed to isolate the island, preventing the most basic travel and commerce that Americans can enjoy anywhere else. And though this policy has been rooted in the best of intentions, no other nation joins us in imposing these sanctions, and it has had little effect beyond providing the Cuban government with a rationale for restrictions on its people. Today, Cuba is still governed by the Castros and the Communist Party that came to power half a century ago.” (Obama’s claim is absolute nonsense. The Castro regime has not used the embargo as an excuse to restrict the rights of the Cuban people. It never needed an excuse.) “...[W]hen I came into office I promised to re-examine our Cuba policy. As a start, we lifted restrictions for Cuban Americans to travel and send remittances to their families in Cuba. These changes, once controversial, now seem obvious. Cuban Americans have been reunited with their families, and are the best possible ambassadors for our values. And through these exchanges, a younger generation of Cuban Americans has increasingly questioned an approach that does more to keep Cuba closed off from an interconnected world.” (This is also nonsense. Allowing Americans to send money to Cuba has helped keep the Castro regime in power.) [69382]

“...I’ve instructed Secretary Kerry to review Cuba’s designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This review will be guided by the facts and the law. Terrorism has changed in the last several decades. At a time when we are focused on threats from al Qaeda to ISIL, a nation that meets our conditions and renounces the use of terrorism should not face this sanction.” (That Cuba may “renounce” terrorism means little when it will continue to support it in Venezuela and elsewhere.) “...[W]e are taking steps to increase travel, commerce, and the flow of information to and from Cuba. This is fundamentally about freedom and openness, and also expresses my belief in the power of people-to-people engagement. With the changes I’m announcing today, it will be easier for Americans to travel to Cuba, and Americans will be able to use American credit and debit cards on the island. Nobody represents America’s values better than the American people, and I believe this contact will ultimately do more to empower the Cuban people. I also believe that more resources should be able to reach the Cuban people. So we’re significantly increasing the amount of money that can be sent to Cuba, and removing limits on remittances that support humanitarian projects, the Cuban people, and the emerging Cuban private sector.” (In exchange for allowing Americans to send and spend money in Cuba, and for Bill Clinton to be able to obtain Cuban cigars legally, the Castro regime gave Obama... *nothing*.) [69382]

“...I believe in the free flow of information. Unfortunately, our sanctions on Cuba have denied Cubans access to technology that has empowered individuals around the globe. So I’ve authorized increased telecommunications connections between the United States and Cuba. Businesses will be able to sell goods that enable Cubans to communicate with the United States and other countries.” (U.S. sanctions have not denied the Cuban people access to technology. No other nation has an embargo. It is not the United States that has prevented the Cuban people from buying computers and modems from China, Japan, or anywhere else and accessing the Internet; it has been their government.) “...But I’m under no illusion about the continued barriers to freedom that remain for ordinary Cubans. The United States believes that no Cubans should face harassment or arrest or beatings simply because they’re exercising a universal right to have their voices heard,

and we will continue to support civil society there. While Cuba has made reforms to gradually open up its economy, we continue to believe that Cuban workers should be free to form unions, just as their citizens should be free to participate in the political process.” (What Obama and the United States *believe* is irrelevant to what the Castro regime will *allow*.) “Moreover, given Cuba’s history, I expect it will continue to pursue foreign policies that will at times be sharply at odds with American interests. I do not expect the changes I am announcing today to bring about a transformation of Cuban society overnight. But I am convinced that through a policy of engagement, we can more effectively stand up for our values and help the Cuban people help themselves as they move into the 21st century.” (Obama is incredibly naive, if not delusional.) [69382]

“...To the Cuban people, America extends a hand of friendship. Some of you have looked to us as a source of hope, and we will continue to shine a light of freedom. Others have seen us as a former colonizer intent on controlling your future.” (The statement is absurd. The United States has never shown any interest in “colonizing” Cuba. Perhaps Obama was fed that nation by his 1970s communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis.) “José Martí once said, “Liberty is the right of every man to be honest.” Today, I am being honest with you. We can never erase the history between us, but we believe that you should be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination. Cubans have a saying about daily life: “No es facil”—it’s not easy. Today, the United States wants to be a partner in making the lives of ordinary Cubans a little bit easier, more free, more prosperous. ...Change is hard [sic; difficult]—in our own lives, and in the lives of nations. And change is even harder when we carry the heavy weight of history on our shoulders. But today we are making these changes because it is the right thing to do. Today, America chooses to cut loose the shackles of the past so as to reach for a better future—for the Cuban people, for the American people, for our entire hemisphere, and for the world. Thank you. God bless you and God bless the United States of America.” [69382]

According to Politico, “The centerpiece of the new approach [to Cuba] includes establishing diplomatic relations. Obama has instructed Secretary of State John Kerry to initiate discussions with Cuba and will reestablish an embassy in Havana in the coming months. The shift in approach also includes further relaxing of travel restrictions, increasing remittance levels, expanding commercial sales and exports from the United States and reviewing Cuba’s designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.” (Obama wants to improve relations with Cuba at the same time the United States is growing increasingly wary of Venezuela—where the government’s violations of human rights follow the Cuban example and rely on assistance from the Castro regime. Obama and Kerry may not get far if Congress does not authorize funds for an embassy or embassy personnel.) [69314]

Some may speculate that the deal Obama negotiated with Cuba will ultimately call for changes to the decades-old agreement regarding the U.S. presence at Guantanamo. That is, Obama is not only giving Fidel Castro and Raul Castro more U.S. dollars with loosened travel restrictions, they will abrogate the Guantanamo agreement—thereby enabling Obama to remove—and perhaps release—the terrorist detainees.

It is worth noting that Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Cuba in July, met with Raul and Fidel Castro, forgave about 90 percent of the island's debt to Russia, and signed agreements boosting business between the two nations. In May, Russia and Cuba agreed to increase their military and intelligence ties. WashingtonTimes.com writes, "The security agreement comes amid fresh U.S. intelligence agency concerns that Russia is taking steps to follow through on plans to conduct strategic nuclear bomber flights over the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, possibly with the help of Cuba and Venezuela." Additionally, Russian officials have "held discussions with both governments about the use of airfields for Russia's Tu-95 nuclear capable bombers, known as the Bear H. The bombers have been conducting large numbers of threatening flights near U.S. coasts in recent months." In exchange for easing relations with Cuba, Obama should have demanded something in return; he did not. [69683, 69684]

The media posts a photograph of Gross with his attorney, Scott Gilbert, and spokesperson Jill Zuckerman, working on the public statement he will make. On the wall of the office is a framed photograph of Cuban murderer and communist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. (It is not clear which of the three are communist sympathizers.) [69331, 69332] Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) states, "At a minimum, I would say this. Barack Obama is the worst negotiator that we've had... since at least Jimmy Carter, and maybe in the history of this country." Rubio says the prisoner exchange "puts a price on every American abroad. Governments now know that if they take an American hostage, they can get very significant successions from the U.S." Rubio also notes, "I anticipate I'll be the chairman of the Western Hemisphere subcommittee on the Foreign Relations Committee. I anticipate we're going to have a very interesting couple of years discussing how you're going to get an ambassador nominated and how you'll get an embassy funded. I intend to use every tool at our disposal in the majority to unravel as many of these changes as possible. This Congress is not going to lift the embargo." [69313, 69350, 69361, 69384]

Gross makes a public statement: "I have to say happy holiday season to all of you. Today is the first day of Hanukkah. And I guess so far it's the best Hanukkah that I'll be celebrating for a long time. What a blessing it is to be a citizen of this country. And thank you, ...Obama, for everything that you have done today and leading up to today. I want to acknowledge the extraordinary and determined efforts of my wife, Judy; 44-1/2 years we've been married. I know you're not 44-1/2 anymore. And my lawyer and personal Moses, Scott Gilbert. And their efforts to restore my freedom. I also feel compelled to share with you my utmost respect for and fondness of the people of Cuba. In no way are they responsible for the ordeal to which my family and I have been subjected. To me Cubans or at least most of them, are incredibly kind, generous and talented. It pains me to see them treated so unjustly as a consequence of two governments mutually belligerent policies. Five and-a-half decades of history show us such belligerence inhibits better judgment. Two wrongs never make a right. I hope we can get beyond these mutual belligerent policies. I was very happy to hear what [Obama] had to say today. It was particularly cool to be sitting next to the Secretary of State as he was hearing about his job description for the next couple of months. In all seriousness, this is a game-changer.

Which I fully support. In the meantime, I ask that you respect my wishes for complete and total privacy.” (Amazingly, Gross blames five decades of U.S. policy for his ordeal.) [69406, 69407]

At AmericanThinker.com Matthew Vadum asks, “Why did ...Obama engineer a prisoner swap with Communist Cuba involving Alan Gross, an American citizen who badmouthed his own country mere hours after he arrived back on U.S. soil? ...Just look at the first thing newly freed Gross did upon arriving back in America. He pulled a cowardly pox-on-both-your-houses stunt, drawing a vile moral equivalency between the U.S. and the brutal, fascistic island hellhole he just escaped. ...What an odd statement for a man released as part of an international James Bond-style spy swap to make. Just hours after coming back to America, he’s praising ...Obama’s newly announced plan to normalize relations with Cuba. It seems staged. And I may be going out on a limb here, but condemning your own countrymen as imperialist warmongers after they cut a deal to get you repatriated from the clutches of a nasty dictatorship is more than bad form. It reeks of sedition. Gross was reportedly a subcontractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, a home for meddling leftist crackpots. He reportedly worked on a program aimed at improving internet access for Cuban Jews. The free flow of information is a threat to any totalitarian regime, so a Cuban court convicted Gross of crimes against the state in 2011, imposing a 15-year prison sentence. ...Gross thanked a laundry list of leftists for helping to free him. Among them were Jill Zuckman of leftist PR firm SKDKnickerbocker, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT.), and Reps. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Barbara Lee (D-CA). SKDKnickerbocker also employs former resident Maoist in the Obama White House Anita Dunn and Democrat operative Hilary Rosen. What exactly these people did and why they did it may surface in coming days. But we already know that ...Obama delights in trading Americans who hate America for foreign terrorists and murderers who also hate America. ...First there was the swap of U.S Army deserter and Taliban collaborator Bowe Bergdahl for five members of the Taliban's high command. Not exactly a good deal for America. What else does our neo-communist, Alinskyite president have in store for us in his remaining days in office?” [69407]

Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) says, “Trading Mr. Gross for three convicted criminals sets an extremely dangerous precedent. ...Obama’s actions have vindicated the brutal behavior of the Cuban government. ...Let’s be clear: This was not a ‘humanitarian’ act by the Castro regime. It was a swap of convicted spies for an innocent American.” (Raul and Fidel Castro are the winners in the exchange. Cuba gets loosened restrictions without agreeing to any changes to its abusive human rights policies.) [69314]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) remarks, “There is no ‘new course’ here, only another in a long line of mindless concessions to a dictatorship. ...Relations with the Castro regime should not be revisited, let alone normalized, until the Cuban people enjoy freedom—and not one second sooner.” [69365]

At DailySignal.com the Heritage Foundation’s Mike Gonzalez writes, “The White House ‘Fact Sheet’ on Cuba makes clear that the Obama administration received nothing in exchange for its many and substantial concessions to Havana’s Communist regime. In

essence, after five years of ‘negotiations,’ the White House ended up where Raul Castro started: Gross would be exchanged for three Cuban spies whose activities led to the death of an American in the 1990s. The administration’s announcement that ‘[Obama] has instructed the secretary of state to immediately initiate discussions with Cuba on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba,’ also gives in to a longstanding Castro demand. Cubans will not gain freedom of expression, of association, of thought or of anything else as a result. Moreover, the White House’s explanation that it was acting because ‘U.S. policy towards Cuba has isolated the United States from regional and international partners,’ shows degrees of fecklessness that should put fear into Israel and other allies for which American support brings condemnation of the U.S. at the United Nations and other international fora [forums]. Obama obviously has decided to act on his own because he faced little opposition from Congress when he overreached his authority and acted on his own by giving amnesty to 5 million illegal immigrants. Congress needs to act now, or Obama simply will move on to the many other items on his bucket list. Congress must make it abundantly clear to Obama that he does not have the authority to lift the embargo on Cuba on his own. Doing so would break U.S. law, namely the Helms-Burton Act.” [69370]

White House press secretary John Earnest implies an Obama trip to Cuba may be in the works. He tells reporters, “There’s nothing on the schedule right now. [Obama] did hint that there will be senior government officials who will carry out the kind of work that’s indicative of two nations that are seeking to normalize their relations, so I certainly wouldn’t rule out [an Obama] visit. I assume, like many Americans, he has seen that Cuba is a place where they have a beautiful climate and lots of fun things to do, so if there is an opportunity for [Obama] to visit, he wouldn’t turn it down.” [69390]

After a recount, Republican Martha McSally, a former U.S. Air Force pilot, is declared the winner in the Congressional race in Arizona’s 2nd district—the seat once held by Democrat Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. McSally’s victory gives the GOP 247 seats in the House of Representatives; the Democrats will have 188. [69362]

Judicial Watch announces “that on November 19, 2014, it joined investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson to file a Freedom of Information (FOIA) lawsuit against the Department of Justice (DOJ) seeking ‘any and all records’ relating to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) background checks and other records on the award-winning correspondent. The request includes correspondence between Attkisson and FBI agents. The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (*Sharyl Attkisson and Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No:1:14-cv-01944)). According to documents obtained last month by Judicial Watch in a separate lawsuit, the DOJ and the White House targeted the former CBS correspondent as a result of her investigations into the growing Operation Fast and Furious scandal. In an October 4, 2011, email to White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz, Attorney General Eric Holder’s top press aide, Tracy Schmalzer, described Attkisson as ‘out of control.’ Schmalzer added ominously, ‘I’m also calling Sharryl’s [sic] editor and reaching out to Scheiffer’ (an apparent reference to CBS’ Chief Washington Correspondent and Face the Nation moderator Bob Scheiffer). Schultz responded, ‘Good. Her piece was really bad for the AG.’ The Judicial

Watch/Attkisson lawsuit asks, in part, for: ‘Any and all records concerned, regarding or relating to Sharyl Attkisson. Such records include, but are not limited to, records of background checks of Sharyl Attkisson, records of communications, contacts, or correspondence between Sharyl Attkisson and employees, officials or agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and records of investigations concerning or regarding Sharyl Attkisson as a victim...’” [69559]

In Fallujah, *one* ISIS fighter (Abu Anas al-Libi) executes at least 150 Iraqi women they had captured after they refuse to marry the terrorists. [69374, 69376, 69401]

Several of the nation’s top theater chains pull the Sony film *The Interview* after threats of violence. Sony Pictures Entertainment, which was the target of a computer hack attack, then indefinitely postpones the planned December 25 release of the movie. (The comedy is about journalists recruited by the CIA to assassinate North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un.) It is likely that the hacking was done by North Korea, but whether the Obama administration will publicly confirm that remains to be seen. (If the administration confirms that North Korea was responsible, many will expect Obama to “do something.” He may prefer not to be forced into doing anything—at least not until his Hawaiian golf vacation is over.) [69333, 69340, 69359, 69364, 69368, 69378, 69385]

DailyCaller.com reports that Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) “lobbied the Obama administration—through Hillary Clinton’s State Department—to obtain a visa for an Ecuadoran woman whose father is wanted for bank fraud in his home country and whose wealthy family donated heavily to Democrats, including Menendez. ...Menendez went to bat for Estafania Isaias, who was banned from entering the U.S. in 2007 after she engaged in what State Department officials considered a form of ‘alien smuggling’ by attempting to sneak her maids into the U.S. The woman’s father, Roberto Isaias, who lives in Miami, was convicted in absentia in Ecuador for allegedly embezzling millions of dollars from Filanbanco, where he was an executive. ...[T]he Isaias family sought help from Menendez and also donated \$11,000 to his 2012 campaign. They also gave more than \$125,000 to the Obama Victory Fund and the Democratic National Committee. Soon after, Menendez and his staff began peppering Clinton and her former chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, with phone calls, [seven] letters, and emails ‘in support of’ Isaias, NBC 4 New York reports.” [69357]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “An independent IRS monitor announced Monday it will block the release of roughly 400 more pages of documents related to unauthorized leaks of confidential taxpayer information to the White House. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) told the watchdog group Cause of Action it would be withholding nearly all of the 2,500 documents it located that were related to unauthorized IRS leaks to the White House. Earlier this month, TIGTA told Cause of Action it was withholding roughly 2,100 of the documents and said it would take an additional two weeks to review the rest.” [69349]

In a *People* magazine interview, Michelle Obama discusses her experiences with “racism” by relating, “I tell this story—I mean, even as the first lady—during that



wonderfully publicized trip I took to Target, not highly disguised, the only person who came up to me in the store was a woman who asked me to help her take something off a shelf. Because she didn't see me as the first lady, she saw me as someone who could help her. Those kinds of things happen in life. So it isn't anything new." (The implication is that the white shopper assumed Michelle Obama was a "mere" store employee because she was black. Apparently it never occurred to Obama that she was asked for help *because she is 5 feet, 11 inches tall*—rather than thought to be an employee. In fact, it is later reported that the white woman asking for help voted for Obama in both 2008 and 2012, and her husband works for the leftist MSNBC. The woman's sister states, "...I just got furious on my sister's behalf. I can—we have political differences, big time, but my sister is not a racist.") [69354, 69355, 69356, 69363, 69380, 69386, 69392, 69397, 69414, 69445]

DailyCaller.com reminds readers of a 2011 event at the White House at which Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett asked four-star General Peter Chiarelli for a glass of wine, thinking he was a waiter. "Like a gentleman, the career military man didn't make a fuss of the matter, according to the source. 'The guy dutifully went up and got her a glass of wine, and then came back and gave it to her and took a seat at the table,' the source said. 'Everyone is in tuxedos and gowns at this thing, but the military people are in full dress uniform.'" Mrs. Obama also whines that before they entered the White House her husband "was a black man that [sic; who] lived on the South Side of Chicago, who had his share of troubles catching cabs." (Mrs. Obama does not understand that Chicago cab drivers—including many *black* cab drivers—avoid some areas not because the residents are black but because the neighborhoods are *dangerous*. She also does not understand that her husband made it to the White House because he is bi-racial. After only four years in the Senate no white candidate with such limited experience would have been elected.) [69354, 69355, 69356, 69363, 69380, 69386, 69392, 69397, 69651]

