

*The Obama Timeline – Part II*

*The Doomed Presidency*

*February 2014*

On February 1 “World Hijab Day” offers non-Muslims an opportunity to wear veils and head coverings. (The White House has no comment, but it will likely have an event or statement to recognize Black History Month.) [54415]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Conservative writer and documentarian Dinesh D’Souza is not intimidated by the federal election-law charges filed against him late last week. ‘I’m going to proceed with my work and my ideas and the film will be unimpeded by what’s going on,’ D’Souza told The Daily Caller, referring to his forthcoming feature documentary ‘America,’ which he said will ‘knock out the moral underpinning of modern progressivism.’ D’Souza was indicted last Thursday for election fraud for allegedly using straw donors to contribute \$20,000 to the losing New York U.S. Senate campaign of his friend, Wendy Long. Facing a maximum of two years in prison, D’Souza pled not guilty and made \$500,000 bail. Obama appointee Preet Bharara, the publicity-savvy New York Southern District U.S. Attorney [and Obama campaign donor] who brought the charges, is speculated to be a top prospect for an Attorney General job in a Hillary Clinton administration. Texas Republican Senator Ted Cruz suggested that the charges are politically motivated, but Cruz’s comments were edited out of a CBS ‘Face the Nation’ transcript.” (A John Edwards supporter who also used straw donors to donate \$8,000 was charged with a mere misdemeanor and punished with nothing more than a fine. The \$500,000 bail is absurd—the judge is apparently unfamiliar with the U.S. Constitution’s Eighth Amendment ban on excessive bail—and is clear evidence that the government is going after D’Souza for daring to criticize Obama in his documentary *2016: Obama’s America*, the second highest grossing political film in U.S. history.) It is worth noting that Bharara recently worked to obtain an early release from prison for traitor Lynne Stewart, the left-wing attorney who represented Omar Abdel Rahman—the “blind sheikh” jihadist leader of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. [6281, 6282, 6283, 6284, 6592, 7994, 33738, 53092, 53118, 53196, 53212, 54116, 54429, 54509, 54686, 54701, 54853, 54854, 54855, 55443]

DailyCaller.com points out that prosecutor Preet Bharara “Donated to Obama’s inauguration four months before earning an Obama appointment to his current job as U.S. Attorney.” “Was rumored to replace Eric Holder as Attorney General in the Obama administration.” “Rumored to be a top prospect for an Attorney General job in a Hillary Clinton administration in 2017.” “[Is a ] Protégé of [‘baldy political and brass-knuckled’ Senator] Chuck Schumer [D-NY].” “Went after the Bush administration [in 2006 for replacing U.S. Attorneys].” “Came under diplomatic scanner for ‘targeting’ Indians for prosecution.” “Went after Russian diplomats after Russia granted asylum to Edward Snowden.” (In other words, Bharara is a thug who is willing to do political dirty work to advance his career.) [55443]

FoxNews.com reports that Obama “is facing increasing pressure from Senate Democrats to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, following the release Friday of a State Department report that raised no major environmental concerns. ‘Today’s [January 31] Environmental Impact Statement confirms what Alaskans already know—there are ways to safely and responsibly diversify our domestic energy supply,’ said Senator Mark Begich (D-AK). ‘Move this project forward.’ Begich also said he will continue to ‘demand’ that Obama approve the \$7 billion pipeline project while reminding him that development in Alaska’s Arctic Ocean and National Petroleum Reserve is critical in securing the county’s energy independence from foreign countries. He was joined Friday by Louisiana Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu in calling on Obama to approve the project, proposed back in 2010.” (Both Begich and Landrieu face tough reelection fights and cannot afford not to push Obama toward approval of the pipeline.) [54413, 54806]

In a television interview, Iranian Brigadier General Hossein Salami states, “America, with its strategic ignorance, does not have a full understanding of the power of the Islamic Republic. We have recognized America’s military strategy, and have arranged our abilities, and have identified centers in America [for attack] that will create a shock. ... We will conduct such a blow in which they [America] will be destroyed from within.” (The threat may be more than bluster. It has long been believed that Iranian-backed Hezbollah terrorists have entered the United States and have been identifying potential targets.) [54433, 54434]

Secretary of State John Kerry threatens Israel with boycotts and delegitimization if the Jewish state does not ensure that peace talks with the Palestinians succeed. IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “Deputy Defense Minister Danny Danon responded to Kerry’s threats of boycotts, saying ‘we respect Secretary of State Kerry but will not hold talks with a gun to our head. Friends don’t put ultimatums on the security of the state of Israel. ... We will make decisions that guard the interests of the state of Israel. If we made choices based on the various forecasts of boycotts, we wouldn’t be here today. In the past we saw that wherever the IDF [Israeli Defense Force] wasn’t present terror takes root.” [54435, 54436, 54730]

On February 2, Super Bowl Sunday, the White House tweets a photograph of Obama throwing a football in an empty stadium. [54424, 54427]

On *Fox & Friends*, conservative author Ann Coulter reports that the sister of a friend died because of ObamaCare. (The woman lost her insurance coverage when Blue Shield left the individual policy market in California as a result of ObamaCare. She had a high fever but did not seek treatment because she lacked insurance. After going into septic shock, she died.) [54517]

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu states, “Attempts to impose a boycott on the State of Israel are immoral and unjust. Moreover, they will not achieve their goal. First, they cause the Palestinians to adhere to their intransigent positions and thus push peace further away. Second, no pressure will cause me to concede the vital interests of the State

of Israel, especially the security of Israel's citizens. For both of these reasons, threats [by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry] to boycott the State of Israel will not achieve their goal." [54436]

At TimesofIsrael.com Paula R. Stern, CEO of WritePoint Ltd., posts an open letter to Secretary of State John Kerry. She writes, in part, "Greater men than you have tried to make, to force, peace on the Middle East. I promise you, you will fail too. You will fail because you are not addressing the root cause of the problem. You, like so many before you, take the easy way out. Blame Israel. It is so easy to do, and so stupid. I could speak to you of history—a history longer and greater than you can imagine. I could speak to you of injustices—yes, our land is filled with the graves of those murdered for the unjust reason that they lived here, or traveled abroad, or ate in the wrong restaurant, or took the wrong bus. ... We have built and evacuated whole communities; we have withdrawn from land in exchange for nothing but the hope that we could appease the 'unappeasable.' ... We have allowed the Arabs—yes, allowed them, to fire tens of thousands of missiles at our cities and we know they have more than 170,000 more rockets and missiles ready to try again. At any time and with no notice whatsoever, we have the power to flatten Gaza into the world's largest, flattest parking lot. And each time they attack, we think of it and know we can't do it, won't do it. And you would blame us for the failure to make peace? When we attempt to stop them, to push back their military capabilities, just a bit, we aim for the rocket launchers, the arsenals, the training camps while they aim for our cities – Beersheva, Shderot, Ashkelon, Netivot, Ashdod. And you would threaten us for the ongoing state of war?" [55459]

"... There cannot be peace until you recognize your enemy. There cannot be successful negotiations if you fail to understand those you would bring to the table. You fail on both counts. After hearing that you threatened Israel unless the peace talks succeed, I can only conclude that your ignorance is even greater than I thought. I knew, years ago, that you had no clue what the Arab world is thinking, feeling, dreaming of. Now I know the same is true about Israel—you don't understand us any better than you understand the Arabs and that amazes me. ... Theirs is a culture built on a dream—a dream that they will own the world... my corner, John Kerry, and even yours. Theirs is a society that believes in a heaven earned by causing the deaths of others and so when their sons blow themselves up and kill those Jews, they celebrate. And yes, they celebrated on 9/11 when they killed your people just as they celebrated when we released their terrorists and killers in yet another attempt to appease them... and you. ... It doesn't matter to them if they kill a soldier, a man with a gun, a pregnant woman, or a helpless child. The more, the better, in their twisted interpretation of what their God wants. You don't understand this and I can see where it is hard, given your western mentality. But not understanding it doesn't give you the right to ignore it. You won't fail in your goal of ramming peace down our throats because of this, however. You will fail because, amazingly enough, you don't even understand Israel. We are the easiest to get, the easiest, honestly. All you have to do is listen and see—but even that is beyond you." [55459]

"... You threaten us with economic sanctions, with international isolation. This is your latest blunder, and it is a big one. Israel is laughing at you this morning. Economic

sanctions? They gassed us, beat us, bombed us, burned us. They haunted us, hunted us, hated us through the centuries across many lands and through this land in the last several decades. They burned the synagogue where my grandmother was hiding; they gassed my great grandmother to death. International isolation? They put us in ghettos, they exploded our buses and shot our babies in the head. They lynched my neighbor, attacked the buses on which my friends travel. They shot my daughter's teacher (and his infant son) and ambushed and killed a colleague of mine. We are fighting for our lives, John Kerry—no less today than we were in 1948. ... You will fail, John Kerry, because you are fool enough to think you can come here, wave your American flag, look at your watch and tell us you'd like to finish these peace negotiations by 5:00 p.m. because you have a date at the opera or a baseball game to go to. For a long time now, the Arabs have fooled you. They'll speak to you of peace over the coffee they serve you and then when you leave the room, they slap each other on the backs and laugh—another successful day at making the U.S. look stupid. Now, this time, we will have that in common with the Arabs; we are laughing at you too. Naftali Bennet has tried to explain it to you, 'There has not yet been a nation that has given up its land due to economic threats, and nor will we. Only security will bring economic stability, not a terrorist state near Ben-Gurion Airport.' Greater men have failed, John Kerry—and I promise you, until you know Israel and until you understand the Arabs, you don't have a prayer of succeeding. Go watch the Superbowl, at least then, maybe you'll have done something worthwhile." [55459]

TheBurningPlatform.com reports that distressed housing sales—short sales and foreclosure sales—“rose to a three year high of 16.2% of all U.S. residential sales, up from 14.5% in 2012. The economy has been supposedly advancing for over four years and [yet] sales of distressed homes are at 16.2% and rising. The bubble headed bimbos on CNBC don't find it worthwhile to mention that prior to 2007 the normal percentage of distressed home sales was less than 3%. Yeah, we're back to normal alright. We are five years into a supposed economic recovery and distressed home sales account for 1 out of 6 all home sales and is still 500% higher than normal. ...[A]ll-cash purchases accounted for 42% of all U.S. residential sales in December, up from 38% in November, and up from 18% in December 2012. [In addition, in 2013 single family home “flips”—buying and reselling within six months—were up 16 percent over 2012.] Does that sound like a trend of normalization? There were five states where all-cash transactions accounted for more than 50% of sales in December—Florida (62.5%), Wisconsin (59.8%), Alabama (55.7%), South Carolina (51.3%), and Georgia (51.3%). In the pre-crisis days before 2008, all-cash sales NEVER accounted for more than 10% of all home sales. NEVER. This is all being driven by hot Wall Street money, aided and abetted by Bernanke, Yellen and the rest of the Fed fiat heroine dealers.” The housing reality is that “mortgage applications are near 16 year lows,” and “First time home buyers account for a record low percentage of 27%. ...Home prices peaked in mid-2013. They have begun to fall. The 35% increase in mortgage rates has removed the punchbowl from the party. Anyone who claims housing will improve in 2014 is either talking their book, owns a boatload of vacant rental properties, teaches at Princeton, or gets paid to peddle the Wall Street propaganda on CNBC.” [54493, 55679]

“Reality will reassert itself in 2014, with lemmings, flippers, and hedgies getting slaughtered as the housing market comes back to earth with a thud. The continued tapering by the Fed will remove the marginal dollars used by Wall Street to fund this housing Ponzi. ...If the economy improves, interest rates will rise and kill the housing market. If the economy tanks, the stock market will plunge, creating fear and killing the housing market. Once it becomes clear that prices have begun to fall, the flippers will panic and start dumping, exacerbating the price declines. ...Real household income continues to fall and nearly 25% of all households with a mortgage are still underwater. Young people are saddled with \$1 trillion of government peddled student loan debt and will not be buying homes in the foreseeable future. Dodd-Frank rules will result in fewer people qualifying for mortgages. ...Obamacare premium increases are sucking the life out of potential middle class home buyers. Retailers have begun firing thousands. The financial class had a good run. They were able to re-inflate the bubble for two years, but the third year won't be a charm.” [54493, 55679]

Republican members of Congress and others take to the Sunday talk shows to try to convince conservatives that their “comprehensive immigration reform” plan will not result in amnesty for illegal immigrants. On *This Week*, Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) says, “This is not trust but verify. This is a verify and trust approach. Security first, no amnesty, then we might be able to get somewhere. ...Those things have to be in law, in practice and independently verified before the rest of the law can occur, so it's a security force first, non-amnesty approach.” Of course, the same thing was said about the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986—the “Simpson-Mazzoli Act”—which led to a wave of additional illegal immigrants.) Ryan warns that Obama is becoming “increasingly lawless” by “contradicting law” and “proposing new laws without going through Congress.” [54423, 54465]

Also on *This Week*, Democratic National Committee vice chairwoman Donna Brazile pushes amnesty for illegal immigrants, saying, “I don't think you can create two classes of citizens in this society, one with legal status and with the right to vote, and the other without.” Bill Kristol comments, “It's totally crazy [for the GOP to even address the issue in 2014]. There is no acceptable compromise for conservatives with that [Senate] bill, so why even try? Republicans will be in better shape for 2015. This problem has been around a long time. It can wait another year or two. There's no urgency. It would be foolish for Republicans to bring anything up in the House this year.” [54430]

On *State of the Union*, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal says immigration reform is the right thing to do, and not just “what some pollster tells us. ...There are a lot of folks in the Republican Party that would tell you [Obama] is doing so poorly right now in the polls and especially with the flawed implementation and design of the Affordable Care Act that ...we should stay out of his way and run 2014 as a referendum on that. I'm not one of those people.” (Jindal is out of touch with members of his own party, who do not want amnesty legislation and do not trust the government to enforce the borders.) [54423]

*State of the Union* also broadcasts a pre-recorded interview with Obama, in which he pushes immigration reform and tells Jake Tapper, “Well, I think the principle that we

don't want two classes of people in America is a principle that a lot of people agree with, not just me and not just Democrats.” (Clearly, the Democrats have decided to repeat the “don't want two classes of people” line ad infinitum, and the words were probably heavily poll-tested with average voters.) Obama says he hopes House Republicans approve legislation which ensures that “folks aren't being deported, families aren't being separated, we're able to attract top young students to provide the skills or start businesses here and then there's a regular process of citizenship, I'm not sure how wide the divide ends up being. That's why I don't want to prejudge it.” (Of course, his statement does prejudice any House proposal—because it includes his demands. House conservatives, however, are not about to approve legislation that includes any “pathway to citizenship” for illegal immigrants that does not involve returning home reentering the nation legally, and getting at the back of the citizenship application line.) Obama adds, “I do know that for a lot of families, the fear of deportation is one of the biggest concerns that they've got. And that's why we took executive actions, given my prosecutorial discretion, to make sure we're not deporting kids who grew up here and are Americans, for all practical purposes. But we need to get that codified.” (Obama does not have “prosecutorial discretion” to absolve entire classes of people from the enforcement of the law. His “Dream Act” executive order was unconstitutional. If it were legal, he would not need to ask for its “codification.”) “And the question is, is there more that we can do in this legislation that gets both Democratic and Republican support, but solves these broader problems, including strengthening borders and making sure that we have a legal immigration system that works better than it currently does?” (Obama's question is laughable. He can strengthen the borders simply by following existing law—something he has chosen not to do. The current immigration system might, in fact, work just fine—if he would only follow the letter of the existing law.) [54467]

At PJMedia.com Victor Davis Hanson asks, “So how hard is it for a Republican simply to say, ‘I oppose illegal immigration because (1) it is illegal. It undermines the sanctity of the law and discriminates against the law-abiding waiting in line to enter the U.S. legally. (2) It benefits corporate grandees at the expense of working people. (3) It is driven by self-serving elites of the ethnic-grievance industry to enhance their own advantage, rather than to help poor folks struggling to find decent wages and schools. Illegal immigration, in short, is the most illiberal issue of our time.’” [54468]

On *Face the Nation*, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-V) says that because of ObamaCare, “Policies are being cancelled, prices are going up, access to hospitals and doctors are being limited for many folks, especially those in the individual market. And as we begin to see the further growth in terms of implementation of this law, you will see, I believe, more and more people negatively affected. ... There's going to be a real problem, a real need for an alternative... I believe firmly that we will have a [House] vote on an alternative for a healthcare system that works for people. ... I believe we will have it this year. ObamaCare is not working. And we want a healthcare system that works for all Americans. ... We are going to deal with those [Americans] with preexisting conditions. We don't want them to go without coverage. We just deal with it in a way and provide high-risk pools, so that we can limit the increase in cost for everybody else and do it in a much more cost-effective manner. We say folks ought to have choice of their

insurance companies. Let them purchase across state lines, [as that will] help bring down prices. And then we say, you know, we ought to have patient-centered care, not care dictated by Washington, which is why we want we want to promote health savings accounts. These are the kinds of things that are in our proposal.” [54449]

On *Meet the Press*, host David Gregory asks White House chief of staff Denis McDonough about Obama’s indecision on the Keystone XL pipeline. McDonough laughably replies, “He’s been very clear that he’s going to insulate this process from politics. Washington loves the politics...” Gregory: “I didn’t ask about politics. You’ve got a State Department study.” McDonough: “And we have one department with a study. Now we have other expert agencies, the EPA, and many others, who have an opportunity—the Energy Department, an opportunity to look at this and make their determinations. [Obama] wants to protect their ability to do that, make this decision based on the best analysis and most sound science.” (Of course Obama is stalling a decision because of politics. There is no other explanation.) Gregory also asks, “Do you ever wonder why [Obama] doesn’t get more credit for an economy that is rebounding? What’s the disconnect there?” (Many would argue that the economy has, in general, not rebounded, and in those areas where it has Obama had nothing to do with it.) [54461, 54464, 54528]

McDonough also comments on a “very chilling story in *The New York Times* today about the impact of climate change on droughts in the West—California, which is now seeing some pretty serious developments as a result of climate change. ...So, we’ll be looking at that.” (At NationalReview.com Charles C. W. Cooke later writes, “As it happens, ‘looking at that’ would be a rather good idea—not least because the claim is arrant nonsense. As the San Jose *Mercury News* recorded a few weeks back, the cycle of high pressure that the state is currently experiencing has many precedents in history, and, far from being obviously ‘the result of climate change,’ its cause has left ‘researchers scratching their heads.’ Daniel Cayan, an oceanographer and atmospheric scientist who works for the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, concedes that, unlike [Obama] and his acolytes, he simply has no idea what is happening. ‘I wish I had a really good answer for this,’ Cayan told the paper. Bob Benjamin, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, is equally flummoxed: ‘This ridge is sort of a mountain in the atmosphere. In most years, it comes and goes. This year it came and didn’t go.’ [Droughts in California, of course, certainly have occurred for many centuries—long before the Industrial Revolution, coal-fired power plants, and SUVs.] ...A favorite progressive pastime is to highlight the rubes who look out of their windows and make grand pronouncements about trends based solely on the weather that afternoon. ‘Weather is not climate,’ they scream, rolling their eyes and muttering about science-with-a-capital-S. This is correct; weather is not the same as climate. But neither is every serious catastrophe that befalls mankind indicative of the end times, requiring of [federal] intervention, and attributable to the bogeyman du jour...” 54583]

On C-SPAN’s *Newsmakers*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) calls on Democrats to return any campaign donations Bill Clinton helped raise: “They can’t have it both ways. And so I really think that anybody who wants to take money from Bill Clinton or have a fundraiser

has a lot of explaining to do. In fact, I think they should give the money back. If they want to take position on women's rights, by all means do. But you can't do it and take it from a guy who was using his position of authority to take advantage of young women in the workplace." (Clinton's sexual exploits would have landed most people in jail, but he somehow managed to avoid prosecution before he went into politics, and after being elected Governor of Arkansas he used his political power to silence accusers and critics. By the time he ran for the presidency, leftist journalists eager to see him get elected chose to ignore the more damaging sexual incidents of his past. Clinton's victims include Arkansas nursing home operator Juanita Broaddrick (1978); Eileen Wellstone, a 19-year-old Clinton sexually assaulted while he attended Oxford University (1969); a 22-year-old student at Yale (1972); a University of Arkansas student (1974); seven complaints from women in Arkansas (1978-1980); Carolyn Moffet, a Little Rock legal secretary (1979); Elizabeth Ward (1982); Arkansas state employee Paula Corbin Jones (who won \$850,000 from Clinton in a legal settlement); Sandra Allen James (1991); flight attendant Christy Zercher (1992); White House volunteer Kathleen Willey (1993); and others.) [54684, 54760, 54761, 55139]

Viewers express outrage when Michelle Obama appears in the Animal Planet's "Puppy Bowl" telecast—an event in which puppies "play football"—to push her "Let's Move" campaign. [54518, 54519]

In a brief and arguably inconsequential pre-game interview in which viewers learn nothing, Obama avoids a question from the Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly about whether he was immediately told the Benghazi attack was terrorism, responding that he did not recall the exact wording, but knew at the time that "something very dangerous was happening." He brushes off the "YouTube video protest" remarks by then-ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice. "The key is that we've implemented the reforms that have been recommended." O'Reilly: "Your detractors believe that you did not tell the world it was a terror attack because your campaign didn't want that out. That's what they believe." A defensive Obama blames Fox News: "And they believe it because folks like you [i.e., white racists] are telling them that." On the issue of the IRS discriminating against Tea Party groups, a thin-skinned Obama says, "These things keep on resurfacing because you and your TV station will promote them." Obama blames the issue on "bone-headed decisions" at the Cincinnati IRS office and declares, "There wasn't even a smidgeon of corruption." (O'Reilly does not correct Obama to tell him the IRS employees in Cincinnati have stated they were only doing officials in Washington, D.C. told them to do. Nor does O'Reilly bother to ask Obama why IRS employee Lois Lerner refused to testify before Congress.) Obama also claims he does not remember meeting with then-IRS commissioner Doug Shulman—even though he visited the White House well over 100 times. [54425, 54426, 54428, 54432, 54447, 54450, 54455, 54460, 54478, 54485, 54512, 54520, 54537, 54582, 54677]

Asked by O'Reilly why he didn't fire HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Obama dodges and says people are being "held accountable," and calls the massive Healthcare.gov problems "glitches." The interview, which has been advertised as "tough," is not very tough. O'Reilly asks Obama if his "If you like your plan you can keep it" statement was



his “biggest mistake.” (O’Reilly does not ask, “Why did you lie to the American people? You certainly knew people were going to lose their coverage.”) Obama dodges, talks about his “grandfather clause” rule, and says he does not dwell on “fumbles.” (The questions are not necessarily “softball,” but O’Reilly allows Obama to avoid the key points of the questions and engages in no aggressive follow-up questions. Granted, had O’Reilly asked the questions Americans wants asked he would never again be given an interview with Obama, but Obama would at least have been made to squirm or tell bold-faced lies that could come back to haunt him. O’Reilly chose to protect his own career rather than serve the interests of the public.) [54425, 54426, 54428, 54432, 54447, 54460, 54478, 54485, 54512, 54520, 54537, 54582, 54677]

O’Reilly reads a letter from Fresno, California resident Kathy Lemaster asking why Obama feels it is necessary to “fundamentally transform the nation that has afforded you so much opportunity and success?” Obama responds, “I don’t think we have to fundamentally transform the nation—” O’Reilly reminds him, “But those are your words.” (Fox News Channel’s Geraldo Rivera later slams O’Reilly for the interview, saying, “It was almost as if you were two equals with two opposite world views coming together for a confrontation. It was the president of most of the white guys in America—that’s you—and Barack Obama, the [leader] of almost everybody else—and the discussion was at that level. ... What you did was strip him of his majesty, so to speak.” (Rivera is apparently unaware that Obama is *not* royalty; he works for the American people. In fact, every citizen is Obama’s equal. He is not better than any U.S. citizen; he is their servant.) [54425, 54426, 54428, 54432, 54447, 54460, 54478, 54485, 54512, 54520, 54537, 54582, 54677, 54721]

After Obama blames Fox News for his administration’s failures, his former Secretary of State, Hillary “Hildebeest” Clinton, sends a Twitter message during the Fox-televised Super Bowl game: “It’s so much more fun to watch FOX when it’s someone else being blitzed & sacked!” (Whether Clinton is referring to Obama or the Denver Broncos is not clear.) For fans attending the game, the event is a nightmare because of long lines at security checkpoints and hours-long waits for trains. The *Daily Mail* reports, “Massive crowds appeared bottle-necked as they waited for New Jersey Transit trains to arrive at platforms. The wait was so long officials pleaded with fans to stay in the stadium and opened the tony Chase Club for people to take refuge. The nearly 28,000 people who took mass transit to the game were stuck on lines brought to a standstill by temporarily installed airport-style security machines that failed to keep up with the volume of passengers taking transit to the Super Bowl as authorities had instructed.” [54442, 54448, 54463]

After the game, Seattle fans “celebrate” their team’s victory by starting fires, vandalizing buildings, and tearing down street signs. Students at the University of Washington (Obama’s mother’s alma mater) burn sofas, telling reporters, “You only live once!” [54475]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that Obama’s new head of the Department of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, has a new “appointee to his inner circle, chief of staff Christian

Marrone, [who] rose to Washington power player via the streets of Pennsylvania's pay-to-play politics. Mr. Marrone acknowledged in court that as a Pennsylvania legislative aide he oversaw the private renovation of his politician boss's mansion—all while drawing paychecks from taxpayers, according to court records reviewed by The Washington Times. ...How Mr. Marrone's appointment made it through the vetting process for sensitive senior jobs could spur questions about Mr. Johnson's judgment and the rigors of the Obama administration's review process, observers told The Times." [54431]

BizPacReview.com reports that after the Gibson Guitar, after finally receiving back imported wood the Obama administration had confiscated in 2011, has introduced a "Government Series II Les Paul" guitar made from the wood. (The administration accused Gibson of violating harvesting laws in India and Madagascar, even though those countries made no such claim.) The guitars "start at about \$1,000 retail and include a certificate of authenticity signed by [company owner Henry] Juskiewicz, who maintained from the beginning that the company had done nothing wrong. 'We feel that Gibson was inappropriately targeted...' he said in a news release announcing the settlement of the criminal case and reported by the Heritage Foundation. '...[T]he Government used violent and hostile means with the full force of the U.S. Government and several armed law enforcement agencies costing the taxpayer millions of dollars and putting a job-creating U.S. manufacturer at risk and at a competitive disadvantage. This shows the increasing trend on the part of the Government to criminalize rules and regulations and treat U.S. businesses in the same way drug dealers are treated. This is wrong and it is unfair.'" (Gibson competitor C. F. Martin used the same imported wood but was not harassed by the government—possibly because that company's CEO "is a reliable Democratic donor.") [54453, 54462, 54509]

On February 3 Janet Yellen takes over from Ben Bernanke as Federal Reserve Board chairman. According to CNSNews.com, the central bank has "an unprecedented \$4,102,138,000,000 in total assets on its balance sheet, up 391 percent from the \$834,663,000,000 in total assets the Fed showed on its balance sheet when Bernanke took over as chairman in February 2006. Much of the increase in the Fed's assets has come in the form of U.S. Treasury securities and Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae mortgage-backed securities that the Fed purchased over the last five years in its attempts to stimulate the economy." (Some might wonder where the Federal Reserve got that \$4 trillion to finance debt. The answer is that it created money out of thin air, expanding the money supply with nothing more than bookkeeping entries on balance sheets. That process of inflation will eventually result in massive price increases.) Yellen arguably does not even understand the purpose of the Federal Reserve system. It was created in 1913, ostensibly to provide a safe and stable monetary system and financial system. Granted, it has largely failed at that mission, but Yellen has stated that the mission "...isn't just about fighting inflation or monitoring the financial system. It's about trying to help ordinary households get back on their feet and about creating a labor market where people can feel secure and work and get ahead." Financial analyst Richard Daughy asks, "How in the hell does a bank DO a thing like that? The Congress has been trying, and failing, to do that for a hundred years!" [54466, 54479, 54493, 54838]

TheBurningPlatform.com observes, “Ben Bernanke increased his balance sheet by \$3.2 trillion (450%) since 2008, and it had to go somewhere. We know it didn’t trickle down to the 99%. It was placed in the firm clutches of the .1% billionaire club. Bernanke sold his QE [Qualitative Easing] schemes as methods to benefit Main Street Americans, when his true purpose was to benefit Wall Street crooks. 30 year mortgage rates were 4.25% before QE2. 30 year mortgage rates were 3.5% before QE3. Today they stand at 4.5%. QE has not benefited average Americans. They are getting 0% on their savings, mortgage rates are higher, and their real household income has fallen and continues to fall. But you’ll be happy to know banking profits are at all-time highs, Blackrock [the world’s largest asset manager] and the rest of the Wall Street Fed front running crowd have made a killing in the buy and rent ruse, and record bonuses are being doled out to the men who have wrecked our financial system in their gluttonous plundering of the once prosperous nation. Their felonious machinations have added zero value to society, while impoverishing a wide swath of America. Bernanke, Yellen and their owners have used their control of the currency, interest rates, and regulatory agencies to create the widest wealth disparity between the haves and have-nots in world history. Their depraved actions on behalf of the .1% will mean blood.” [54466, 54479, 54493]

On *Fox & Friends*, Donald Trump comments on the O’Reilly/Obama interview: “I was impressed that [Obama] agreed to do the interview with Bill; at the same time I think he probably shouldn’t have done it; and I definitely think he should have worn a tie. ...Let him out on a tie. Bill was wearing a tie. ...It’s a formal position. I think he should wear a tie. ...It’s sloppy, it’s not appropriate...” (Obama’s failure to wear a necktie was intentional. Obama meant to insult O’Reilly, Fox News, and Fox viewers. He was demonstrating that he takes none of them seriously.) [54486]

Townhall.com reports that the Obama administration for a White House Council on Men and Boys, even though in 2009 it created a White House Council on Women and Girls. (Arguably, no tax dollars should be wasted on either, but it is revealing that Obama favors one over the other.) [54445]

Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee send a letter to House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), threatening to delay tax refunds if the Republicans do not agree to a “clean” debt ceiling increase. BizPacReview.com reports, “Nearly \$110 million in refunds with an average of \$2,700 were sent last year, according to the letter, which warned that failure to act could ‘potentially raise unnecessary panic among families awaiting their tax refunds.’” (The letter is clearly incorrect. According to the IRS, by March 9, 2013 it had “issued more than 53.4 million refunds totaling more than \$154 billion.” In any event, for legislators to use the tax refunds of U.S. taxpayers as a bargaining chip in political negotiations is shameful.) [54719, 54720]

At Breitbart.com Mike Flynn reports that year end 2013 filings with the Federal Election Commission show that “Democrats are dominating the Republicans in fundraising. More surprising, perhaps, though, is that Tea Party and conservative SuperPACs raised around three times as much as GOP establishment SuperPACs. The DC GOP may have started

the war against the Tea Party, but it won't finish it. ...The most interesting data from Friday's [January 31] reports is the surging financial strength of conservative SuperPACs. Karl Rove's three SuperPACs collectively raised \$6.1 million last year. [But] The Tea Party Patriots Citizens Fund, where I am Political Director, alone raised \$6.4 million. The four largest conservative SuperPACs raised \$20 million. GOP establishment SuperPACs raised just over \$7 million. Donors haven't stopped giving. They have just stopped giving the Republican party. ...Keep in mind, this shift away from the GOP to more conservative organizations occurred even before the irrational attempt of GOP leadership to push through an amnesty bill. Conservatives were lectured that the government shutdown was ill-advised because it 'distracted' from the failures of 'ObamaCare.' Okay. So, while the country is fully understanding the failures of ObamaCare, the establishment GOP wants to pivot to an issue championed by ...Obama and [Senator] Chuck Schumer [D-NY]? Serious question: Are they trying to blow the midterms? What is most fascinating about the FEC reports is that [it] almost no longer matters what the GOP does. There are new people in town. For the last four years they have had the grass-roots. Now, they also have the money." [55304, 55305]

OregonLive.com reports, "Trader Joe's is backing away from a development in Northeast Portland, company officials said Monday. ...While the company views the area south of Vanport Square in Northeast Portland as 'a great neighborhood,' Trader Joe's 'will not be opening a store in the area,' citing 'negative reactions from the community.'" BenSwann.com notes, "African American activists and politicians forced the Trader Joe's grocery chain to drop their plans for a new store in a predominately black community because the store would 'increase the desirability of the neighborhood,' for 'non-oppressed populations.'" According to the Associated Press, "...activists said the development would price black residents out of the area." According to News.Yahoo.com, "Critics said the development would displace residents and perpetuate income inequality in one of the most rapidly gentrifying ZIP codes in the nation." (Amazingly, black residents are resisting plans to improve their own neighborhood. Obama has no comment.) [54655, 54656, 54657, 54660, 54747]

In an interview with KFAQ, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) says of Obama's claim that Fox News is responsible for the controversy over the Benghazi attack, "It's just an outrageous lie, it is kind of hard to call it anything else. It's kind of like ObamaCare. He [Obama] has to come up and say something and blame someone else. ...I will say this to my dying day—I know people don't realize it now—but that's going to go down in history as the greatest cover-up. And I'm talking about compared to the Pentagon Papers, Iran-Contra, Watergate and the rest of them. This was a cover-up in order for people right before the election to think that there was no longer a problem with terrorism in the Middle East." [54471, 54472, 54477]

The Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 326 points. Since late December 2013 it has declined more than 1,000 points. Michael Snyder notes at TheEconomicCollapseBlog.com, "[T]here are many that [sic; who] believe that this is just the beginning of a major stock market decline. ...Major currencies all over South America continue to collapse. ...The CBOE [Chicago Board Options Exchange]

Volatility Index (VIX) has risen above 20 for the first time in four months. ...Last month, new manufacturing orders in the United States declined at the fastest pace that we have seen since December 1980. ...Real disposable income in the United States has just experienced the largest year over year drop that we have seen since 1974. ...The IMF [International Monetary Fund] recently said that the probability that the global economy will fall into a deflation trap 'may now be as high as 20%.'" Economist Peter Schiff warns, "The crisis is imminent. I don't think Obama is going to finish his second term without the bottom dropping out. And stock market investors are oblivious to the problems. We're broke. We owe trillions. Look at our budget deficit; look at the debt to GDP ratio, the unfunded liabilities. If we were in the Eurozone, they would kick us out." Forecaster Gerald Celente is even more pessimistic: "This selloff in the emerging markets, with their currencies going down and their interest rates going up, it's going to be disastrous and there are going to be riots everywhere. ...So as the decline in their economies accelerates, you are going to see the civil unrest intensify." [54474, 54483, 54484]

There are reports that Dell is preparing to lay off as many as 15,000 employees. [54476]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) expresses outrage that Obama's new IRS commissioner, John Koskinen, will reinstate agency bonuses that were canceled in 2013. Hatch states, "The IRS is accused of targeting conservative groups, with many of its employees having conducted themselves in a manner inappropriate for government officials, and the agency decides to reinstate employee bonuses? This is outrageous. ...It's hard to think of a group of people less deserving of bonuses than IRS employees. I understand that not every IRS worker was responsible, but this just is the wrong signal to send the American people who were rightly outraged by how this agency treated people for their political views." [54482]

According to ThePostEmail.com, Arizona legislators have introduced the Second Amendment Preservation Act. The legislation (SB 1294) "declares all federal regulations violating the Second Amendment 'invalid and void in this state.' It also prohibits the state from enforcing 'any federal act, law, order, rule or regulation that relates to a personal firearm, firearm accessory or ammunition within the limits of this state.'" [54488, 54521]

On WNYC, New York City's new communist mayor, Bill de Blasio (Warren Wilhelm, Jr.) says he is working to have schools closed for the "lunar new year" and for the Muslims holy days Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. NYDailyNews.com notes that de Blasio "hadn't taken a position on whether Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated in India and other South Asian countries, should be a day off from school." (Obama has no comment.) [54532, 54533, 54542]

Heritage.org reports, "Thousands of Americans who have asked the federal government to fix errors on their Obamacare applications aren't likely to get solutions anytime soon, according to internal government data obtained by *The Washington Post*. Some 22,000 Americans have filed appeals over errors made while applying for health coverage on HealthCare.gov, the website for Obamacare's federal exchange, the newspaper reported.

Those errors have included being pushed into the wrong program, receiving incorrect subsidies or insurance payments, and being denied coverage entirely. But HealthCare.gov's system won't allow federal workers to go into enrollment records and make any changes to the applications. *Washington Post* reporter Amy Goldstein wrote. 'The Obama administration has not made public the fact that the appeals system for the online marketplace is not working,' the story said, noting that the administration is more focused on other parts of HealthCare.gov that don't work, such as the payment processing system. A spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which heads up HealthCare.gov, told *The Post* that the agency is working to implement an appeals system, but didn't give an estimated completion date. In the meantime, CMS is advising some consumers with enrollment issues to avoid the appeals process by going back to the website and starting over with a new application." White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, "[I]t's only around 22,000 [who have] asked for help by filing an appeal, and we are going to get them help. Uh, so we are talking here about a very small percentage of the number of people, uh, who have applied for coverage." [54513, 54531]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "A new study finds that Obamacare's redistribution will be stunningly lopsided. Scholars at the liberal Brookings Institution have discovered that Obamacare will increase the income of Americans in the lowest 20 percent of the income scale, and especially in the lowest ten percent. But all other income groups—even people who make very modest incomes in the \$25,000 to \$30,000 range, as well as all income brackets above that—will experience a decline in income because of Obamacare. In other words, Obamacare is going to cost some of the very people it was designed to help. ...Obamacare provides billions in subsidies to those who qualify, expands Medicaid benefits, cuts Medicare, fines those who don't purchase government-approved coverage and levies new taxes—all of which will change how much income millions of Americans bring in each year. ...Obamacare will mean more for the lowest-income Americans. It will increase income by 9.2 percent for the lowest bracket—households making below about \$21,000 a year—for those in their working years, age 25 to 64. Then the surprise. Obamacare will reduce, by an estimated 0.9 percent, the incomes of working-age Americans in the next-lowest income bracket, households making between about \$21,000 and \$40,000 a year. And in the next income group, households making between about \$40,000 and \$65,000 a year—Obamacare will reduce their income, too, also by 0.9 percent." [54501, 54524, 54567]

At PJMedia.com Bridget Johnson points out that "...Obamacare includes a powerful disincentive for victims trying to leave abusive marriages. Under current enrollment policies, victims who have left abusive relationships, even if they file taxes separately from a spouse, still are judged on total household income of the marriage. So if a victim flees and is trying to obtain health insurance coverage, she or he may actually be scraping by on a substantially smaller income yet not qualify for subsidies—and be mandated to buy a costly policy. And a high healthcare premium would exacerbate what is already a trepidatious [sic] financial situation, with many victims coming from a marriage where the abusive spouse controlled the money and many of the abused eventually returning to

the marriage because of an inability to financially support oneself and any children.” [54527]

At TheDailyBeast.com, Josh Rogin reports, “In a closed-door meeting, two senators say, the Secretary of State admitted to them that he no longer believes the administration’s approach to the crisis in Syria is working. Peace talks have failed, he conceded, and now it’s time to arm the moderate opposition—before local al Qaeda fighters try to attack the United States. Secretary of State John Kerry has lost faith in his own administration’s Syria policy, he told fifteen U.S. Congressmen in a private, off-the-record meeting, according to two of the senators who were in the room. Kerry also said he believes the regime of Bashar al Assad is failing to uphold its promise to give up its chemical weapons according to schedule; that the Russians are not being helpful in solving the Syrian civil war; and that the Geneva 2 peace talks that he helped organize are not succeeding. But according to the senators, Kerry now wants to arm Syria’s rebels—in part, to block the local al Qaeda affiliates who have designs on attacking the U.S. (Kerry’s spokesperson denied that he raised the issue of supplying weapons, but did not dispute the overall tenor of the conversation.) ‘[Kerry] acknowledged that the chemical weapons [plan] is being slow rolled, the Russians continue to supply arms, we are at a point now where we are going to have to change our strategy,’ said Sen. Lindsey Graham [R-SC], who attended Kerry’s briefing with lawmakers on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. ‘He openly talked about supporting arming the rebels. He openly talked about forming a coalition against al Qaeda because it’s a direct threat.’” [54507]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson comments, “So we struck a bogus ‘deal’ that isn’t working, affording Assad’s Iran-backed regime more time to torture and kill its people, and allowing Al Qaeda affiliated rebels to grow in numbers in influence. Terrific. Now, according to our intelligence community’s analysis, the jihadist opposition movement in Syria is splitting its attention between overthrowing Assad and plotting terrorist attacks on the US homeland. ‘Changing course’ in Syria would entail the White House revisiting the military intervention option [Obama] hoped to avoid, as public opinion and Congressional sentiment never lined up behind his ineffectual PR push. The last thing [Obama’s] political team wants is another national debate over an unpopular potential war. The public has already lost confidence in Obama’s leadership, and the ‘red line’ has been reduced to a meaningless rhetorical flourish. Americans are also deeply skeptical of arming any Syrian rebels, perhaps because of stories like this and this. The Obama administration has four primary options on the table, as I see it: (1) Launch military strikes against Assad without Congressional approval (if it’s a zero-sum power struggle in Syria, wouldn’t this empower the Al Qaeda types who also want to kill us?), (2) seek a Congressional vote on a military action (and risk a likely replay of this slow-motion embarrassment), (3) arm the ‘good’ rebels, and hope for the best (gulp), or (4) do little-to-nothing, while indulging the Putin/Assad playbook charade. That final option wouldn’t halt or reverse the slaughter, wouldn’t send a message to Iran, and may allow the ascendant jihadists to gain a bigger stronghold in the country. It would also be the least politically-damaging choice, at least in the short term. One wonders which door Team Smart Power will choose.” [54508]

On *Special Report*, the panel discusses Obama's statements during his interview with Bill O'Reilly. George Will says Obama, "who talks incessantly, talks increasingly a kind of rhetorical cotton candy—a flurry of adjectives that nullify the substance, as when he said to Bill O'Reilly, 'If you look at the video of the attack on the compound, you will see that it's not a systematic, well-organized process.' Well if you look at any war, any episode, it doesn't look systematic and organized, it looks like war and chaos"—but that does not mean it was not a planned terrorist attack. Democrat Kirsten Powers adds, "I don't understand why the administration can't just tell the truth about this. And that they keep saying things that, as George just pointed out, we know aren't true. And we know aren't true from sort of unbiased sources. You know, the Senate intelligence report is not Fox News. Why didn't he answer Bill's question? You know, Bill just kept asking him, 'What were you told?' And he never really would answer the question, and then he turns around and says, 'Well we were just focused on getting people safe.' Well of course you were, but weren't you also a little curious if it was a terrorist attack? So none of this really adds up, and it's just so frustrating. 'Rhetorical cotton candy,' perfect way to describe it." Charles Krauthammer observes, "When Obama talks about this as if he didn't know, I think he simply is continuing a successful stonewall. The idea was to stonewall until election day. The mainstream media had no interest in this—there's a huge cast of characters, it's a complicated event—and no one is talking about it. And he has succeeded now. He talks around it, he talks in a way that is not answering the question. Did he know it was a terror attack? He obviously knew, because he met the afternoon of that day with General [Carter] Ham, who said—he met with the Secretary of Defense [Leon Panetta], who had just spoken with General Ham, our commander in Africa, who said he knew within 15 minutes it was a terror attack. He knew, he pretends he doesn't, and he has succeeded in not getting the opprobrium he should as a result of that." [54516, 54551]

On the issue of the IRS targeting of conservative groups, Will says, "We've had three major scandals in the last forty years. Scandals are a dime a dozen in this town—sexual and financial and all the rest. Three big ones regarding the distortion and abuse of institutions: Watergate, Iran-Contra and the IRS. The first two were ravenously covered by the media; they were Republican presidents' problems. This [the IRS scandal] is not being pursued and [Obama] knows that. Hence, his sense of weariness and boredom as he discussed this with Bill O'Reilly." (More than a few Americans might add the Benghazi coverup to the "top scandal" list. Others would add the fact that Obama managed to work his way into the Oval Office without having been born with two U.S. citizen parents—making him ineligible to serve because he is not a natural born citizen. One can understand why Will may be afraid to note the latter, but he should have included the former.) [54529]

The second half of Bill O'Reilly's interview with Obama is aired on Fox. DailyCaller.com observes, "The second half... was even rougher for [Obama] than the first, after he stumbled through a feeble and rambling explanation of why the reporter and Fox News are 'unfair' and sarcastically asked, 'What are you guys gonna do when I'm gone?'" (Fox News was number one in the cable news rating before Obama took office. He arrogantly believes he is the reason for its success.) On the Keystone XL pipeline



issue, Obama says, “Well, first of all, it’s not 42,000 [jobs that will be created]. That’s, that, that’s not correct. It’s a couple thousand to build the pipeline. But—” O’Reilly: “Forty-two, all told.” Obama: “Well, that, the bottom line is what we’re going to do is—the process now goes: agencies comment on what the State Department did, public’s allowed to comment, [Secretary of State John] Kerry’s going to, give me a recommendation.” O’Reilly: “All right, so I assume we’re going to do that after five years.” Obama: “We’ll take a look at it.” O’Reilly: “I’ll take that as a yes.” (Some believe Obama will stall a pipeline decision until shortly before the mid-term elections in November, hoping it will make voters think he is finally creating jobs while delaying criticism from environmental groups until after they have donated to Democrat candidates.) Asked by O’Reilly if he is the most liberal person ever in the Oval Office, Obama responds, “Probably not,” he answered. “You know, the truth of the matter is, when you look at some of my policies, in a lot of ways, Richard Nixon was more liberal than I was.” [54514]

On *The Kelly File*, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) criticizes Obama’s statements about Benghazi to Bill O’Reilly, saying “He needs to read the emails from the State Department, because on September the 12th, less than 12 hours after the siege ended, his own State Department, in an email to the Libyan ambassador said, ‘We know who did it. It was Ansar al-Sharia.’ Nothing about a [YouTube] video. Nothing about a protest. So his own State Department knew within six hours of the siege ending that this was a terrorist attack. So, I would encourage [Obama] to spend more time with... Secretary Clinton—by the way, [Hillary Clinton’s chief of staff] Cheryl Mills was copied on the email and so was [Clinton’s deputy] Patrick Kennedy.” Megyn Kelly notes that Obama blamed Fox News for turning Benghazi into a controversy where one does not exist. Gowdy replies, “Megyn, I can tell you this, there are four murdered Americans and I am asked about Benghazi more than I am any other issue, and that is true in South Carolina, it is true in Texas, it was true 30 minutes ago. ...It may just be that people view this as having nothing at all to do with politics and about who we are as a country that four of our fellow citizens were murdered, that we weren’t prepared to provide for their security, that we didn’t go help them during the siege, and then [Obama’s ambassador to the United Nations] Susan Rice lied about it on five different Sunday talk shows—maybe it has nothing to do with politics.” (Prior to the attack in Libya there were protests in Cairo as well, and they were also blamed on the YouTube video. At NationalReview.com former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy notes that “State Department officials in Cairo... began tweeting about their outrage over the video before the rioting started. At the time they did so, our government well knew both that there would be demonstrations at the embassy and that those demonstrations were being spearheaded by al Qaeda.” In other words, “the fix was in.” The Obama administration needed to provide an explanation for the demonstrations in order to protect its false claim that al-Qaeda had been “decimated” and was “on the run.” The explanation it chose was an anti-Islam video virtually no one had ever seen. Among the instigators of the Cairo protest was Mohammed al Zawahiri, the brother of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al Zawahiri.) [54487, 54515, 54522, 54506]

On the IRS targeting conservative groups, Gowdy say, “Two days ago we got a letter from the Department of Justice from James Cole to Jimmy [James] Jordan, a Congressman from Ohio, saying he can’t send a prosecutor to update us on the IRS scandal because it is quote ‘under investigation.’ It’s an ongoing investigation. In fact, Megyn, in a one-page letter, seven different times the Department of Justice has said this is an ongoing investigation. So if it’s ongoing, how does [Obama] know that there was no criminal conduct, and who briefed him on it? If you can’t come tell Congress the status of the investigation, why are you updating [Obama]? All the more reason for us to have a special prosecutor who is immune from any pressure that the White House might get put on him or her. ...I think that [Obama] said with a lot of certainty—he certainly acts as if this things is dead. *The Wall Street Journal* has reported that it’s dead. I can just tell you that the people that I work for and the other states I travel to, this is a big deal when government targets you based on your political beliefs. But [for Obama] to say there’s not a smidgen of corruption when the investigation is ongoing—I don’t know any kind of law professor that would have said that unless he had information you and I don’t have.” (Obama could tell O’Reilly with confidence that there was no wrongdoing at the IRS because he knows “the fix is in.” Obama supporter and campaign donor Barbara Bosserman, an IRS attorney, is in charge of the investigation. The odds of her thoroughly looking for any wrongdoing within the agency, let alone reporting it, is zero. If she took the situation seriously, she could ask former IRS official Lois Lerner why she avoided Congressional testimony by pleading her Fifth Amendment rights.) [54487, 54515, 54522, 55406, 55644, 56037]

Jay Leno quips, “The [Denver] Broncos were so ineffective last night, they were invited to join the Obama Administration today,” and “Obama said there’s not even a smidgen of corruption in IRS. You know what that means, even [he] is afraid of the IRS.” [54496]

On February 4 NYPost.com reports that Time, Inc. is expected to announce the layoffs of about 500 of its 7,800 employees. [54491]

WashingtonPost.com reports that career foreign service officer Robert Ford, an “Arabic speaker and well-regarded diplomat... was in line to become the next ambassador to Egypt. The nomination died before it was born, however, when officials of the military-backed interim government in Cairo nixed it, according to several people familiar with the decision.” (The *Post*’s story should come as no surprise to readers of this *Timeline*, which commented in August 2013: “Obama has not helped matters [with relations with Egypt] with the suggestion that Robert Ford will be named the next U.S. ambassador to Egypt. Ford has served as ambassador to Syria—and certainly cannot claim to have improved U.S. relations with that country. Syrians once attacked the embassy, spray-painted graffiti, and called Ford a ‘dog.’” An article in Al Ahram, the flagship state newspaper, once called Mr. Ford “the engineer of destruction in Syria, Iraq and Morocco” and “the man of blood.” Egyptian protestor Raef Elwishee said of Ford, “He’s a troublemaker. It’s enough to know that he was ambassador to Syria. He is top in one of the U.S. spy agencies... and we don’t need that kind of relationship.” Why it took Obama and *The Washington Post* six months to comprehend that Ford would not be

welcomed by the Egyptians is not clear.) [9272, 22296, 22297, 22336, 23619, 23620, 23654, 25766, 25767, 25768, 25788, 47133, 55399, 55400]