The average price of a pound of ground beef reaches a record high of \$4.20 per pound. [69358]

Rush Limbaugh tells his radio audience, "The ideal, the perfect ticket for the 2016 election: Hillary Clinton, Jeb Bush. ...[T]hey can figure out who's on top of the ticket on their own. When you compare their positions—Hillary Clinton and Jeb Bush—on the key important issues, they are two peas in the same pod. And by the way Barbara Bush loves Bill Clinton. [She] Says so publicly. The Clinton family and the Bush family are very tight. They are very close. There is never a negative or critical word uttered by a Bush of a Clinton, or of a Bush by a Clinton. This is made to order, the way both parties want amnesty—Jeb Bush wants it, Hillary wants it. Both parties want to win the nomination—Hillary by running away from the Democrat base, Jeb by running away from the Republican base. This is an ideal combination. When it comes to ObamaCare, national health care, both parties care about their donors more than their voters. Both parties have the exact same donor class." [69369]

On Fox News, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) comments on Obama's remark that the United States had attempted to "colonize" Cuba: "I don't know what he's talking about,

the United States tried to colonize Cuba? I don't know of anyone who seriously believes that. That's a talking point of the Castro regime. In fact, that was a term that Raul Castro used today in his address to the Cuban people, that this is walking away from the era of colonialism. I have no idea what he [Obama] is talking about when he says something like that. It's an outrageous statement. ...I think [Obama] believes that much of what's happened between these two countries is the fault of the United States and I think that has led him to make many of these decisions. It's a very simple equation, you have a government that controls every aspect of society. You have a military, you saw Raul Castro today wearing his military uniform, they have a military that basically controls the island and every aspect of it. The more money comes in from the United States, to their economy, the more money will line their pockets. Very little of it will trickle down to the Cuban people. It is one ridiculous statement after the other that [Obama] made during this announcement." (Raul Castro has always been the regime's "enforcer," in charge of the death squads. He is a mass murderer.) [69381, 69404]

*The Washington Post* editorial board writes, "On Wednesday, the Castros suddenly obtained a comprehensive bailout—from the Obama administration. ...Obama granted the regime everything on its wish list that was within his power to grant; a full lifting of the trade embargo requires congressional action. Full diplomatic relations will be established, Cuba's place on the list of terrorism sponsors reviewed and restrictions lifted on U.S. investment and most travel to Cuba. That liberalization will provide Havana with a fresh source of desperately needed hard currency and eliminate U.S. leverage for political reforms. ...Yoani Sánchez, Cuba's leading dissident blogger, concluded Wednesday that 'Castroism has won' and predicted that for weeks Cubans will have to endure proclamations by the government that it is the 'winner of its ultimate battle.' Mr. Obama argued that his sweeping change of policy was overdue because the strategy of isolating the Communist regime 'has had little effect.' In fact, Cuba has been marginalized in the Americas for decades, and the regime has been deprived of financial resources it could have used to spread its malignant influence in the region, as Venezuela has done. That the embargo has not succeeded in destroying communism does not explain why all sanctions should be lifted without any meaningful political concessions by Cuba." (Arguably, the embargo has worked. Although it has not eliminated communism in Cuba, it has kept the Castros from exporting communism to much of Central and South America. Although communism certainly has a foothold in Venezuela, and Brazil's president, Dilma Rousseff is trying hard to impose it on her nation, the Castro brothers have simply never had enough cash to influence many other countries.) [69389, 69393]

While *The Washington Post* criticizes Obama's Cuba action, *The New York Times* calls it "a bold move that ends one of the most misguided chapters in American foreign policy. The administration's decision to restore full diplomatic relations, take steps to remove Cuba from the State Department list of countries that sponsor terrorism and roll back restrictions on travel and trade is a change in direction that has been strongly supported by this page. The Obama administration is ushering in a transformational era for millions of Cubans who have suffered as a result of more than 50 years of hostility between the two nations. Mr. Obama could have taken modest, gradual steps toward a thaw. Instead,

he has courageously gone as far as he can, within the constraints of an outmoded 1996 law that imposes stiff sanctions on Cuba in the pursuit of regime change. ...The United States has been right to press for greater personal freedoms and democratic change. But its punitive approach has been overwhelmingly counterproductive. Going forward, American support for Cuba's civil society and dissidents is likely to become more effective, in good part because other governments in the Western Hemisphere will no longer be able to treat Cuba as a victim of the United States' pointlessly harsh policy." (The *Times*' points are absurd. The U.S. embargo has not prevented any other nations from trading with Cuba. Not being able to trade with the United States is not excuse for Cuba to not allow a free press, free assembly, free speech, private property, political parties, or democratic elections. Obama's move is not "courageous," it is outrageous, as it benefits the Castros, not the Cuban people.) [69394]

Fox News' Shepard Smith remarks, "The last thing they [Cubans] need is a Taco Bell and a Lowe's." (Apparently the elitist Smith has decided that Cubans need to remain hungry and in poverty and do not deserve conveniences or low-priced consumer goods—not that Obama's actions will provide them with either.) [69396]

At Politico.com, Rich Lowry writes, "Candidate Barack Obama said that, as president, he would talk to anti-American dictators without precondition. He didn't mention that he would also give them historic policy concessions without precondition. His surprise unilateral change in the U.S. posture toward the Castro dictatorship came without even the pretense of serious promises by the Cubans to reform their kleptocratic, totalitarian rule. ...Obama's sweeping revisions—diplomatic relations and the loosening of every economic sanction he can plausibly change on his own—are freely granted, no questions asked. It is *quid* with no *pro quo*. Even if you oppose the isolation of Cuba, this is not a good trade. After waiting out 10 other U.S. presidents, the Castro regime finally hit the jackpot in Obama, whose beliefs about our Cuba policy probably don't differ much from those of the average black-turtleneck-clad graduate student in Latin American studies. Every dictator around the world must be waiting anxiously for a call or a postcard from Obama. The leader of the free world comes bearing gifts and understanding. He is willing to overlook human-rights abuses. And his idea of burnishing his legacy is to clinch deals with his country's enemies. ...The Cuban military has a enormous holding company called GAESA. One of its companies, Gaviota, operates an extensive network of hotels and resorts from which it earns a bonanza of foreign exchange, according to the strategic consultancy Stratfor. Imagine if the Pentagon owned the Radisson, Marriott and Hilton hotel chains. That is the Cuban tourism industry in a nutshell. ...It is true, of course, that the embargo—which Obama won't lift on his own, at least not yet—hasn't ended the Castro regime. On the other hand, there's no reason to believe that lifting it will end the Castro regime, either. Our vast trade with China hasn't made the government there any less repressive (the hope that economic advancement will change it over time if a very long-term play). [69391]

"...The administration says its move will transform relations with Latin America, but that is naive. Countries that previously demanded an end to U.S. sanctions on Cuba will not now look to Havana for reforms; instead, they will press the Obama administration not to

sanction Venezuela. Mr. Obama says normalizing relations will allow the United States to be more effective in promoting political change in Cuba. That is contrary to U.S. experience with Communist regimes such as Vietnam, where normalization has led to no improvements on human rights in two decades. Moreover, nothing in Mr. Obama's record of lukewarm and inconstant support for democratic change across the globe can give Ms. Sánchez and her fellow freedom fighters confidence in this promise. The Vietnam outcome is what the Castros are counting on: a flood of U.S. tourists and business investment that will allow the regime to maintain its totalitarian system indefinitely. Mr. Obama may claim that he has dismantled a 50-year-old failed policy; what he has really done is give a 50-year-old failed regime a new lease on life." [69389]

At The Federalist.com Sean Davis points out, "Cuba's economy is not normal by any stretch of the imagination. In fact, it actually has two economies: the dollar economy, and the peso economy. Americans who are allowed to visit get to participate in the dollar economy, and only the dollar economy. Cubans who live there are required to participate in the peso economy, and only the peso economy. The markets are completely segregated. So, when an American goes down there, he buys things with either the dollar, or the Cuban version of the dollar (CUC), which generally has a 1:1 conversion ratio. Cubans are forced to use only the peso (CUP), which has roughly a 25:1 conversion ratio to the dollar (for every 25 CUP, you get one dollar; or for every 1 CUP, you get about \$0.04). That rate is set by the Cuban government. That leaves Cuban vendors who accept dollars with only two ways of using those dollars to get the things they need to survive: 1) purchase them on the black market using dollars, a risky proposition for obvious reasons, or 2) exchange the dollars for CUP. There's no trading the CUP on the open currency market. Apart from sentimental souvenir value, it's worthless everywhere else in the world." [69388]

"Whenever a Cuban gets his hand on a dollar, he either has to put himself at risk by using it on the black market, or he has to turn the dollar into the government in order to receive a pittance which he can use to buy food for his family. The Cuban government, in turn, has two ways of screwing its people out of their hard-earned money: 1) it can either tax them to death, or 2) it can just manipulate its exchange rate, a way to effectively tax them to death. Different means, same ends. Cuba's communist, after all, and communism is not a system that has ever put the welfare of its people ahead of the welfare of its rulers. The result of the Cuban two-currency economy — one of which is forbidden to its people — is that every dollar will eventually find its way into the hands of the Cuban government. Since their internal currency, the CUP, is worthless, it's not like they can just exchange it for dollars on the open market, like most other countries do. No, if the Cuban government wants dollars and the wealth that comes with them, it has to import them. And more dollars don't mean more prosperity for the people of Cuba; more dollars means more wealth and power concentrated in the hands of Cuba's communist regime. ...If Cuba truly wants free trade, then it needs to free its people, free its markets, and free its currency. Until then, any changes to the trade embargo are just going to be free money for corrupt Cuban communists." [69388]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer notes that the deal with Cuba was announced the day after Anthony Blinken was confirmed as Deputy Secretary of State: “Had this happened a day earlier he would not have been confirmed; there would have been a huge argument over what appears to be, let’s say, an untruth of some sort about the consultation with Congress.” (Blinken had told a Senate committee the administration would not act on Cuba without first consulting with Congress.) Krauthammer also notes that in 2008 Obama had said, “‘I will maintain the embargo... it provides us with leverage to provide the [Cuban] regime with a choice: if you take significant steps towards democracy, we will take steps to begin normalizing relations,’ which is the consensus that the country has had for 50 years. There was not an ounce, there was not an inch, there was not a suggestion of an opening here, so this is a contradiction. It’s about this administration, that everywhere it meets a tyrant, whether it’s Putin in Russia and we abandon the missile defense system [planned for Poland and the Czech Republic] in Eastern Europe and get nothing in return, we do the START treaty which is advantageous to the Russians and does nothing on our part, and with Iran where Obama refuses to support the revolution in 2009 and appears to be relaxing sanctions, giving away the store on nuclear weapons—is there no tyrant or anti-American center in the world that Obama will not appease for nothing in return?” [69387, 69438]

At a Hanukkah celebration in the White House, one guest tells Obama, “[W]hen I told my Christian friend I was coming to a Hanukkah party at the White House, he told me, ‘I didn’t know [Obama] was Jewish!’” Obama laughs and then says, “I am [Jewish], in my soul.” (The remark is not only absurd, it should offend Jews throughout the United States and Israel. The Obama administration is probably the most anti-Israel in history.) [69403]

On December 18 Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “In 1973 former Black Panther and Black Liberation Army member Assata Shakur, also known as Joanne Chesimard, killed New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in cold blood during a traffic stop. Shakur took Foerster’s police issued firearm and used it to shoot him twice in the head. In 1977 Shakur was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Foerster’s family never received full justice as Chesimard escaped in 1979, fled to Cuba and [has] been protected by the Castro regime ever since. She is listed on the FBI’s most wanted terrorists list with a \$1 million reward for information leading to her arrest. Tracking down Shakur under the protection of the Castros has been difficult, but with ...Obama’s announcement of normalization between the United States and Cuba, many are asking if Shakur will be extradited. ...Considering the Obama administration’s history of supporting cop killers, Shakur’s extradition and return to the U.S. justice system might take awhile.” (In addition to Shakur/Chesimard, there are about 80 other U.S. fugitives hiding in Cuba. Shakur/Chesimard is the step-aunt of hip-hop “artist” Tupac Shakur, who was gunned down in 1996. Rapper Lonnie Rashid Lynn, aka “Common,” has visited the White House. One of his “songs” is a tribute to Shakur/Chesimard. Black activist Cornel West and some Hollywood leftists have claimed Shakur/Chesimard is innocent.) [20556, 20593, 20697, 20698, 46677, 69383, 69417, 69433, 70694]

Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev appears in court. According to the Associated Press, “David Bruck, one of Tsarnaev’s lawyers, told the judge that the

defense plans to file a motion to delay the trial, which is now scheduled to begin on Jan. 5 with jury selection. Bruck did not say how long of a delay the defense will seek. ...Outside the courthouse, a man who lost his right leg in the bombings had a testy exchange with a small group of protesters holding signs supporting Tsarnaev and questioning whether authorities have proof that he is responsible for the bombings. Marc Fucarile held up his prosthetic leg and moved it back and forth toward the demonstrators, saying: 'That's proof right there.' One of the demonstrators said to Fucarile: 'You should care that they get the right guy.' Fucarile replied: 'Get a life, lady. Go to work.'" Robert Spencer writes at JihadWatch.org, "There is no doubt that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is guilty. He is captured on video at the scene, he took evidence of his involvement back to his college dorm, he wrote about the bombings and his role in them on the side of the boat in which he was hiding. And yet protesters still showed up to defend him. When it comes to Islamic jihad terror, some people cannot and will not shake the propagandistic notion that Muslims are always and ever victims, no matter how many bloodied, lifeless bodies they leave in their wake." [69412, 69413]

With North Korea's hack of Sony's computers in the headlines, D. W. Ulsterman reminds readers of an October 2012 cyber attack story at Cracked.com: "[T]he CIA under the Reagan administration found out that the KGB had been stealing technology from the West for years. In response, the CIA decided to feed the KGB a big, fat booby trap in what may be one of the first uses of a Trojan virus. They more or less had a list of things they knew the KGB was going to steal, so they added a special item to the mix: a piece of software used to help regulate gas pipelines. The CIA then dropped a 'logic bomb' in the software and waited, trying not to laugh. A logic bomb essentially makes a program switch to a different mode after running several million cycles (changing its 'logic'). The pipeline software's logic bomb was set to go off after 10 million cycles. The KGB thieves weren't stupid—they checked the stuff they were stealing—but since the software appeared to be working fine, they brought it back to a pipeline in Siberia that extended into Western Europe, singing songs of their good fortune. The program ran fine for a few months (the aforementioned 10 million cycles), but after that, it took the pipeline's pumps and compressors aside and told them, 'Today is the day that we run a pressure test at dangerously high levels.' After careful calculations, the CIA expected the pipeline to merely spring leaks all the way across Siberia." [69398, 69399]

"Clearly, they overestimated Soviet engineering. In June 1982, American early warning satellites detected an extremely large blast in Siberia as the pipeline motherfucking exploded. The blast was 3 kilotons, or roughly one-fifth of the strength of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It was 'the most monumental non-nuclear explosion and fire ever seen from space,' a phrase that here means 'the most brain-shittingly awesome spectacle ever witnessed by the endless folds of the universe.'" Ulsterman adds, "The Soviet pipeline was disintegrated, and the tremors of the great explosion felt all the way to the halls of the Kremlin itself. Ronald Reagan sent the Soviet Union a very powerful message with that logic bomb. America had a new sheriff, and no longer would the United States stand by and allow the Soviets to steal the very technology it was developing to win the Cold War. KGB documents released years later outlined how fearful the Soviets were of Reagan, thinking him capable of doing almost anything to

defeat them. To put it more bluntly, Ronald Reagan was looking upon his Soviet counterparts and in essence telling them in the most clear of terms, ‘If you steal from us again, we will f\*ck you up.’ The Soviets looked into President Reagan’s eyes and believed it. Nine years after Reagan’s CIA decimated Russia’s Siberian pipeline, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War was won.” (Whether Obama has the imagination—or the courage—to take similar retaliatory actions against North Korea remains to be seen.) [69398, 69399]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A spokesperson for the Treasury Department told the *Washington Free Beacon* that survival kits being ordered for government workers at every major bank in the United States are for ‘emergency preparedness.’ ...[T]he Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), which conducts on-site reviews of banks throughout the country, is ordering survival kits for each of its employees. The kits include everything from 50 water purification tablets to solar blankets. Stephanie Collins, a spokesperson for the OCC, told the Free Beacon that the government orders the kits for potential terrorist attacks. ‘After September 11, 2001, emergency preparedness was ramped up to include providing simple survival kits throughout the government to employees working in large office buildings or other potential target areas,’ she said in a statement. ‘As the solicitation mentioned, the kits must also include a ‘reusable solar blanket’ 52 by 84 inches long, a 2,400-calorie food bar, ‘50 water purification tablets,’ a ‘dust mask,’ ‘one-size fits all poncho with hood,’ a rechargeable lantern with built-in radio, and an ‘Air-Aid emergency mask’ for protection against airborne viruses.’ ‘The solicitation is to replace aging kits and provide kits at additional location out of a preponderance of caution,’ Collins added.” [69400]

Congressman Patrick Meehan (R-PA), chairman of the House Cybersecurity Committee, warns, “The attack on Sony is the latest high-profile example of the growing danger of the cyber threat, and it won’t be the last. American businesses, financial networks, government agencies and infrastructure systems like power grids are at continual risk. They’re targeted not just by lone hackers and criminal syndicates, but by well-funded nation-states like North Korea and Iran. A lack of consequences for when nation states carry out cyberattacks has only emboldened these adversaries to do more harm. The attack on Sony shows the dire need to upgrade our cyber defenses. We need to ease the sharing of threat information between government and the private sector and strengthen our ability to prevent and respond to attacks. Congress took important steps last week by passing bipartisan legislation that builds our cyber defense capabilities—it’s time for those bills to be signed into law and implemented.” [69415, 69426]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters the attack on Sony computers “is still under investigation both by the FBI and the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. I think for pretty obvious reasons I am not going to get ahead of that investigation or any announcements they may make about that investigation. ... There is evidence to indicate that we have seen destructive activity with malicious intent that was initiated by a sophisticated actor, and it is being treated by those investigative agencies, both at the FBI and the Department of Justice, as seriously as you would expect.” [69416]