BlackAgendaReport.com writes, “An Evening of Song & Celebration With Lynne Stewart: AN URGENT FUNDRAISER FOR LYNNE’S MEDICAL NEEDS—In or near NYC Feb. 14? Wondering what the first stop Valentine’s nite ought to be? Come to an evening of music, song and sharing love for recently released People’s Lawyer Lynne Stewart. Because of a determined people’s movement, Lynne is finally home with her family. But she has urgent medical needs and costs. Lynne’s Stage 4 breast cancer spread a year ago to both lungs, back, bones, and lymph nodes. Now 74, she has lost weight and has trouble breathing; doctors estimate her lifespan at 12 months. Lynne will soon begin treatment requiring her to pay deductibles and co-payments. To boost the odds, she’ll use a special diet,—vitamins, and other healing methods—some costly and none covered by insurance. ...Lynne’s spirit is indomitable—help her fight to survive! ‘I fought lions, I fought tigers, and I’m not going to let cancer get me,’ Stewart said. Lynne has always come to the aid of those who needed her. Now it’s our turn to stand by Lynne.” (Obama and Attorney Eric Holder, who got the traitorous, terrorist-supporting former attorney released from prison on December 31, 2013, are unlikely to attend the event.) [54703]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that on April 16, 2013 “someone slipped into an underground vault not far from a busy freeway and cut telephone cables. Within half an hour, snipers opened fire on a nearby electrical substation. Shooting for 19 minutes, they surgically knocked out 17 giant transformers that funnel power to Silicon Valley. A minute before a police car arrived, the shooters disappeared into the night. To avoid a blackout, electric-grid officials rerouted power around the site and asked power plants in Silicon Valley to produce more electricity. But it took utility workers 27 days to make repairs and bring the substation back to life. Nobody has been arrested or charged in the attack at PG&E Corp.’s Metcalf transmission substation. It is an incident of which few Americans are aware. But one former federal regulator is calling it a terrorist act that, if it were widely replicated across the country, could take down the U.S. electric grid and black out much of the country. The attack was ‘the most significant incident of domestic terrorism involving the grid that has ever occurred’ in the U.S., said Jon Wellinghoff, who was chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the time. ...The 64-year-old Nevadan, who was appointed to FERC in 2006 by President George W. Bush and stepped down in November, said he gave closed-door, high-level briefings to federal agencies, Congress and the White House last year. As months have passed without arrests, he said, he has grown increasingly concerned that an even larger attack could be in the works. He said he was going public about the incident out of concern that national security is at risk and critical electric-grid sites aren’t adequately protected.” (Whether the Obama administration would have blamed a YouTube video had the incident been reported at the time is not known.) Not surprisingly, the incident prompts some Democrats and liberal Republicans to call for the federal government to impose national power grid standards and more closely regulate power utilities. [54641, 54642, 54643, 54799]

At Spectator.org Jed Babbin later writes, “A bullet is a pretty low-tech device, but in this case they were highly effective. Seventeen huge transformers were knocked out. Those 110 holes leaked about 52,000 gallons of coolant and were about to cause power failures in the Silicon Valley grid but managers were able to switch power in from other locations. They were lucky: the hour of the attack and the season meant there was low demand for electric power. Police and FBI found those 120 empty cartridge casings. They were wiped clean of fingerprints and yielded no DNA for testing. The fact that the telephone lines were located and the rock piles placed at the best firing points indicates a pretty thorough reconnaissance of the target by people more skilled than your average barflies. It would take a fair amount of knowledge of the high-voltage system to target the cooling fins rather than the transformers themselves and to choose a weapon that could destroy the cooling fins but would not likely puncture the transformers which would have caused an explosion. The facts that the firing began and ended with a flashlight signal, that 110 of 120 shots hit the targets, that the shell casings were wiped clean, and that the perpetrators vanished long before the police arrived indicates a fairly high level of discipline, training, and skill. In short, this was a terrorist attack. It’s important to determine whether it was perpetrated by home-grown terrorists or by terrorists infiltrated from overseas. If overseas terrorist groups mounted this sort of attack, it would be more likely to prove to be a rehearsal of a larger attack to come later. Domestic terrorists don’t operate on that large a scale, at least so far. There have been no arrests in the case. The FBI says that the attack wasn’t the work of terrorists. Jon Wellinghoff, who was chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the time of the attack, disagrees.” [55071]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “In the last two weeks, we learned that Bashar Assad has dismantled only 5 percent of his WMD arsenal, despite ...Obama’s soaring rhetoric to the contrary. Russia violated a long-observed agreement with the U.S. about testing missiles. Iran’s take on the negotiations over its bomb program bears no resemblance to our interpretation. Chinese officials now happily leak fantastic stories about using their military to punish Japan. All that is trumped by veiled threats from the Sunni Gulf monarchies, terrified of Iran, to buy a bomb or two from Pakistan. We hear other rumors that even China thinks the new leadership in North Korea is unhinged and is not worried about friendly warnings from Beijing. ...[O]ur Icarus-in-Chief, without much foreign-policy experience but with youthful zeal and good intentions, soared far too high for his flimsy waxen wings. Now they are melting, and as the American commander-in-chief careens back to earth, lots of those below are wondering what will come next. ...The nosedive of the melting Obama will leave the world a more dangerous place, but also serve as another mythological reminder of why the pretentious without real wings should not try to fly.” [54752]

WashingtonPost.com reports that Sandra Fluke “Fluke has filed with the California state Democratic Party to seek its endorsement in the race for retiring Rep. Henry Waxman’s (D-CA) seat, according to the state party Web site. A state party delegate confirmed to Post Politics that Fluke has filed and paid the fee to appear on the ballot this weekend.” (One Twitter message reads: “Hello, I’m Sandra Fluke... First I asked for you to pay for my birth control ...Now I’m asking for your vote...” Another message: “Can’t afford

birth control... Paid \$1,740 filing fee to run for Congress.” *The Obama Timeline* suggests that everyone... opposed to Fluke send condoms to the address for her campaign donations.) [54498, 54499, 54500, 54510]

Speaking at a school in Adelphi, Maryland, Obama calls for Internet access in all schools. He says, “Only around thirty percent of our students have true high-speed Internet in the classroom. In countries like South Korea, that’s a hundred percent. Now we shouldn’t give that kind of competitive, uh, advantage over to other countries. We want to make sure that our young people have the same advantages that some child in South Korea has. In a country where we expect free wi-fi with our coffee, we should definitely demand it in our schools. The FCC is announcing a down payment of \$2 billion to connect more than 15,000 schools and 20 million students to high-speed broadband over the next two years. ...It won’t add a single dime to the deficit.” (The reason it won’t add to the deficit is that the spending has already been approved and has already been added to the deficit. Whether the money will be borrowed from South Korea, China, or elsewhere is not clear.) [54584]

A devastating Congressional Budget Office estimate of the effects of ObamaCare gives the White House even more headaches as it attempts to defend Obama’s signature legislation and keep the Democrats from losing control of the Senate in the November elections. *The Wall Street Journal* reports, “The Affordable Care Act [ACA] will... reduce the number of fulltime workers by more than 2 million in coming years, congressional budget analysts said in the most detailed analysis of the law’s impact on jobs. The CBO said the law’s impact on jobs would be mostly felt starting after 2016. The agency previously estimated that the economy would have 800,000 fewer jobs as a result of the law. The impact is likely to be most felt, the CBO said, among low-wage workers. The agency said that most of the effect would come from Americans deciding not to seek work as a result of the ACA’s impact on the economy. Some workers may forgo employment, while others may reduce hours, for a equivalent of at least 2 million fulltime workers dropping out of the labor force.” The CBO also estimates that ObamaCare will cost \$2 trillion over 10 years—more than double the previous \$900 billion estimate. Politico calls the CBO reports “a big gift” for the Republicans. It is more than that; it is a nightmare for Americans. (It is worth noting that the CBO study was based on data and assumptions that may no longer be valid. If the analysis were to be repeated using up-to-date data, the results might be even worse.) [54502, 54503, 54504, 54535, 54536, 54539, 54545, 54549, 54552, 54553, 54571, 54850]

The report also states, “CBO estimates that the ACA will cause a reduction of roughly 1 percent in aggregate labor compensation over the 2017–2024 period, compared with what it would have been otherwise.” (American workers—mostly those in the middle class—will lose about \$70 billion in wages because of ObamaCare.) [54502, 54503, 54504, 54535, 54536, 54539, 54545, 54549, 54552, 54553, 54571, 54850]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tries to spin the bad news, magically transforming fewer jobs into: “individuals will be empowered to make choices about their own lives and livelihoods, like retiring on time rather than working into their elderly

years or choosing to spend more time with their families.” (“Losing your job” becomes “retiring early.”) Carney says ObamaCare “creates an opportunity that has a net benefit for that family, for the community, and broadly speaking... creating that kind of choice for people [to take a lower-paid job] is a good thing.” (Many of the people electing to work part-time rather than full-time—or electing to not work at all—will be women. In households where both the husband and the wife work, it may be the wife who works less, in order spend more time raising their children. Ironically, that will only exacerbate the “pay gap problem” that so bothers Democrats.) “At the beginning of this year,” continues Carney, “we noted that as part of this new day in health care, Americans would no longer be trapped in a job just to provide coverage for their families, and would have the opportunity to pursue their dreams. This CBO report bears that out, and the Republican plan to repeal the ACA would strip those hard-working Americans of that opportunity.” (“Losing your job” becomes having “the opportunity to pursue dreams.” Perhaps Obama’s delay in making a Keystone pipeline decision is nothing more than giving unemployed construction workers a chance to pursue *their* dreams.) Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, joins Carney on the podium and says, “This is people having new choices.” (That statement by Furman, as well as others he makes, more than likely hurt the White House more than they helped. At some point, trying to twist bad news into good simply becomes laughable—even to leftist reporters who may be sympathetic to the ObamaCare cause.) [54502, 54503, 54504, 54535, 54536, 54539, 54545, 54549, 54552, 54553, 54570, 54576, 54610]

HuffingtonPost.com’s Sam Stein writes, “Part of the reason there will be a reduction in full time employment under ACA is that folks now won’t depend on their jobs for coverage.” (Instead, those “folks” will depend on taxes and higher premiums paid by others for their coverage.) [54539]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tells reporters, “We have the CBO report, which rightfully says, that people shouldn’t have job lock. If they—we live in a country where there should be free agency. People can do what they want. And what they’re saying here is—and the fact checkers have already done this—the Republicans talk about losing millions of jobs simply isn’t true. It allows people to get out of a job they’re locked into, because of—they have healthcare in their job.” (It is certainly correct that many people remain in jobs they may not like only because the employer provides health insurance. People also remain in jobs they don’t like because their paychecks put food on the table, clothes on their children, gas in their cars, and a roof over their heads. Reid apparently sees an ability to buy overpriced insurance at Healthcare.gov as a way to leave the work force and become a “free agent.” But Americans who lose their jobs because of ObamaCare are more likely to consider themselves desperate to find a job—even a job they may not like. Laughably Reid, who is a pawn of labor unions who resist the concept with every fiber of their beings, dares to use the term “free agency.”) [54549, 54550, 54648]

Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council, states, “What this report said is a rather obvious point, which is that as people have greater access to healthcare, there is [sic] going to be some two-parent families where someone says I’m going to work a

little less because we can get healthcare and I'm going spend time raising my children... And on the overall impact on what it's going to mean for jobs, well, I think that's an incomplete number, because we know that with lower healthcare costs, we're going to have more productivity, some experts predicting hundreds of thousands of more jobs due to that." (Sperling, like Reid, apparently does not comprehend that most people go to work to earn income for many reasons other than health insurance. Certainly there are some people who would rather "work a little less" to spend more "time raising my children," but that does not justify forcing others in the work force to pay more for their health insurance or in taxes in order to subsidize those who want to spend more time out of the work force. Additionally, of course, Sperling is incorrect when he claims there are "lower health costs." Health care costs have risen every year and will continue to rise, and there is every reason to believe that ObamaCare will make them increase at an even steeper rate.) [54549, 54550]

Congressman Cory Gardner (R-CO) says, "I am growing increasingly alarmed at the Democrats' refusal to not only discuss solutions to fix this calamity, but also by their denial that a problem even exists with Obamacare at all." [54550]

Congressman Tom Price (R-GA), a physician, tells Radio America, "You've got fewer jobs that are being created because of the 30-hour threshold for full-time employees. You've got employers with 50 employees who are trying to get under the 50-employee threshold so they don't come under the oppressive nature of ObamaCare. There are all sorts of disincentives for employment within the law itself, and I think that's one of the things CBO finally recognized. ... People are losing their jobs because of ObamaCare. The number of employers that are decreasing the number of employees as well as the number of hours worked are having a huge effect on the economy. And then the requirements for employers to provide a level of health coverage greater than their employees either desire or need or the employer provided before, what that means is there's more money taken out of businesses and employers, the job creators in this country, so that they have fewer jobs that they are able to cover from a financial standpoint." [54552]

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) responds to the report, stating, "ObamaCare is only making things worse. This costly law is not only pushing government spending to new heights, it is disrupting coverage and leaving millions of Americans worse off." Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) call it "A direct threat to the long-term health and prosperity of our nation, this law must be repealed. Its impact and consequences are too great." [54536]

On the floor of the Senate, Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) says, "CBO projections during the health care reform debate seemed to *significantly* underestimate the negative impact of ObamaCare, and because of those projections, supporters were able to jam it through by one vote—everybody knows about that vote. And now the American people have to pick up the tab on the CBO's errors. Today, I'm calling for hearings in the Finance Committee...to demand CBO come before the committee and explain to Congress and the American people why and how its scores, which led to the passage of ObamaCare, did not tell the whole story. This is about accountability for past actions, and we must ask

the questions, the difficult questions, an unfortunate question: Was this political? *Were the books cooked?* CBO needs to take responsibility for the differences between their [original] projections and the most recent updates just released as of this morning. We must have accurate estimates on the costs and benefits of the legislation so we can do our jobs. This shouldn't be about politics or gaming the system. This is about people's lives, and it's our responsibility to get that right. Let the hearings begin. Let the CBO provide answers. The CBO must answer this Congress and America." (Because the Democrats control the Senate and the Finance Committee, Roberts should not hold his breath while waiting for such hearings.) [54780, 54781]

Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) spins the CBO results: "The report estimates that the Affordable Care Act will reduce the total number of hours worked, on net, by about 1.5 percent to 2.0 percent from 2017 to 2024. This reduction is almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor, which translates to a reduction in full-time-equivalent employment of about 2.0 million in 2017, rising to about 2.5 million in 2024. This effect is not driven by a reduction in the demand for employees, but is the result of employees choosing to supply less labor because of the option to get affordable, quality health insurance through the new health insurance marketplaces. The Affordable Care Act empowers individuals to make choices about their own lives and livelihoods, like retiring on time, choosing to spend more time with their families, or even opening their own businesses. Americans are no longer trapped in jobs just to provide coverage for their families." (Those workers who "choose to supply less labor" will merely be working less because others will be picking up the tab for some or all of their health insurance, or because their employers have slashed their hours.) [54552]

It is worth noting the inconsistencies in Democrats' arguments. On the one hand, they ridicule Republicans who argue that continually extending unemployment benefits only encourages people not to engage in productive work but to stay home and be supported by the taxpayers. Yet on the other hand they claim that ObamaCare subsidies are a good thing because they allow people not to work and to stay home and be supported by the taxpayers. In fact, on January 7 Obama said, "I... I meet a lot of people. And I can't... I can't name a time where I met an American who would rather have an unemployment check than the pride of having a job." (Since January 7, Obama has apparently discovered millions of people who are eager to quit their jobs now that they have someone else paying for their health care.) Author, investor, and economist Peter Schiff asks, "[W]hat is the difference between quitting a job you don't really want, because the government provides you with a health care subsidy, and not taking a job you don't really want because the government gives you an unemployment subsidy? While it's true that most Americans would gladly give up unemployment benefits if a good job came along, it is also true that the same people may pass on an unattractive job as long as they could get by without it. In fact, very low wage jobs can't compete at all with the full spectrum of benefits offered by unemployment, such as unlimited personal days, zero commuting costs, and lack of oppressive bosses. And while it may be rational for some individuals to hold out for something better, is the economy really better off with people deciding not to work? The Obama administration is arguing that Americans who leave the labor force voluntarily will benefit the overall economy by their ability to take care of family



members, get advanced degrees, or chart their career development without regard to the need for immediate employment that health concerns often require. That is wishful thinking. The economy is already being hamstrung by the lowest labor force participation rate since the late 1970's. Should we celebrate the likelihood that Obamacare incentives will knock it down even further? By showing how the participation rate will likely fall further as a result of Obamacare, the CBO study shows that law will put upward pressure on the federal deficit for years to come.” [54893, 54894]

Schiff continues, “...The truth is that most people would prefer not to have to work, and many plan their lives so they can leave the workforce at their earliest convenience. Being freed from the drudgery of daily labor as a result of rising productivity (as was the case for much of our history) is clearly a positive development. More stuff with less work means higher living standards. To the extent that individuals drop out due to accumulated personal savings, society benefits both from the work required to generate the savings, and the productive investments it supports. But if people leave the labor force due to government transfer subsidies, our collective standard of living must drop, as fewer people contribute into the economic pot and more people take from it. The bottom line is that any society will get more of what it subsidizes and less of what it taxes. By providing a low-income subsidy, Obamacare will encourage some people to take a pass on the drudgery and inconvenience of working. Unemployment insurance does the same, at least temporarily. The White House should learn to keep its story straight.” [54893, 54894]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tells reporters, “What we see is that people are leaving their jobs because they are no longer job-locked. They are following their aspirations to be a writer; to be self-employed; to start a business. This is the entrepreneurial piece. So it’s not going to cost jobs. It’s going to shift how people make a living and reach their aspirations.” Kevin Glass writes at HotAir.com, “‘Liberty to pursue their happiness!’ But Pelosi has this all wrong. The CBO projections aren’t finding that people will ‘follow their passion’ and become self-employed, or start a business. The CBO projects that people will simply stop working. ‘Job lock’ is the term used for when people are hesitant to leave their jobs for fear of losing insurance coverage. But there’s a difference between being freed from job lock to become an entrepreneur and being freed from job lock to just leave the workforce. The CBO is predicting the latter. ...That’s what’s at the heart of the progressive project here: all people should be insulated from fear, from risk, from luck. If they want to work, great! If they don’t, that’s okay too! They’re free to be writers. Or to leave the workforce altogether. *People shouldn’t have to labor if they don’t want to.* That’s what this [is] really about—if [whether] society should be structured to incentivize people at the lower rungs of the income scale to join the workforce and provide a better future for themselves and their families. The distinction between entrepreneurialism and voluntary unemployment is important.” (It is worth noting that while taxpayer-funded ObamaCare subsidies may persuade a fair number of Americans to work less, doing so will result in lower Social Security benefits—which are based on earning levels, particularly the years at the end of their working careers. Going on the dole to write poetry may seem like a good idea when someone else is paying for your health insurance, but it will mean a smaller future Social Security check.) [54620]

*The New York Times* writes, “The Congressional Budget Office estimated on Tuesday that the Affordable Care Act will reduce the number of full-time workers by 2.5 million over the next decade. That is mostly a good thing, a liberating result of the law. Of course, Republicans immediately tried to brand the findings as ‘devastating’ and stark evidence of ...Obama’s health care reform as a failure and a job killer. It is no such thing. The report estimated that—thanks to an increase in insurance coverage under the act and the availability of subsidies to help pay the premiums—many workers who felt obliged to stay in a job that provided health benefits would now be able to leave those jobs or choose to work fewer hours than they otherwise would have. In other words, the report is about the choices workers can make when they are no longer tethered to an employer because of health benefits. The cumulative effect on the labor supply is the equivalent of 2.5 million fewer full-time workers by 2024.” (“In other words, if the taxpayers pay some of the bills of workers, they don’t have to work so much.” That is tantamount to arguing, “If the government gave everyone a free car, no one would have to buy cars”—without caring about who will pay for those “free” cars.) [54590]

CBS News anchor Scott Pelley continues the spin: “We got a report today about ObamaCare that was both surprising and widely misunderstood.” Of the two million or more jobs that are expected to be lost, Pelley says, “Those aren’t necessarily jobs being lost. They’re also workers choosing to work less.” On ABC, Jonathan Karl says, “Consider two examples. First, those who can now afford to work less. Before the law, some had to stay on the job to keep their insurance. Now, you can qualify for subsidized health care without a full-time job. And again, others will actually find it’s just not worth it to work full-time. Why? Because under ObamaCare, subsidized or free health care is only available to those with low or no income. Make more money, and you have to pay for more of your health care.” (In other words, “Why work when you can get something for nothing from the taxpayers?”) NBC’s Brian Williams says, “Another big headline today in Washington, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says this new health care law is going to cause more than two million Americans to reduce their work hours or leave the workforce altogether. But the White House is cautioning, for its part, that those departures are more a result of workers’ flexibility to leave their jobs and still have health insurance.” (Williams does not mention that the “flexibility” comes from others paying for the workers health insurance. No doubt many Americans would also work less if someone else paid their mortgages for them.) [54559]

HotAir.com comments, “I’m done, guys. If we’ve reached the stage of welfare-state decadence where it’s a *selling point* for a new entitlement that it discourages able-bodied people from working, there’s no reason to keep going. We’ve lost, decisively. ...[I]t’s not that employers will be offering 2.5 million fewer jobs. It’s that ObamaCare, by subsidizing low earners and expanding Medicaid for the very poor, will incentivize 2.5 million people not to work. ...Billions upon billions of dollars in economic productivity up in smoke as workers who’ve stuck with their jobs for the health insurance quit and take a subsidies check from Uncle Sam instead. To the White House, which otherwise bleats about ‘growth’ at every opportunity, this is a feature of the law, not a bug. WaPo’s fact-checker even rushed out a piece this afternoon in defense of their position. The law’s not destroying 2.5 million jobs, says Glenn Kessler, it’s merely inviting 2.5 million

employees to quit. How much does it matter to growth, though, if the labor force shrinks on the demand side versus the supply side? Will all, or most, of the vacated positions be filled by younger workers or will they evaporate as businesses downsize (or close down)? If giving people more 'choice' in whether to be employed or not is now our cardinal social good, we might as well go for a guaranteed minimum income and clear out all the wage slaves. Let's see how small we can get the labor force before the wheels come off the economy." [54572]

Various news sources report that yet another Nancy Pelosi ally, 12-term Congressman Rob Andrews (D-NJ), will soon announce he will not seek reelection. (The Democrats are still likely to retain the seat.) [54523, 54525]

Asked by a reporter about the "complexities" of the Keystone XL pipeline, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) replies, "Complex? You think the Keystone pipeline is complex? It's been under study for five years! We've built pipelines everywhere in America every day. Do you realize there are 200,000 miles of pipelines in the United States? And the only reason that [Obama's] involved in the Keystone Pipeline is... because it crosses an international boundary. Listen. We can build it. There's nothing complex about the Keystone pipeline. It's time to build it." (Polls show that strong majorities of Republicans, Independents, and even Democrats support approval of the pipeline. Obama's problem is that approval of the pipeline might dry up campaign contributions from wealthy environmentalists. Even MSNBC leftist Ed Schultz argues in favor of the pipeline: "Based on safety I think [Obama] should give this project the stamp of approval. Environmental groups obviously think differently, and so do the majority of people on the left. But this newsflash: We're not getting out of the oil business in America. It runs our economy. Do we have climate change? Yes we do. But the construction of this pipeline does not mean that we are going to consume more as a country. I'm looking at it from a safety aspect. I don't want explosions in small towns or any towns, or any kind of train derailment carrying oil, where there are fewer federal inspectors than ever before, and also the fact that these railcars are old and the infrastructure hasn't been upgraded. So a brand new pipeline, to me, makes sense.") [54530, 54534, 54544, 54546, 54547, 54548, 54661]

The Senate approves the pork-filled, \$950 billion farm bill by a vote of 68–32 and sends it to Obama for his signature. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) says the legislation is "bad for agriculture, it's bad for taxpayers who are worried about the debt, it's bad for our credibility with trading partners, and it's bad for the future of farm programs." [54554, 54569]

At FoxNews.com Jennifer Griffin reports, "For the second time in a week, the nation's top intelligence chiefs Tuesday issued a scathing assessment of the global threats facing the United States, warning that Syria is becoming a base from which extremist, Al Qaeda-linked groups could attack the U.S. 'We are concerned about the use of Syrian territory by the Al Qaeda organization to recruit individuals and develop the capability to be able not just to carry out attacks inside of Syria, but also to use Syria as a launching pad,' said CIA Director John Brennan at a hearing before the House Permanent Select

Committee on Intelligence. ‘There are camps inside of both Iraq and Syria that are used by Al Qaeda to develop capabilities that are applicable, both in the theater, as well as beyond.’ Director of National Intelligence James Clapper put the threat assessment in stark terms: ‘Looking back over my more than half a century in intelligence, I have not experienced a time when we’ve been beset by more crises and threats around the globe,’ he said.” (Obama apparently lied when he claimed al-Qaeda is “on the run” and has been “decimated.”) [54538]

Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman repeats the Obama administration line that any legislation threatening renewed sanctions against Iran would “alienate us from our allies and risk unraveling the international cohesion that has proven so essential to ensuring that our sanctions have the intended effect. “We have made it clear to Iran that if it fails to live up to its commitment, or if we are unable to reach agreement on a comprehensive solution, we would ask Congress to ramp up new sanctions immediately.” Obama has repeatedly insisted that if Iran violates any agreement the sanctions would be immediately re-imposed. Senator Robert Menendez (R-NJ) addresses that by pointing out, “all of the sanctions that I’ve offered with Senator [Mark] Kirk [R-IL] and members have supported, they always have to have at least a six month period of time in order to give countries and companies the notice required and the time for you to do the regulations necessary to proceed. ... To suggest that we can quickly pass sanctions is to not recognize that when we pass sanctions, there are six months from the date of signing before it ever goes into effect, and then after that there’s a whole period of time for you actually to [sic; to actually] pursue enforcement. ...It’s not simply about passing sanctions. It’s about the timeframe necessary to have them be effective and ultimately to take effect. And that is way beyond the window. ...Any deal the administration reaches with Iran must be verifiable, effective, and prevent Iran from ever developing even one nuclear weapon. In my view, based on the parameters described in the joint plan of action, and Iranian comments in the days that have followed, I am very concerned about Iran’s willingness to reach such an agreement. This is not a nothing ventured, nothing gained enterprise. We have placed our incredibly effective international sanctions regime on the line without clearly defining the parameters of what we expect in a final agreement.” (At PJMedia.com, Bridget Johnson’s description of the testimony makes it obvious that even Democrat Senators are not buying Obama’s line and have little confidence in his negotiating skills.) [54580]