IRS Commissioner John Koskinen warns that budgets cut may mean the agency will have trouble getting tax refunds released in a timely manner. He tells reporters, “Everybody’s return will get processed, but people have gotten very used to being able to file their return and quickly getting a refund. This year we may not have the resources, the people to provide refunds as quickly as we have in the past.” (This warning is clearly a move by the Obama administration to get voters angry at House Republicans for cutting the IRS budget. The agency can most certainly issue refunds as promptly as it has in the past; it is simply a matter of rearranging priorities. If the IRS needs more money, it could start by going after Al Sharpton—who reportedly owes several million dollars in back taxes.) [69429, 69430, 69507]

GodfatherPolitics.com points out that a number of free health care clinics have closed down because of a lack of donations needed to keep them operational: “When Obamacare was first implemented, the government kept telling everyone that they were required by the socialist law to obtain health insurance. Many of the donors that supported the free clinics assumed that everyone would get coverage so their checkbooks closed up and put away. With donations drying up, free clinics could no longer afford to operate and had no choice but to close their doors.” [69443]

On Newsmax TV, former U.S. ambassador to Venezuela Otto Reich says Obama’s Cuba action “is one of the most inexplicable initiatives by a United States administration in the history of foreign policy.” Obama “has thrown a lifeline to a sinking ship where the longest-lasting enemies of the U.S. are standing on the deck: the Castro brothers. ...Why is [Obama] replacing American taxpayers’ dollars for the money that the Cubans used to get from the Soviet Union until they ceased to exist, and then [from] Venezuela? Nobody really knows. ...The Castros cannot believe their luck. Never in their wildest dreams did they think [Obama] would come begging them for an agreement. ...Raul Castro did this because he could not believe that he was getting American money, American investment, American trade and American tourists—all of those things—in exchange for simply a promise that he was going to be a good boy for the next 10 or 20 years—which, of course, he’s not going to last that long.” [69424]

“...When the Soviet Union disappeared, [Venezuelan dictator] Hugo Chavez stepped in with huge amounts of money—up to 25 percent of the gross domestic product of Cuba. Venezuela today is bankrupt. If the administration would’ve waited just a little while, we could’ve negotiated. I’m not against negotiation, but I am against us giving away our bargaining power to a bunch of people who have literally tried to destroy the U.S., as when Fidel Castro begged [Soviet leader] Nikita Khrushchev to fire the nuclear missiles that were in Cuba, already established, in 1962 [at the United States]. For an 83-year-old general, Raul Castro, who’s not in good health, the head of a bankrupt government, to out-negotiate [Obama] so clearly humiliates him, [and] really undermines the image of the U.S. around the world. People are laughing. ...The left-wing Obama is coming out now that he’s been unshackled from any political requirements. He doesn’t have to run anymore, he’s lost control of the Congress, and he’s not going to get any legislation through the Congress. So he’s using his executive authority to reshape the world in the



way that he wanted to do it, but couldn't do it before. [Obama] looked around and looked at the list of the six years of this administration and saw that he has zero foreign policy successes. He figured, where can he give away the store and look to the leftist side of the world [like] a hero? And that's what he did. ...He doesn't care what it does to American prestige or our posture in the world." [69424]

Rush Limbaugh tells his radio audience, "I have warned all of you people. I have warned you that these two years of the Obama administration are gonna actually be what he would have done if he'd had total control and did not have to worry about the Constitution for the first two years. ...This is just the beginning. This is just a teaser, appetizer, for what is on tap the next two years. ...Everything Obama thinks this country's guilty of and needs to apologize for, he's gonna take care of." [69501]

Obama signs legislation sanctioning Venezuelan officials accused of human rights abuses. (He says nothing about continuing human rights abuses in Cuba.) [69437]

At the United Nations, fewer than half the member nations support a resolution condemning Iran for its violations of human rights. According to CNSNews.com, Cuba leads the opposition to the resolution, with its representative stating, "These resolutions are intended to harm developing countries, and they are politically motivated and have absolutely nothing to do with the defense of human rights and contribute nothing to that cause." [69440]

WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler lists "five reasons why Obama's Cuba deal stinks." "1. It bails the Cuban regime out right when things were really looking bad." (Russia no longer can afford to prop up Cuba, and the Castro brothers have been relying on assistance from Venezuela. But with reduced oil prices, Venezuela can hardly supply its own people with toilet paper, let alone supply Cuba with food. Obama is helping Cuba at the precise moment he should be sitting back, waiting for the Castros to beg for mercy.) "2. The argument the White House makes is that engagement with a totalitarian regime will help loosen its hold on power and create freedom and democracy. But where, exactly has that worked?" "3. True, it's been 50 years with Cuba, but isolating and opposing totalitarian regimes is what works." "4. The reversal on Cuba is a sure sign to our allies and enemies that we lack resolve..." "5. The U.S. is now in the Deal-for-Hostages business." [69427]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld says, "So I hear ...Obama may be going to Cuba. I was thinking, 'If you're gonna go, maybe you could bring me something back—no, not cigars, no rum, no plantains—how about her [cop-killer Joanne Chesimard].'" Gutfeld observes, "Unlike North Korea, Cuba is a jewel of the left because both adore Marxist thugs: those who failed at life but excel at taking it. Do you think that occurred to [Obama]? Or did he decide to normalize because 'it's the right thing to do?' See, he says that about everything. It's a sweet refrain, but one that fails to say why you reward a regime that torments people and harbors ghouls [the 80 or so criminal fugitives from the United States who sought refuge in Cuba]. Why not demand their return? Are you afraid to hurt feelings?" [69417]

On CNN, so-called journalist Sharon Waxman says, “I also want to point out something else that does not seem to be part of the discussion which is, where are our responsibilities in our exercising of the First Amendment? And I mean both those of us in the media and those of us who are making movies and those of us who are writing about the community that makes movies which is to say what is the thought process behind making a movie in which we decide to depict the assassination of a living foreign leader?” (Waxman apparently believes First Amendment rights should be policed—she does not say by whom—so as not to offend brutal North Korean dictators. Waxman was silent in 2006 after the release of the film *Death of a President*—a fictional “account” of the assassination of George W. Bush.) [69418, 69419, 69432]

On December 19 the FBI states it has enough information to conclude that the North Korean government was responsible for the hacking of Sony Pictures Entertainment computers, but suggests no actions to take. (Some people—experts included—believe the FBI is mistaken, and that the hacking attack was perpetrated by one of the many Sony employees the company has terminated over the last year.) [69405, 69577, 69620, 69643, 69700, 69701, 69736, 69737, 69751]

Obama holds his final press conference of 2104 before beginning his Hawaiian vacation. He falsely claims, “The steps that we took early on to rescue our economy and rebuild it on a new foundation helped make 2014 the strongest year for job growth since the 1990s.” (This is the same Obama who warned that the economy would suffer a significant downturn if the “sequestration” spending cuts were imposed. They were imposed, and almost no one noticed.) Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “Obama repeated his now familiar spiel about the country being in much better shape now than when he took office, praising what he termed an ‘American resurgence.’ He claimed improvement by almost any conceivable measure; ‘pick any metric,’ he said. Setting aside numerous metrics like the national debt, poverty rates, median household income, wage growth, workforce participation, and (still) rising healthcare costs, Obama is advancing an argument that Americans just don’t believe. Right track/wrong track numbers are in the toilet. His job approval rating is weak. Americans don’t believe the country is better off, nor do they feel as though our standing in the world is stronger. But he’s welcome to use his bully pulpit to try to convince them otherwise—if they’re still listening to him.” Obama also states that North Korea was responsible for the Sony hack and that “we will respond,” but he does not offer any details. (The United States can hardly impose sanctions on North Korea, as there is no trade between the two nations that could be curtailed.) [69420, 69422, 69431, 69434, 69449, 69547, 69600]

Stunningly, Obama criticizes Sony for caving in and pulling its movie, *The Interview*. (Some claim the White House pressured Sony to do so.) He says, “Yes I think they made a mistake. We cannot have a society in which a dictator in some place can start imposing censorship in the United States. ...I wish they’d spoken to me first. I would have told them, ‘Do not get into the pattern in which you are intimidated.’” (Obama is here trying to deflect the conversation from, “What are you, Obama, going to do about this?” to, “Don’t blame me, blame Sony.” Of course Obama, who famously “has a pen and a

phone,” could have called Sony if he thought his advice was so valuable and insightful. Obama is also being incredibly hypocritical: he believes Sony should release the movie even if it offends North Korea, but he made sure the producer of *Innocence of Muslims* was jailed because the video offended Muslims... and, he and Hillary Clinton claimed, caused the Benghazi attack on September 11, 2012. Robert Spencer writes at Jihad Watch that Obama “was against freedom of speech before he was for it,” and reminds readers that Obama said at the United Nations on September 25, 2012, “The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.”) [69420, 69422, 69431, 69434, 69449, 69547]

Benson continues, “He didn’t come out and say it, but [Obama] telegraphed an inclination toward vetoing the Keystone Pipeline if and when Republicans pass legislation next year. Obama listed the alleged drawbacks of the popular project, sniffing that it would only create ‘a few thousand’ temporary jobs. At another point in the press conference, he demanded more government spending on infrastructure projects (ignoring his failed ‘stimulus’ altogether, of course). So Obama is unimpressed with temporary, private sector infrastructure jobs, but he’s insistent upon taxpayers funding other temporary infrastructure jobs. ...One reporter touched on executive power, but her question was weak. It basically asked if he’s worried about Republicans working with him less as a consequence of his unilateral action[s]—a political process question that skirts around the core issue. On immigration, Obama again claimed that Congress’ refusal to carry out his will ‘forced’ him to act on his own, via an executive decree that he’d repeatedly averred was beyond his... authority. I counted eight total questions (or question sets), all of which came from women. [Obama] did not call on any male reporters, nor did any television reporters get a question. Many of the questions were sharp, and there’s obviously nothing wrong with selecting female interrogators, but it’s worth noting that Obama’s picks ensured that three of the journalists who consistently ask the toughest questions in White House briefings (Fox’s Ed Henry, CBS’ Major Garrett and ABC’s Jonathan Karl) were all shut out. Make of that what you will.” [69420]

Although Obama says, “I wish they’d spoken to me first,” Sony Pictures CEO Michael Lynton states, “We definitely spoke to a senior advisor in the White House to talk about the situation. The fact is, did we talk to [Obama] himself? ...No, but the White House was certainly aware of the situation.” A “senior administration official” tells *Variety*, “There was a meeting, and they [Sony] did present to the government their issue. But to say that we instructed them, or made them to believe that we endorsed the idea of them pulling the film is categorically incorrect. The administration, and no administration, is in the habit of instructing businesses what to do or not do or how to conduct their business.” (It is laughable for the Obama administration to claim it is not in the habit of telling businesses what to do. Even if one ignores the most egregious example, ObamaCare, Obama has had a six-year record of bullying businesses.) Breitbart.com’s John Nolte writes, “An American company and one of the cornerstone’s of our culture has been under a devastating attack by a foreign country for nearly a month. Apparently, [Obama] believes it’s Sony’s job to fight the North Koreans, and not his.” [69444, 69450]

Sony issues a statement: “Sony Pictures Entertainment is and always has been strongly committed to the First Amendment. For more than three weeks, despite brutal intrusions into our company and our employees’ personal lives, we maintained our focus on one goal: getting the film *The Interview* released. Free expression should never be suppressed by threats and extortion. The decision not to move forward with the December 25 theatrical release of *The Interview* was made as a result of the majority of the nation’s theater owners choosing not to screen the film. This was their decision. Let us be clear—the only decision that we have made with respect to release of the film was not to release it on Christmas Day in theaters, after the theater owners declined to show it. Without theaters, we could not release it in the theaters on Christmas Day. We had no choice. After that decision, we immediately began actively surveying alternatives to enable us to release the movie on a different platform. It is still our hope that anyone who wants to see this movie will get the opportunity to do so.” (Some theaters are willing to show the movie, but they are probably too few in number for Sony to make much money—and if the public pans the film, Sony will not be able to accomplish a widespread distribution later.) [69451]

On CNN, Sony Pictures Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton says, “[Obama], the press and the public are mistaken as to what actually happened. We do not own movie theaters. ... We have not caved, we have not given in, we have persevered, and we have not backed down. We have always had the desire to have the American public see this movie.” [69451, 69453]

Catherine Herridge reports at FoxNew.com, “The U.S. investigation into the recent hacking attack at Sony Pictures Entertainment has turned up evidence that does not point to North Korea as the ‘sole entity’ in the case, but rather, raises the possibility that Iran, China or Russia may have been involved, an intelligence source told Fox News on Thursday. Earlier Thursday, Fox News confirmed that the FBI is pointing a digital finger at North Korea for the attack. The source pointed to the sophistication of malware ‘modules or packets’ that destroyed the Sony systems—on a level that has not been seen from North Korea in the past—but has been seen from Iran, China and Russia. ... The intelligence source added that the forensic evidence suggests that the final stage of the attack was launched outside North Korea’s borders—creating some plausible deniability.” [69425]

Rear Admiral John Kirby tells reporters that approximately 1,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division will deploy to Iraq in January, to train and assist Iraqi forces. [69442]

The State Department issues a worldwide travel alert: “The lone wolf attack in Sydney, Australia on December 15, 2014, resulting in the deaths of two hostages, is a reminder that U.S. citizens should be extra cautious, maintain a very high level of vigilance, and take appropriate steps to enhance their personal security. This Travel Alert expires on March 19, 2015. ... An analysis of past attacks and threat reporting strongly suggests a focus by terrorists not only on the targeting of U.S. government facilities but also on hotels, shopping areas, places of worship, and schools, among other targets, during or

coinciding with this holiday period. ...U.S. citizens abroad should be mindful that terrorist groups and those inspired by them can pose unpredictable threats in public venues. U.S. citizens should remain alert to local conditions and for signs of danger.” (Why the alert expires on March 19 is not explained.) [69454]

FoxNews.com’s Todd Starnes writes, “Parents in Farmville, North Carolina want to know why their children were given a Common Core vocabulary assignment in an English class that promoted the Prophet Muhammad and the Islamic faith. ...The Islamic vocabulary worksheet was assigned to seniors.” The assignment allegedly helps teach students the meanings of various words, such as “astute, “conducive,” and “erratic.” But it does so with these sentences: “It is entirely possible that Mohammed was an **astute**, or shrewd, merchant, but at about the age of forty, he gave up his career as a merchant and became a religious hermit.” “Mohammed, who was familiar with the teachings of Judaism and Christianity, found solitude to be **conducive** to understanding proper faith. He also found meditation to be helpful.” “The responses to Mohammed’s teachings were at first **erratic**. Some people responded favorably, while others resisted his claim that ‘there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his Prophet.’” Starnes adds, “I asked the school district to provide me with a copy of vocabulary worksheets that promoted the Jewish, Hindu and Christian faiths. The school district did not reply. ...Since the Common Core folks seem to be infatuated with sentence completion—let me try one out on them. Use ‘Islamic’ and ‘proselytizing’ in the following sentence: Somebody got their \_\_\_\_ hand caught in the \_\_\_\_ cookie jar.” [69455, 69480]

Houston’s KPRC reports, “[O]f the 30,467 families and unaccompanied children caught crossing the border between July and October, only 22 percent have received a final disposition as to whether they will be allowed to stay in the U.S. or be deported. Of the 15,614 families caught crossing the border, but not detained, 4,197 have been ordered removed from the U.S. However, 96 percent of those removal orders were done ‘in absentia.’ The EOIR [Executive Office of Immigration Review] states an ‘in absentia’ order is done when a person fails to show in immigration court. Out of the 1,428 families caught crossing the border and detained, 21 have been ordered removed. Forty-three percent of these orders were done ‘in absentia.’” (In other words, the border process is a complete joke, as 96 percent of the illegal immigrant border-crossing families never show up in court.) [69729, 69730]

Vermont ends its plans to implement a “single-payer” health care system for the state because it cannot afford the \$2 billion price tag. (Vermont has about 6327,000 residents; a \$2 billion scheme would mean an annual per-person tax of about \$3,190—which apparently even Democrats resisted.) At NationalReview.com John Fund notes that Jonathan Gruber was “a key architect” of the Vermont plan, and writes, “The lessons for Obamacare are obvious and profound. Scott Milne, the little-known Republican who opposed [Democrat Governor Peter] Shumlin in last month’s election and came within 1 percentage point of winning the most votes, isn’t surprised. ‘During the campaign I said that single-payer is dead—I’m telling you that now, and Peter Shumlin’s going to wait until after the election,’ Milne told the *Burlington Free Press*. ...Business realities weighed heavily in Shumlin’s retreat. His experts calculated the state would need an 11.5

percent payroll tax and an additional income tax of up to 9.5 percent. That's California-style taxation. 'My health-care costs would have gone up by 61 percent if that plan had gone through,' Win Smith, the owner of the Sugarbush ski resort, told reporters. 'If there were that 9 percent [income tax] on employees, many would have been paying more than they're paying now. It would have been a lose-lose.' Shumlin admitted it would be irresponsible for him to be 'pushing prematurely for single-payer' when 'the risk of economic shock is too high at this time.'" [69456, 69533]

Breitbart.com reports, "As part of his \$280,000 contract with the state of Vermont to conduct economic modeling for the state's potential single-payer plan, [Jonathan] Gruber has billed the state \$100,000 for 1,000 hours of work by unnamed research assistants. The state paid Gruber, personally, \$80,000 against these invoices, trusting that Gruber would in turn pay his research assistants. Gruber, however, has yet to produce any documentation concerning these research assistants. He has not provided their identities, defined work product, or proven he made the payments to them. Breitbart has repeatedly asked Gruber to produce this documentation, and has now done so again, asking him to provide it by Monday [December 22]. This lack of worker documentation caught the attention of Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer, who on December 3 asked the Shumlin administration to provide him with the names, employment status, and contact information for these research assistants. ...Incoming Chairman of the federal House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) is expected to ask Gruber to testify again before his committee when the new Congress convenes in January. Gruber has apparently failed to respond to a subpoena issued by outgoing Chairman Darrell Issa [R-CA] for all work product from his federal and state Obamacare related contracts." [69465]

At DailySignal.com Hans von Spakovsky reports, "A grand jury convened by Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams has indicted two Democratic state legislators for accepting bribes in exchange for voting against a voter ID bill, among other legislative actions. The grand jury findings also represent a withering rejection of the unjustifiable behavior of Pennsylvania Attorney General Kathleen Kane [a Democrat], who shut down the three-year investigation that caught state Democratic legislators on video and audio tapes taking bribes. Williams stepped in and successfully prosecuted the case. As the grand jury reported, it had 26 recordings featuring Rep. Ronald G. Waters, who accepted nine cash payments from a confidential informant totaling \$8,750. The grand jury had 24 recordings of Rep. Vanessa Lowery Brown accepting five cash payments totaling \$4,000. Waters agreed to vote against Pennsylvania House Bill 934, a voter ID bill, in exchange for \$2,000. Brown also agreed to vote against House Bill 934 for the same amount. ...Because Waters, Brown and other legislators involved in the bribery scheme are black, Democratic Attorney General Kathleen Kane shut down the investigation in March. She claimed that the investigation was 'poorly conceived, badly managed and tainted by racism...[and] had targeted African-Americans.' Williams, who also is black, was particularly incensed by this claim, saying that he was 'disgusted that the attorney general would bring racism into this case. It's like pouring gasoline on a fire for no reason, no reason at all.' ...In a scathing indictment of

Kane's claims, the grand jury found that it was her 'review, rather than the underlying investigation, that appeared flawed.'" [69457, 69658]

Mariela Castro, daughter of Raul Castro, tells Reuters, "The people of Cuba don't want to return to capitalism. We've been at this 56 years and ...we love saying that we are a country in revolution, trying to create socialism, and we form part of a single party called the Communist Party. ...If the U.S. thinks these changes will bring Cuba back to capitalism and return to being a servile country to the interests of the most powerful financial groups in the U.S., they must be dreaming. I don't know what my father plans to do. What I can say at least, as a member of [the Cuban] parliament, is that there's [sic; there are] big concerns about how to do things the best way possible, to obtain funds for the many problems we're discussing now." [69496]

In a letter to Obama, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie writes, "Cuba's provision of safe harbor to [Joanne] Chesimard by providing political asylum to a convicted cop killer ...is an affront to every resident of our state, our country, and in particular, the men and women of the New Jersey State Police. [It was a New Jersey police officer who Chesimard killed.] I urge you to demand the immediate return of Chesimard before any further consideration of restoration of diplomatic relations with the Cuban government." [69503, 69534, 69549]

According to ABCNews.com, Obama "has a 41 percent job approval rating in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll out this week, a single point from his career low, with 54 percent disapproving. His approval rating averaged just 43 percent in 2014, making it his worst year by a significant margin. His rating on the economy is essentially flat; 52 percent disapprove, despite recent economic gains. Fifty-four percent disapprove of his work on international affairs, a steadily negative majority since September. He's gained 9 points on handling immigration, but only to 38 percent approval, with 55 percent disapproving. And for only the second time, numerically more disapprove than approve of his handling of terrorism, 48-43 percent. He's presided over the steepest drop-off in Democratic self-identification we've ever seen. Just 26 percent of Americans now identify themselves as Democrats, down 6 points from late October to the fewest on record since the start of ABC/Post polling in 1981. (More are independents; Republican Party ID is flat, but the GOP's favorability rating has risen sharply.) Obama's career-long job approval rating, 50 percent on average, lags all three of his immediate two-term predecessors at this point in their tenure. He's at 29 percent approval among whites... not only do 67 percent disapprove, but a majority, 53 percent, does so strongly. Nearly two-thirds of nonwhites, by contrast, approve of Obama's work in office. Previous results also have indicated [Obama's] problems: He reached career lows in both favorability and empathy—understanding the problems of people like you—in a pre-election ABC/Post poll. His career low job approval, 40 percent, was Oct. 12." [69468]

Zach Emanuel, the 17-year-old son of former Obama chief of staff and current Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, is mugged on the city's north side; his cell phone is taken by two men. [69550]

On December 20 AFP reports, “The Islamic State extremist group has executed 100 of its own foreign fighters who tried to flee their headquarters in the Syrian city of Raqqa, the Financial Times newspaper said Saturday. An activist opposed to both IS and the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who is well-known to the British business broadsheet, said he had ‘verified 100 executions’ of foreign IS fighters trying to leave the jihadist group’s de facto capital.” [69439]

In Joué-lès-Tour, France, a Muslim shouting “Allahu Akbar” enters a police station and stabs a police officer in the face. JihadWatch.org notes, “Islamic extremism is an increasing problem in France. In recent months, the country, which has Europe’s largest Muslim population, has been facing the fact that hundreds of its citizens have openly joined jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria and have even called for attacks on their homeland.” [69522, 69524]

At ArabNews.com Rasheed Abou-Alsamh writes, “This past week has been extremely hard for Muslims, especially those living in countries where they are minorities. From Australia to Pakistan to Nigeria, kidnappings, killings, and the blowing up of innocent children were all done by terrorists claiming to be Muslims and to be doing such evil deeds in the name of our religion.” (Islam is the majority religion in Nigeria and Pakistan. Muslims are hardly living in the “minorities.” There is little discrimination against Muslims in Australia or, according to FBI statistics, in the United States. Even after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, there were few, if any, incidents of Americans attacking Muslims. Yes, the average American may give a disapproving look at a Muslim woman dressed from head-to-toe in a black tent with only her eyes showing through a slit, but disapproving looks are often also given to people with facial tattoos, nose rings, and spiked purple hair. A critical look is hardly on the same level as a beheading.) [69410, 69411, 69518]

Former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) notes that at Obama’s “final press conference of 2014 there was one topic noticeably missing—any discussion on ISIS. ...As reported by IJ Review, ‘American troops just had their first real battle with Islamic State militants, after the terror group attempted to overrun Ein al-Asad base in Iraq in the middle of the night Sunday, the Kurdish news outlet Shafaq News reports. The U.S. troops absolutely decimated the militants, forcing a quick retreat. The counterattack was conducted in a joint operation with local tribal forces. The attack occurred at Ein al-Asad base, which currently hosts nearly 100 U.S. military ‘advisers.’ The U.S. troops engaged the militants in tandem with F-18 fighter jets, who provided air support. The battle lasted approximately two hours after an undisclosed number of militants were killed.’ Now, why would the Commander-in-Chief not want to disclose such powerful and great news, that our U.S. forces met the enemy on the battlefield and crushed them? After all, the mission given by ...Obama was to degrade and destroy ISIS, right? Well, maybe [Obama], who said he wouldn’t deploy American troops back into combat in Iraq, doesn’t want Americans to know those deployed troops are indeed in ground combat with the enemy. Is this a deliberate deception by Obama, or just complete denial of the truth? His unilateral politically motivated decision to withdraw all American troops from Iraq was misguided and a strategic blunder. He has now ordered nearly 3,000 American



troops back into Iraq and guess what? They're in combat, fighting against the enemy, not from 10,000 feet but on the ground—and they are wearing boots. ...In my opinion, yesterday ...Obama didn't want it to be known that American troops deployed to Iraq are on the ground, wearing boots, and engaged in combat.” [69513]

Sky News reports, “Four Guantanamo Bay detainees have been released and sent home to Afghanistan, the Pentagon has revealed. The men, who were held at the US military prison for over a decade, were flown to the Afghan capital Kabul overnight on a US military plane. Shawali Khan, Khi Ali Gul, Abdul Ghani and Mohammed Zahir were then handed to Afghan authorities who are not required to further detain them.” (Obama's release of the four captives prompts the question, “If the four are not dangerous, why were they kept locked up for 10 years; and if they are dangerous, why are they being released?”) [69441, 69458, 69482]

According to FrontPageMag.com, “When Mohammed Zahir was caught, among his possessions was found a small sealed can marked, in Russian, ‘Heavy Water U235 150 Grams.’ According to the classified report, the uranium had been identified by Zahir ‘in his memorandum as being intended for the production of an ‘atom bomb.’” Zahir was not just another captured Jihadist. He was the Secretary General of the Taliban's Intelligence Directorate and was in contact with top leaders of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. His possessions included a fax with questions intended for Osama bin Laden and he had been arrested on suspicion of possessing Stinger missiles. ...Zahir was the closest thing to a major nuclear terrorist in United States custody. Freeing him was wildly irresponsible even by the standards of a leader who had sacrificed thousands of Americans in a futile effort to ‘win’ Afghan hearts and minds. Nor did Obama even bother with the plausible deniability of releasing him to a South American country, the way he had with his previous batch of ISIS recruits, or at least to Qatar. Instead Mohammed Zahir went back directly to the battlefield in Afghanistan. Obama couldn't have done more without handing over the blueprints for constructing a nuclear bomb. ...Americans no longer expect the man in the White House not to release terrorists. We no longer expect him not to release dangerous terrorists who will go on to kill Americans. Now we also know that it's useless to expect him not to release terrorists caught trying to assemble materials for a nuclear bomb. We've tried to grade Obama on a curve when it comes to national security, but the curve just got nuked. The very lowest possible expectation we can have of Obama is that he won't release a nuclear terrorist. And even this lowest of all possible expectations proved too much for him to live up to. Which terrorists will Obama release next? The answer appears to be all of them.” [69771, 69772]

In a speech to the Cuban people, dictator Raul Castro says, “We won the war!” [69475]

In Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, two police officers, Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, are shot in their heads and killed, execution-style, while sitting in their squad car near the Tompkins Houses public housing complex. The assassin, a black man named Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley who has a criminal record, then runs into a subway station and kills himself as police officers approach him. Earlier in the day, Brinsley shot and wounded his girlfriend, Shaneka Nicole Thompson, in Baltimore; police there then

warned the New York City Police Department to be on the lookout for him—at about the same time he was shooting the officers. Former police detective Michael Snopes tells Examiner.com, “We have got to tone down this anti-cop rhetoric on the streets and in City Hall by the mayor [Bill de Blasio, the red-diaper baby and former community activist and Sandinista-supporter who was born William Wilhelm, Jr. and who traveled to the Soviet Union in 1983 and honeymooned in Cuba with his lesbian activist wife in 1994] and even the White House and [Department of] Justice. And these daily protests are not helping matters much. The PBA [Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association union] will surely have something to say and I hope they don’t hold back.” [69459, 69460, 69464, 69467, 69476, 69483, 69501, 69521, 69525, 69545, 69560, 69619, 69621]

Newsmax.com reports, “Brinsley, who reportedly belonged to a gang, ... bragged on his Instagram page just hours before that he wanted to kill police officers... Investigators said that Brinsley was avenging the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown by killing the officers.” Former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik tells *Newsmax* that Mayor Bill de Blasio, Al Sharpton “and all those who encouraged this anti-cop, racist mentality all have blood on their hands. They have blood on their hands. This guy’s intent—based on that Instagram post—was retribution for Eric Garner and Michael Brown. The people who encouraged these protests—you had peaceful protesters who were screaming ‘kill the cops’—the so-called peaceful protesters. Who was encouraging these protesters? De Blasio, Sharpton and other elected officials and community leaders. They encouraged this mentality. They encouraged this behavior. They encouraged it—and these two cops are dead because of people like them. They don’t owe the cops an apology. An apology isn’t good enough. They have blood on their hands.” On Instagram, Brinsley had written, “I’m Putting Wings on Pigs Today. They Take 1 Of Ours [that is, Eric Garner]... Let’s Take 2 of Theirs. ... This May Be My Final Post.” Brinsley’s name on Facebook is “Bleau Barracuda,” where he lists Arabic as one of his languages and cites Surah 8 from the Qu’ran: “Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into (the hearts of) the enemies, of Allah and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom Allah doth know. Whatever ye shall spend in the cause of Allah, shall be repaid unto you, and ye shall not be treated unjustly.”) [69461, 69464, 69472, 69483, 69485, 69493, 69495, 69508, 69511, 69512]

TheDailyBeast.com reports that a “short distance from the crime scene—where a crowd was backed up by the police tape—a few members of the crowd repeated ‘fuck the cops’ within earshot of a Daily Beast reporter. One 30-year-old local who gave his first name only as Carlos, didn’t hear the fatal gunfire but saw the hysteria afterwards and walked to the police tape. ‘A lot of people were clapping and laughing,’ he said. ‘Some were saying, ‘They deserved it,’ and another was shouting at the cops, ‘Serves them right because you mistreat people!’” he said.” [69470, 69471]

TheRightScoop.com reports, “After cowardly backing the race narrative against cops, [New York City De Blasio actually had the gall to show his pathetic face at the press conference for the ambush murder of two NYPD policemen. In recent days the police union was calling to bar DeBlasio from all police funerals because they felt he would be

insulting their sacrifice.” As “Red Bill” de Blasio enters Woodhull Hospital for a news conference, dozens of angry police officers turn their backs on him as he walks through the crowd. De Blasio states, “We’re all in this together,” and one police officer present calls out, “No we’re not.” According to the *New York Post*, “Brinsley was a fugitive who had just murdered his girlfriend in Baltimore Saturday morning... Just last week cops began signing a ‘Don’t Insult My Sacrifice’ waiver, distributed by the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association, that warned the mayor and speaker [of the state house] to stay away from funerals of cops killed in the line of duty.” [69462, 69463, 69464, 69484, 69488]

Execrable race hustler Al Sharpton immediately interjects himself into the story, stating, “I have spoken to the [Eric] Garner family and we are outraged by the early reports of the police killed in Brooklyn today. Any use of the names of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, in connection with any violence or killing of police, is reprehensible and against the pursuit of justice in both cases.” [69467, 69486]

Jon Adler, National President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, tells Fox News, “Had Mayor Bill de Blasio been forceful from the onset when the two lieutenants were attacked, one has to question as to whether this murderous psycho would have been compelled to target our heroic brother and sister in New York’s Finest.’ (Adler is referring to a recent incident, captured on video, in which a group of protesters assaulted two police officers. De Blasio angered many police officers by saying the two were “allegedly assaulted”—as if the video left any doubt.) [69467, 69515]

On CNN, retired New York City Police Department detective Henry Houck says, “What really has me upset is [that] all these demonstrations that we’ve been having here, [have] all been predicated on lies, ‘no justice, no peace,’ we have two dead police officers, and I guess Al Sharpton got what he wanted.” CNN host: “Your feeling is of course that the protest in some way incited this man [Brinsley] to do what he did?” Houck: “Oh, there’s no doubt about it. Everybody’s talking about killing a cop, you gotta take a cop out for... Eric Garner... This is why this person was motivated to do this. There’s no doubt in my mind. I was a detective for 20-some years and believe me that was definitely in this man’s mind.” [69474, 69494]

Responding to the criticism leveled against him, Mayor de Blasio states, “It’s unfortunate that in a time of great tragedy, some would resort to the irresponsible, overheated rhetoric that angers and divides people.” (De Blasio is apparently incapable of comprehending that his statement applies to rhetoric from *him*, Al Sharpton, Eric Holder, and Obama after the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. “This is no time for politics” is often said by those who have just finished using an event for crass political purposes.) [69484, 69526]

Former New York Governor George Pataki tweets, “[I am] Sickened by these barbaric acts, which sadly are a predictable outcome of divisive anti-cop rhetoric of #ericholder & #mayordeblasio. #NYPD” [69484]

Pat Lynch, head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, tells a crowd of New York City police officers, "We will shoulder the burden for these families each and every day, for the rest of their lives. Generations of police officers will know their names and hold them close to their hearts, and educate our children about the sacrifice they made. There's blood on many hands tonight, those that incited violence on the street, under the guise of protests that tried to tear down what New York City police officers did every day. We tried to warn, it must not go on, it cannot be tolerated. That blood on the hands starts on the steps of City Hall, in the office of the mayor. Starting today, we started the mourning for our brother police officers. They're heroes, they're fathers, they're brothers, they're children—that's the men we lost today. So, starting in the next couple of hours, and going for a number of days, New York City police officers, through their sadness, will straighten their shoulders, stiffen their backs, and mourn for these families. We'll mourn for our city, and we'll mourn for our brothers. When these funerals are over, those responsible will be called on the carpet and held accountable." [69500, 69515]

TruthRevolt.org posts several tweets by Brandeis University student Khadijah Lynch, a junior and an Undergraduate Department Representative (a student advisor) in the African and Afro-American Studies Department: "i have no sympathy for the nypd officers who were murdered today." "lmao, all i just really dont have sympathy for the cops who were shot. i hate this racist fucking country." "ya'll out here waiting for a white messiah, im waiting for Malcolm X to return." "the fact that black people have not burned this country down is beyond me" "I am in riot mode. Fuck this fucking country" "i need to get my gun license. asap." and "amerikkka needs an intifada. enough is enough." (Lynch's Twitter profile is now private.) Pamela Geller observes, "There is a pattern here—and it is the obvious consequence of leftist/Islamic inculcation on university campuses. The youth in this country are incapable of free, rational and critical thought, as their brains have been soaking in a toxic ooze of leftist/Islamic inculcation. A nation of zombies—brutal zombies." (Lynch is not alone with her rants. More than a few cop-haters post disgusting messages on Twitter.) Among the instructors in Brandeis University's department of African and Afro-American studies is Anita Hill, who "teaches courses on gender, race, social policy and legal history"—and who attempted to thwart Clarence Thomas' 1991 nomination to the Supreme Court nomination by claiming he told off-color jokes and crudely propositioned her. [69473, 69517, 69529, 69595, 69755]