LATimes.com reports on the many problem California residents are having with the “Covered California” ObamaCare exchange. “A month into the most sweeping changes to healthcare in half a century, people are having trouble finding doctors at all, getting faulty information on which ones are covered and receiving little help from insurers swamped by new business. Experts have warned for months that the logjam was inevitable. But the extent of the problems is taking by surprise many patients—and even doctors—as frustrations mount. ...To hold down premiums under the healthcare law, major insurers have sharply cut the number of doctors and hospitals available to patients in the state’s new health insurance market. Now those limited options are becoming clearer, and California officials say they are receiving more consumer complaints about

access to medical providers. State lawmakers are also moving swiftly to ease some of the problems that have arisen.” (Among other problems, the exchange web site lists many doctors as being in an ObamaCare network when they are not.) [54540]

AOL.com reports “...a recent surprise notification by United [Airlines] of a big downsizing, as it dropped Cleveland as a major hub, [that] came as a real surprise to many who learned of the plans through social media, according to television station WKYC. ...Although departures to other hubs, key business markets, and a number of leisure destinations in Florida will remain, the big hit comes to regional flights. That is what will prompt cuts of an expected 430 airport operations positions and 40 catering jobs. ...A local AFL-CIO official told the Cleveland Plain Dealer that almost all of the jobs were union. ‘These workers will have difficulty finding a new job that is as good paying,’ said Harriet Applegate, executive secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor.” [54541]

As the Federal Reserve continues its nefarious operations with new chairman Janet Yellen, Paul Rosenberg points out at FreeMansPerspective.com that in 2012 Germany’s counterpart, the Bundesbank, “asked to visit the vault of the Federal Reserve in New York, to view the 1,536 tons of gold they have stored there. The Federal Reserve told them no. They were not allowed to see their gold. In response, Germany said that they wanted 300 tons of their gold back. The Federal Reserve said that they’d need seven years to get the gold back to Germany. (Something that should take them seven weeks, tops.) One year later, the Fed has returned only 5 tons of gold to Germany. At this rate, it will take 60 years for the Germans to get less than one fifth of their gold back. ...The president of Germany’s top financial regulations group said that manipulation of gold and silver ‘is worse than the Libor-rigging scandal.’ ...Germany does not seem happy about what the Fed is doing to them. These responses may seem timid, compared to what you or I might do if someone refused to give us back our gold, but they very clearly show that the German banks are objecting. ...[W]e can only guess as to what’s happening. Most likely, however, is that all of Germany’s gold has been lent out and/or used as loan collateral multiple times and that the Fed is having a very hard time unwinding all those loans. If they just give the gold back, the collateral for hundreds (maybe thousands) of international loans goes away. And when I say ‘lent out multiple times,’ I am not speaking loosely. There is a financial trick called rehypothecation that allows bankers to use the same stack of gold as the collateral for simultaneous loans... over and over and over. So, in order to pull Germany’s gold out of the lending game (and central banks do loan out gold), lots and lots of loans would have to be rehypothecated to other piles of gold, and that requires a lot of office work. Each bar of Germany’s gold could be involved in a dozen loans, each of which must be re-arranged. This would account for the slowness of the Fed returning the gold back to where it belongs.” [54543]

DailyCaller.com reports that CGI Federal, the firm that built the Healthcare.gov ObamaCare web site, “received six additional contracts from the Obama administration’s Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services after the website’s disastrous launch... According to a company spokesman, CGI Federal was awarded six additional contracts

from CMS worth approximately \$37 million between October 1—when the over \$600 million Obamacare website launched—through January 2014.” [54555]

*The Telegraph* reports, “Israel’s Yesha [settlers] Council has posted online a deliberately disrespectful spoof depicting America’s top diplomat—played by an actor resembling [Secretary of State] John Kerry—riding a camel and making a series of preposterous statements that belittle his understanding of the region’s complexities. At one point, the Mr. Kerry character is seen down-playing the importance of the Western Wall, one of the holiest sites in Judaism, in Jerusalem’s old city. ‘Dividing Jerusalem is not an easy thing,’ the actor says. ‘We must realise it is holy to all religions—Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Klingons and Hobbits. But what I’m saying is: ‘why fight over an old wall?’ I’ll build you a brand new wall, close to the beach.’ A woman with an American accent is then seen telling him: ‘I think you should go home, where you belong, and stay there.’” Obama’s National Security Advisor, Susan Rice, tweets, “Personal attacks in Israel directed at Sec Kerry totally unfounded and unacceptable,” and “U.S. Govt has been clear and consistent that we reject efforts to boycott or delegitimize Israel.” (Kerry has been widely criticized and ridiculed in Israel for his naiveté and his unrealistic proposals. Many believe Kerry’s interest is in little more than winning a Nobel Peace Prize, even if it means working against the best interests of Israel to get it.) [54561, 54562]

At ThePostEmail.com, former criminal prosecutor Montgomery Blair Sibley reports that he has received three responses from the many federal judges to whom he mailed copies of Douglas Vogt’s affidavit and forensic evidence proving Obama’s birth certificate to be a forgery. Sibley notes, “The cover letter accompanying the affidavit asked each Judge to refer the evidence contained in Doug’s 95 page public affidavit—and 75 page sealed affidavit—to a Grand Jury to investigate.” Two of the judges “have forwarded the affidavit to their respective United States Attorneys. The third wrote back stating: ‘I was very impressed by the letter and attachments you sent to me. I do not dismiss the allegations you make as untrue.’ The letter continued with the commitment to submit Doug’s affidavit to the Grand Jury for their consideration.” A Grand Jury, after hearing testimony from Vogt and Sibley, can subpoena Obama’s original birth records from Hawaii, his college transcripts from Occidental College, Columbia University, and Harvard Law School, and his Social Security and Selective Service records. Sibley points out that “the players in the Obama Birth Certificate pageant would all be called to testify as to their roles: Remember, there is no Fifth Amendment privilege to refuse to answer a question put to a witness by a Grand Jury. Which is why I say, Mr. Obama, the People have some questions for you.” (If even one honest and courageous federal judge sets the Grand Jury process in motion, it cannot be stopped by Obama, and his lackey, Attorney General Eric Holder, cannot intervene. A Grand Jury is not controlled by a U.S. Attorneys office. The Grand Jury can have a U.S. Marshal issue subpoenas and force witnesses to testify before the jury. Any subpoenaed documents must be released, and witnesses who refuse to testify would be found in contempt.) [54566, 54635]

CNSNews.com reports, “The debt of the U.S. government has increased \$6.666 trillion since ...Obama took office on Jan. 20, 2009, according to the latest numbers released by the Treasury Department. When ...Obama was first inaugurated on Jan. 20, 2009, the

debt of the U.S. government was \$10,626,877,048,913.08, according to the Treasury Department's Bureau of the Public Debt. As of Jan. 31, 2014, the latest day reported, the debt was \$17,293,019,654,983.61—an increase of \$6,666,142,606,070.53 since Obama's first inauguration." It took 227 years (1776–2003) for the government to accumulate the first \$6.666 trillion in debt. Another few trillion was added during the end of Bush's term in office, but the Obama administration has surpassed all others in massive deficit spending. (Of course, the blame also belongs to Congress, which passes the spending bills.) While the federal government is more than \$17 trillion in debt, the collective debt of the 50 states is about \$5.1 trillion, or about one-third of the nation's gross domestic product. Newsmax.com notes, "Unfunded public pension liabilities stand at \$3.9 trillion. Outstanding debt totals \$618.8 billion. Unfunded OPEB [other post-employment benefit] liabilities in the 50 states stand at \$528.7 billion; and unemployment trust fund loans total \$19.9 billion, according to SBS [State Budget Solutions]. California leads all states with \$778 billion in debt, due largely to its \$584 billion unfunded public pension liability. New York is next with \$388 billion in total debt, followed by Texas with \$341 billion, and Illinois and Ohio, each with \$321 billion. The only states with debt under \$10 billion are South Dakota (\$7.7 billion), Vermont (\$7.8 billion), North Dakota (\$9.2 billion), and Wyoming (\$9.9 billion). [54578, 55147]

On February 5 The Heritage Foundation comments on the CBO's report on the negative side effects of ObamaCare: "Why will people stop working or reduce their work hours? One word: Money. Under Obamacare, the less money you make, the more money taxpayers give you for health insurance. So when it comes time to consider a promotion or a different job, people will consider whether that move would make them lose their Obamacare subsidies. Heritage expert Drew Gonshorowski laid this out last year: 'Obamacare ultimately discourages low-income individuals from trying to move into higher paying jobs.' Gonshorowski notes that Obamacare has all kinds of incentives for individuals: 'Some of these distortions include incentives to reduce hours, not seek work, drop insurance coverage, drop dependent coverage, become divorced, or avoid marriage.' Even those who make more money are discouraged from working because of Obamacare's tax increases. Those tax increases will eat away at their earnings, which could cause some people to avoid raising their income. ...Businesses have been reporting to the Federal Reserve for some time now that they are hesitant to hire because of Obamacare and health care cost concerns. Heritage's James Sherk and Jacob Deveney reported just yesterday that 'Employers are responding to the uncertainty of the Obamacare rollout by slashing hours and limiting their new hires.' The bottom line? 'Giving people free benefits reduces their inclination to work to earn those benefits,' Sherk says. 'Obamacare does not just reduce businesses' willingness to hire; it also reduces Americans' willingness to work. That is not cause for celebration.'" [54553]

Economist and former Reagan advisor Arthur Laffer says of the White House defense of ObamaCare's work disincentive, "It's such la-la land stuff. I've never heard such nonsense in my life. It's amazing how these people don't understand budgets or economics. ...You can't give away very valuable resources for free and expect people not to overuse them and to have the system go bankrupt. That's the very simple truth. ...If this law [the Affordable Care Act] is allowed to continue for the next decade, it will be a

catastrophe for the U.S. economy.” Laffer ridicules the claim that ObamaCare reduces the need to work, because productive work is how people provide for their families. “That’s what work’s all about. Now hopefully, you love your work as well. But if you don’t love your work, it doesn’t mean you should be paid not to work so you can sit at home and dream. That’s just silly. And we need to keep production going to provide for the standards of living that we have in this country... We need to get America going and growing again, to lift people out of poverty with good, high-paying jobs, even if they are a little unpleasant.” [54577, 54609]

ObamaCare defenders claim the law will simply allow people to work fewer hours or change jobs because the law guarantees subsidized health insurance. DailyCaller.com points out, however, that “the CBO report isn’t about ‘job-lock.’ The numbers demonstrate that the equivalent of over 2 million full-time employees will be better off financially if they quit work entirely—not a particular job—in order to get more taxpayer subsidies for health care. ... ‘Job-lock’ itself is a different problem. Instead of effectively paying people to work less, as Obamacare does, conservative proposals would end federal preferences for employer-based insurance, allowing Americans to take insurance with them from job to job. People would not be stuck with a specific employer because they want to stay insured.” [54577, 54609, 54620]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration’s Treasury Department and former IRS official Lois Lerner conspired to draft new 501(c)(4) regulations to restrict the activity of conservative groups in a way that would not be disclosed publicly, according to the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Treasury Department and Lerner started devising the new rules ‘off-plan,’ meaning that their plans would not be published on the public schedule. They planned the new rules in 2012, while the IRS targeting of conservative groups was in full swing, and not after the scandal broke in order to clarify regulations as the administration has suggested. The rules place would place much more stringent controls on what would be considered political activity by the IRS, effectively limiting the standard practices of a wide array of non-profit groups. ... At least 292 conservative groups were subjected to unfair targeting between 2010 and 2012, against [only] six liberal groups that were allegedly given similar treatment.” (It is worth noting that the 501(c)(4) rules have been in existence *since 1959*—yet the Obama administration *now* finds that it is important to tighten the rules and prohibit tax-exempt organizations from even *mentioning a candidate’s name* within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of a general election. The rules would essentially render the organizations irrelevant and almost totally ineffective—which is precisely what Obama wants.) [54557, 54607, 54631, 54786]

Cleta Mitchell, a Foley & Lardner LLP partner who represents True the Vote, TEA Party Patriots, and other conservative organizations targeted by the IRS, tells the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, “First, the IRS scandal is real. It’s not pretend, it’s real. Number two, the IRS scandal is not just a ‘bone-headed’ bunch of bureaucrats in some remote office, contrary to what [Obama] told the American people on Sunday. Number three, the IRS scandal is not over. It is continuing to this day, and the Department of Justice investigation is a sham. It is a non-existent investigation. With



regard to point number one, let me tell you in one sentence what the IRS scandal is. The IRS, at the direction of some political elites in Washington, not in Cincinnati, but Washington, took what had been, for decades, a process of reviewing applications for exempt status, that 501(c)(4) statuses could be expected to take three to four weeks, and they converted that process, into one that takes three to four years, and in some cases, is still not over.” [54728, 54904]

“Number two, the line agents in the IRS had their work disrupted or halted by Washington. In 2010, True The Vote filed their application for (3)(c) status and did not obtain that (3)(c) status until we sued the IRS, so in September, they granted it. People shouldn’t have to sue to get their tax exempt status. When Lois Lerner and ...Obama accused line agents in Cincinnati of being responsible, ladies and gentlemen, that is a lie. I knew when [IRS official] Lois Lerner said that in May of 2010, when she admitted that it was happening, after we knew it was happening, sort of like, we knew we were targeted, it’s just that she finally admitted it, but I knew it hadn’t happened in Cincinnati, because the first time I became aware of this was with a group that I represent. We filed for tax exempt status in October 2009, and besides cashing our check for a filing fee, we did not hear from the IRS until June of 2010, and we didn’t hear from Cincinnati. We heard from Washington. That group did one thing. It lobbied against ObamaCare. In the Fall of 2009, in the Spring of 2010, something that a 501(c)(4) organization is permitted to spend 100 percent of its program expenditures doing, we did not get the tax exempt status for that organization until July of 2013. When I took on the representation of Catherine Englebrecht and her two organizations in the Fall of 2011, this is now a year after she has sent her application to the IRS and she’s heard nothing, and when I talked to the assigned agent in Cincinnati, in October of 2011, saying we’re going to supplement the application to help make it easier to process, he told me at the time, ‘Oh, there’s a task force in Washington. We can’t do anything until we hear back from Washington.’” [54728, 54904]

“Number three, his scandal is not over. The lying has not stopped. I represent one TEA Party group, TEA Party Patriots, who applied in December of 2010, they still don’t have their (c)(4) status. There are lies upon lies in this ugly episode. The Commissioner of the IRS lied to Congress, lied... I believe it was [to] this Committee in March of 2012 or April 2012, he said there was no targeting. How many communications from the IRS to Congress, who inquired about this status of application and whether there was targeting—how many communications were there, in which agents of the IRS told Congress that there was no targeting? Those are lies. Lying to Congress is a crime. The Department of Justice has refused to investigate who it was that was responsible for releasing the confidential tax information of Koch Industries to the President’s Economic Advisor who in turn released it to the press. Or who released the National Organization of Marriages tax returns? I represent NOM. We sued the IRS to try to get to the bottom of why our confidential tax information was made available to our political opponents. Where’s the FBI, in investigating? That’s a criminal offense. It’s [also] a criminal offense... for the IRS to release the confidential donor information of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, and the Republican Governor’s Public Policy Council—conservative

organization's donor information was released by the IRS—that's a criminal offense. Who's investigating that?" [54728, 54904]

“And then finally, the lies, again, it is a lie, a felony, to lie to a federal agency, and yet the IRS, on the day after Thanksgiving, imposing these regulations, the agent for the IRS who transmitted those proposed regulations in the formal publication says, there are no related documents. That's what it says on the website—related documents—none, yet I had submitted a four-year request on behalf of TEA Party Patriots for the underlying background documents, and they said, we can't get you all those documents until April. The public comment period closes February 27th, so there are no documents, but it will take them till April to get them to us. ... There are too many lies, Mr. Chairman. It's time to get to the truth. It's time for the FBI to investigate these criminal acts, and it's time for the IRS to cooperate as we try to get to the truth of why it has happened and how to make it stop. Thank You.” [54728, 54904]

Mitchell says of the proposed new IRS rules, “They are both over-broad and under-inclusive. They've taken everything that 501(c)(4) organizations do in the normal course of business and proposed to convert that all to candidate-related activity, even if a candidate is never mentioned. ... The objective is to get the rules in place before the 2014 election.” Ways and Means chairman Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI) states, “If Treasury and the IRS fabricated the rationale for a rule change it would tend to raise questions about the integrity of the rule-making process. I want to be perfectly clear—this committee will fight any and all efforts to restrict the rights of groups to organize, speak out and educate the public, just as unions are allowed to do so. We will get to the bottom of this, and I expect the IRS to produce—quickly—the outstanding documents the committee has requested. I believe the IRS has a long way to go in restoring its credibility. But, you can take a first step by complying with this committee's request and stopping all action against 501(c)(4) groups until the appropriate investigations are completed.” Camp claims the rules were “drafted in a manner, in my view, to shut down tea party groups.” (Although Obama claimed there is not a “smidgen of corruption” in the IRS, the emails show that the agency was secretly conspiring to act against conservative groups. The emails also help explain why Lerner refused to testify before Congress.) [54557, 54607, 54631, 54728, 54904]

It is worth noting that IRS official Lois Lerner is not new to controversy. On May 29, 2013 Jim Hoft reported at TheGatewayPundit.com, “Under the direction of Lois Lerner, the Federal Election Commission sued the Christian Coalition in the 1990s. She harassed the Christian Coalition for three election cycles. Eventually, she lost her case.” In 1996 Lerner was head of the enforcement division of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC). USofARN.com has reported, “That year Al Salvi was the Republican nominee for the US Senate from Illinois, his Democrat opponent was then congressman Dick Durbin. During the final weeks of the campaign Salvi loaned himself over a million dollars to buy ads in the Chicago media market. This in turn prompted the Democrat party's campaign arms to file complaints with the FEC and in kind the FEC, specifically Lois Lerner, filed charges against Al Salvi. That is when Mr. Salvi contends Lois Lerner made him the following offer, ‘Promise me you will never run for office again, and we'll drop this case.’ Al Salvi

refused that offer and would fight the FEC complaint against him for several more years before a Judge tossed out the complaint.” (Lerner’s 1996 threat should have cost her her job. Instead, she remained in government and eventually moved to the IRS—where she could continue her harassment of those she considered to be political enemies.) [45300, 45301, 45302, 45325, 54814]

In a visit to a high school in Virginia, Michelle Obama encourages all students to apply for financial aid from the government: “You don’t have to be the valedictorian. You don’t have to major in a certain subject. You don’t even have to be at the very bottom of the income ladder to receive the money. It’s the single most important thing you can do for your future.” In a related promotional video, she says, “Send everybody you know to studentaid.gov. Text it, tweet it, take a selfie and Instagram it.” (Working hard, being conscientious, and getting good grades is not, in Mrs. Obama’s opinion, the most important thing you can do for your future; going on the government dole and asking taxpayers to pay for your education is more important.) [54787, 55054]

Obama’s ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, meets with members of a Russian “punk band” called “Pussy Riot.” According to Reuters, “Power and the two band members discussed ‘the disturbing trend in (Russia) of legislation, prosecutions and government actions aimed at suppressing dissent and pressuring groups that advocate for fundamental human rights and basic government accountability,’ Power’s deputy spokesman Kurtis Cooper said.” Russia’s ambassador to the U.N., Vitaly Churkin, asks, “She [Power] has not joined the band? I would expect her to invite them to perform at the National Cathedral in Washington. Maybe they could arrange a world tour for them, you know. St Peter’s Cathedral in Rome, then maybe in Mecca in Saudi Arabia, ending up with a gala concert at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. So if Ambassador Power fell short I would be disappointed.” Power responds via Twitter, “I can’t sing, but if Pussy Riot will have me, Ambassador Churkin, I say our first concert is for Russia’s political prisoners.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Having landed in the USA last week, the Pussy Rioters are being feted by cultural, political and media elites. They can’t get enough Pussy. They are the *cause celebre*. The flavor du jour. Why all love and gush? The elites are prostrating themselves because Pussy Riot staged a political protest in a church, *a cathedral*, and overnight they became dahlings of the West. Pussy Riot protested inside Moscow’s biggest cathedral, singing songs calling on the Virgin Mary to remove President Vladimir Putin from office.” Geller correctly observes, “If Pussy Riot protested inside, say, the Blue Mosque, singing songs calling on Muhammad’s six-year-old wife Aisha to remove President Vladimir Putin from office, would the world be petting and feting the felines? They would have been destroyed, smeared, banned. But it was a cathedral, so they are worshiped.”) [54836, 54837, 55205]

According to the ADP employment report, an estimated 175,000 jobs were created in January—the fewest in six months. [54568]

Six labor unions call on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to hold hearings on the economic impact of EPA rules that are devastating the coal industry. The letter reads, in part, “During the rulemaking process our unions stated for the record that

MATS (Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule) and its short compliance timeline would result in the closing of 56 Gigawatts of coal-fired generation and the loss of approximately 250,000 jobs. Despite assurances by EPA to the contrary, our prediction is now coming to pass. ...As the deadline for compliance with MATS approaches, we are increasingly concerned with the effect of a short compliance timeline as hundreds of coal generating units retire and are permanently removed from service. Our concerns are compounded by the reduction in utility revenues from existing generation, increased reliance on demand response, and from unregulated distributed generation. Needless to say, the more plants that retire, the more jobs will be lost. In addition, as these plants retire, sufficient generation assets to meet demand become questionable, as witnessed by the astronomical electric price spikes during the recent polar vortex.” DailyCaller.com reports, “MATS is one of the costliest clean air rules the agency has promulgated, imposing \$10.2 billion in annual compliance costs, according to government estimates. Coal plants have already been slated for retirement or shuttered due to high compliance costs associated with MATS. Last summer, FirstEnergy Corp. announced the shuttering of two Pennsylvania coal plants, in part, due to MATS, which would have required the company to spend \$275 million to bring the two coal plants into compliance. It was more economical to close them. More than a year ago, Georgia Power asked state regulators if it could shut down 15 coal and oil-fired generators before April 16, 2015—the date MATS is set to go into effect.” According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), 60 Gigawatts of coal-fired capacity—the equivalent of 30 Hoover Dams—will be lost by 2020, with 90 percent of the loss coming by 2016. A 3.5 Gigawatt coal-fired power plant can provide electricity to as many as 1.9 million homes. A loss of 60 Gigawatts could therefore mean as many as 32 million homes would have to find power from some other source—and that new source will probably be more expensive than what was obtained from an older coal-fired facility. [54608, 54695, 54698, 55177, 55178, 55335]

In addition to the MATS rule, the EPA has Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) rules, that also restrict mercury and other emissions. Bill Wilson notes at FoxNews.com notes, “the EPA promulgated the Utility MACT rule in early 2012 despite identifying health benefits of only \$500,000 to \$6 million annually—at an estimated cost of nearly \$11 billion per year. Industry experts place the compliance costs much higher—at \$84 billion over four years. That’s not the truly frightening component of this rule, though. Like Obama’s socialized medicine bureaucracy, his ‘envirocrats’ are making it up as they go along. ‘We may determine it is necessary to regulate under (the Clean Air Act) even if we are uncertain whether the rule will address the identified hazards,’ the rule states, adding ‘we believe it is reasonable to err on the side of regulation of such highly toxic pollutants in the face of uncertainty.’ This, in a nutshell, is the *modus operandi* of Obama’s regulatory state: *Erring on the side of government intrusion no matter what the outcome*. Recently emails obtained by the Energy and Environment Legal Institute under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) revealed senior EPA officials had been meeting with leaders of the radical environmental lobby in an effort to kill the Keystone XL pipeline—an energy project which boasts broad bipartisan support in Congress. ‘These damning emails make it clear that the Obama administration has

been actively trying to stop this important project for years,' U.S. Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) said." [54608, 54695, 54698, 55177, 55335]

Applying some common sense he seemed to not always possess when he was Obama's Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar calls for approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Addressing an energy conference, he says, "At the end of the day, we are going to be consuming that oil. So is it better for us to get the oil from our good neighbor from the north, or to be bringing it from some place in the Middle East?" Salazar also says, "We know that, from everything we've seen, there's not a single case where hydraulic fracking has created an environmental problem for anyone. We need to make sure that story is told." [54598, 54618]

A bad Tuesday for the White House turns into a bad Wednesday as Congressional Budget Office director Douglas Elmendorf tells the Joint Deficit Reduction Committee that ObamaCare "creates a disincentive for people to work." He says, "What the Affordable Care Act does, is to provide subsidies focused on lower and lower-middle-income people to buy health insurance. And in order to encourage a sufficient number of people to buy an expensive product like health insurance, the subsidies are fairly large in dollar terms. Those subsidies are then withdrawn over time—withdrawn from people as their income rises. And by providing heavily subsidized health insurance to people with very low income, and then withdrawing those subsidies as income rises, the Act creates a disincentive for people to work, relative to what would have been the case in the absence of that Act. [The subsidies] make those lower-income people better off... but they do have less of an incentive to work." [54574, 54575]

LATimes.com reports that Sandra Fluke has decided against running for the seat of retiring Congressman Henry Waxman (D-CA). She is "instead planning a bid for the state Senate." Fluke states, "I believe that the families and communities of this district—from West Hollywood to West L.A. and from Santa Monica to Torrance and beyond—deserve to have a fresh perspective from a new generation of progressive leadership in Sacramento, and I am eager to get to work fighting for the causes that matter most to our future as a community, state and nation." (In other words, "I *was* going to run for Waxman's seat, but that didn't sit too well with a dozen *other* Democrats who've been waiting patiently for years for him to retire or die. So I'm stuck running for the state senate because I don't stand a chance of winning the Congressional primary election." Additionally, Fluke certainly knows that the GOP is likely to retain the House and she would certainly be unable to get any legislation of her own passed. In the state senate she is more likely to have success in moving her leftist agenda.) [54585, 54586, 54596, 54783]

Townhall.com notes that in an Organizing for America propaganda ad promoting an increase in the minimum wage, "One of the 'hard-working Americans' portrayed in the ad isn't actually an American, but is actually a British commuter using mass transit in London." [54589]

Former *American Idol* contestant Clay Aiken, running in the North Carolina primary to become the Democrat candidate for Congress who will challenge Congresswoman Renee Ellmers (R-NC), tells CNN, “I think there is systematically a problem in Washington with people not talking to each other and not working together, and I don’t think [Obama] is immune from that criticism. I think that [Obama] could do a better job reaching out to congressional leaders to try to come to workable solutions for both parties and for the people of the country.” [54637]

On *The Steve Mahlberg Show*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, “It’s hard to imagine exactly what [Obama’s] goal is because when you talk to him one on one, he sounds reasonable and like he’s not trying to transform America into some socialist nightmare. However, when you look at his policies, one after another they are sort of transformative—changing us from a country that has a marketplace and freedom of choice to a country that is stifled by coercion and mandates. There doesn’t seem to be any acknowledgement of restraint that the Constitution and the rule of law restrains him in any way. Basically he pushes the limit to whatever he thinks he can get and won’t be rebuked. ... We’re hoping that there will be more [legal] cases brought to bear where his idea that he can amend Obamacare without legislation, without congressional approval. It takes a while to work through the courts, and in the meantime, he just continues to do blithely whatever he thinks he can get away with. He’s acting as if he’s both the [chief] executive and the legislator... That’s a recipe for tyranny, and it is my fear that we’re allowing [Obama] to have so much power gravitate to him that we’re getting rid of the checks and balances that really held government [in check] and limited government’s power. ... This is about whether you allow Americans to have freedom of choice or whether you tell Americans, as [Obama’s] doing, that you’re too stupid, you can’t make these choices, you can’t decide what’s good health insurance, I’m going to tell you what’s good. It’s that arrogance from Washington that, really, the whole country ought to rise up—Republican, Democrat, independent—and say, look, this is a free country and we want our freedom back, basically.” [54612]

Political analyst and former Clinton advisor Dick Morris tells Newsmax.TV’s John Bachman, “[It] Sounds very simple, but it’s never been said before. They [the CBO report] said that if you offer people health insurance, subsidized, people are going to stay out of the workforce. They figure that they can get health insurance anyway and that employers are going to cut back on hours—and, therefore, the jobs will be so low[-paying] that they won’t enter. And don’t forget, we’ve [already] had 10 million people drop out of the workforce. ... The goal of the Obama [administration] is to increase the number of Americans who receive means-tested welfare, increase the number of Americans who don’t pay income tax, and decrease the number of Americans in the workforce—because they can create a nation of dependents, of entitlement addicts. They’ll [Democrats will] perpetually dominate the [political] process. ... The key thing is to jettison this Obamacare bill and work on changing it and reforming it. Instead, the Democrats have dug in their heels on it. What’s really happening is that the Democrats have decided that the way to keep [their Congressional] seats is negative ads. Just character assassination.” [54613]

Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tells reporters that U.S. “wishes” to end his country’s nuclear program “are unlikely to come true and that’s why they are negotiating with the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieve a solution based on realities.” [54601]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A senior member of the Muslim Brotherhood was recently hosted at the White House for a meeting with ...Obama, prompting an outcry from critics of the global Islamist organization. Anas Altikriti, a top British lobbyist for the Muslim Brotherhood whose father heads Iraq’s Muslim Brotherhood party, recently met with [Obama] and Vice President Joe Biden as part of a delegation discussing problems in Iraq. Altikriti, whose work has also been tied to Hamas, can be seen smiling in photos published by the White House as he stands next to Iraqi Parliament Speaker Usama al-Nujaifi, who is pictured shaking hands with ...Obama in the White House’s Roosevelt Room. The meeting was first highlighted by the blog Harry’s Place.” The White House claims Altikriti was there only as a translator for al-Nujaifi. (Obama was apparently unable to find a translator not linked to the radical Muslim Brotherhood.) [54602, 54603]

While Obama welcomes radical Muslims to the White House, noted author Phyllis Chesler is questioned by security agents at JFK Airport in New York City—because she was reading *The Jewish Press*. According to that publication, “While Chesler’s luggage was being rifled through and she was being interrogated, she noticed another woman stride unmolested past her and the security agents, and disappear on through to her destination. The woman who sailed through without being stopped was dressed in a niqab. The niqab is an Islamic head covering which covers a woman’s entire face except for the eyes. ...The issue is not that the Jew was the one who was stopped and the Muslim was the one who sailed through security. The issue is that merely the word Jewish on a newspaper was sufficient to draw the agents’ attention and suspicion, while someone whose identity was impossible to discern, who could be hiding who knows what, was ignored by security—*security!* professionals. Had the situation been reversed, there is little question that the Committee on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), would be up in arms. So would the American Civil Liberties Union and probably half a dozen Jewish organizations. But in this real life situation, a Jewish woman was stopped as a potential security threat in an airport in New York because she was reading a Jewish newspaper. Will anyone be up in arms?” (Obama has no comment.) [54722, 54723, 54769]

WashingtonPost.com reports that Obama, “struggling with low approval ratings after a dispiriting year of setbacks, conceded in private remarks Wednesday that some fellow Democrats might not want his help in this fall’s elections. The candid self-appraisal came during a policy retreat with the Senate Democratic caucus at the Washington Nationals’ stadium, part of a flurry of outreach efforts with congressional Democrats this week focused on crafting strategies for the midterms. ‘He said he knew he is not popular in some of the states so he would not be offended if he were not invited to visit them this year,’ said one senator who requested anonymity to discuss the private meeting. ‘But he said he could be helpful in some parts of some states.’” Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) “told Obama that someone should be fired for the health-care law’s

botched rollout in the fall, according to several people who attended the meeting. The moment was made more awkward because Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was among the Cabinet members who mingled with the lawmakers. ‘I asked what’s been on my mind for months,’ Shea-Porter said in an interview Wednesday. ‘I don’t think there’s any shock anywhere around the country that somebody should be held accountable and that I would ask that question.’” [54675, 54676]

JudicialWatch.org reports, “Hell-bent on arming opposition forces in Syria—despite strong evidence that they’re run by Islamic terrorists—[Senator] John McCain [R-AZ] displayed behavior unbecoming of a United States Senator during a recent meeting with Syrian Christian leaders touring Capitol Hill. The delegation of Syrian clergy came to Washington to raise awareness among lawmakers of the growing crisis among the region’s minority Christian community. Christians make up about 10% of the Syrian population and they are being targeted and ruthlessly murdered by radical elements of the rebel forces, according to the visiting church officials. They say the media and human rights groups in the west have been largely silent on the ordeal of the Christians in Syria. ...But Senator McCain, an Arizona Republican, evidently doesn’t want to hear negative stories about the rebels he’s working to arm. So he stormed out of a closed-door meeting with the Syrian clergy officials last week. Held in the Senate Arms Services Committee meeting room, the reunion also included senators Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. Graham is a Republican and the rest are Democrats.” [54646, 54647]

“McCain marched into the committee room yelling, according to a high-level source that attended the meeting, and quickly stormed out. ‘He was incredibly rude,’ the source told Judicial Watch ‘because he didn’t think the Syrian church leaders should even be allowed in the room.’ Following the shameful tantrum McCain reentered the room and sat briefly but refused to make eye contact with the participants, instead ignoring them by looking down at what appeared to be random papers. The outburst was so embarrassing that Senator Graham, also an advocate of U.S. military intervention in Syria, apologized for McCain’s disturbing outburst. ‘Graham actually apologized to the group for McCain’s behavior,’ according to the source, who sat through the entire meeting. ‘It was truly unbelievable.’ Not really, for those familiar with McCain’s history on this matter. The veteran lawmaker is enamored with a controversial young ‘Syria expert,’ Elizabeth O’Bagy, who has managed to convince him as well as [Obama] and secretary of state [John Kerry] that Syrian rebels are mostly moderate and not terrorists. While persuading the U.S. of this, O’Bagy concealed that she was a political director for the Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF), a group that advocates for Syria’s rebels from Washington D.C.” [54646, 54647]

Kent Terry, the brother of slain Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry (who was gunned down with a weapon from “operation Fast and Furious), writes Attorney General Eric Holder. The letter reads, in part, “I am not pleased with your behavior as America’s Attorney General. Simply denying that you had no knowledge about Operation Fast and Furious is troubling in itself, but for you to not comply with Congress is even more troubling. It is



shocking to know that the Attorney General of the United States had no knowledge or was not made aware of Fast and Furious until after the death of my brother, Brian Terry. ...For you Mr. Holder to be so ill served by your own advisers on your watch is unbelievable. If that is the case, then you would think there would be accountability to your so called advisers who did not inform you. Where is the accountability Mr. Holder? ...Mr. Holder, answer me this, why are ATF agents and other agencies that were involved in Operation Fast and Furious still actively holding jobs and actively working? Why are they allowed to carry a gun and a badge? Why are these Agents that were originally involved still making decisions on behalf of the American people which can put Americans in harm's way? ...Why hide behind executive privilege? It's your job to uphold the law and hold those accountable for such an illegal crime as Operation Fast and Furious. You need to release the documents to show who is responsible for such an act that led to the deaths of two federal agents who gave their all to their country. They were both brave and protected their country with honor and integrity. What has their country given them in return? Is this really your all Mr. Holder? ...Somewhere deep inside you must have some conscience; do the honorable thing and have some integrity as an attorney general. You have children, wouldn't you want... justice for your children? Of course you would. These guns will continue to show up at murder scenes in the future, and I am sure you don't want more blood on your hands. So I ask you: stop misleading my family and the American people. Stop obstruction of justice. My family has been through enough grief with the loss of my brother, and to have no answers for why [he was killed] on this soil is upsetting to me and my family; our lives are shattered for the rest of our lives and will never be the same." [54651, 54652]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The Obama administration has issued new exemptions to a law that bars certain asylum-seekers and refugees who provided 'limited material support' to terrorists who are believed to pose no threat from the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security and the State Department published the new exemptions Wednesday in the Federal Register to narrow a ban in the Immigration and Nationality Act excluding refugees and asylum seekers who had provided limited material support, no matter how minor, to terrorists. 'These exemptions cover five kinds of limited material support that have adversely and unfairly affected refugees and asylum seekers with no tangible connection to terrorism: material support that was insignificant in amount or provided incidentally in the course of everyday social, commercial, family or humanitarian interactions, or under significant pressure,' a DHS official explained to The Daily Caller. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Secretary of State John Kerry signed the exemptions. ...[W]hile the changes will affect those seeking protection in the short term, the manner in which the Obama administration changed the law will not be lost on Republican skeptics of immigration reform in the long term. 'This glaring end-run around Congress underscores that immigration reform is doomed to failure,' a Senate GOP aide told TheDC." (In other words, Obama cannot be trusted to enforce any immigration legislation that might be passed.) [54599, 54600, 54807, 55024, 55460]

Investors.com adds that Obama's action "weakens, yet again, America's security. By exempting five kinds of limited material support for terrorism, Obama instantly purges more than 4,000 suspects from the U.S. terror watch list and opens our borders up to both

them and their families. Not to worry, Homeland Security says, it'll run additional security checks before letting them in. Oh? Like the checks run on the Tsarnaev family, who also got into the country on asylum claims? Those security checks? Forgive the survivors and the families of those who died in the Boston bombings if they're not reassured. Taking a chance on foreign nationals already suspected of aiding and abetting terrorists only puts Americans at greater risk. Yet [Obama] is ordering immigration authorities to ignore red flags. At the same time Obama opens the floodgates to them, he's closing our borders to Christians fleeing persecution by Muslims in Egypt, Iraq and other Mideast countries. ...Displaced Palestinians have plenty of places they can resettle in the Mideast. The options for Christians, on the other hand, are limited. The U.S. may be their best chance for refuge from violence and for religious freedom. Yet the State Department has rejected virtually all of the 20,000 asylum applications from Coptic Christians trying to escape Egypt since the toppling of its pro-American regime. Meanwhile, it's welcoming terrorist supporters pushed out by Cairo's renewed military crackdown on the [Muslim] Brotherhood. Thanks to Obama's new rule, these escaping Islamist troublemakers will be able to set up shop inside America and practice their jihadism with virtual impunity. If [Obama] doesn't like rampant rumors he's a 'secret Muslim,' or that he's doing the bidding of his Muslim Brotherhood-tied [half-] brother Malik, he should stop making sympathetic gestures that feed them." [55460, 55461, 55546]

On February 6 Obama addresses an audience at the National Prayer Breakfast. At CNSNews.com Penny Starr writes, "At the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. ...Obama said that 'killing the innocent' is the 'ultimate betrayal of God's will.' But [he] was talking about terrorism, not abortion: 'Extremists succumb to an ignorant nihilism that shows they don't understand the faiths they claim to profess, for killing the innocent is never fulfilling God's will. In fact, it is the ultimate betrayal of God's will,' Obama said. Yet Obama is a long-time supporter of abortion rights." (In fact, Obama is the most pro-abortion person ever to occupy the Oval Office. As an Illinois State Senator, Obama opposed a bill that defined as a person a fully born baby who survives an abortion. Obama argued that defining "...a pre-viable fetus" that survives an abortion as a "person" or "child would essentially bar abortions, because the Equal Protection Clause does not allow somebody to kill a child, and if this is a child, then this would be an anti-abortion statute." Obama was essentially arguing, "We can't call it a person because then we can't kill it." Obama also voted against the similar Induced Infant Liability Act, a law meant to protect the lives of babies who "inadvertently" survive attempted abortions and then need medical attention to survive. Obama's was the only vote against the state bill, and a similar bill later passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate. In addition Obama voted against an Illinois bill banning state funding of late term abortions. [91, 272, 346, 412, 2262, 54621]

RightSideNews.com reports, "Judicial Watch announced today that the Obama administration was seeking to withhold key emails about the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, indicating what it terms 'a continued cover-up of the deadly scandal.' The documents, released in December, include multiple emails, which are heavily redacted, about the controversial Benghazi talking points that falsely portray the attack as being the result of a spontaneous protest. On October 18, 2012, JW filed a Freedom of Information

(FOIA) request with the Department of State seeking information about talking points used to discuss the Benghazi attack that were given then UN Ambassador Rice and others in the Obama administration. ...To date, the State Department has produced two sets of documents, each containing little or no information not previously available to the public. ...The majority of the content is redacted, aside from three prepared talking points sent to members of Congress on September 15, 2012, the first containing the administration's false claim that the attack was 'spontaneously inspired:' ...The Obama administration has withheld the name of the CIA official who distributed these inaccurate talking points, which seemed to have been used to brief Congress. 'Even after a year and a federal lawsuit, the Obama administration is still in full stonewall mode on Benghazi. Why else would they produce dozens of blanked out emails?' said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. 'Our lawyers are considering challenges to latest Obama secrecy gambit.' ...Judicial Watch currently has four pending FOIA lawsuits against the Obama administration for documents about the attack, 14 FOIA requests and one Mandatory Declassification Review Request." [54693]

WorldBulletin.net reports, "The US charge d'affaires in Khartoum, Joseph D Stafford, resigned from his post after he converted to Islam, Sudanese local media sources said. Stafford told the foreign ministry that his resignation was made for 'personal reasons' but Sudanese sources claimed that the envoy was forced to resign after he turned to Islam. Sources said that Stafford has recorded visits to the headquarters of Ansar al-Sunnah in Sudan and established a close relationship with a number of Sudanese clerics through these visits. The U.S. State Department has not made any statement to confirm or deny the news on Joseph Stafford." (Stafford has been serving in northern Sudan, which is Islamic, rather than the south—which is mostly Christian and where they are being slaughtered by Muslims.) [54831, 54832]

According to TurnerRadioNetwork.com, "Edward Snowden, the former contractor at the National Security Agency took with him multiple 'Doomsday' packages of information when he departed the country and began revealing how intensely the US Government is spying on its own citizens. He has the personal home info for all Elected Officials, Law Enforcement, Judges, Bankers, Corporate Boards of Directors and more! At a classified briefing for members of Congress which took place on Wednesday, members found out that Snowden took with him: a complete roster of absolutely every employee and official of the entire US Government. The names, home addresses, unlisted personal home telephone and personal cellular phone numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers of every person involved in any way, with any department of the US Government. The files include elected officials, Cabinet appointees, Judges, and **\*\*ALL\*\*** law enforcement agency employees including sworn officers. Similar files with the personal information of EVERY government contractor and all employees of that contractor! Similar files with all the personal information of EVERY Bank Corporation, their operating officers and their Boards of Directors, including all current and former members of the Federal Reserve Similar files with all the personal information about anyone holding any type of license from the Government such as Doctors, Lawyers, Stock Brokers, Commodities Traders... and many more. Similar files with all the personal information of EVERY non-bank Corporation in the U.S., including their

operating officers and Boards of Directors. Snowden has made it clear that if he is arrested, if he vanishes, or if he ‘dies’ from any cause whatsoever, ALL of the information in his possession will be published publicly. ...Making the situation all the more dire for the government is that Snowden has made clear he will release some of the information under certain ‘other’ circumstances. For instance, if Martial Law is declared in the US or if any elections are canceled for any reason, all the government employee info goes out. If the US Dollar collapses as a currency, or there is any type of ‘bail-in’ for banks, where depositors money is seized to prop-up banks as happened in the country of Cypress, all the Federal Reserve and Banker info goes out. If an economic collapse takes place, all the Banker/Stock Broker/Commodities Trader information goes out. If Corporations start hyper-inflating prices, all the information about them, their officers and Boards of Directors will go out.” [54738]

Senate Democrats refuse to allow Maureen Faulkner, the widow of slain police officer Daniel Faulkner, to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the confirmation hearing of Debo Adebile. Adebile, who was selected by the Obama administration to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, worked to overturn the death sentence meted out to her husband’s murderer, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mrs. Faulkner tells Fox News, “I am physically, emotionally and mentally distressed that I’m not able to be in that room. This is personal to me. ...Not only did they [NAACP attorneys, including Adebile] defend Mumia Abu-Jamal but they tout him, they praise him, they talk about what a wonderful man he is. I am going to do everything I can to not allow this man to come into the Department of Justice Civil Rights [Division].” Veteran prosecutor Seth Williams, a Democrat, calls Adebile unfit for the position, writing, “Mr. Adebile has impressive credentials. His decision to champion the cause of an extremist cop-killer, however, sends a message of contempt to police officers who risk their lives every day to maintain the peace.” Senate Democrats on the committee outvote the Republicans 10–8 to approve Adebile’s nomination. (Among the admirers of cop-killer Abu-Jamal is former attorney and traitor Lynne Stewart, who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for aiding terrorist Obam Abdel Rahman—the “blind sheikh” who masterminded the 1993 World Trade Center bombing—by smuggling his messages from prison to other terrorists. Stewart, whose defense was paid for in part by Obama pal George Soros, was released from prison on December 31, 2013 as the result of a policy change made by Attorney General Eric Holder, the Bureau of Prisons, and Obama appointee Preet Bharara, the federal U.S. attorney in Manhattan who brought charges against Obama critic and filmmaker Dinesh D’Souza. Leftists are sponsoring “An Evening of Song & Celebration With Lynne” Stewart on February 14.) [6281, 6282, 6283, 6284, 6592, 7994, 33738, 53092, 53118, 53196, 53212, 54116, 54429, 54509, 54587, 54588, 54591, 54592, 54593, 54605, 54627, 54628, 54701, 54702, 54824, 55041]

EAGNews.com points out that cop-killer Mumia Abu-Jamal is one of the contributors to a new book, *Imagine: Living in a Socialist USA*. Others include communist Black Panther Angela Davis, leftist Hollywood propagandist Michael Moore, Frances Fox Piven (of Cloward-Piven Strategy fame), and Obama’s domestic terrorist pal William Ayers. [55063, 55064, 55065]

The CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. reports, “The family of Miriam Carey, the woman who was killed in October after ramming White House barricades with her car and then leading authorities on a high-speed chase to the U.S. Capitol, is suing the Secret Service and the U.S. Capitol Police. The New York City-based Sanders Firm, P.C. is representing the family, and recently announced that Carey’s sister, Valarie Carey, has filed a wrongful death claim seeking \$75 million. Police say Miriam Carey [allegedly] rammed her car into a White House checkpoint barricade on the afternoon of Oct. 3. She [allegedly] fled the scene to avoid law enforcement, leading officers through the streets of D.C. toward the Capitol. The Capitol building was placed on lock-down and Capitol Police issued a shelter-in-place order following reports of shots fired near the building.” [54731, 54811]

Dick Morris writes, “James Fitzgibbon, Economist of the Highlander Fund, said that the current market decline will intensify in the coming weeks with occasional upward ticks until April or early spring. Then, he says a decline will set in that will last well into 2016 or 2017. He predicts that we won’t hit bottom until the DOW is at 5,000—one-third of its current levels. I don’t know if he is right or wrong, but I respect his track record greatly. For thirty years, he has been uncannily accurate in predicting market trends...” [54579]

*The Kudlow Report’s* Lawrence Kudlow writes, “So let me get this right. Team Obama taxes millionaires who create jobs, while Obamacare creates incentives not to work at those jobs. No wonder recovery is so anemic. The policy here is to create *fewer* jobs and induce people to work *less* at those jobs. If my logic is correct, this runs counter to the most basic principles of our economy and our country. ...In the Obama scheme, an industrious person climbing the ladder of opportunity is penalized heavily for his or her success. Health-care subsidies are reduced as a result of her higher income, while marginal tax rates go up as she shifts into a higher tax bracket. So she loses the government benefit and her effective federal tax climbs higher. There is no ladder of opportunity here. It’s really a work trap that becomes a poverty trap. It’s similar to the other traps found in welfare, food stamps, unemployment compensation, and the marriage penalty. Democrats defend this work trap as providing more leisure time. But they forget to tell you that the perverse health-care incentives that lead to less work also lead to less income, less wealth, less opportunity, and less economic freedom to prosper.” [54664]

At PJMedia.com Stephen Kruiser writes, “There was a time in the not-too-distant past when it could reasonably be expected that the emotional spin the Democrats in charge peddled to their constituents was understood to be just that. In other words, they had to give the masses something to soothe and/or deflect to make them feel better, especially if there were things like scary math and economics to deal with. But the elites knew better. The problem with Team Lightbringer [the Obama administration] is that they have spent so much time bathing in the warm waters of the sycophant pool that they have begun to believe their own spin. This is a highly functional political machine that is fueled by nothing but emotion. This is scary enough when it’s a ploy; when it becomes the sole basis for policy, it will inevitably be catastrophic. Because math isn’t swayed by emotion.” [54682]

At NationalReview.com Kevin D. Williamson comments on “feminist” Sandra Fluke’s entry into politics: “Feminism must... accommodate wildly incompatible propositions— e.g., (1) Women unquestionably belong alongside men in Marine units fighting pitched battles in Tora Bora but (2) really should not be expected to be able to perform three chin-ups. Or: (1) Women at Columbia are empowered by pornography but (2) women at Wellesley are victimized by a statue of a man sleepwalking in his Shenanigans. And then there is Fluke’s Law: (1) Women are responsible moral agents with full sexual and economic autonomy who (2) must be given an allowance, like children, when it comes to contraceptives. ...Miss Fluke... recently announced that she intends to seek a seat in the senate of California, a state in which she has resided for about eleven minutes following a Pennsylvania upbringing, a New York undergraduate career—with the inevitable bachelor’s degree in ‘feminist, gender, and sexuality studies’—and law school in Washington. ...Miss Fluke’s accomplishments are thin: She served as president of the Georgetown chapter of a feminist law-students’ organization and produced a video on how to obtain a restraining order. The video was financed by the Women Lawyers of Los Angeles Fran Kandel Public Interest Grant; whatever Sandra Fluke is up to, you can be sure she’s looking for somebody else to pay for it. For what is she known? For standing in front of a group of legislators saying ‘I Want!’ It is worth remembering that Miss Fluke’s ‘I Want!’ heard ’round the world was a demand for birth-control subsidies at a Catholic institution: What’s a few thousand years of practice and the most highly developed body of moral philosophy in the Western world compared with a callow young law student’s ‘I Want!’?” [54638]

At a meeting of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) notes Obama’s claim that “there’s not a smidgen of corruption [in the IRS],” and asks witnesses whose conservative groups were targeted by the IRS, “Do either of you remember seeing a witness named Lois Lerner sitting at the very table you’re all are sitting at? Do you remember her invoking her Fifth Amendment privilege? ...So how can Obama say there’s not a smidgen of criminality when Lois Lerner invoked the Fifth Amendment, 41 witnesses haven’t been interviewed, including the two that are here right now? How can he possibly draw that conclusion?” Addressing attorney Jay Sekulow, Gowdy says, “I understand why she [Lois Lerner] invoked her Fifth Amendment privilege. I don’t understand why in the Hell [Obama] would pre-judge an investigation before any of your clients were interviewed, before either if these two victims... were interviewed. He has gone on national television, pre-judged the investigation, and in my judgment has compromised the Department of Justice... Thirteen people [assigned to the investigation] in six months have not had time to interview a single, solitary one of Mr. Sekulow’s clients... and yet [Obama] has already pre-judged the outcome of this investigation. So either it’s ongoing or it’s not. Either he’s wrong or [Attorney General] Eric Holder is wrong, In either case it’s time for a special counsel...” [54653, 54667, 54678, 54727]