In Hawaii, after being informed of the execution of the two police officers, Obama heads to a golf course. [69477, 69478, 69516, 69617]

The White House issues a statement from Obama: "I unconditionally condemn today's murder of two police officers in New York City. Two brave men won't be going home to their loved one tonight, and for that, there is no justification. The officers who serve and protect our communities risk their own safety for ours every single day—and they deserve our respect and gratitude every single day. Tonight, I ask people to reject violence and words that harm, and turn to words that heal—prayer, patient dialogue, and sympathy for the friends and family [sic; families] of the fallen." [69487, 69531]

Attorney General Eric Holder issues a statement: “I condemn this afternoon’s senseless shooting of two New York City police officers in the strongest possible terms. This was an unspeakable act of barbarism, and I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of these two brave officers in the line of duty. On behalf of all those who serve in the United States Department of Justice, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to the officers’ loved ones and colleagues. I will make available all of the resources of the Department to aid the NYPD in investigating this tragedy. This cowardly attack underscores the dangers that are routinely faced by those who protect and serve their fellow citizens. As a nation we must not forget this as we discuss the events of the recent past. These courageous men and women routinely incur tremendous personal risks, and place their lives on the line each and every day, in order to preserve public safety. We are forever in their debt. Our nation must always honor the valor—and the sacrifices—of all law enforcement officers with a steadfast commitment to keeping them safe. This means forging closer bonds between officers and the communities they serve, so that public safety is not a cause that is served by a courageous few, but a promise that’s fulfilled by police officials and citizens working side by side.” (By “forging closer bonds,” Holder means the police are to blame. He should be encouraging people to obey the law.) [69479, 69487]

At Morgan State University, a black school in Baltimore, Nation of Islam (NOI) leader Louis Farrakhan calls for violence against whites: “We [are] going to die anyway. Let’s die for something. ... Teach your baby how to throw the bottle [Molotov cocktails] if they can. Fight.” Examiner.com reports, “According to Farrakhan, white people—who he classifies as ‘the enemy’—will only listen if blacks rise up in violence. He also claimed violence is justified by a ‘law of retaliation’ he claims is in both the Bible and the Koran. ‘In this book, there’s a law for retaliation,’ he said, holding what appeared to be the NOI version of the Koran. ‘A law for retaliation,’ he repeated. ‘As long as they kill us and go to Wendy’s and have a burger and go to sleep, they’ll keep killing us,’ he said. ‘But when we die and they die, then soon we’re going to sit at a table and talk about it! We’re tired! We want some of this earth or we’ll tear this goddamned country up!’ The crowd reacted with wild applause and cheers.” (In Farrakhan’s audience are 40 children from Baltimore’s Booker T. Washington School, whose teachers apparently believe it is appropriate for 11-year-olds to hear white people referred to as “crackers” and threats to destroy the nation.) [69558, 69785]

On December 21 police officer Charles Kondek is shot and killed in Tarpon Springs, Florida. According to DailyCaller.com, “The shooter fled in a minivan and crashed into a power pole and a pickup truck before being taken into custody. The motive for the shooting is unclear, and there is no immediate indication that the shooting was related to the NYPD officers who were killed. Kondek, 45, was a 17-year veteran that [sic; who] spent time as an NYPD officer...” [69469, 69530]

In Dijon, France, a driver shouting “Allahu Akbar” from his car runs into a crowd of pedestrians, injuring 11 people. [69523]

On *Fox & Friends*, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani says, “What you saw in New York City over the last couple of weeks would never, *ever* have happened while I

was mayor of New York City. They would not have been allowed to control the bridge—people don't get to take a public bridge from the public. I don't know if New York City officials realize if you close down streets in New York City, you'll kill people. We need two, three minutes to get people to the hospital when they have a heart attack. You start cutting down the ability to flow through the streets, you start diverting police and fire attention, people die. ...What has been allowed to go on fosters the sense of anti-police hatred, and that's one percent of the problem. What about the 92 percent that is actually causing the death of most black men in this country? [Blacks killing other blacks.] We can't talk about that? You're racist if you say that? Frankly, I think you're racist if you don't say that. ...What I blame the mayor [Bill de Blasio] for is allowing these protests to get out of control. ...You've got to give people the sense that there's law, there's order and that the police are in charge, they're not in charge. The mayor has switched it." [69540]

Obama political guru David Axelrod tweets, "Murder of NYC cops was sickening. But union's hit on Bill de Blasio for addressing chasm between police & community only feeds tragic cycle." (From Axelrod's viewpoint, de Blasio having essentially accused the police department of being racist apparently did not "feed the tragic cycle.") [69489]

Obama plays golf. [69617]

In a pre-recorded [December 19] segment broadcast on CNN's *State of the Union*, Obama says, "Uh, you know, there's no reason for folks [black activists] to be patient. Uh, I'm impatient. That's why in the wake of what happened in Ferguson, uh, and what happened in New York, we've initiated task force that in 90 days are [sic; is] gonna [sic; going to] be providing very specific recommendations. Uh, on the other hand, I think an unwillingness to acknowledge that progress has been made cuts off the possibility of further progress. If, if critics want to [sic; to] suggest that America is inherently and irreducibly racist, then why bother even workin' [sic; working] on it? Uh, I've seen change in my own life. So has this country. Uh, and, uh, those who would deny that, I think, actually foreclose the possibility of further progress rather than advancing it." (Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder are themselves guilty of suggesting that the nation is inherently racist.) [69490, 69492, 69546, 69551, 69552]

Obama also dismisses North Korea's hack of Sony Pictures Entertainment as merely "an act of cyber-vandalism" that "we take it very seriously and we will respond proportionally. ...If we set a precedent in which a dictator in another country can disrupt through cyber [attacks], a company's distribution chain or its products, and as a consequence we start censoring ourselves, that's a problem. ...[T]he key here is not to suggest that Sony was a bad actor. It's making a broader point that all of us have to adapt to the possibility of cyberattacks, we have to do a lot more to guard against them." (Some might argue that "we" don't have to do a lot more; Obama has to do something besides lecture. It is not Sony's job to conduct foreign policy or retaliate against North Korea.) Separately on the same program, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) states, "This is a manifestation of a new form of warfare. When you destroy economies and when you are able to impose censorship on the world and especially the United States of America, it's

more than vandalism. It's a new form of warfare that we're involved in, and we need to react and react vigorously." [69490, 69492, 69546, 69551, 69552]

At WND.com Aaron Klein reports, "The gang to which NYPD cop killer Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley may have belonged, the Black Guerilla Family, is allied with U.S. leftist groups and worked as an ideological partner with Bill Ayers' Weather Underground terrorist organization. Brinsley is the assassin who executed two officers in Brooklyn on Saturday after posting on social media his intention to avenge the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown, both of whom were killed by police officers. ... The New York Daily News reported investigators went to Baltimore to probe Brinsley's ties to the Black Guerrilla Family, which dominates the Maryland prison where Brinsley spent time. The BGF is an African-American Marxist revolutionary organization that seeks the overthrow of the U.S. government. Numerous Baltimore media outlets confirmed law-enforcement officials are probing the BGF link. ... The Sun reported that on Friday the Baltimore FBI office issued a memo warning the gang was targeting 'white cops' in Maryland. The New York Daily News reported BFG members were passing around threats that they were 'preparing to shoot on-duty police officers.' ... The far-left BGF, originally known as the Black Family and Black Vanguard, was founded in 1966 in California's San Quentin State Prison by George Jackson, a member of the Black Panthers. It was an ally of Ayers' Weather Underground terrorist group." The CBS affiliate in Baltimore confirms that "that detectives are making their way to Baltimore tonight to meet with police and look into whether Brinsley had any connection with the Black Guerilla Family. BGF is a powerful Maryland gang, notoriously known for corrupting the Baltimore City Detention Center." [69499, 69502]

Attorney Orly Taitz writes Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson, urging him to initiate a criminal investigation of Al Sharpton and hold him accountable "for his incitement of violence against police."

Breitbart.com reports, "Retired NYPD members are discussing ways to keep New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio away from the funerals of recently-murdered NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. One tactic, suggested in a popular law enforcement web forum, instructed officers to block the Mayor's motorcade when it approached one of the funerals." [69514]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) states, "When it comes to funding any embassy in Cuba, I'll be the chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee [in January]. I will do everything I can to limit the size and stake of this embassy because you are rewarding people who kidnap Americans and who really are still Communists in every way." Graham warns any potential ambassador to Cuba Obama may select: "If you are being offered an ambassadorship to Cuba, turn it down, because you don't have a snowball's chance in Hell of getting confirmed; Congress will not enforce that." Of the Sony hacking issue, Graham says, "I can only imagine what the ayatollahs in Iran must be saying when [Obama] called the North Korean attack on our way of life, not just a movie, [only] 'vandalism,' and when he reaches out to a Communist dictatorship that has done nothing to change. They must be feeling pretty good about their chances to

negotiate a deal with America ... They attacked who we are. When [Obama] called this an act of vandalism that just really bothers me greatly. It is an act of terrorism and I hope we respond forcefully because the Iranians are watching everything this man does.” [69506]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, criticizes Obama for taking his Hawaiian vacation without dealing with the North Korea issue: “Saying ‘aloha’ and getting on the plane to Hawaii is not the answer. I don’t think that’s enough. North Korea attacked [Sony Pictures Entertainment], then threatened violence.” [69504, 69505]

Also appearing on Fox News Sunday is Rudi Giuliani, who says, “We’ve had four months of propaganda, starting with [Obama], that everybody should hate the police. I don’t care how you want to describe it, that’s what those protests are all about. The protests are being embraced, the protests are being encouraged, the protests—even the ones that don’t lead to violence, and a lot of them all lead to violence—all lead to a conclusion: the police are bad, the police are racist. That is completely wrong. Actually, the people who do the most for the black community in America are the police, in New York City and elsewhere. They are the ones, not the Al Sharptons, they are the ones who are putting their lives on the line to save black children.” [69539]

Al Sharpton holds a press conference to complain that there have been threats against his life. He says, “The language is ‘Hey N word [nigger], stop killing innocent people, I’m going to get you,’ and I have several like this. We are now under intense threat from those that [sic; who] are misguided, by those that [sic; who] are trying to blame everyone from civil rights leaders to the mayor rather than deal with an ugly spirit that all of us need to fight.” (It is Sharpton and people like him, of course, who have been promoting and encouraging that “ugly spirit.” The best way to deal with Sharpton is to ignore him.) “To blame the mayor and others is not what we need,” says Sharpton said. “The blame game will only lead to further kinds of venom and further division.” [69542, 69543, 69548, 69553]

Ronald T. Hosko, a former FBI official and current president of the Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund, states, “While the criminal who shot these officers down is ultimately responsible for their murders, a thoughtful society must examine the social circumstances that fostered such outrageous criminal conduct. To those who have chosen to incite violence against law enforcement through the reckless vilification of police officers—shame on you. ... From race provocateurs looking for five minutes of fame, to those in the media who wantonly mischaracterized and sensationalized recent criminal cases, to the government officials who have repeatedly made statements designed to undermine legitimate law enforcement efforts across our nation—it’s time to reexamine your own words and actions and take your share of responsibility. ... Men and women in uniform wear a target every day; law enforcement is under daily attack from those who seek to evade responsibility. Morale among those who serve is damaged and divisions are only widened when the facts are buried in an anti-police narrative.” [69527]



Actor James Woods tweets a message with a photo of Al Sharpton: “This disgusting pig is DIRECTLY responsible for the murder of two good policemen. No discussion.” [69528, 69541]

North Korea’s state-run KCNA states, “The DPRK [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea] has already launched the toughest counteraction. Nothing is more serious miscalculation than guessing that just a single movie production company is the target of this counteraction. Our target is all the citadels of the U.S. imperialists who earned the bitterest grudge of all Koreans. Our toughest counteraction will be boldly taken against the White House, the Pentagon and the whole U.S. mainland, the cesspool of terrorism.” [69538]

On December 22 Pamela Geller writes, “Obama’s new friends and his ‘most trusted ally,’ jihad dictator Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are to build a mosque ‘where Muslims discovered America 300 years before Columbus... on a hilltop in Havana...’ Cementing the communist-Islam alliance with the stamp of approval by Barack the Hussein Obama...” (This *Timeline* refers readers to Frederick William Dame’s *The Muslim Discovery of America*, which refutes the *many* absurd claims of Muslim “firsts.”) [69519, 69520]

The Internet fails in North Korea. NYTimes.com reports, “Doug Madory, the director of Internet analysis at Dyn Research, an Internet performance management company, said that North Korean Internet access first became unstable late Friday. The situation worsened over the weekend, and by Monday, North Korea’s Internet was completely offline. ‘Their networks are under duress,’ Mr. Madory said. ‘This is consistent with a DDoS attack on their routers,’ he said, referring to a distributed denial of service attack, in which attackers flood a network with traffic until it collapses under the load. North Korea does very little commercial or government business over the Internet. The country officially has 1,024 Internet protocol addresses, though the actual number may be somewhat higher. By comparison, the United States has billions of addresses. ...If the attack was American in origin—something the United States would probably never acknowledge—it would be a rare effort by the United States to attack a nation’s Internet connections. Until now, most operations by the United States have amounted to cyberespionage [sic; cyber-espionage], mostly to collect defense information or the communications of terrorism suspects. ...Security experts cautioned that the origins of such a failure could be many. North Korea could be preemptively taking its systems offline to prepare for [a cyber-] attack, or the loss of service could be the result of an attack by vigilante hackers, though hacking collectives, such as Anonymous, had not taken credit for the failure.” [69535, 69555, 69557]

The State Department’s hapless spokesperson, Marie Harf, suggests that if North Korea “want to help here, they can admit their culpability and compensate Sony for the damages that they caused.” [69536, 69580]

On CNN Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) denies that protesters chanted, “What do we want? Dead cops”—until he is shown video proving that they did. [69537, 69576]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield writes, “A lynch mob is all fun and games until someone actually gets lynched. ...The Mayor of New York City announces that his ridiculously famous son has to be afraid of the police. Obama agrees that his imaginary son also has to be afraid of the police. Their claims are equally plausible. The lynch mobs make it their mission to invade holiday events, protest parades and scream racist rants. Then they begin attacking police officers. The media insists that protests whose participants chant, ‘What do we want? Dead cops!’ are peaceful. This homicidally insane definition of ‘peaceful’ had only previously been applied to Islam. And then, shockingly, surprisingly, out of the blue, protests led by Al Sharpton featuring violent attacks on cops finally achieve their goal with the murder of two police officers. ...Sharpton led a lynch mob through Crown Heights and racist violence tore the neighborhood apart and took lives. He led a lynch mob to a store in Harlem and the store burned with employees inside. That is what lynch mobs do.” [69544]

“Since then Sharpton slimmed down and swapped out colorful track suits for expensive custom made Soho pinstripe suits. He became a regular visitor to the White House and City Hall. He spoke at the Democratic National Convention and got a slot on that party’s favorite news network. And then twenty years later he brought back the lynch mobs. And once again people died. Two cops are dead in New York City because Barack Obama, Bill de Blasio and the Democratic Party embraced Sharpton and everything he stood for. They embraced his racist ideology of hate. They made their party into the party of crime. ...Now Bill de Blasio is wiping away crocodile tears at a press conference while Al Sharpton and the gang of gutter activists that trails these protests is pretending to be shocked and surprised that their lynch mobs actually killed two cops. The same media that had been ridiculing the NYPD for its “hysterical” warnings that the racist lynch mobs would cost lives is also putting on its best shocked face for the cameras. Sharpton is doing what he always does best: Playing provocateur and then trying to wash his hands of the consequences. Al never kills anyone. He just riles up the mob and someone in the mob does the dirty work. Al works the mob and through him the mob has a direct line to the White House. ...The Democratic Party and its top politicians didn’t just endorse Sharpton. They endorsed his tactics and his hate. Now the blood of two murdered police officers is on their hands. ...Targeting the police makes it difficult for the police to defend themselves or anyone else. When the police can’t defend themselves, then they pull back. When they pull back, crime takes off. Cities become terrifying places. The middle class flees. Thriving cities go bankrupt and become permanent welfare cases. They become Democratic Party plantations. That’s what Obama and De Blasio wanted.” [69544]

“...Obama claimed that the racist protests were needed because a ‘country’s conscience has to be triggered by some inconvenience.’ Attorney General Eric Holder said that the protests provided ‘momentum to a necessary conversation.’ Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley concluded Holder’s conversation by reminding us of what the stakes are. We cannot function as a nation when a political party representing half the country decides that it wants to stand with criminals against police officers, with racists and race-baiters against working families and with lynch mobs against anyone who gets in their way. It’s not only

the blood of these two police officers that is on their hands, but the blood of every victim of crime who could have been saved if the Democratic Party had not embraced gun control, sentencing reform and criminal rights. ...Lynch mobs have consequences. So do crack dealers, serial rapists and armed robbers. Standing up to crime also means standing up to politicians who support crime.” [69544]

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio has a press conference at which he criticizes the media for stoking racial tensions, angrily saying, “You are all part of this too.” (In other words, the person who poured gasoline on the fire is critical of those who tossed dry logs into the flames.) [69554, 69578]

On Newsmax TV, Jesse Jackson says, “We should not equate the actions of a sick man [Ismaaiyl Brinsley] who did a sick thing with mass demonstrations for justice and for healing. Don’t make that equation.” (To many Americans, protester chants of, “What do we want? Dead cops!” do not suggest a call for “justice and healing.”) Jackson also charges that there is “a pattern of blacks being killed” by the police, calls the police officers who turned their backs on Mayor Bill de Blasio “unprofessional,” and argues that it is “irresponsible and unfair” to say that Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Al Sharpton are in any way responsible for the racial tension. [69556]

Meanwhile, the New York City Police Department tells police academy trainees not to wear their uniforms in public. Pamela Geller comments, “That’s how bad things are. *Think about that.* Here’s where we are in [Mayor Bill] de Blasio’s New York (and Obama’s America). It’s open season on the police, thanks to the ‘progressive’ elites. Open season on cops means anarchy. The cops represent law and order. The cops are our first and last line of defense. NY’s cowardly Mayor de Blasio is lashing out at the press corps for his failures (following in Obama’s failed footsteps), trying to cover up his very public divisions with his own police commissioner. De Blasio must resign. He has lost the faith of the people. He has lost the support of the NYPD. ...De Blasio is setting the stage for complete and utter chaos.” [69591, 69592]

Newsmax.com reports, “The United States is offering a \$5 million bounty for the recapture of an Islamic terrorist it freed six years ago who returned to the jihad campaign after attending a Saudi rehab program for militants. Ibrahim al-Rubaysh, a Saudi national, was released in 2006 under a Saudi program endorsed by President George W. Bush and continued ‘full-throttle’ under ...Obama, Judicial Watch reported Monday as it highlighted a State Department announcement of the reward. ... ‘It turns out that al-Rubaysh is the poster child for the Saudi rehab’s failures. He’s a dangerous al-Qaida operative based in Yemen and now, years after freeing him, the United States wants him captured,’ Judicial Watch said.” [69565, 69566, 69570, 69571, 69583, 69586]

In Nantes, France a Muslim injures 10 shoppers at a Christmas market when he drives his van into a crowd—shouting “Allahu Akbar.” He then stabs himself and is hospitalized. FoxNews.com reports, “Prosecutor Marie-Christine Tarrare said the driver ...has a long history of severe mental illness and no links to terrorism. She added that the 40-year-old was taken into custody and has admitted his role in the attack. Tarrare described the man

as a French-born son of North African immigrants, acted alone and had no religious motivations, but was upset at the treatment of Chechen children. He shouted ‘God is great’ to give himself courage to act, and not out of religious belief, Tarrare said.” [69569, 69593, 69596, 69697]

Cuba’s head of North American affairs, Josefina Vidal, tells the Associated Press, “Every nation has sovereign and legitimate rights to grant political asylum to people it considers to have been persecuted. ...That’s a legitimate right. We’ve explained to the U.S. government in the past that there are some people living in Cuba to whom Cuba has legitimately granted political asylum. There’s no extradition treaty in effect between Cuba and the U.S.” (In other words, “We’re not turning over cop killer Joanne Chesimard.”) [69572]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Top IRS officials specifically targeted tea party groups and misled the public about its secret political targeting program led by ex-official Lois Lerner, according to a bombshell new congressional report. The Daily Caller has obtained an advance copy of a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee report set to be released Tuesday morning that definitively proves malicious intent by the IRS to improperly block conservative groups that an IRS adviser deemed ‘icky.’ ... ‘The Committee has identified eight senior leaders who were in a position to prevent or to stop the IRS’s targeting of conservative applicants,’ the Oversight report states. ‘Each of these leaders could have and should have done more to prevent the IRS’s targeting of conservative tax-exempt applicants.’ ...The IRS admitted that the front office was “spinning” about the targeting rumors as early as 2012, after IRS commissioner Douglas Shulman denied the tea party targeting to Congress. ...Then-IRS commissioner Steven T. Miller almost broke down and told the truth about the tea party targeting at a July 2012 hearing, but Lerner’s sidekick Nikole Flax told him not to. ...The IRS definitely treated tea party applications by a different standard than applications from other (c)(4) groups. ...Lois Lerner expressed her frustration about having to potentially approve a lot of groups, and her colleagues in the agency assured her that she wouldn’t have to. ...[T]he IRS reached out to outside advisers to help come up with ways to deny tax-exempt status to ‘icky’ organizations. ...A May 2011 email from a lawyer in the IRS chief counsel’s office made clear that the agency sought to use a new ‘gift tax’ to target donors to nonprofit political groups.” [69574, 69579, 69581]

On December 23 GotNews.com reports, “The Muslim NYPD cop killer Ismaaiyl Abdullah Brinsley worked for a Muslim Brotherhood front group, according to his Facebook page. GotNews.com has confirmed and exclusively discovered that Brinsley went by another name—Ismaaiyl Abdullah-Muhammad—and that he worked for the Islamic Society of North America. The Islamic Society of North America [ISNA] is a Muslim Brotherhood front group that was described as an unindicted co-conspirator by the Justice Department in the 2007 Holy Land terror cases. ...ISNA’s political action committee was founded by Abdurahman Alamoudi, who is currently in prison on terrorism charges.” [69561, 69562, 69563, 69564]

Obama plays golf in Hawaii with staffer Joe Paulsen, and high school pals Greg Orme and Bobby Titcomb. (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Titcomb was arrested in 2011 for solicitation of prostitution. Some speculate that Titcomb, who one former fellow student at Punahou school states “always got in trouble,” was Obama’s supplier of “fish and poi”—that is, marijuana and cocaine.) [20, 2288, 19439, 19458, 20294, 26385, 26389, 38003, 38014, 48831, 69617, 69735]

Obama renews his “bronze-level” ObamaCare plan for 2015—coverage he does not need because the taxpayers pay for 100 percent of his health care. An aide states, “He was pleased to participate in a plan as a show of support for these marketplaces which are providing quality, affordable health care options to more than a million people.” [69624, 69625]

On C-SPAN, investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson states that the Obama administration is keeping secret photos taken by the White House photographer the night of the attack on the U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012. Attkisson says, “One of the things my producer and I did early on was to try to get clues, because you know they told us so little initially, we requested White House photos taken that night. Because if you know how the White House works, a photographer is omnipresent. He would have been there taking photographs in the Situation Room. He would have been taking photographs of [Obama] that night. So we asked for the photos, which in my view, are public information. They are paid for with tax dollars, and they release them when they want them released and they are positive. The Photo Office indicated initially—this was probably in October or November of 2012—that we could have the photos at the end of the day, and that never materialized. They suddenly started referring us a White House deputy press secretary Josh Earnest, who is now press secretary. And they said that Josh would have to approve it, and Josh would never return a call or e-mail. We would try to maintain communication with him or try to make communication with him over a long period of time, and he wouldn’t even answer. We would go back to the White House press, photographer’s office and say, ‘You have given us an impossible task. You have told us to talk to someone who will not talk to us. You need to give us another route to follow to try and get these photos.’ And they would say no, you have to talk to Josh Earnest. So that just went down a dead-end road. I think that is entirely unacceptable. The press officers work for the public. They are publicly paid to be responsive to the press and the public. Those White House photos belong to the public, in my view, to the extent that they wouldn’t reveal any national secrets. To this day, they remain secret.” [69584, 69615]

The U.S. Supreme Court announces it will hear the ObamaCare case *King v. Burwell* on March 4, 2015. The case involves the fact that the language of the Affordable Care Act calls for insurance subsidies *only* for people who enroll in exchanges “established by the State,” but the Obama administration nevertheless extended subsidies to enrollees in all states. On more than a few occasions, ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber has made public statements that the language was intended to encourage states to set up exchanges—but 37 did not. If the court rules in favor of King, hundreds of thousands of Americans will lose the taxpayer subsidies for their health insurance. At Townhall.com

Conn Carroll writes, “If the Court does rule against the Obama administration, however, Republicans in Congress will be in a bind. Only those states that did not set up state health care exchanges will lose their Obamacare tax credits and most of those states are controlled by Republicans. This means that the citizens of California will continue to get their health insurance tax credits while the citizens of Texas will not. Republicans in Congress will have until midsummer to come up with a solution to this problem. A Court decision is expected in late June.” [69575, 69599]

According to the White House, Vice President Joe Biden will attend the funeral of slain New York City police officer Rafael Ramos (while Obama continues to play golf in Hawaii). [69573]

According to DailyCaller.com, “The New York City group that called for ‘dead cops’ in a widely circulated video is most likely—no joke—the Trayvon Martin Organizing Committee (TMOC). ... The Daily Beast’s Jacob Siegel cites a ‘web of circumstantial ties’ to the group.” [69585]

The FBI’s Memphis, Tennessee division issues a warning: “According to an anonymous complainant, as of December 2014, ISIS instructed an ISIS member, a presumed USPER [U.S. person] in Memphis, with a direct order to blow up the Memphis-Arkansas bridge on an unknown date, activating ISIS terror cells in the United States.” [69594, 69598]

U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell dismisses a lawsuit challenging Obama’s immigration amnesty orders. The lawsuit was filed by Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio. According to Politico, “Howell ruled that Arpaio had not shown the direct harm from Obama’s actions needed to institute a lawsuit in the federal courts.” Howell, an Obama appointee, writes, “The role of the Judiciary is to resolve cases and controversies properly brought by parties with a concrete and particularized injury—not to engage in policymaking better left to the political branches. The plaintiff’s case raises important questions regarding the impact of illegal immigration on this Nation, but the questions amount to generalized grievances which are not proper for the Judiciary to address.” The decision will be appealed. [69588, 69590, 69616]

In New York City, more than one thousand demonstrators march down Fifth Avenue, protesting police brutality. NYPost.com reports, “‘The mayor says stop that, we say f—k that!’ the mob chanted at one point. Other slogans were of the sort that Hizzoner has denounced as ‘hateful’ and ‘inappropriate’ in the wake of Saturday’s assassinations of two city cops. ‘NYPD, KKK, how many kids did you kill today?’ the protesters shouted. The demonstrators, some carry-ing a banner that read ‘Stop Racist Police Terror,’ started marching south from 59th Street on the sidewalks, but later blocked traffic on Fifth and Madison avenues.” One protester says, “We’re protesting tonight because the mayor specifically said not to.” [69587, 69604, 69609, 69610]

Sony Pictures Entertainment issues a statement: “We have never given up on releasing ‘The Interview’ and we’re excited our movie will be in a number of theaters on Christmas Day. At the same time, we are continuing our efforts to secure more platforms

and more theaters so that this movie reaches the largest possible audience.” White House spokesman Eric Schultz states, “[Obama] applauds Sony’s decision to authorize screenings of the film. ...As [Obama] made clear, we are a country that believes in free speech, and the right of artistic expression. The decision made by Sony and participating theaters allows people to make their own choices about the film, and we welcome that outcome.” [69601, 69607, 69626]

According to the Department of Commerce, the Gross Domestic Product grew at an annual rate of 5.0 percent in the third quarter; second quarter growth was adjusted to 4.6 percent. DailySignal.com comments, “Five percent is robust growth, but the economy still has not experienced a breakout period of exemplary growth that is typical of recoveries from severe recession. For instance, a year after the similarly deep 1981 to 1982 recession, the economy had three successive quarters where growth exceeded 8 percent. In the second quarter of 1983, the economy grew an astounding 9.4 percent. This shows that, although today’s numbers are good, the economy still needs a sustained period of even stronger growth to get back to where it should be. ...A finally recovering economy does not mean policymakers in Washington can assume their job is done and ignore the economy. They still need to reform the tax code, reform entitlements, fix the problems caused by the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation and clean up the damage wrought by overregulation during the Obama years to remove the biggest government-imposed barriers to prolonged economic growth.” Economist and author Peter Schiff observes, “The average consumer has way too much debt and household net worth has declined. Real wages are lower today than they were five years ago. I think people are overestimating the shape of the consumer and his ability to spend.” [69602, 69606, 69660]

At DailyCaller.com “Deputy Matt” writes, “Well America, the ‘change’ you voted for is here. Six years ago, you voted into office a community organizer who vowed to change America. That same community organizer, while campaigning, argued for a ‘civilian national security force.’ But how can you create a national force when we already have local agencies? Easy, you sow distrust in the local cops until the divide is so great, people start clamoring for the feds to come to the rescue. It sounds like the back-story to some cheesy movie of a dystopian future—only problem is, this is exactly what we are seeing happen right now, right here. ...To that silent majority in America, who do not fear or hate their cops, who appreciate our efforts to keep society safe, who understand committing crimes is wrong and resisting arrest can lead to getting hurt, the time to speak up is now. The very vocal minority has been screaming long and loud, and now their words are becoming a reality. If you want to see local law enforcement become a thing of the past, by all means remain silent. What is the worst that could happen? A national police force is never a bad thing, right?” [69603]

“Deputy Matt” is referring to an Obama campaign appearance in Colorado on July 2, 2008. Obama said, “We cannot continue to rely on our military in order to achieve the national security objectives that we’ve set. We’ve got to have a civilian national security force that’s just as powerful, just as strong, just as well-funded. People of all ages, stations, and skills will be asked to serve.” After a flurry of questions about Obama’s

intentions with his security force, the proposal was dropped from his speeches and all references to it were deleted from the campaign's official Web site. But the Obama-Holder-de Blasio-Sharpston criticisms of local police actions are consistent with leftist tactics: tear something down, create a problem where it may not exist, exaggerate fears—and then offer a federal “solution.” [129, 276, 1992]

At a gas station in Berkeley, Missouri—about two miles from Ferguson, Missouri—18-year-old Antonio Martin, who is black, is shot and killed by a white police officer, after Martin reportedly pointed a gun at him. Protesters then shout at the police and damage their vehicle. Although surveillance video shows Martin (whose criminal record includes three assaults and armed robbery) pointing his gun at the police, (HuffingtonPost.com posts a conflicting story—relying on a false report by a Twitter user named “Jesus Christo.” After his hoax, “Christo” tweets, “Tell the Huffington Post to do a better job of finding credible sources.”) [69608, 69611, 69612, 69613, 69614, 69655, 69656, 69657]

Former President George H. W. Bush, age 90, is admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital after experiencing shortness of breath. [69638]

On December 24 ISIS reportedly shoots down a Jordanian fighter jet and capture its pilot. (Although it is certain ISIS captured the pilot who ejected, U.S. Central Command believes ISIS did not shoot down the plane.) [69605, 69768]

White House photographer posts an image of Obama taken earlier in the year that shows him with five Girl Scouts, all of whom are wearing tiaras—including Obama. [69637]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration’s nominee for a senior legal position at the Pentagon is one of the congressional staffers accused by Republicans and intelligence officials of stealing classified documents from the Central Intelligence Agency, Fox News has learned—and the controversy could imperil her shot at a major career promotion. Sources on Capitol Hill and in the intelligence community say Alissa Starzak, a majority staffer on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) who has been nominated for the position of general counsel to the U.S. Army, is one of two SSCI employees accused by the panel’s Republicans, and by career intelligence officers, of having ‘stolen’ the so-called Panetta Review: a classified study of the agency’s treatment of detainees prepared by former CIA Director Leon Panetta. Starzak is a former assistant general counsel for CIA and, more recently, a deputy general counsel at the Defense Department for legislative affairs. She was nominated for the Army’s general counsel position in July of this year.” [69618]

*The New York Times* reports, “A laboratory mistake at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may have exposed a technician to the deadly Ebola virus, federal officials said on Wednesday. The technician will be monitored for signs of infection for 21 days, the incubation period of the disease. A small number of other employees, fewer than a dozen, who entered a lab where the mistake occurred will also be assessed for exposure.” [69622]



DailyCaller.com reports, “An Obamacare-created and taxpayer-funded insurance company in Iowa has been taken over by the state due to a financial crisis. CoOpportunity Health is Iowa’s insurance cooperative—a nonprofit insurance company created by the Affordable Care Act to supposedly undercut the large, for-profit insurers that Democrats castigated as ‘greedy’ and ‘evil’ during the debate over health care reform. After just beginning to offer plans in 2013, the company’s already insolvent and has now been taken over by the state of Iowa, insurance commissioner Nick Gerhart announced Wednesday. CoOpportunity doesn’t have enough cash on hand to be sure it can pay claims for its 120,000 customers, if necessary. The company has only \$17 million in cash and assets, Gerhart said.” [69623, 69630]

Obama plays golf with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak. According to Examiner.com, “[T]he Malaysian prime minister had ordered his national police force in September to clamp down on protesters who were opposed to his Islamist government supporting ISIS and their countries [sic; country’s] slide into Shariah law. ‘My party members must emulate the bravery of a Middle Eastern militant group that defeated an Iraqi force outnumbering it nearly 30 to one if we (Malay Islamist party) are to survive,’ Najib Razak said during a formal dinner. ... While Obama has allowed openly homosexual men and women to serve in the U.S. military and applauds same-sex marriage laws, Prime Minister Razak’s nation still punishes homosexuality according to the dictates of Shariah law. Malaysian law currently provides for public whippings and prison sentences up to 20-years for homosexual acts.” [69631]

The United Nations’ Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) takes effect. Although the Obama administration signed the prohibitive treaty, no treaty takes effect in the United States unless it has been ratified by a two-thirds vote in the U.S. Senate—something which is not about to happen. At DailySignal.com Ted Bromund writes, “The administration made a serious mistake when it signed the ATT in 2013, and since then, it’s been heavily criticized in the Senate... The administration has [wrongly] argued the treaty is nothing more than a restatement of the existing U.S. system of export controls and that it’s irrelevant to firearms ownership in the U.S. ... The long-run game of the treaty advocates is simple: Claim the ATT is international law and that it therefore binds the U.S., even if the Senate never ratifies the treaty. They want to sneak the treaty into the U.S. through the back door, because the Senate has nailed the front door shut.” [69633]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “A new issue of Inspire, the English-language online magazine produced by al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Yemen, is devoted to ‘jihad on America’ and suggests targeting major American figures as well as Western commercial airliners, according to a report Wednesday by SITE Intelligence Group. ... The cover of the new Inspire issue is of a commercial airliner whose undercarriage is being blown up. According to the SITE report, the magazine states that it is ‘committed to arm Muslim individuals—as well as Muslim groups.’” [69644, 69645]

Antiwar.com reports, “As the Pentagon continues to add ground troops to Iraq for the ISIS war, it is expected that considerable numbers of private military contractors will

follow. Currently there are around 1,800 such contractors working for the State Department, and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has ordered another 1,300 sent. This will likely be just a fraction of the overall deployment. At the peak of the US occupation of Iraq, there were over 163,000 contractors involved in the war. The use of contractors allowed the US to mask the size of the overall deployment, but was controversial because of both cost and oversight problems.” [69667]