One of the witnesses, True the Vote and King Street Patriots founder Catherine Engelbrecht, tells the committee, “After all the tyranny and all the things that have been done to my organizations, to my family, and to me, many people would quit, and, Mr. Chairman, many Americans have quit. I have heard over and over that people are afraid

to tell their stories. But know this: my experiences at the hands of this government in the last five years have made me more determined ever than before to stand before you and to all of America and say that I will not retreat. I will not surrender. I will not be intimidated, and I will not ask for permission to exercise my constitutional rights. ... We had never been audited. We had never been investigated, but all that changed upon submitting applications for the non-profit statuses of True the Vote and King Street. Since that filing in 2010, my private businesses, my nonprofit organizations, my family and I have been subjected to more than 15 instances of audit or inquiry by federal agencies.” [54678, 54688, 54725, 54801, 54904]

“...All of these incursions into my affairs began after filing applications of tax exemption. There is no other remarkable event. There’s no other reason to explain how, for decades, I went unnoticed but now find myself on the receiving end of inter-agency coordination into and against all facets of my life, both personal and private. Bear in mind, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of this subcommittee, these events were occurring while the IRS was subjecting me to multiple rounds of abusive inquiries with requests to provide every Facebook and Twitter [message] I’d ever posted, questions about my political aspirations, and demands to know the names of groups that I’d spoken with, the content of what I’d said, and everywhere I intended to speak in the coming year. The answers to these sorts of questions are not of interest to your typical IRS analyst but they are certainly of interest to a political machine that would put its own survival against the civil liberties of a private citizen. This government attacked me because of my political beliefs but I refuse to be cast as a victim—not to the IRS, not to the FBI, not to OSHA, not to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, or to any other federal agency I am not a victim because a victim has no options. I do have options. And I intend to use them to the fullest extent of my capabilities. As an American citizen I am part of a country that still believes in freedom of speech, and so I will continue to speak out, here in Congress, and all across this country I will continue to press in every legal way possible as I did by filing suit against the Internal Revenue Service. No American citizen should be willing to accept a government that abuses its power against its own people.” [54678, 54688, 54725, 54801, 54904]

Engelbrecht states, “Three times, Representative Elijah Cummings [D-MD] sent letters to True the Vote, demanding much of the same information that the IRS had requested. Hours after sending letters, he would appear on cable news and publicly defame me and my organization. Such tactics are unacceptable.” According to CNSNews.com, “Engelbrecht said she plans to file a formal complaint with the House Office of Congressional Ethics asking for a full investigation after Thursday’s hearing.” [54678, 54688, 54725, 54801, 54904]

Tim Armstrong, CEO of AOL, tells CNBC, “We have to look at our benefits programs very seriously. In the CEO chair, let me give you an example of the decisions we have to make as a company: ObamaCare is an additional \$7.1 million expense for us as a company. So we have to decide whether or not to pass that expense to employees or whether to cut other benefits.” (The company had about 5,600 employees at the end of 2012.) [54614, 54644, 54645, 54663]

At Mediaite.com Noah Rothman provides some of the more outrageous examples of leftist journalists attempting to turn the bad news from the CBO report on the impact of ObamaCare into good news. Columnist Froma Harrop: “Many workers, however, will see not having to ‘work for the man’ to get health coverage as liberation.” E.J. Dionne: “Many on the right love family values until they are taken seriously enough to involve giving parents/workers more control over their lives.” (By “more control over their lives” Dionne means, “Not having to worry about working because someone else is paying the bills.”) “...And it’s sometimes an economic benefit when some share of the labor force reduces hours or stops working altogether. At a time of elevated unemployment, others will take their place.” (While it is true that someone who quits his job because he can collect welfare and Medicaid under ObamaCare’s looser rules does free up that job for someone else, that does not mean going on the dole is something that should be promoted.) *U.S. News & World Reports*’ Danielle Kurtzleben: “What the truth might be, and what few politicians would dare say, is there might simply be some value in lower economic growth.” (Few politicians would dare say it because it is absurd.) [54629, 54630, 54687]

HuffingtonPost.com’s Michael McAuliff tweets, “There’s an irony in the GOP complaining that ACA lets people quit jobs. I mean, what’s wrong with freedom?” (That “freedom,” of course, comes at the expense of those who have to work harder to pay higher premiums or taxes to subsidize it.) NationalReview.com’s Jonah Goldberg comments on McAuliff’s statement: “There’s a great swirling maelstrom of philosophical fallacy stretching backwards from this tweet like the funnel cloud of a cyclone extending down and backward from a swirling maw of ignorance... It assumes that negative liberty—which right-minded people call, simply ‘liberty’—is... ‘a mirage.’ Government gives you freedom by giving you stuff. This is the logic that says a refusal to subsidize art is censorship; that the failure to provide housing is the same as denying it; that people have a right to have things provided for them they are unwilling to earn themselves. Or as FDR said ‘necessitous men are not free men.’ So when the government gives you stuff you need (or merely want) it is setting you free. What I like about McAuliff’s tweet is the light and airy sense of the new to it. As if he stumbled onto an insight about conservative objections to positive-liberty arguments that hadn’t occurred to conservatives before. Never mind that this is one of the oldest arguments in political philosophy. ...When Nancy Pelosi says that Obamacare is entrepreneurial because it will let people quit their jobs to become poets, you can see the campus utopianism coming through. Quitting your job is like changing your major from business administration to French literature. ‘You just make the most of yourself, dear,’ Dean of Students Pelosi is saying, ‘we’ll take care of the rest.’”) [54629, 54630]

MyBarackObama.com sends an email asking for donations to “fight for health care.” A contribution automatically enters the donor in a contest “for a chance to win a trip to meet [Obama] backstage in D.C. later this month.” [54581]

Congressman Raul Labrador (R-ID) tells the Heritage Foundation, “I find it fascinating that this administration says that there is not a smidgen of corruption [in the IRS], which I



think will be [Obama's] lie of this year. ...It's amazing to me that they could go after Chris Christie after one week and they're still investigating what happened with the IRS and they're not coming forward with the truth about what happened with the IRS. They are both allegations about political payback. One seems to go right to the top of the Obama administration, it's because it's an investigation against a Republican, and something that is clearly just as bad and even worse, and they're not even getting to the bottom of it. I think the media needs to start asking questions." [54649]

Fox News reporter Mike Emanuel reports that House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) "will 'likely' PULL immigration reform from House agenda this year." Guy Benson writes at Townhall.com, "Boehner had reportedly been intent on bringing some form of reform package to the floor this year, but that was never entirely clear. He equivocated at a recent GOP retreat, and now it looks like he's backing off. Conservatives within his caucus have been grumbling bitterly about the timing, with at least one member suggesting that Boehner's speakership could be in jeopardy if he moved forward. I rather doubt Boehner was swayed by that sort of internecine saber-rattling, but he apparently concluded that the fastest way to crack up a relatively unified party ahead of what should be a very good election cycle would be to schedule this political earthquake before November. Righty supporters and opponents of reform alike have urged Republicans to avoid this unforced error. If these reports are accurate, leadership seems to have listened." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Boehner and other establishment Republicans have been frightened by the emergence of primary challengers. As much as they may want "comprehensive immigration reform," they want to keep their jobs even more. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) is being challenged in the primary by Dave Brat, an economics professor who says, "Cantor is following the agenda of the Business Roundtable and the Chamber of Commerce—pursuing policies that are good for big business, but come at the exclusion of the American people. ...At every turn, the GOP establishment is favoring the elites. A change in immigration policy means amnesty.") [54594, 54595, 54606, 54636, 54658, 54662, 54683]

Boehner tells reporters, "Listen, there's widespread doubt about whether this administration can be trusted to enforce our laws. And it's going to be difficult to move any immigration legislation until that changes." (Boehner and his fellow Republicans don't trust Obama to enforce current immigration laws or properly support border security, and conservative Republicans don't trust Boehner. It is the latter that has frightened Boehner away from pursuing amnesty legislation—at least in the short term. Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) tells Breitbart.com, "We pushed the Speaker hard to understand that until the border is secure, it doesn't make sense to even discuss reforms, and the Speaker FINALLY CAME TO OUR SENSES." *The Obama Timeline* believes Boehner will not be reelected Speaker of the House in January 2015.) [54622, 54632, 54633, 54634, 54662, 54683]

Senate Republicans again block efforts to extend unemployment benefits for those who have exhausted the 99-week limit—because Democrats again refuse to allow amendments to the legislation or pay for them with spending cuts elsewhere. (WashingtonExaminer.com notes that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

“effectively owns the Senate. Democrats and Republicans have long debated how Reid managed to get such a tight grip on the upper chamber. But there is no debating this much: Nothing happens on the floor, or in committee, without the Nevada Democrat’s approval. Most important Senate legislation is written in Reid’s office and sent directly to the floor for a vote on final passage, sidelining committee chairmen who historically have functioned as an influential and quasi-independent force. In the past, a bill would not go to the floor before a series of votes and amendments in whatever committee, or committees, had jurisdiction over the policy it affected. Reid has sent bills directly to the floor 74 times, according to statistics provided by the office of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, (R-KY). That’s 10 times more than his predecessors during a decade-long span. ... For Republicans, Reid’s autocratic leadership is best defined by the number 4. From July through late January, Reid allowed only four votes on GOP-sponsored amendments to legislation. The amendment drought was broken when Reid allowed votes on three Republican amendments to a flood insurance bill. By contrast, Senate Republicans say, the majority House GOP allowed floor votes on 83 amendments sponsored by House Democrats during that same period. ... Reid’s aggressive leadership has had a political side benefit. Vulnerable Senate Democrats up for re-election in 2010, 2012 and now 2014 have been protected from countless tough votes on politically tailored Republican amendments that might have caused them grief with voters.”) [54624, 54692]

TheHill.com reports, “The Obama administration said Wednesday that it opposes a Republican bill allowing kayaks and other paddle boats into forbidden areas of the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. ... In a Statement of Administration Policy, the White House said the bill’s provisions on paddle boats ‘set a troubling precedent for the management of the use of hand-propelled vessels in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks.’” (The administration fears over-fishing in the areas—but is apparently unaware that one can ban fishing yet still allow kayaks.) [54671, 54672]

TheHill.com reports, “... Obama’s top diplomat to Europe has been caught on tape saying ‘F--k the EU’ [“Fuck the European Union”]. The [telephone] conversation [about who would best lead the opposition in the Ukraine] between Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and U.S. Ambassador to the Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt was anonymously leaked on YouTube. Nuland and Pyatt are not identified on the recording, but the tape appears to be genuine. Nuland is a former spokeswoman for the State Department, and her voice can be recognized on the tape. The State Department has not denied that the voices are those of Nuland and Pyatt.” (Some immediately assume Russia was behind the phone tapping. But the State Department should do a better job of safeguarding their conversations. The call was made on an unsecured cell phone and the conversation could have been picked up by almost anyone with widely available equipment. Nuland and Pyatt should be reprimanded for their security sloppiness—and for playing right into Russian President Vladimir Putin’s hands.) Nuland’s comment, relates ZeroHedge.com Tyler Durden, is due to the fact that the EU “has failed to join the US in threatening sanctions against Ukraine’s leaders if they violently crush the protests.” Some believe the protests have been orchestrated by the U.S. government. Nuland also made it clear the Obama administration does not want Ukraine’s anti-communist opposition leader Vitali

Klitschko to have a significant position in any new government. In any event, the Obama administration has no business deciding who the leaders of Ukraine should be—or working to remove its elected president. (Russian President Vladimir Putin, of course, would like Ukraine to be under the influence of Russia, partly because Putin would like to expand the Russian/Soviet “empire” to its former glory and partly because important natural gas pipelines travel from West Siberian gas fields to Europe through Ukraine.) [54623, 54668, 54683, 54705, 54717, 54777, 54914, 54969, 55292, 55381, 55951, 56696, 56755]

At KingWorldNews.com stock market analyst Richard Russell writes, “[F]iat currencies around the world are sinking. Normally when this happens, gold will surge. But rising gold would be a red flag waving in the Fed’s [Federal Reserve’s] face, and there’s no doubt in my mind that the Fed has been manipulating gold and preventing its rise. ...I’d be lying if I said that I wasn’t worried about the way things are going. Frankly, I’m truly scared for myself, my family and the nation. I have the sinking feeling that the stock market is on the edge of a crash. If that happens, investor sentiment will turn quickly bearish. And the bear market will start feeding on itself. Ironically, the recent action occurred in the face of almost insane bullishness on the part of the crowd and on the part of investors. Obviously smart heads and institutional money managers know that the US is semi dead in the water. And all the talk about an improving economy is just wishes and hopes. [Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben] Bernanke’s dream of a flourishing new economy, improving without the need of the Fed’s help, is an idle dream. I’ve been writing about the stock market for over 60 years and I can’t remember a time when I was so filled with foreboding regarding what lies ahead.” [54604]

“...In previous bear markets, such as 1973-74, I moved myself and my subscribers into cash, and all seemed well. In this bear market, I’m puzzled as to where safety lies. I have picked gold and silver... Question—will [new chairman] Janet Yellen pursue the same course that Ben Bernanke has chosen? Or will she finally take the Fed’s heavy hand off gold? My guess is that she will follow in Bernanke’s path and manipulate gold while continuing to print Federal Reserve notes by the trillions. One amazing thing about a primary bear market is that it tends to expose all cheating and lying and criminal activity. As Warren Buffet put it, when the tide runs out at the nudist camp, the bathers can finally tell the men from the women. ...As the situation becomes progressively more bearish, my best guess is that Yellen will continue to fight the primary bear trend with all the ammunition at the Fed’s command. With the ‘down January’ and the market suddenly stalling, I expect public sentiment to lose its good-time giddyness and to slowly turn bearish. I also expect the new bearish sentiment to feed on itself. I believe the public will soon demand HONEST statistics and data from the government. Remember, once the bear market is established, all the lying and nonsense will come to an end. ...I expect steady bear market deterioration in the US economy to continue from here, regardless of what the market does. Already I hear talk of a possible 10% correction. These people are wrong. This is not a correction. It’s a continuation of the bear market.” [54604]

BuzzFeed.com reports, “Priorities USA Action, the super PAC now backing Hillary Clinton, won’t spend to help Democrats in the House and Senate this year, a

spokesperson confirms.” The political action committee spent \$65 million to help reelect Obama in 2012. At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey notes that the PAC spent nothing on House and Senate races in 2012, “So having Priorities USA Action sit on the sidelines in 2012 isn’t exactly a blow to Democratic midterm hopes, at least not directly. If they raise funds for Hillary Clinton in the middle of the midterm cycle, though, that could be a *huge* problem for Democrats, as it would suck resources away from their attempt to hold control of the Senate.” Meanwhile, Obama’s former campaign advisor David Axelrod tweets, “With the Senate seriously at risk, and the Koch Brothers spending prodigiously, shouldn’t Dem funders be focused on ’14 and not ’16 races?” [54616, 54617, 54650, 54686]

A Rasmussen poll shows Congressman Tom Cotton (R-AR) ahead of Senator Mark Pryor (D-AR) 45–40. (Cotton is challenging Pryor for his Senate seat. Pryor’s woes stem largely from his vote for ObamaCare in 2010, but he also routinely voted for legislation favored by the White House. He is also trying to distance himself from Obama. Asked about the possibility of Obama campaigning with him in Arkansas, Pryor says, “I don’t get people to come and campaign for me very often. To me, in Arkansas, people don’t vote for you because somebody else says vote for you. ...I’m not going to tell anybody not to, [but] We’re going to make the race about Arkansas.” Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) says, “I don’t care to have him [Obama] campaign for me. I’d rather him come up to see where his policies aren’t working. He’s wrong on ANWR; we’ve had struggles to try to get our permits done down in the southeast for our timber industry; [and] I want to show him how important the military is in Fairbanks.”) [54625, 54626, 54789]

According to a Pew study, Christians are the world’s most oppressed religious group. North Korea is the world’s most restrictive nation in which to practice Christianity, followed by Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, Pakistan, Iran and Yemen. (Nine of the 10 are Muslim countries. Obama has no comment.) [54774, 54775]

Various media outlets report that the Obama administration is considering “waiving” yet another ObamaCare rule. Insurance companies would be asked to extend existing, non-compliant individual policies for three years—long enough to allow Democrats to get past the November 2016 elections. [54640, 54673, 54709]

Forbes.com reports, “Humana announced that it expects to tap the three risk adjustment mechanisms in ObamaCare for between \$250 and \$450 million in 2014. This amounts to about 25 percent of the insurer’s expected exchange revenue. This money is needed to offset losses that the insurer will take as a result of slower enrollment in its ObamaCare plans, and a skewed risk pool that weighs more heavily toward older and less healthy members than it originally budgeted. ...Humana said that it had enrolled 202,000 people on its exchange-based health plans as of January 31st, of which 82 percent were eligible for subsidies.” (That is, the *taxpayers will be paying some or all of the premiums* for 82 percent of Humana’s ObamaCare customers.) “Among the other nuggets that Humana offered: Most people (58%) are selecting silver plans, but not as many as the insurer originally anticipated. Cost sharing subsidies only attach to silver plans. These are extra

subsidies designed to offset out of pocket costs for consumers who fall between 150% and 250% of the Federal poverty level. The tilt toward silver plans suggests that the exchanges are still drawing heavily from this income demographic—but not as heavily as expected.” (The high reliance on the silver plans suggests the enrollees are likely not to be healthy, because healthy individuals would opt for the less expensive plans. The silver plans, on the other hand, make economic sense for those customers who expect to need a considerable amount of health care.) “...Finally, the mix of people enrolling in Humana plans still skews toward older individuals. Only 20 percent of enrollees are below the age of 30, while 42 percent are aged 50-64. This is consistent with earlier estimates put out by the Federal government, which suggests that the demographic mix is largely unchanged.” If Humana’s competitors have similar percentages, it means ObamaCare enrollees are primarily older, sicker, and poorer than the average American. In Humana’s case, it has already realized it will lose money on the ObamaCare scheme and is estimating how much in taxpayers bailouts it will need to cover its losses. [54710, 54711, 54800]

Jay Leno retires from the Tonight Show after 22 years. In his final monologue, Leno says, “When I started hosting, marijuana was illegal and you could smoke cigarettes anywhere you wanted. ...And the worst thing about losing this job, I’m no longer covered at NBC; I have to sign up for ObamaCare.” [54615, 54666, 54690]

On February 7 Vice President Joe Biden tells CNN, “There may be reasons I don’t run [for president in 2016], but there’s no obvious reason for me why I think I should not run.” (By 2016 Biden may perhaps figure out that the voters have reasons.) [54689]

The Senate votes 96–0 to confirm Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) to be the next U.S. ambassador to China. Montana Lieutenant Governor John Walsh, a Democrat, will be appointed to fill the Senate seat until the November election. (Baucus does not speak Chinese, and knows little about China. In fact, he admitted as much at his confirmation hearing, saying, “I’m no real expert on China, but it’s my strong belief that Chinese people are just as proud as we Americans are proud.” Baucus is given the post mostly so that Walsh can go into the November election having the advantage of being an incumbent.) Meanwhile, Obama’s nominee for U.S. ambassador to Argentina, Noah Bryson Mamet, has never even visited the country and does not speak Spanish—but he did collect \$1.7 million in campaign contributions for Obama. So far in his second term, Obama has rewarded at least 23 campaign bundlers with diplomatic posts. At Townhall.com Michael Schaus notes a 2007 Obama campaign statement: “They write the checks and you get stuck with the bills, they get the access while you get to write a letter, they think they own this government.”) ABC’s Jonathan Karl asks State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki, “How much does it cost to become an ambassador, to be named ambassador in the Obama administration?” Psaki suggests that Karl ask the White House. (Obama’s choice for Ambassador to Hungary is Colleen Bradley Bell, a television soap opera producer who raised cash for Obama’s reelection.) [54670, 54696, 54697, 54743, 54751]

Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and then tells reporters, “I... underscored that the United States remains as committed as ever

to upholding our treaty obligations with our Japanese allies. The United States neither recognizes nor accepts China's declared East China Sea [Air Defense Identification Zone] and the United States has no intention of changing how we conduct operations in the region. We are deeply committed to maintaining the prosperity and the stability in the Asia-Pacific. And that won't be possible without respect for international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight." [54978]

Republican political consultant Mary Matalin tells Politico, "Hillary Clinton's lead is ephemeral. As soon as she gets in [the 2016 presidential race], if she gets in, she will be challenged and it will evaporate. Just the nature of the beast. I predict she doesn't run." [54808]

Obama travels to Michigan State University (MSU) to sign the recently passed, pork-packed, \$950 billion farm bill. Outside, demonstrators protest against the Affordable Care Act. Among those protesting are members of the Hillsdale College Republicans, whose president, sophomore Sam Holdeman, says, "We want to get our message out and show [Obama] that the people realize ObamaCare has failed. He couldn't help but notice this... he drove right by." Junior Nathan Brand tells the HillsdaleCollegian.com, "We wanted to make a stand and show some opposition that not all college students are wacked-out Obama supporters. His coming to MSU is just a PR stunt." (Hillsdale College, one of the premiere schools in the nation, was founded in 1844. "Hillsdale's educational mission rests upon two principles: academic excellence and institutional independence. The College does not accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies for any of its operations.") [54699, 54700]

Iranian television broadcasts computer simulations of drone and missile strikes on Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport, buildings in Tel Aviv, various other Israeli targets, and the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. In the film, *The Nightmare of Vultures*, Supreme Leader Khamenei says, "Anybody who thinks of attacking the Islamic Republic of Iran should be prepared to receive strong slaps and iron fists from the Armed Forces. And America, its regional puppets and its guard dog—the Zionist regime—should know that the response of the Iranian nation to any kind of aggression, attacks or even threats will be a response that will make them collapse from within." [54776]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and others may believe "comprehensive immigration reform" will not be enacted in 2014, but Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson says, "When reform legislation is enacted, DHS must be prepared to implement reform. So to prepare for this potential outcome, I have already directed the deputy director of homeland security to coordinate the process to ensure we are ready to implement the law. ... There are an estimated 11.5 million undocumented [that is, illegal] immigrants living in this country they are not going away, they are not going to self deport. Most have been here for years. Many have come here as children. As a matter of homeland security we should encourage these people to come out of the shadows." [54659]

The Department of Labor reports that only 113,000 jobs were created in January—even fewer than the 175,000 estimated by the ADP employment report (but more than the pathetic 75,000 created in December). Obama quickly takes credit for the slightly lower unemployment rate—6.6 percent—even though the decline is largely the result of people dropping out of the workforce (355,000) and not people going back to work. (Population growth alone requires far more than 113,000 jobs per month; there are more than 1.6 million college graduates each year.) CNSNews.com notes, “Among the major worker groups, the unemployment rates for adult men (6.2 percent), adult women (5.9 percent), teenagers (20.7 percent), whites (5.7 percent), blacks (12.1 percent), and Hispanics (8.4 percent) showed little change in January.” There were 1,154,000 fewer Americans working in January 2014 than there were in January 2008. “In January, according to [the Bureau of Labor Statistics], the nation’s civilian non-institutional population, consisting of all people 16 or older who were not in the military, a nursing home or other institution, reached 246,915,000... Of those, 155,460,000 participated in the labor force by either holding a job or actively seeking one. The 155,460,000 who participated in the labor force equaled only 63.0 percent of the 246,915,000 civilian non-institutional population. Another 91,455,000 Americans did not participate in the labor force. These Americans did not have a job and were not actively trying to find one. Of the 155,460,000 who did participate in the labor force, 145,224,000 had a job, and 10,236,000 [who] did not have a job were actively seeking one—making them the nation’s unemployed.” (The stock market reacts positively to the bad jobs report—because it assumes it means the Federal Reserve will continue to create money out of thin air and send it in the direction of Wall Street.) [54568, 54669, 54679, 54680, 54681, 54712, 54713]

Market analyst William Kaye tells KingWorldNews.com’s Eric King, “They [governments around the world] took the easy way out, because of that they did not learn any of the lessons that should have been learned. If you have a problem which was precipitated by excess leverage, and ultimately the market is dictating that you can’t service that debt, which was going to lead to enormous wealth destruction, ultimately you’ve got to learn to intelligently de-lever. But instead of doing that, additional layers of debt were piled on everywhere, while policies of financial repression were used to prevent interest rates from causing yet another financial convulsion. But now we are getting to the point where the authorities are recognizing the fact that there is a major problem, and this cannot go on indefinitely. Look at the destruction that has already taken place in emerging markets because of the very slight withdrawal of the most extraordinary aspects of quantitative easing. Now you have China trying to tackle, as best they can, a Leviathan in the shadow banking sector. Virtually all of the developed nations are trying to deal with the failed policies of the last several years. The problem with that is they are not going to be able to succeed. It would be one thing if they [central planners] had a hope in hell of coming to grips with the enormity of the problems they face, but the reality is they don’t.” [54706]

“So, yes, I’m very concerned about the future. I believe that ultimately the decisions that policymakers are going to be facing either this year or next year, are going to be one of default [on the debt] or debase [the currency]. Neither of these sets of outcomes are going to be greeted well by financial markets. This will mean much lower equity markets,

higher interest rates, and a global reset with respect to the existing global financial architecture. But what you are going to see in the future is going to be unprecedented. I don't even think the experience of the Great Depression of the 1930s will properly describe what is in store for people. My fear is that as social unrest breaks out pretty much everywhere, the governments of the world will use this as an opportunity to increase the 'Orwellian' police state. We have already seen signs of this in many countries, including the United States. But governments will crack down even further. So that will mean a further loss of freedoms for ordinary citizens, under the premise of restoring social order. I view these trends as quite disturbing and leading to a future that is increasingly fascist in my view." [54706]

Politico reports, "House Republicans are moving toward introducing a bill that would lift the debt limit until the first quarter of 2015, while patching the Medicare reimbursement rate for nine months and reversing recent changes to some military retirement benefits, according to multiple sources familiar with internal deliberations." (In other words, the GOP is caving in and not going to demand anything extraordinary in exchange for agreeing to print more money.)