Nineteen-year-old Joshua Williams robs a QuikTrip convenience store in Berkeley, Missouri and attempts to burn it down. He is later arrested and charged with felony arson and burglary. (Townhall.com notes that Williams was “responsible for proliferating the ‘hands up, don’t shoot’ lie in the Michael Brown case. Earlier this year MSNBC did a profile on Williams where he discussed at length the importance of non-violence. Takimag.com writes, “MSBNC quoted Williams depicting himself as a virtual Chocolate Gandhi: ‘I learned that we have to stand up and that you can’t get nowhere with violence but you can always move people without it.’ What was far less reported is the fact that he taunted St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson at a public meeting by shouting ‘Can someone please get this lying motherfucking ho off the mic?’,’ allegedly causing the meeting to descend into chaos. He also burned an American flag on camera. He also taunted police during one of the ‘protests’ with a decidedly non-nonviolent ‘Come on, I’m ready! Your time starts now. You have five minutes to arrest me, or we’re going to bang it out in the streets.’” Williams has also been a speaker at events held by the National Action Network, Al Sharpton’s organization.”) [69678, 69690, 69847]

On December 25 Sony Pictures Entertainment’s *The Interview* is shown at several theaters in the United States. It is also made available on the Internet and DVD. [69627, 69628, 69629]

While Obama vacations in Hawaii, journalist Joseph Curl writes, “Every year, in the week between Christmas and New Year’s, I think about George W. Bush. ...In December, we never left Washington, D.C., until the day after Christmas. Never. Mr. Bush and his wife, Laura, would always depart the White House a few days before the holiday and hunker down at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland. After a few years, I asked a low-level White House staffer why. I still remember what she said: ‘So all of us can be with our families on Christmas.’” [69634, 69635, 69636]

Actor James Woods tweets, “I was so moved by Obama’s Christmas message today from the steps of his church. He finally put all those nasty Muslim rumors to rest,” and “Oh, wait...” Obama and his family do not belong to any church and almost never attend.) [69654]

Brietbart.com reports, “The Department of Homeland Security will reportedly track more illegal immigrants with GPS devices because a whopping 70% of illegal immigrants who traveled to America as a family unit failed to show up to their immigration hearings. ...In the last fiscal year, Border Patrol agents apprehended (many more are suspected to have entered the country undetected) nearly 70,000 illegal immigrants traveling as families, according to the Associated Press, and ‘the majority of those people were released with

orders to report back to ICE and enroll in a monitoring program called Alternatives to Detention, which allows the government to keep tabs on immigrants while their cases make their way through immigration court.’ That ‘process can take several years,’ as there are ‘more than 429,000 cases are pending in federal immigration court.’” [69639]

According to DailyCaller.com, “The Obama administration spent Christmas week trying to get two Islamist organizations off a foreign country’s terror list. The Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Muslim American Society are both listed as Islamist organizations by the Islamist Money In Politics database, which tracks copious political spending by figures linked to the groups. The Muslim American Society was founded as an American-based Muslim Brotherhood front group. CAIR and MAS representatives met with ‘senior U.S. government officials’ just days before Christmas to discuss the groups’ inclusion on the United Arab Emirates’ official list of terrorist organizations. ‘The two American Muslim organizations and the U.S. government pledged to work together to achieve a positive solution to the UAE designations,’ the groups said in a joint statement.” [69642]

Obama meets with some members of the military and says, “Afghanistan has a chance to rebuild its own country. It’s not going to be a source of terrorist attacks again. ...The world is better, it’s safer, it’s more peaceful, it’s more prosperous and our homeland is protected because of you and the sacrifices each and every day.” [69705, 69706]

On December 26 CBSNews.com gushes, “After nearly a week of vacation in Hawaii, [Obama’s] scorecard looks like this: four rounds of golf, three visits to the gym, a trip to the bowling alley and a hike through the wilds of Oahu. It’s a fairly typical Hawaiian... getaway, filled with athletic pursuits for a relentlessly competitive commander in chief in search of a worthy adversary.” [69632]

In Turkey, Obama’s favorite foreign leader, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, meets with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal. Meshaal also appears at a conference of Erdogan’s Justice and Development Party (AKP), where he is greeted with shouts of “Down with Israel.” CNSNews.com reports, “State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said Monday [December 29] he did not have ‘any comment to offer’ about the high-level Turkey-Hamas contacts.” [69722]

Newsmax.com reports, “The high cost of ...Obama’s executive action in granting amnesty from deportation for as many as 5 million illegal aliens is beginning to be revealed—for openers, 1,000 new federal employees to process them, at \$40 million in salaries per year, and a newly signed \$7.8 million annual lease for office space in a new building in Crystal City, Virginia. The Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is hiring people for jobs ranging in salary up to \$157,000 a year, Fox News Latino reported.” Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) calls the hirings “a clear symbol of [Obama’s] defiance of the American people, their laws and their Constitution.” Obama is “hiring federal employees to carry out a directive that violates the laws Congress has passed in order to foist on the nation laws Congress has repeatedly refused to pass.” [69640]

At WND.com Jerome Corsi writes, “The White House appears determined to deliver in [the] upcoming State of the Union speech a ringing message that economic growth under Obama is robust, with the DOW topping 18,000 for the first time and the Bureau of Economic Analysis reporting last week revised estimates placing third-quarter growth at an impressive 5 percent. But critics, like ShadowStats.com econometrician John Williams, call it a smoke-and-mirrors illusion of economic data dishonestly calculated and reported to look rosy. Put simply, Williams, in the most recent edition of his subscription newsletter, argues that the developing White House narrative of ‘the strongest economic growth in a decade’ is nonsense. He argues that the full economic recovery indicated by the real GDP numbers reported last week by BEA is ‘a statistical illusion created by using too-low a rate of inflation in deflating (removing inflation effects) from the GDP series.’ Williams further argues ‘no other major economic series has shown a parallel pattern of official full economic recovery and meaningful expansion beyond, consistent with GDP reporting.’” [60641]

Lower oil prices have helped boost GDP, of course. But while the Obama administration will eagerly take credit for any improvement in the economy, reduced oil prices are the result of increased U.S. oil production—which has come about despite Obama’s policies, not because of them. Additionally, Saudi Arabia has done its best to keep oil prices low in order to harm Iran, in order to delay its nuclear weapons program.

North Korea’s Central News Agency (KCNA) calls Obama “the chief culprit” in the movie *The Interview*, and states that he “always goes reckless in words and deeds like a monkey in a tropical forest.” Reacting to its Internet outage, the country’s National Defense Commission states, “The United States, with its large physical size and oblivious to the shame of playing hide and seek as children with runny noses would, has begun disrupting the Internet operations of the main media outlets of our republic. ...It is truly laughable.” [69653, 69659]

On December 27 the *Los Angeles Times*, apparently having nothing better to do, reports that Obama is “aging only as fast as the rest of us, researcher finds,” and cheerfully adds, “As a stress reliever, there is the golf—hours and hours of weekend golf—and regular card games with aides, a staple of any long flight on Air Force One.” [69665]

Thousands of New York City police officers standing outside Christ Tabernacle Church turn their backs on communist Mayor Bill de Blasio (previously known as Warren Wilhelm, Jr. and Warren de Blasio-Wilhelm) when he speaks at the funeral of slain officer Rafael Ramos. Vice President Joe Biden attends in place of Obama. (Whether the officers would also have turned their backs on Obama is not known.) [69646, 69647, 69648, 69652, 69661, 69663, 69666, 69668]

In an interview filled with softball, unchallenging questions, NPR sycophant Steve Inskeep asks Obama if the nation has become more racially divided since he entered the White House. The fact-challenged Obama replies, “No, I actually think that it’s probably in its day-to-day interactions less racially divided.” (The laughable statement was made in an interview conducted before the start of Obama’s Hawaiian vacation. It will air in

three parts, beginning December 29. According to a CNN/ORC survey, 53 percent of Americans believe race relations have worsened under Obama; 36 percent say things have stayed the same; and only 9 percent say race relations have improved.) Asked about how he will deal with the new Congress, Obama say, “Now you’ve got Republicans in a position where it’s not enough for them simply to grind the wheels of Congress to a halt and then blame me.” (Arguably, it was the Democrat-controlled Senate that ground Congress to a halt by ignoring hundreds of bills passed by the House. In 2015 and 2016 the blame may be placed on Obama if he vetoes bill after bill passed by Congress. He was able to escape blame for six years because he had Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) keep bills to which he might object reaching his desk. For his final two years in office, however, Obama will not have Reid protecting him.) [69649, 69650, 69651, 69662]

Obama also tells NPR he would be willing to reestablish a U.S. embassy in Tehran “if we can get a deal on making sure that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon. ... You know, I was asked very early in my [campaign] back in 2007, would I meet with these various rogue regimes? And what I said then remains true: If I thought it advances American interests, yes; I believe in diplomacy, I believe in dialogue, I believe in engagement.” Obama also claims Iran could “be a very successful regional power” if it abides “by international norms and international rules.” (Many believe that any final “deal” will, in fact, ensure that Iran retains nuclear capabilities—but Obama will pretend that it does not.) On December 25 what Obama believes could “be a very successful regional power” hanged seven members of the regime’s political opposition. [69692, 69693, 69696, 69738, 69739]

Obama plays golf at the Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course in Hawaii—forcing a military couple (two captains) to move their wedding to another location. (Obama’s approval rating among members of the military is a mere 15 percent. Whether forcing two of them to move their wedding will push that even lower remains to be seen.) [69681, 69682, 69689, 69691, 69697, 69707, 69713, 69714]

In Portland, Oregon, demonstrators sing, “Deck the Halls With Rows of Dead Cops.” (Whether Obama considers the singing an example of his “bringing people together” is not clear.) [69673, 69687]

On December 28 Obama again plays golf in Hawaii. [69677]

An Air Asia passenger jet with 162 passengers loses contact with air traffic control. CNN.com reports, “Before communication was lost, one of the pilots asked to fly at a higher altitude because of bad weather, officials said. The aircraft, flying from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore, went missing as it flew at 38,000 feet over the Java Sea between the islands of Belitung and Borneo—a heavily traveled shipping channel with shallow waters, according to Indonesian authorities, who are leading the search and rescue operations.” (By January 11 much of the wreckage is found, along with the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder. *The Guardian* reports, “S B Supriyadi, a director with the national search and rescue agency, said that initial analysis of the

wreckage so far recovered indicated that the plane exploded on impact with the water. ‘It exploded because of the pressure,’ he told reporters in Pangkalan Bun town on Borneo island, the search headquarters. ‘The cabin was pressurised and before the pressure of the cabin could be adjusted, it went down—boom. That explosion was heard in the area.’”) [69664, 69790, 70202]

On *Meet the Press*, New York City police commissioner William Bratton says police officers “really do feel under attack, rank and file officers and much of American police leadership, that they feel that they are under attack from the federal government at the highest levels.” [69669]

Former police detective and U.S. Marine Sid Franes tells Examiner.com that Obama “is a leader who believes in leading from behind. He said so. And anyone who expects him to face the music is sadly mistaken. He stayed in Hawaii golfing and soaking in the sun, and sent his VP [Joe Biden] to the officer [Rafael] Ramos funeral.” Franes notes that although Attorney General Eric Holder visited Ferguson, Missouri to meet with the friends and family of Michael Brown, “he’s nowhere to be found when a cop is killed.” Examiner.com’s Jim Kouri writes, “More than a few police officials believe that Obama is allowing de Blasio to take the heat in order to avoid his own culpability for the violence against American law enforcement especially in black communities.” [69669]

On *Face the Nation*, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani says Obama has frequently demonstrated that he is against police officers. Program host Major Garrett objects, responding, “I cover [Obama] every single day. I never detected anything that comes along the line of propaganda urging the country to hate police. Do you want to recast that or take that back?” Giuliani replies, “Oh, not at all. I think you missed one very important point: he has had Al Sharpton to the White House 85 times. Often when he’s talking about police issues he has Al Sharpton sitting next to him. If he would like to have poster boy for hating the police, it’s Al Sharpton. You make him a close advisor, you’re going to turn the police against you. You’re going to tell the police in America we don’t understand you. I saw this man help cause riots in New York, I’ve heard his anti-police invective first hand. To have a man who hasn’t paid \$4 million in taxes, have a man who’s spent his career helping to create riots, phony stories about police. To have that man sitting next to you speaks volumes. Actions speak louder than words. You put Al Sharpton next to you, you just told everyone I’m against the police. Look, who you associate with is part of your rhetoric!” [69670, 69686]

Obama issues a statement marking the alleged end of U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan: “Our personnel will continue to face risks, but this reflects the enduring commitment of the United States to the Afghan people and to a united, secure and sovereign Afghanistan that is never again used as a source of attacks against our nation.” (About 13,500 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan. Although Obama claims the war is over, Taliban fighters certainly do not consider it over—and will take back territory as U.S. troops depart.) [69698, 69704, 69720]

In Kabul, Afghanistan, U.S. Army General John F. Campbell says, “Today marks an end of an era and the beginning of a new one. [Operation] Resolute Support will serve as the bedrock of our enduring partnership with Afghanistan. Together, we have lifted the Afghan people out of the darkness of despair and given them hope for the future. We’re very proud of our relationship—a relationship built on trust, friendship, and shared interests. That trust and a common vision for a stable, secure, and unified Afghanistan fills me with confidence that we’ll continue to be successful. The road before us remains challenging, but we will triumph.” [69703, 69704]

The Taliban issue a statement saying the withdrawal ceremony “went strangely unheralded in the United States and much of the world and then news surfaced that ISAF [International Security Assistance Force] was going to arrange its big farewell ceremony in secret due to threat of Mujahidin attacks in Kabul!!! It should be emphasized that due to the blessed Jihad most of the involved nations excluding America have withdrawn all of their troops from Afghanistan, nearly all the provinces have been cleansed from the vile presence of foreign invaders except [sic; except] for Mazar-e-Sharif in the North and Nangarhar in the East as well as a small presence in the country’s capital and surrounding areas where the invaders are also working tirelessly to pull out as quickly as possible. ... Without a doubt the defeat of the infidel Western military alliance in Afghanistan at the hands of a few empty handed believing Mujahidin, the destruction of fortified bases by their own hands and their hasty withdrawal were unconceivable and is a clear sign of the divine help of Allah Almighty. While the admonitory withdrawal of foreign forces is taking place, the presence of their internal stooges is being rolled back from much of the country at the same time. Mujahidin are taking over new areas daily, dismantling their bases and are tightening their sieges.” [69703, 69704]

In the Adriatic Sea, between Italy and Albania, hundreds of passengers are rescued by helicopters from a burning ferry boat; at least 10 people die. According to 10News.dk, “The Greek soprano Dimitra Theodossiou was on board the ferry. She told the Italian media that she saw men beat women in order to come first to the rescue helicopter. ‘It was hell. I saw some scary scenes. There were men, Iraqis, Turks, Pakistanis on the ship, who [were] told to sit down to allow rescuers to prioritize children, elderly and women. But they climbed, beat and pulled the people to come first to the rescue helicopter and into safety. I was also beaten. I was so furious. It was really ugly. I will never forget it.’” (Pamela Geller writes, “The media and Western elites will explain this away by saying, It’s a cultural thing. Like honor killing, female genital mutilation, etc. What culture is it? *The Islamic culture*. So forgive me for not embracing multiculturalism. The West is best. Under Islam, women are chattel, less than men. Their response was not quite what we saw on, say ...the Titanic.”) [69740, 69741, 69742]

DailyCaller.com reports that Obama’s “advocacy group Organizing for Action plans to train 10,000 new community organizers in 2015 in a search for the next ‘organizer-in-chief.’ The OFA Fellows Program set a goal of training 10,000 new organizers to follow in the footsteps of Obama, according to a fundraising email the group sent out Sunday with the subject line ‘The next Barack Obama.’” The email states, “We take pride in the fact that [Obama] got his start organizing the families affected by closed steel mills on

Chicago's South Side. This work isn't just playing the long game, though—the whole idea is that these 10,000 folks will be working their tails off on the issue organizing we're doing today. And years from now, these are the same people who will be progressive leaders in their communities. Some will be elected officials, and—yeah—one may even go on to be the organizer-in-chief.” (OFA neglects to mention that Obama's career as a community activist was unsuccessful. He did almost nothing to help the people on Chicago's south side. In fact, in his years as an Illinois state senator he arguably made their lives worse by supporting public housing developers and managers that lined their own pockets with state tax dollars rather than repair and maintain slum housing.) [69675]

On December 29 CNN and others in the mainstream media eagerly push Jeb Bush for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination with the release of a CNN/ORC poll showing him “surging to the front of the potential GOP pack” with 23 percent of Republicans surveyed in a national poll. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie has 13 percent; Ben Carson has 7; Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee each have 6 percent. The poll is relatively meaningless, but CNN calls the “10-point lead... a milestone” for Bush. (National polls mean relatively little, as there is no national primary. If a candidate does poorly in the first few state primaries and caucuses the fact that he may do well elsewhere may be of little help. But the “establishment” clearly wants Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton to be the 2016 nominees because neither will do anything daring, neither will upset the Wall Street/Federal Reserve applecart, and neither will buck any government spending trends. Some media leftists, of course, want Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to be the Democrat nominee, as she is arguably as far to the political left as Obama.) [69674, 69676, 69717]

According to a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, 48 percent of Americans say they would not vote for Hillary Clinton for president. [69679, 69680]

Jim Kouri writes at Examiner.com, “Critics of ...Obama's performance as the U.S. Commander in Chief claim that his war strategy and world view are based on an alternate reality at best or sheer fabrication at worst. While the Sunday news programs heralded the end of the U.S. 'combat mission' in Afghanistan, and ...Obama took his bows and told the American people that they are safer and more secure because of what U.S. troops and intelligence officers have done for 13-years [sic; 13 years] in that Muslim country, intelligence reports indicate that the Taliban is preparing for terrorist surge once U.S. troops are gone.” [69699]

Americac2c.com reports, “Anti-police protesters are planning to disrupt New Year's Eve celebrations at major metropolitan sites. The website Stop Mass Incarceration calls upon activists to not allow New Years Eve 2015 'to go down because business as usual in Amerikkka includes wanton police murder of Black people.' The announcement says that as Americans around the country ringing in the New Year must be disrupted: 'The refusal of grand juries in Ferguson and Staten Island to indict the cops who murdered Michael Brown and Eric Garner made this clear. So the powerful, beautiful and necessary outpourings that have disrupted this society's normal routine must continue and escalate on New Years Eve and into the New Year. But in this society, cops who brutalize and



murder are given the benefit of the doubt and are almost never punished in any way for their crimes. This is illegitimate and unacceptable. It must be STOPPED, and it's up to us to stop it! On New Year's Eve, we must act in many different ways to do just that.” [69685]

According to Politico.com, “The 100 biggest campaign donors gave \$323 million in 2014—almost as much as the \$356 million given by the estimated 4.75 million people who gave \$200 or less...” The top individual donor was hedge fund founder Tom Steyer, who gave \$74.3 million to Democrat candidates and leftist political action committees. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was in second place, donating \$27.7 million (much of it to anti-gun candidates). The most generous conservative donor was Sheldon Adelson, chairman of the Las Vegas Sands, who donated \$13.2 million. David Koch, one of the “evil Koch Brothers” the Democrats love to hate, handed out only \$6.2 million. [69688]

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is heckled and booed at the graduation ceremony. Newsmax.com reports, “De Blasio, addressing nearly 900 graduating cadets, said, ‘You will confront all manner of problems. Problems that you didn’t create.’ A heckler cried out: ‘You created them!’ Some in the audience applauded the outburst. De Blasio, briefly flustered, continued with his speech. A dozen or so people turned their backs on the mayor as he spoke, repeating a gesture by thousands of officers at Saturday’s funeral for policeman Rafael Ramos.” [69695, 69712]

NYPPost.com reports, “NYPD traffic tickets and summonses for minor offenses have dropped off by a staggering 94 percent following the execution of two cops—as officers feel betrayed by the mayor and fear for their safety... The dramatic drop comes as Police Commissioner Bill Bratton and Mayor Bill de Blasio plan to hold an emergency summit on Tuesday with the heads of the five police unions to try to close the widening rift between cops and the administration. ...Angry union leaders have ordered drastic measures for their members since the Dec. 20 assassination of two NYPD cops in a patrol car, including that two units respond to every call. It has helped contribute to a nose dive in low-level policing, with overall arrests down 66 percent for the week starting Dec. 22 compared with the same period in 2013, stats show. ...Police sources said Monday that safety concerns were the main reason for the dropoff [sic; drop-off] in police activity, but added that some cops were mounting an undeclared slowdown in protest of de Blasio’s response to the non-indictment in the police chokehold death of Eric Garner.” [69731]

White House advisor Dan Pfeiffer tells HuffingtonPost.com Obama “would veto a bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security if it included a rider that nullified his executive action on deferred deportation.” (That is, Obama would rather leave the American people totally defenseless than hold illegal immigrants accountable for their actions; he would rather shut down airport security and lay off border patrol officers than prevent an illegal immigrant from getting a job that could go to a U.S. citizen.) Pfeiffer says, “Are they [the Republicans in Congress] going to shut down the Department of Homeland Security to undo our executive action? I don’t think they are going to do that.” (Of course, it would be Obama who would be shutting down the agency, but Obama

would feel comfortable doing it because he knows the mainstream media would obediently shift the blame to Congress.) [69733, 69734]

According to Politico.com, “FBI agents investigating the Sony Pictures hack were briefed Monday by a security firm that says its research points to laid-off Sony staff, not North Korea, as the perpetrator—another example of the continuing whodunnit [sic whodunit] blame game around the devastating attack. ...Researchers from the cyber intelligence company Norse have said their own investigation into the data on the Sony attack doesn’t point to North Korea at all and instead indicates some combination of a disgruntled employee and hackers for piracy groups is at fault.” [69716, 69719, 69732]

On Fox News, retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) says, “We, at no point in time, have imposed our will against the Taliban. We have not vanquished the enemy from the battlefield. There have been no [Taliban] capitulations. And one of the sayings that I heard them say quite often in my two-and-a-half years in Afghanistan was that you may have the [wrist]watches, but we have the time. And when we look at Afghanistan, it is not a war in and of itself. The real war against Islamic totalitarianism, Islamofascism and jihadism and terrorism continues on. ...And let us remember that next year, in 2015, those five senior members of the Taliban that we released in exchange for a deserter, Bowe Bergdahl, will be returning back to Afghanistan. So now you are starting to see the reconstitution of the enemy’s leadership, which is very deadly.” [69721]

On *On the Record*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer responds to Obama’s veto threats for 2015 and 2016, telling Kimberly Guilfoyle, “...I think the Republicans ought to say, ‘Bring it on, Mr. [Obama].’ There is no better way for the GOP to position itself for the 2016 election than to show the country two things. One, now that it controls the House and the Senate, and now that Harry Reid is not there as the blocking guard for [Obama]... they are able to enact [an] agenda. They have an agenda. And they should be willing to pass whatever they can and to dare [Obama] to go ahead and to veto. ...[T]hey should begin to work on stuff and challenge [Obama]—Keystone Pipeline, tax reform, repealing the medical device tax, repealing the employer and individual mandates in health care reform. Let [Obama] show where the [Democrat] party stands and let the country know that with a new president, a Republican president, this stuff, which is very popular, will be able to get through.” [69723, 69725]

On December 30 former President George H. W. Bush is released from Houston’s Methodist Hospital. [69708, 69724]

Debris and a number of bodies from the missing Air Asia flight 8501 are found in the Karimata Strait, in shallow waters off the coast of Borneo. [69709, 69711, 69726]

At the United Nations, Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas demands statehood for Palestine, Jerusalem as its capital, and a restoration of Israel’s pre-1967 “Auschwitz borders.” The action fails to gain the nine votes needed to pass—and the United States could have used its veto power if it had. Australia votes with the United

States, against the measure. Supporting the measure are Russia, China, France, Luxembourg, Jordan, Argentina, Chile, and Chad, while Great Britain, Nigeria, South Korea, Rwanda, and Lithuania abstain. (Muslims had been counting on Nigeria to vote for the measure. The growing number of Christians in Nigeria and their support of Israel prompted the abstention.) Obama's U.N. ambassador, Samantha Power, calls the proposal "deeply imbalanced" as it takes "no account of Israel's legitimate security concerns." But, notes Reuters, Power "did not spare Israel either. 'Today's vote should not be interpreted as a victory for an unsustainable status quo,' Power said, adding that Washington would oppose actions by either side that undermined peace efforts, whether 'in the form of settlement activity or imbalanced draft resolutions.'" (In other words, Power and Obama still want Israel to stop building apartment buildings in East Jerusalem.) [69718, 69759, 69760, 69761, 69775, 70020]

DailyCaller.com reports that in 2009 "...Obama's health care adviser Jonathan Gruber said that the Affordable Care Act would definitely not be affordable while he was writing the bill with the White House. As Gruber continues to withhold documents while he awaits a call-back for more testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in the new year, more shocking information is coming to light detailing the deceptions that went into the writing of the health-care law. Gruber said that Obamacare had no cost controls in it and would not be affordable in an October 2009 policy brief... At the time, Gruber had already personally counseled Obama in the Oval Office and served on Obama's presidential transition team. Obama, meanwhile, told the American people that their premiums would go down dramatically. 'The problem is it starts to go hand-in-hand with the mandate; you can't mandate insurance that's not affordable. This is going to be a major issue,' Gruber admitted in an October 2, 2009 lecture, the transcript of which comprised the policy brief." [69727, 69728]

“So what's different this time? Why are we closer than we've ever been before? Because there are no cost controls in these proposals. Because this bill's about coverage. Which is good! Why should we hold 48 million uninsured people hostage to the fact that we don't yet know how to control costs in a politically acceptable way? Let's get the people covered and then let's do cost control.' Gruber also said that the only way to control costs is to effectively deny treatment. 'The real substance of cost control is all about a single thing: telling patients they can't have something they want. It's about telling patients, 'That surgery doesn't do any good, so if you want it you have to pay the full cost.' There's no reason the American health care system can't be, 'You can have whatever you want, you just have to pay for it.' That's what we do in other walks of life. We don't say everyone has to have a large screen TV. If you want a large screen TV, you have to pay for it. Basically the notion would be to move to a level where everyone has a solid basic insurance level of coverage. Above that people pay on their own, without tax-subsidized dollars, to buy a higher level of coverage.'” [69727, 69728]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on the uproar over a report that Congressman Steve Scalise (R-LA) addressed an alleged white supremacist group in 2002. Krauthammer says, "It's the worst timing, and if Scalise had wanted to make it easy for the [Republican] party, he would have just stepped down on his own,

from leadership. Nobody is demanding that he leave Congress or that his career is over. ...[B]ut he didn't and the House Speaker [John Boehner] now is behind him and he's stuck with him. Look, this happened 12 years ago. It is possible, but implausible that he really didn't know who these guys were. After all, the name of the organization is the Euro-American Unity and Rights Organization. Pretty clear. ...I think the key question here is not just that this happened 12 years ago, but as far as I can tell, there is not a shred of evidence that there is anything in the intervening 12 years which would indicate any evidence of racism, hostility or ill will or anything of this nature. Which means it is just a single event 12 years ago. Given the absence of anything of that sort in the 12 years, I think it's a pretty drastic thing to demand that he step down. I think [fellow panel member] Steve [Hayes] is right that there is a double standard. Barack Obama ...didn't just wander into Jeremiah Wright's church one time 12 years ago. He sat in it for 22 years as the man who is a racist raved about America and talked about 9/11 being chickens coming home [to roost]. ...These aren't even comparable. I do think, as a political issue, Scalise might have just stepped aside. But given that he hasn't, the Republicans are stuck with this, which is unfortunate. They're going to get hit over this a few times, but I can't see how they change their minds now." [69747, 69748, 69750, 69753, 69764]

The European-American Unity and Rights Organization's David Duke tells Fusion.net, "Why is Scalise being singled out? I don't know. He was just going there, obviously, to tell voters about some of his initiatives on some tax matters. That's what it's all about. And I think it's insane, this whole process." Duke, who states he has met with many legislators from both political parties over the years, warns, "If Scalise is going to be crucified—if Republicans want to throw Steve Scalise to the woods, then a lot of them better be looking over their shoulders." [69764, 69765, 69831]

Meanwhile, Slate.com reports that Scalise may not even have addressed the EURO conference; he simply used the same conference room at the hotel to speak to a civic association. Kenny Knight, head of the Jefferson Heights Civic Association, "invited then-state Rep. Scalise as well as a representative from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office and a person from the American Red Cross to speak to the civic association at the hotel. Knight said he thinks the Red Cross speaker was from a local chapter but didn't remember specifically. He also said he didn't remember the names of either of the other speakers. The representative from the sheriff's department spoke to attendees about a neighborhood watch program, and the person from the Red Cross discussed CPR techniques. Scalise also spoke. 'I wanted to reach out to him and give him an audience so he could talk to people from his district about legislation he was proposing,' Knight said. 'I did that as a courtesy.' ...Knight said he set up a morning event for his own civic association in the hotel space before the EURO conference started. Though that event was in the conference's hospitality room, it wasn't at all related to the EURO event, he said. 'It was my room to do what I want with it,' he said." (Even Louisiana Democrats are sticking up for Scalise, including former governor Edwin Edwards and Congressman Cedric Richmond. But for many, the fact that Republican Scalise knew McKnight, and McKnight knew KKK leader David Duke is enough to warrant a condemnation of Scalise. Those same people should be asked if they will condemn Obama for his

friendship with domestic terrorists William Ayers and Bernardine Dohrn.) [69766, 69767, 69770, 69773]

USAToday.com reports, “Taxpayers lost \$9.26 billion on the U.S. government’s automotive industry rescue program, according to a final tally released by U.S. Treasury this week. The government said it recovered \$70.42 billion of the \$79.68 billion it gave to General Motors, Chrysler, Ally Financial, Chrysler Financial and automotive suppliers through the federal Auto Industry Financing Program. The program was part of the larger Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. ... The government disbursed \$49.5 billion to GM through the program, \$11.96 billion to Chrysler and \$17.17 billion to Ally Financial. As part of the plan, Fiat took control of Chrysler. The companies have since merged, and the new entity is called Fiat Chrysler Automobiles—with its U.S. arm called FCA US.” (The \$9.26 billion figure is incorrect. The actual figure is \$16.56 billion when factoring in interest.) Technically, the government did not rescue the U.S. auto industry. It bailed out General Motors, and Chrysler became an Italian company. Had the government not interfered, the bankruptcies would have followed the normal processes and the two companies would have emerged leaner and stronger—because their labor union contracts would have been voided and renegotiated. The Obama administration did not save GM; it saved the United Auto Workers union—at the expense of massive losses for those Americans who lost money when their preferred securities were given less priority than the UAW. Whether GM can survive with its bloated bureaucracy and recall-prone products remains to be seen.) [69800, 69801, 70007]

On December 31 Townhall.com’s Terry Jeffrey reports, “From November 2013 through November 2014, the aggregate balance in the federal direct student loan program... rose from \$687,149,000,000 to \$806,561,000,000, a one-year jump of \$119,412,000,000. The balance on all student loans, including those from private sources, exceeded a trillion dollars as of the end of the third quarter, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. ... Seven years ago, in November 2007, the aggregate balance in the federal direct student loan program was only \$98,529,000,000. Since then, it has grown by \$708,032,000,000. ... [T]he program is a government-funded redistribution of wealth to colleges and universities. The question is: Who will ultimately pay for that wealth transfer? ... By providing an average of about \$100 billion per year in student loans, the federal government allows even the nation’s wealthiest universities to charge students more than they and their families can pay without going into debt. That makes colleges richer and students poorer. The federal government already has programs in place to forgive or payoff the student loans of Americans who engage in government-approved activities, or who do not do well enough financially to pay off their own loans. ... When the government forgives or repays a student loan [there are at least 30 such federal programs], it becomes a redistribution of wealth from taxpayers to a person who attended college.” [69743]

Haaretz.com reports that publisher HarperCollins “has omitted Israel from maps in atlases that it sells to English-speaking schools in the Middle East. Collins Bartholomew, a map-publishing company that is a subsidiary of HarperCollins, told The Tablet, an international Catholic news weekly based in London, that including Israel in its the

‘Collins Primary Geography Atlas For The Middle East’ would have been ‘unacceptable’ to their customers in the Gulf and leaving Israel off the maps incorporated ‘local preferences.’ ... While Israel is not demarcated on the maps, the West Bank is clearly labeled.” [69744, 69745, 69754, 69758]

Obama releases five more terrorists from the detainee center at Guantanamo, Cuba. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “They were held for more than a decade and were sent to resettle in Kazakhstan. ... Almost 30 prisoners have been released from Gitmo this year, and just under 130 prisoners remain.” According to Examiner.com, the detainees are being turned over “for an undisclosed amount of taxpayer money.” (U.S. taxpayers are paying Kazakhstan to take them in.) According to Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), “at least 3 of the 5 Gitmo detainees transferred to Kazakhstan this week were members of or fought with al-Qaeda” and “One was a military adviser to Osama bin Laden who fought US and allied forces at Tora Bora.” She states, “I am deeply troubled by the administration’s continued transfer of dangerous terrorists from Guantanamo. When the administration transfers a Guantanamo detainee who was formerly assessed as a high risk for reengagement in terrorism, the onus is on the administration to explain openly to the American people what has changed. A failure to do so suggests the administration is more interested in emptying Guantanamo so that it can close it, rather than protecting the national security interests of the United States and the lives of Americans.” [69746, 69749, 69752, 69762, 69763, 69769, 69781]

New York City Mayor Bill “the Red” de Blasio reappoints Brooklyn Judge Laura Johnson, just days after she ordered the release of two men who threatened police officers on Facebook. According to BizPacReview.com, one of the two men, Devon Coley, “is already under indictment for robbery, conspiracy and possession of a firearm and had a warrant issued for his arrest for not appearing in court hours after Johnson freed him.” (Johnson is known as “Loose Judge Johnson” for her “generous” treatment of criminals.) [69786, 69787, 69809]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes at 17,823.07. Jim Rogers, chairman of Rogers Holdings and author of *Hot Commodities*, observes, “The people who are getting the money... are having a wonderful time, and their friends who are getting all this money that’s being printed, but the rest of the country and the rest of the world is not having such a good time these days.” [69757, 69822]

During 2014 the Obama administration imposed new job-killing regulations costing U.S. businesses \$181.5 billion, as estimated by the American Action Forum. [69871]

Planned Parenthood ends the year having performed 327,653 abortions. CNSNews.com notes, “That works out to an average of 37 abortions per hour or nearly 1 every 90 seconds. Planned Parenthood also received \$528.4 million from government grants and reimbursements, which equaled 41 percent of its revenue. ... According the latest 990 form filed with the IRS for 2013, Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards’ base compensation was \$396,138. Including retirement funds and other benefits, Richards’ total compensation was \$492,200.” [69842]

The year ends with the national debt at \$18,141,444,135,563.30, or \$18,141 trillion. A whopping \$98 billion in additional debt comes on the final day of the year—driven by a deficit in Social Security. According to CNSNews.com, “When Obama took office on Jan. 20, 2009, the debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08. Since then, it has increased \$7,514,567,086,650.22—which is \$65,443 per household, \$70,985 per full-time worker and \$84,266 per full-time private-sector worker. In 2013, according to the Census Bureau there were 105,862,000 full-time year-round workers in the United States. The \$789,473,350,613.20 increase in the federal debt during 2014 worked out to \$7,457.57 for each of those full-time year-round workers.” [69890, 69917]

Obama ends the year having played golf 56 times—beating his 2013 record of 46 times, according to WhiteHouseDossier.com. [69870]

Much to the dismay of “global warming” alarmists, the earth’s average temperature increased by a mere 0.05 degrees Celsius during 2014—and even that is only an estimate because it is impossible to know with certainty the actual temperatures on every square mile on the earth’s surface. [69909]

In France, youths mark New Years Eve by setting as many as 940 automobiles on fire. According to the Associated Press, many of the incidents were in the Seine-Saint-Denis region, where Muslims rioted in 2005. [69779]