In an interview with the Spanish language television network Univision, Michelle Obama gives parenting advice for the mother of law-breaking teen-age entertainer Justin Bieber: "I would pull him close. I don't know if it would be advice as much as action. I would be very present in his life right now. And I would be probably with him a good chunk of the time, just there to talk, to figure out what's going on in his head, to figure out who's in his life and who's not, you know." [54733]

Returning from a visit to Cuba, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) calls the poor, communist nation's health care system "awesome," and says, "Cuba's a poor country, but they have a lower child mortality rate than us... their public health system is *quite remarkable*." At Townhall.com Humberto Fontova writes, "Senator Harkin's official Cuban guides last week—forgive me for reminding some readers (and perhaps even Senator Harkin and his staff!)—were apparatchiks of a regime modeled almost perfectly on Stalin's." "In fact," notes Fontova, "nutritional diseases are... rampant nowadays in the Castro family fiefdom." The low infant mortality rates in some countries are often low because they are based on poor records. For example, the deaths of infants in remote areas are simply never reported to officials. Dr. Juan Felipe García of Jacksonville, Florida "interviewed several recent doctor defectors from Cuba. Based on what he heard, he reported the following: 'Cuban pediatricians constantly falsify figures for the regime. If an infant dies during its first year, the doctors often report he was older. Otherwise, such lapses could cost him severe penalties and his job. The official Cuban infant-mortality figure is a farce.'" Additionally, of course, Harkin and his entourage were likely shown only the best medical care facilities in Cuba—those used by high-ranking government officials—and not the average hospital or clinic that provide "care" for the average Cuban. (*The Obama Timeline* encourages interested readers to visit TheRealCuba.com's "free healthcare?" page.) [54744, 54745, 55587]



PoughkeepsieJournal.com, reports that Poughkeepsie Mayor John C. Tkazyik has quit the Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) organization after he understood that its goal was not sensible gun control or gun regulation, but registration and confiscation. He states. “It did not take long to realize that MAIG’s agenda was much more than ridding felons of illegal guns. Under the guise of helping mayors facing a crime and drug epidemic, MAIG intended to promote confiscation of guns from law-abiding citizens. I don’t believe, never have believed and never will believe that public safety is enhanced by encroaching on our right to bear arms and I will not be a part of any organization that does. ...Depriving law-abiding citizens of their right to own firearms only makes them more vulnerable.” InfoWars.com notes, “At a gun control event earlier this year, Austin, Texas City Council Member Mike Martinez admitted that gun control is simply a step-by-step process to completely eliminate the Second Amendment. While pointing at a sign held by a protestor which read ‘Stop Gun Ban,’ Martinez said that ‘someone needs to inform him that there is no gun ban currently, but because of the work we’re doing today, we will make [his] sign legitimate shortly.’ ‘So you hang on to that [sign],’ he said to a cheering crowd of gun control advocates. And in a flashback to 1995, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) told 60 Minutes that she wanted to outright ban all firearms owned by Americans. ‘If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Senate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them... ‘Mr. and Mrs. America, turn them all in,’ I would have done it,’ she said. This is the true intent of gun control, even though many of its advocates whitewash the truth with a variety of propaganda techniques or by just simply being ignorant.” (According to Tkazyik, about 50 other mayors have left the group for the same reason.) [54766, 54767, 54768, 54770, 54771, 54790, 55007]

Sharon Rondeau, editor of ThePostEmail.com, reports on Cold Case Posse chief investigator Mike Zullo’s appearance on Carl Gallups’ *Freedom Friday* radio program. “Zullo announced that Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has opened a ‘second criminal investigation’ relative to the investigation into the birth certificate image posted on the White House website in April 2011. The posse began its investigation into the image in September 2011 [and] publicly declared on March 1, 2012 that it was a ‘computer-generated forgery.’ Zullo had announced in November that new information would be released in March, but today he said that ‘more information’ which is ‘very intense’ has been gathered.” The information, says Zullo, will prove “hands down” that the birth certificate image is a forgery. “Zullo said that ‘seasoned professionals’ are working on the investigation while his work on the birth certificate continues, He said that when Arpaio decides to make his revelations public, he will prove that the birth certificate was created ‘with the intent and purpose to defraud.’” [54694, 54724]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich tells Newsmax.TV, “I’m very sympathetic to [current House Speaker] John Boehner [R-OH] because I was fortunate. I was fortunate to have Bill Clinton as a partner, where we could fight in the morning and then work out something in the afternoon. My sense is that, with Obama, there’s nobody there. Boehner cannot sit down with [Obama] and work out an agreement that is honorable for both sides—and, as a result, it’s much harder for him to lead. I also had the great advantage that we had a Republican Senate. Boehner has to deal with Harry Reid [D-NV] as the Democratic leader of the Senate, and that would be a nightmare.” [54718]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on White House press secretary Jay Carney's remark, "Opportunities created by affordable quality health care allows families in America to make a decision about, uh, how they will work and if they will work." Krauthammer says, "The statement that Carney made is going to be emblazoned on the tombstone of liberalism. He says, 'Opportunity'—this is what he's heralding in this achievement—that the government is giving opportunity for people to decide 'if they want to work.' This is the liberals' idea of the opportunity society. Of course in a free society you can decide *if* you want to work. But what ObamaCare does—it's sort of the essence of liberalism—is that you can then choose not to work and the people who do work end up subsidizing you. Those people have to send their money in to the government and it ends up shifting it to the people who 'choose' in this ideal new opportunity society not to work. And in fact what [Douglas] Elmendorf, the head of the CBO [Congressional Budget Office director Douglas] said today, is obviously ObamaCare, with a disincentive, is creating an incentive not to work, and [Congressman Paul] Ryan [R-WI] is right, it's particularly, in the one place, where you want the incentive [to work] because it's the only way [up] the ladder of people who are unsuccessful in society—it's to work, to get the training, and the habit, and the dignity of work. And this does exactly the opposite. Now you can argue it's an inevitable side effect of any kind of benefit of this sort, but that's not the argument the administration is making. 'This is a benefit, a wonderful thing that we're giving people the opportunity not to work and to live off the sweat and the work of other people.' Is that the American way? It sounds odd to me." [54707]

At the Florida State Fair, hundreds of youths riot, start fights, rob vendors, and knock down innocent bystanders. WFLA later reports "The Hillsborough County Sheriff's office says they called in 60 extra deputies that night from the surrounding area. 'There was a strong presence from the Sheriff's Office out there, but we were tapped to our limits,' said Colonel Jim Previtera with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Even the extra deputies were overwhelmed. 'We literally had deputies who were out there with no back up engaged in fights. We had at least one deputy who was attacked by multiple youth as he tried to arrest somebody,' said Colonel Previtera. 'We had deputies who were targeted. They were taking candy apples from the concession stands and throwing them at the deputies like baseballs.' Colonel Previtera says there have been meetings all weekend with Fair Officials to consider changes so this will not happen again." (Some eyewitnesses state the rioters were mostly black and Hispanic. Obama has no comment.) [55142, 55143, 55144]

On February 8 the Ron Paul Institute's [RPI's] Daniel McAdams comments at LewRockwell.com on Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland's recent "fuck the EU [European Union]" comment: "The taped conversation demonstrates in clear detail that while Secretary of State John Kerry decries any foreign meddling in Ukraine's internal affairs, his State Department is virtually managing the entire process. The 'F\*\*k the EU' part is her [Nuland's] expressing anger that the EU is not moving fast enough with regime change in Ukraine and her plan is to get the UN involved in the process. ... The call is concrete confirmation of what we have been writing here at RPI for some time.

This is a cruder and more violent version of the US-sponsored Orange Revolution. Particularly interesting from the recording is the treatment of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon as some sort of junior errand boy for Washington. That explains his cowardly move to rescind Iran's invitation to participate in the Geneva II talks as soon as Secretary Kerry demanded it. One can only wonder why the government of Ukraine does not rescind Nuland's visa and send her packing back to Washington, along with the US ambassador. No normal country on earth would allow foreign officials to actively plot inside the country with those seeking to overthrow the government. A final bit of irony in the US government reaction to the bombshell tape is State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki directly accusing the Russian government of being behind the tape and expressing shock—shock!—that a foreign government might be spying on the US. 'A new low,' she called it. It's only OK if we do it!" [54623, 54668, 54683, 54705, 54777, 54914]

At Townhall.com John Hawkins explains "Why Obamacare is a Plague on America in 13 Quotes." 1) 1 In 4 Voters Already Know Someone Who Has Lost Insurance because of Obamacare." 2) "Almost all of the people signing up for Obamacare lost their coverage because of Obamacare." "3) The uninsured HATE Obamacare." "4) Another 25-80 million people are going to lose their insurance when the employer mandate kicks in." "5) More than 30 million Americans STILL won't be covered." "6) Lie of the year: PolitiFact has named (Barack Obama's) 'If you like your health care plan, you can keep it,' (promise) the Lie of the Year for 2013." "7) It makes health insurance considerably more expensive for most Americans." "8) Obamacare will reduce the incomes of most Americans." "9) It bails out insurance companies." "10) They lied when they said it wouldn't increase the deficit." "11) Millions of workers are being cut back to part-time because of Obamacare." "12) Two and a half million Americans will leave the work force because of Obamacare." "13) Obamacare will dramatically reduce economic growth in the United States." [54708]

The Associated Press reports, "Iranian warships dispatched to the Atlantic Ocean will travel close to U.S. maritime borders for the first time, a senior Iranian naval commander said Saturday. The commander of Iran's Northern Navy Fleet, Admiral Afshin Rezayee Haddad, said the vessels have already entered the Atlantic Ocean via waters near South Africa, the official IRNA news agency reported. The fleet, consisting of a destroyer and a helicopter-carrying supply ship, began its voyage last month from the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. The ships, carrying some 30 navy academy cadets for training along with their regular crews, are on a three-month mission." (Pamela Geller comments, "Obama's surrender initiative to Iran is bearing fruit, albeit poisonous fruit, but fruit nonetheless—or so our intellectual superiors are sure to tell us. ...The enemedia and the Democrats will be spinning this dung into gold in no time. Just as soon as they finish putting the cherry on the top of how wonderful it is that 2 million folks will be out of work due to the implementation of Obamacare (no longer will they be stuck in jobs they don't love, doncha know?). The horror of Obama's thugocracy is the swift capitulation by the 'opposition.' Even AIPAC, a long time supporter of sanctions against the terror state of Iran, caved to Obama yesterday on the Iranian sanctions resolution now before Congress. And anyone who does speak truth to power with righteous indignation is

destroyed, smeared and marginalized—by both sides. We can't help but lose at this point. I wonder how Obama will reward the Iranians for this move.”) [54729, 54739]

Attorney General Eric Holder announces that the federal government will no longer challenge claims of marital status by homosexual couples, even if they reside in states where gay marriage is not legal. According to FoxNews.com, “The policy changes mean same-sex spouses also should be eligible to file jointly for bankruptcy and have the same rights and privileges in federal prison as inmates in heterosexual marriages.” Holder states, “This means that, in every courthouse, in every proceeding, and in every place where a member of the Department of Justice stands on behalf of the United States, they will strive to ensure that same-sex marriages receive the same privileges, protections and rights as opposite-sex marriages under federal law.” Equating homosexuality with race, he adds, “The Justice Department’s role in confronting discrimination must be as aggressive today as it was in Robert Kennedy’s time.” [54740, 54741, 54821]

The BirtherReport.com and WheresObamasBirthCertificate web sites are hacked. ThePostEmail.com notes, “Constitutional Reset reported in the site’s having become inaccessible because of a Malware warning which disabled readers from logging on or in. Google, which has a close relationship with the Obama regime, is reporting the site as ‘suspicious...’” (BirtherReport.com was also hacked on October 1, 2013.) Site founder Mike Volin states, “We’ve touched a nerve. They’re being ruthless cutthroats, cutting us off. [But] I’ll do it [continue my work] by pencil and scratch pad if I have to.” [54704, 54736, 54737, 54754, 54755, 54756, 54757, 54762, 54763, 54764, 54828]

Reuters reports, “Hundreds of people with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana trying to obtain coverage under ...Obama’s healthcare reform are in danger of being thrown out of the insurance plan they selected in a dispute over federal subsidies and the interpretation of federal rules about preventing Obamacare fraud. Some healthcare advocates see discrimination in the move, but Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana says it is not trying to keep people with HIV/AIDS from enrolling in one of its policies under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The state’s largest carrier is rejecting checks from a federal program designed to help these patients pay for AIDS drugs and insurance premiums, and has begun notifying customers that their enrollment in its Obamacare plans will be discontinued. The carrier says it no longer will accept third-party payments, such as those under the 1990 Ryan White Act, which many people with HIV/AIDS use to pay their premiums. ‘In no event will coverage be provided to any subscribers, as of March 1, 2014, unless the premiums are paid by the subscriber (or a relative) unless otherwise required by law,’ Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana spokesman John Maginnis told Reuters.” [54758, 54819]

NBC’s sportscaster Bob Costas interviews Obama as the Olympics begins, and asks why neither he, his wife, Vice President Joe Biden, or “any high-ranking member of [the] cabinet” is attending the event in Sochi, Russia. Obama blames “pretty busy schedules.” Costas notes the “openly gay athletes” that were included in the U.S. delegation and says, “it’s hard to miss the message that’s being sent there.” Obama responds, “Well, there’s no doubt that, uh, that we wanted ta [sic; to] make very clear that, um, eh, we do not

abide by discrimination in any forms, including, uh, discrimination on the ba... basis of sexual orientation, aaaand, you know, one of the wonderful things about the Olympics is that, uh, you are judged by your merit, uh, you know, how good you are, regardless of where you come from, what you look like, who you love, aaaand, it, uh, that I think is consistent with the spirit of the Olympics, it is certainly consistent with American values, and we wanted to make sure, uh, that people understand that.” Russia rubs Obama’s nose in political correctness by having Russian lawmaker and former Olympic figure skater Irina Rodnina light the Olympic flame at the opening ceremony. (In September 2012 Rodnina tweeted a less than flattering, doctored photo showing Obama and his wife contemplating a banana. She later deleted the Twitter message, but followed it with another: “Freedom of speech is freedom of speech, and you should answer for your own hang-ups.”) NBC then adds fuel to the fire, with gay figure skating commentator Johnny Weir appearing on camera in women’s clothing and make-up. [54734, 54735, 54748, 54749, 54750, 54753, 54798, 54851]

During the more than eight minute interview with Costas, Obama’s words are slurred, his eye appear heavy, he drags out words, and his speech is interrupted by more than the usual number of uh, ah, and ems. On Twitter, viewers later comment, that he “looks exhausted. Or stoned. Is he in Colorado?” “Obama looks as high as a kite.” “Obama is stoned for sure.” “What’s worse? Bob Costas’ pink eye or ...Obama’s sleepy eyes?” “Obama was looking a little rough for that interview before the Olympics.. Not sure if he was stoned or just a little sleepy?” “Obama looks a bit like he got the Choom gang back to watch the Olympics in WH screening room.” “Obama was 100% stoned in that interview lmao—” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama was under the influence of drugs during the interview.) [54734, 54735, 54748, 54749, 54750, 54753]

NBC, which is telecasting the Olympics, broadcasts a brief but glowing tribute to Russia, in which the announcer says, “...the revolution, that birthed one of modern history’s pivotal experiments...” (To NBC, the Soviet Union’s 74-year imposition of brutal totalitarianism, during which Stalin caused the deaths of millions of his own countrymen, was just an “experiment.”) In addition, Bob Costas narrates a glowing tribute to Russian President Vladimir Putin. [54782, 54804, 54820, 54823]

During the opening ceremony of the Olympics, the program includes a little girl releasing a red balloon. The scene is intended to represent the fall of the Soviet Union. NBC’s Meredith Vieira calls it a “bittersweet moment.” (NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty later comments, “Can it really be that Vieira genuinely believes the end of the Soviet Union was a ‘bittersweet’ moment? If one of Putin’s goons was in the booth with her, glaring at her menacingly with his hand on the grip of his silenced pistol, I’ll forgive her. Otherwise, this is may be the dumbest statement ever uttered on television, and mind you, this is the network that employs Chris Collinsworth. Was she so sucked into the imagery—a girl is losing her balloon!—that she forgot what the whole thing was supposed to symbolize? If so, mission accomplished, Vladimir Putin. The end of the Soviet Union—which Putin called ‘the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century’—has now been transmogrified into a sad passing of a simpler, happier era. ...Vieira’s comment was worse [than calling the Soviet Union a ‘pivotal experiment’] because it

suggested there was something sad about the greatest retreat of oppression in modern history. The phrase ‘pivotal experiments’ is cowardly in its unwillingness to judge, but ‘bittersweet’ is worse because it’s the inverse, saluting the oppressor and lamenting his departure.”

At Townhall.com, Heather Ginsberg notes that U.S. athletes who win Olympic medals will be taxed by the ISR, even though they earned that income outside the United States. “The U.S. Olympic Committee awards prizes to U.S. Olympic medal winners. Gold medals earn \$25,000, Silver gets \$15,000 and Bronze will get you \$10,000. Depending on which tax bracket these athletes fall in, they could be paying a lot in taxes. ...The U.S. is one of the only developed countries that taxes income earned abroad. So most likely the U.S. will be the only one taxing its athletes who are representing this country. The fact that many of our opposing nations do not require this of their athletes goes to show just how greedy our government is.” [54742]

In the Gallup poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval rating once again falls to 39/52 percent. [54826]

On February 9 BirtherReport.com comes back online after a hacking attack. Meanwhile, Cold Case Posse lead investigator Mike Zullo tells Freedom Friday host Carl Gallups that he has traced the activities of several “Obots” [people who blindly support Obama] to DARPA. According ThePostEmail.com editor, Sharon Rondeau, “Zullo said that some of the IP numbers [Internet Protocol addresses] of those the investigation has been studying ‘go back directly to the [Obama] administration. ...DARPA [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency] is a DOD [Department of Defense] agency where they are working on... robotics... killer robots... they also do psychological warfare stuff. If you look at what some of these people are doing, ...it’s all psychological warfare stuff. Everything they do is to draw you in...’ Zullo said that DARPA is involved in artificial intelligence and that at least one Obot works in that field. Previous[ly]... Zullo had hypothesized that the Obots were compensated for their ‘online’ work, possibly by the Obama regime. ...One Obot, William L. Bryan, claimed responsibility for summoning more than 100 law enforcement personnel to Madisonville, TN on April 20, 2010 to allegedly be prepared for a ‘courthouse takeover’ on the day of a hearing for Walter Francis Fitzpatrick, III. An FBI agent produced a false affidavit implicating Warren Wesley Huff in the alleged plot to take over the courthouse while armed, although eyewitnesses confirmed that Huff was unarmed after exiting his vehicle and did not approach the courthouse, as no observers were allowed to attend the hearing by deputies armed with assault weapons.” [54704, 54736, 54737, 54754, 54755, 54756, 54757, 54762, 54763, 54764, 54827, 55145]

Rondeau continues, “...The Obits have watched and regularly written about Fitzpatrick’s blog posts in an attempt to discredit him as they have with Zullo’s investigation of the [Obama birth certificate] forgery. ...Bryan and his wife are reportedly working as Obamacare navigators. ...Another Obot works for the IRS, while one is believed to be a sociology professor at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. One or more have sent death threats to this writer over several years, including one sent in November which

mentioned Huff, Fitzpatrick, Zullo, [Sheriff Joe] Arpaio, and ‘the Governor’ of Hawaii. ...It has been assumed that [it was] ‘Obots’ [who] hacked The Post & Email to the point that it was forced to migrate to a dedicated server and take subscriptions to cover the costs early in 2012. ...Zullo predicted that when the operatives are exposed publicly, they will, ‘deny, deny, deny.’ Gallups responded that if that happens, ‘they will be lying, lying, lying,’ to which Zullo said, ‘I’ve got the proof, proof, proof.’” [54704, 54736, 54737, 54754, 54755, 54756, 54757, 54762, 54763, 54764, 54827, 55145]

At Townhall.com Christine Rousselle reports that demonstrators protesting North Carolina’s photo ID law for voting are required by the march’s NAACP organizers to provide identification before they will be allowed to participate. (An Elon University poll shows that 80 percent of the state’s residents believe it is fair to require voters to provide photo ID.) [54714, 54715, 54785, 54803]

Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, commander of the elite Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, states, “The Americans can sense by all means how their warships will be sunk with 5,000 crews and forces in combat against Iran and how they should find its hulk in the depths of the sea,” (Iran has sent several of its ships into the Atlantic Ocean, allegedly to eventually approach U.S. maritime borders. Pamela Geller writes, “The more Obama grovels and prostrates himself before Iran, the more empowered and belligerent Iran becomes. Obama created this monster, and *no one is saying anything*. He rewarded a savage and annihilationist regime with regional power and nuclear program sanction. What has Obama said about this gross escalation of hostility and war rhetoric? Nothing. The spineless, gutless coward is unavailable for comment.”) [54833, 54834]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has proposed a new regulation limiting the drugs covered under Medicare’s Part D, the prescription drug component of the program—a rule that could have ‘serious consequences.’ Currently, Part D plans must include medications in six drug categories. But with the new regulation, published in the Federal Register in January, CMS would no longer require all drugs from the antidepressant and immunosuppressant drug classes to be covered by Part D. ‘Seniors would no longer necessarily have access to insurance for these drugs, with serious consequences,’ Diana Furchtgott-Roth, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, wrote in an article published by RealClearMarkets. ‘Depression is the most frequent mental health problem in the elderly, and lack of treatment can lead to suicide,’ she observed. ‘Depressed patients can cause difficulties for family members and caregivers.’ Immunosuppressant drugs are used to prevent the body from rejecting a transplanted organ, and cutting back on these drugs would make transplants more risky and less successful. ... ‘Reducing access to major classes of drugs that were required from the beginning of the Part D program would cut Medicare costs by shortening seniors’ lives, but that is not the direction in which our society wants to go,’ Furchtgott-Roth said, adding that the regulation ‘should be changed’ before it becomes final.” [54746]

According to its latest annual report, Planned Parenthood performed 327,166 abortions between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012. It also conducted 2,197 adoption

agency referrals—a ratio of about 149 to 1. (How many referrals actually resulted in adoptions is not known.) [54746]

Blogger Doug Ross (justifiably) ridicules an article in “the execrable” *Washington Post* by “someone named Sandhya Somashelkhar... [who] found someone delighted that they can quit their job [because of ObamaCare]. You know, to ‘escape job lock,’ which is the new term for Obamacare-induced unemployment.” Somashelkhar writes, “Count Polly Lower among those who quit their jobs because of the health-care law... It happened in September, when her boss abruptly changed her job description. She went from doing payroll, which she liked, to working on her boss’s schedule, which she loathed...” Ross: “Hold up: Polly had to work on *her boss’s schedule*? Oh, the humanity!” Somashelkhar: “At another time, she might have had to grit her teeth and accept the new position because she needed the health benefits... But with the health-care law soon to take effect, she simply resigned—and hasn’t looked back. ‘It was wonderful. It was very freeing,’ said Lower, 56, of Bourbon, Ind...” Ross: “Yes, isn’t being jobless an aspirational goal for everyone? You know, so they can pursue their goals, like writing cowboy poetry or weaving risqué macramé [while the taxpayers pay for your health insurance].” Somashelkhar: “...[Lower] is now babysitting her 5-year-old granddaughter full time. With the help of federal subsidies that kicked in Jan. 1, she is paying less than \$500 a month for health coverage for herself and her husband.” Ross: “So let’s state this more clearly: thanks to Obamacare, Lower has now joined the roughly 100 million Americans collecting an average of \$9,000 each from more than 80 means-tested welfare programs.” [54772, 54773, 54779]

Somashelkhar: “The Washington Post found ...Lower through Families USA, a health advocacy group that supports the health-care law and maintains a database of people who have benefited from it.” Ross: “And just who is Families USA? They’re **an SEIU front group** that has been **pushing for socialized medicine for years. In short**, the *Washington Post* is doing its level best to protect Democrats as we head into the 2014 midterm elections even as millions lose their jobs and their health care; and as many as 100 million more may be similarly impacted in 2015, unless the Imperial President rewrites the Obamacare law again through executive edict. And where does ‘Sandhya Somashelkhar’ and the *Washington Post* find their loathsome propaganda? Why a hardcore, militant labor union aligned with the Marxist-Leninist movement, of course!” (Pamela Geller comments, “The Washington Post is packaging joblessness as ...freeing. The Obama propaganda machine is in fifth gear. Even Hitler’s Minister of Propaganda didn’t try to sell unemployment to the Germans. They used it to sell ...war, but this is Goebbels to the next level. And it’s voluntary state media—this is The Washington Post spreading this manure. I don’t know who or what we are, but this is not America. It’s war on every basic and good fundamental value America ever held dear.” [54772, 54773, 54779]

On ABC’s *This Week*, Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN) argues that ObamaCare’s disincentive to work is a good thing because “people might be able to actually cook dinner rather than have to order out to get some take-out [food]. I mean, the fact is, is that if Americans can have more choices to open up a new business they’ve been wanting to



start, this is a good thing. You know, if you look at international comparisons country by country, Americans work way more than an average of industrialized countries around the world.” (Ellison may not be aware that working hard for long hours is precisely why the United States is far more productive than European nations. People do not work for the fun of it, but to create wealth, and reducing the work means reducing the wealth. Additionally, ObamaCare will force *some* Americans to work even harder so that *others* can work less.) “And you know, we might want to look at our work-life balance and this is something that gives us a great opportunity. ...I mean, the fact of the matter is we need a better work-life balance.” (Ellison, a Muslim socialist, apparently believes the government should be the arbiter of “work-life balances,” rather than individual Americans.) [54788, 54805, 54858]

On the issue of immigration reform, *This Week* moderator Jonathan Karl asks, “Can we acknowledge that this excuse that the [House] speaker [John Boehner] used, it’s [Obama] and Republicans can’t trust him. Can we acknowledge that was a pretty lame excuse?” Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) responds, “[Obama] changed on immigration before [with his unlawful ‘Dream Act’ actions]. He said something he wanted to do was unconstitutional, [yet] a year later, he did it. We have seen him change the health care act repeatedly in ways we think are outside [the law].” [54788, 54805]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) says, “[L]et’s look at the bottom line. The bottom line is this: 10 million Americans have health insurance today who would not have had it without the Affordable Care Act. Ten million.” *The Washington Post* gives Durbin’s claim “four Pinocchios,” writing, “Durbin appears to be combining two figures released by the administration: more 3 million signing up for insurance through the federal HealthCare.gov and state exchanges and 6.3 million deemed eligible for Medicaid. Both figures are generally October through December, and so obviously have increased since then. But there are two big problems with both numbers: a) The troubled federal exchange counts people as enrolled if an individual has selected a plan, but it does not know if a person enrolled and paid a premium because that part of the system has yet to be built. b) The Affordable Care Act expanded Medicaid eligibility, but no one really knows how many of the 6.3 million are in this expansion pool—or whether they are simply renewing or would have qualified for Medicaid before the new law. Indeed, the number also includes people joining Medicaid in states that chose not accept the expansion. Obviously, then, these figures must be treated with caution.” [54796, 54869]

“But Durbin went a step further and claimed that all of these people would not have had health insurance if not for the Affordable Care Act. That’s simply ridiculous. For instance, members of Congress, such as Durbin, previously had health insurance and are now obligated to get it via the exchanges.” (Six million Americans have seen their insurance policies canceled because of ObamaCare, and many of them understandably enrolled in ObamaCare. But it is simply a lie to claim that they “would not have had” insurance “without the Affordable Care Act.” *The Post* notes, “Only 11 percent of consumers who bought new coverage under the law were previously uninsured, according to a McKinsey & Co. survey. HealthMarkets Inc., an insurance agency that enrolled around 7,500 people in exchange plans, said 65 percent of its enrollees had prior

coverage. At Michigan-based Priority Health, only 25 percent of more than 1,000 enrollees surveyed in plans that comply with the law were previously uninsured. ...[T]he Medicaid enrollment numbers are so suspect that, at this point, they should not be used in any formulation regarding the Affordable Care Act. That may change as more information is received, but politicians (and reporters) should be cautious now.” [54796, 54869]

On *Meet the Press*, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) suggests that Republicans who do not trust Obama to properly enforce “comprehensive immigration reform” legislation should “Enact the law this year, but simply not let it actually start until 2017, after ...Obama’s term is over. Now I think the rap against him, that he won’t enforce the law, is false. ...But you can actually have the law start in 2017 without doing much violence to it. You’d simply move the date back from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2013 as to the deadline for people who can get either legalization or citizenships, so we can go after the new people who come in later. And it would solve the problem.” (Republicans would be wise not to fall into Schumer’s trap. If the GOP wins the Senate in the November elections, it can pass legislation in 2015 and produce a much more strict bill than Senate Democrats would insist on in 2014. Even if a bill passed in 2014 were not effective until January 2017, it would still contain what the Democrats want.) [54797]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Mike Rodgers (R-MI) warns that there may be some type of attack during the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Rodgers notes that the games “are being held right dead center in the middle of what has been a historic battleground between Russia and the Chechen rebels that have now spun off into an Islamic, radical, militant group, and so you have the leader of the Chechen rebels... calling for attacks on civilians, including women and children, and then [Ayman al-] Zawahiri, the al Qaeda leader...enforcing that threat. ...I think there’s a high degree of probability that... something will go off... I hope I’m wrong in this assessment.” [54784]

On Fox News, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) explains Obama’s delays in implementing many of the aspects of ObamaCare: “Well, how would you like to run for reelection if you were in the House and the Senate based on ObamaCare with its rising premiums, worse coverage, and now we’re trying to convince you that you’re better off writing poetry than you are working and getting money? I certainly wouldn’t want to defend that in a midterm election... There are very few coincidences in politics. ...Note the irony, that [Obama] is seeking to delay his signature piece of legislation. What else has he accomplished... except ObamaCare? That’s what he put all his marbles on, ObamaCare, and now he wants to delay it until there’s another president. If you need any more evidence, or ‘smidgen’ of evidence to use his word, any more evidence [of] how disastrous this health care law is, the architect doesn’t even want to implement it!” [54810]

DailyCaller.com reports, “...Obama’s 2012 unilateral legalization of 500,000 young illegal immigrants helped him win the 2012 election—at the cost of splitting 500,000 innocent, law-abiding American families for months on end, according to a New York Times article. The ruthless political calculation was buried deep in the low-key article,

which was published on page 20 of the local ‘New York edition’ of the national newspaper. Obama directed officials to award work permits to the illegal immigrants, preventing them from preparing green cards for Americans’ foreign-born spouses and children. ... ‘Until recently, an American could obtain a green card for a [foreign] spouse, child or parent—probably the easiest document in the immigration system—in five months or less,’ the article eventually reveals. ‘But over the past year, waits for approvals of those resident visas stretched to 15 months, and more than 500,000 applications became stuck in the pipeline, playing havoc with international moves and children’s schools and keeping families apart,’ said the article. Just over 800 words into the article, the New York Times explains why Americans and their families are being torn and kept apart. ‘After Mr. Obama announced the deferral program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, in 2012, he gave Citizenship and Immigration Services [CIS] only two months to get it running,’ the article said, without noting that the program had not been approved or funded by the nation’s elected Congress. ‘Agency officials scrambled’ to implement [Obama’s] diktat, the newspaper said, adding that ‘soon after the deferrals were underway, Americans with green card applications felt the impact.’” (In other words, in order to comply with Obama’s demand for rushed work permits for *illegal* immigrants, CIS had to shift manpower to that task from the job of approving green cards for those immigrants who were acting *legally* and playing by the rules.) [54818]

FreeBeacon.com reports on the release of documents from the archives of Diane Blair, “a political science professor Hillary Clinton described as her ‘closest friend’ before Blair’s death in 2000” that “record years of candid conversations with the Clintons on issues ranging from single-payer health care to Monica Lewinsky. The archive includes correspondence, diaries, interviews, strategy memos, and contemporaneous accounts of conversations with the Clintons ranging from the mid-1970s to the turn of the millennium. ... The full contents of the archive, which before 2010 was closed to the public, have not previously been reported on and shed new light on Clinton’s three decades in public life. The records paint a complex portrait of Hillary Clinton, revealing her to be a loyal friend, devoted mother, and a cutthroat strategist who relished revenge against her adversaries and complained in private that nobody in the White House was ‘tough and mean enough.’” Whether there are any “smoking guns” in the Blair documents to keep Clinton from gaining the presidency—or even winning the Democrat nomination—in 2016 remains to be seen. But George Neumayr notes at Spectator.org that Hillary Clinton comes across in the documents as rather cavalier in her dismissal of women who complained about her husband or even Republicans: “According to Blair’s notes, Hillary described the women complaining about the Oregon Republican’s [Senator Bob Packwood’s] advances as ‘whiney,’ a petulant description prompted by Packwood’s utility to her: ‘HC tired of all those whiney women, and she needs him on health care.’ [That is, Packwood could intimidate and harass women all he wanted as long as he supported ‘Hillarycare.’] Liberalism’s double standards turn on such simple political calculus: exploiters of women who serve the cause are to be overlooked; exploited women who threaten the careers of such men are to be dismissed as whiners and crazies.” [54809, 54812, 54814, 55072]

On February 10 former 2003 Miss America Erika Harold appears on *Fox & Friends* to discuss her campaign for a Congressional seat in Illinois' 13th District. (If elected, the conservative and Harvard educated Harold would be the nation's first black Republican Congresswoman.) [54791]

CaPoliticalNews.com reports, "You can tell the vibrancy of an economy by looking at the sales tax and use tax revenues. In January those were done 9% in California. That means while income tax collection were [sic; was] up, sales [tax revenues] were down. People are either paying off debt or see the next hard Depression hitting the State and [are] savings [sic; saving] money for that reality." [55751]

Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, tweets that for Valentine's Day women need "cancer screenings," "well woman visits," and "safe + legal abortion." A pro-life group called "New Wave Feminists" responds with their own wish list: "Non-violent options for an unplanned pregnancy" "To know they are strong enough to choose life!" "...resources to be empowered to make non-violent choices" "The truth: abortion hurts. Forever." "A pregnancy care center in place of every Planned Parenthood." "Real men! Who will always love + protect them and their children" "Prenatal care (which Planned Parenthood does not provide)" and "The right to life." (Obama and Wendy Davis have no comment.) [54925, 54926, 55045, 55079]

The Middle East Forum's Daniel Pipes posts this letter: "I work at a university library in Boston, Mass., and books are shelved according to the Dewey Decimal System, not by title or 'importance.' Muslim students (most of them from abroad) told administrators that they were offended because the Koran wasn't given a place of honor on a top shelf, as dictated by Islamic law and custom. Library staff were then ordered to shift entire sections of books in the stacks so that the Koran could be 'honored' appropriately. This is absurd; we do not live in a Muslim country, nor is ours a religious school. We treat the Koran, the Bible, Hindu texts, Buddhist texts, etc. with the same respect we show to all our books, yet Muslim students miss the point. Non-Muslims are expected to follow local custom when visiting Muslim countries, which is fine, yet many Muslims insist that their ways be followed in non-Muslim countries too." (Pamela Geller asks, "Why is it that Muslims in Western countries wail and complain about everything ...except Islamic terrorism? ...Muslim supremacists said that taking down the US from within would be easy—they were right." Obama has no comment.) [55029, 55030]

The Democrat National Committee declares, "ObamaCare is working. Only minutes later, the Obama administration postpones for *another* year the law's employer mandate, making the rule effective 2016, rather than 2015, for businesses with 50–99 employees. (The Affordable Care Act specifically designates January 2014 as the effective date for the employer mandate, and the requirement to provide insurance applies to businesses with 50 or more employees. Obama has no legal authority to delay the mandate or change the threshold from 50 to 100 workers. The Affordable Care Act's employer mandate section specifically states: "EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013." That is the law, and *Obama has no authority to change it*. His action is unconstitutional—and he knows it. But he

also knows that Congress lacks the courage to confront him or threaten him with impeachment, and that the mainstream media would back him in any such confrontation. That was made clear by MSNBC's *PoliticsNation*, on which Democrat strategist Angela Rye stated, "You don't just fight to get the person out of office because you don't like how they comb their hair, the color of their skin or the fact that they're black in the White House. That's not what you do.") [54792, 54793, 54825, 54840, 54842, 54849, 54862, 54866, 54868, 55179]

Not only does Obama not have the legal authority to delay the employer mandate, the Affordable Care Act specifically addresses the issue. The Cato Institute's Michael Cannon notes that the law authorizes waivers of the employer mandate only for states, and "only if the state enacts a law that would provide equally comprehensive health insurance to as many residents, and only if that law would impose no additional cost to the federal government, and only if there is a 'meaningful level of public input' over the waiver and its approval, and even then not until 2017." At Politico, Rich Lowry asks, "Why did anyone sit down and bother to write this stuff in the bill? Just think of all the lawyering and negotiating that went into the provisions of the employer mandate—the careful definition of terms, the precisely calculated fines—only to be cast aside with a dismissive wave of the hand from on high." [54970]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, "The law's full implementation date has been shoved back by another full year, the relevant worker threshold has been unilaterally doubled, and larger businesses have also received a special partial exemption. Let there be no mistake: The Obama administration is simply re-writing Obamacare on the fly, with no regard for the plain text of the statute. This is lawless behavior, as was the first big delay. The Obama Precedent is now firmly set. Future presidents may delay, postpone, or alter any portion of the this law that they find unworkable. Or politically inconvenient. Or... anything at all, really. ...The administration has now twice bestowed major Obamacare delays on businesses (a tacit acknowledgement that the law's effects are harmful to the job market and economic growth). At what point do average families and individuals get the same treatment? Millions are projected to pay the mandate tax in 2014 and beyond, most of whom are declining to obtain coverage because it costs too much. This administration has granted 'hardship waivers' to some individuals who've lost their coverage because of Obamacare and can't afford the new rates. Why not extend the same fair deal to all Americans? The individual mandate tax is deeply unpopular; a massive majority of Americans support its delay. Please, Democrats, explain why middle class families must comply with this ever-changing law, while businesses get special exemptions and extensions. Also, please explain why you were willing to shut down the government when Republicans tried to delay this law through the democratic process—yet this unilateral decree is just fine. They've struggled to articulate a legal justification for these Obamacare power-grabs in the recent past. Remember, the individual mandate was upheld as a tax. Can [Obama] just rewrite tax laws now? Again, think of the precedent being set here." (By delaying the employer mandate for another year, Obama is hoping to help Democrat candidates by giving employers who plan on eliminating employee insurance coverage a reason to delay those actions until after the 2014 mid-term elections.) [54792, 54793]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) comments, “The White House seems to have a new exemption from its failed law for a different group every month. It’s time to extend that exemption to families and individuals—not just businesses. The real answer is to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with reforms that lower costs and that Americans support.” [54792, 54793]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, “Once again, [Obama] is giving a break to corporations while individuals and families are still stuck under the mandates of his health care law. And, once again, [Obama] is rewriting law on a whim. If the administration doesn’t believe employers can manage the burden of the law, how can struggling families be expected to?” [54825]

On CNN, Senior Political Correspondent Brianna Keiler says, “There certainly were political considerations [in the decision to again delay the employer mandate]. There were a lot of businesses who were, uh, saying that this is a requirement that is tough for them. So this is, it... it’s kind of a double-edged sword though I think for the White House because on one hand this allows them to put off this requirement beyond this pivotal mid-term election. ...Obama, one of his major political goals right now, is to insure that Democrats retain control of the Senate. So this kinda takes out some of the, uh, gunpowder there, I think the Republicans would have. But it’s also... another admission of the problems with the law. There have been a number of changes, delays, fumbles, and this is yet another one.” [54792, 54793]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Philip Klein writes that Obama’s latest Affordable Care Act changes “raise several important issues. To start, the employer mandate was put in place to prevent a scenario under which businesses simply dump workers into government-run exchanges. A constantly evolving weakened employer mandate makes dumping more likely. As designed, the employer mandate also gave businesses an incentive to reduce the number of its full-time employees so that they could get under the cap that triggers the mandate. But, with Democrats on the defensive over the failures of the health care law during the 2014 election year, it isn’t surprising that the White House would want to avoid bad headlines and push back full implementation once again. In the past, I wrote that ‘Obama has turned his signature legislative accomplishment into a constantly evolving wikilaw, with editing privileges restricted to himself and a few administration officials.’ If Obama believes the employer mandate is a bad idea that needs to be repealed or severely changed, he should propose permanent changes rather than erratic piecemeal fixes. But for Obama, it isn’t acceptable for opponents of the health care law to seek changes through the constitutional legislative process. That’s sabotage. The only way to make changes to Obamacare is for him to do so unilaterally, no matter what the text of the law actually says. Future Republican presidential aspirants, take note.” [54901, 54902]

Asked by a reporter about Iranian warships heading into the Atlantic Ocean, White House press secretary Jay Carney says, “There was an Iranian announcement that they are moving ships close to the United States, and we have no evidence that Iran is, in fact,

sending ships close to the U.S. border.” Asked if he was officially disputing the report, Carney replies, “Is Fox [News] reporting that they’re moving warships closer to the U.S.?” (Whether everyone else in the Obama administration treats Iranian actions so flippantly is not clear.) [54864]

French President Francois Hollande and Obama visit Thomas Jefferson’s home at Monticello. Igor Bobic, assistant editor of Talking Points Memo, reports that they “walked out from a portico and strolled in front of [the reporters] with Leslie Bowman, president of the Monticello Foundation. Looking at a terrace she said that Jefferson loved to admire the landscape from there. [Obama] said that he’d like to take a look and seemed delighted to ‘break the protocol.’ ‘That’s the good thing as a president, I can do whatever I want,’ he quipped, walking to the terrace with his guest and Ms. Bowman.” (Regrettably for the American people, Obama actually believes he can do anything he wants—including arbitrarily postponing ObamaCare rules when he finds doing politically beneficial.) At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey asks, “If you had to name one American President who put up the most resistance to an imperial presidency, which comes to mind first? For most, it would be Thomas Jefferson, the third American President under the Constitution that Jefferson influenced with his ideals, based ultimately on the rejection of monarchical power Jefferson co-wrote in the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson not only fiercely rejected attempts to monarchize the presidency, he made a large pretense of being an ordinary gentleman as President, sometimes answering the door personally at the White House when visitors called. That’s what makes [Obama’s] gaffe... so deliciously—and sadly—ironic.” [54794, 54841, 54844, 54856, 54863, 54874, 54880, 54909]

It is worth noting that Richard M. Nixon once famously said, “When the President does it, that means it is not illegal.” (How that differs from “I can do whatever I want” is not clear.) [54863]

Reuters reports, “Russian police killed four suspected militants, law enforcement officials said on Monday, in a shootout at a house in the North Caucasus, highlighting regional security concerns near the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi. The gun fight broke out on Saturday after police surrounded a private house used by militants in the province of Dagestan, which lies some 600 kilometers (380 miles) from Sochi on the other end of the Caucasus Mountain chain. ...President Vladimir Putin, who has invested personal and political prestige to ensure the Games’ success, ordered security forces on high alert after a suicide bomber killed at least 37 in the southern Russian city of Volgograd in December. Militants wage violence to establish an Islamist state in the predominantly Muslim North Caucasus. Militant leader Doku Umarov, Russia’s most wanted man, threatened to disrupt the Olympic Games in a video posted online last year.” (Pamela Geller quips, “Putin kills them, Obama appoints them to DHS.”) [54835]

FoxNews.com reports, “The glitches and other problems with the ObamaCare website that sparked a national firestorm are similar to those military veterans using the federal government’s online benefits system have routinely faced for about the past 18 months. Eric Jenkins, a veteran and American Federation of Government Employees

representative, recently told Congress that during January the Veterans Benefits Management System crashed about once a week with downtimes ranging from one hour to multiple days. ‘The constant... technical issues and frequent shutdowns make it difficult for me and others to serve veterans,’ Jenkins told a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee. The \$537 million system went online in fall 2012 at a Department of Veterans Affairs office in New England and is now in all 56 regional offices. The change to a paperless system was a major part of the Veterans Affairs' goal of eliminating a massive backlog of compensation claims by 2015, with 98 percent accuracy.” [54765]

At LewRockwell.com Alt-Market.com’s Brandon Smith writes, “The financial crash of 2008, the same crash which has been ongoing for years, is NOT an accident. It is a concerted and engineered crisis meant to position the U.S. for currency disintegration and the institution of a global basket currency controlled by an unaccountable supranational governing body like the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The American populace is being conditioned through economic fear to accept the institutionalization of global financial control and the loss of sovereignty. ...I stand more on the position that the Fed[ederal Reserve] taper was actually begun in preparation for a slowdown in global markets that was already in progress. In fact, I believe central bankers have been well aware that a decline in every sector was coming, and are moving to insulate themselves. ...[T]he Federal Reserve WANTED to launch the taper program and protect itself before these [economic slowdown] signals began to reach the public. Look at it this way—The taper program distances the bankers from responsibility for crisis in our financial framework, at least in the eyes of the general public. If a market calamity takes place WHILE stimulus measures are still at full speed, this makes the banks look rather guilty, or at least incompetent. People would begin to question the validity of central bank methods, and they might even question the validity of the central bank’s existence. The Fed is creating space between itself and the economy because they know that a trigger event is coming. They want to ensure that they are not blamed and that stimulus itself is not seen as ineffective, or seen as the cause. We all know that the claims of recovery are utter nonsense. Beyond the numerous warning signs listed above, one need only look at true unemployment numbers, household wage decline, and record low personal savings of the average American. The taper is not in response to an improving economic environment. Rather, the taper is a signal for the next stage of collapse.” [54778]

“Stocks are beginning to plummet around the world and all mainstream pundits are pointing fingers at a reduction in stimulus which has very little to do with anything. What is the message they want us to digest? That we ‘can’t live’ without the aid and oversight of central banks. The real reason stocks and other indicators are stumbling is because the effectiveness of stimulus manipulation has a shelf life, and that shelf life is over for the Federal Reserve. I suspect they will continue cutting QE every month for the next year as stocks decline. Will the Fed restart QE? If they do, it will probably not occur until after a substantial breakdown has ensued and the public is sufficiently shell-shocked. The possibility also exists that the Fed will never return to stimulus measures (if debt default is the plan), and QE stimulus will eventually be replaced by IMF ‘aid.’ ...Last month, just as taper measures were being implemented, the White House launched an investment program called MyRA; a retirement IRA program in which middle class and low wage



Americans can invest part of their paycheck in government bonds. That's right, if you wanted to know where the money was going to come from to support U.S. debt if the Fed cuts QE, guess what, the money is going to come from YOU. ...I find it rather suspicious that a government-controlled retirement program is suddenly introduced just as the Fed has begun to taper, as stocks are beginning to fall, and as questions arise over the U.S. debt ceiling." (It is worth noting that Obama's proposed MyRA would be a lousy investment, as the G Fund bonds that would be issued pay an interest rate that does not even keep up with inflation. Americans would therefore lose money on their MyRAs. Additionally, the MyRA is limited to a maximum on \$15,000—hardly an amount on which one can retire in poverty, let alone live comfortably.) [54778, 56444]

"...[T]he next debt ceiling debate is slated for the end of this month. If the government decides to kick the can down the road for another quarter, I believe this will be the last time. The most recent actions of the Fed and the government signal preparations for a stock implosion and ultimate debt calamity. Default would have immediate effects in foreign markets, but the appearance of U.S. stability could drag on for a time, giving the globalists ample opportunity to siphon every ounce of financial blood from the public. It is difficult to say how the next year will play out, but one thing is certain; something very strange and ugly is afoot. The goal of the globalists is to engineer desperation. To create a catastrophe and then force the masses to beg for help. How many hands of 'friendship' will be offered in the wake of a U.S. wealth and currency crisis? What offers for 'aid' will come from the IMF? How much of our country and how many of our people will be collateralized to secure that aid? And, how many Americans will go along with the swindle because they were not prepared in advance?" [54778]

Manuel Osorio-Arellanes, who murdered Border Agent Brian Terry with a weapon obtained from Operation Fast and Furious, is sentenced to 30 years in prison. (Attorney General Eric Holder remains free.) [54802, 54822, 54829]

At Investors.com Michael Barone asks, "Is Barack Obama trying to shift alliances in the Middle East away from traditional allies and toward Iran? Robert Kaplan, author and geopolitical analyst for the Stratford consulting firm, thinks so. In a [realclearworld.com](http://realclearworld.com) article, Kaplan argues that the Obama administration sees the recently elected Iranian President Hassan Rouhani 'as a potential Deng Xiaoping, someone from within the ideological solidarity system who can, measure-by-stealthy-measure, lead his country away from ideology and toward internal reform.' Such a development, he goes on, is 'something that could, in turn, result in an understanding with the West.' That of course is not what [Obama] and Secretary of State John Kerry say they're up to. They say they're trying to get Iran to agree to stop its nuclear weapons development. No talk of a new alliance." Kaplan suggests that Obama is trying to construct "a concert of powers that would include America, Iran, Russia and Europe," all opposed to Sunni al-Qaeda terrorists. (*The Obama Timeline* believes Kaplan is mistaken. First and foremost, Rouhani is not a "moderate." He simply "plays one on television." He was chosen by the Ayatollahs and does their bidding, as did Mahmoud Ahmadinejad before him. Secondly, Obama has consistently taken the side of the Sunni Muslims against the Shi'ite Muslims.

He is not about to get in bed with the Iranians and turn his back on Saudi Arabia.)  
[54861, 54896]

Judicial Watch announces “that on January 31, 2014, it received documents from the Department of Defense (Pentagon) revealing that within hours of its filing a May 13, 2011, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit seeking photos of the deceased Osama bin Laden, U.S. Special Operations Commander, Admiral William McRaven ordered his subordinates to ‘destroy’ any photos they may have had ‘immediately.’ Judicial Watch had filed a FOIA request for the photos 11 days earlier. The McRaven email, addressed to ‘Gentlemen,’ instructs: ‘One particular item that I want to emphasize is photos; particularly UBLs remains. At this point—all photos should have been turned over to the CIA; if you still have them destroy them immediately or get them to the [redacted].’ According to the Pentagon documents, McRaven sent his email on ‘Friday, May 13, 2011 5:09 PM.’ The documents do not detail what documents, if any, were destroyed in response to the McRaven directive. The Judicial Watch FOIA lawsuit seeking the documents was filed in the United States Court for the District of Columbia only hours earlier. Judicial Watch also announced the filing at a morning press conference.” Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton states, “The McRaven ‘destroy them immediately’ email is a smoking gun, revealing both contempt for the rule of law and the American’s people right to know. The Obama administration has tried to cover this scandal up—and our lawsuit exposed it. We demand further investigation of the effort to destroy documents about the bin Laden raid.” [54883, 54884]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder will step down this year, he said in an interview with the New Yorker’s Jeffrey Toobin in the magazine’s Feb. 17 edition. In a feature article, Mr. Holder said he plans on staying in his position ‘well into’ the year.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Holder will not leave before the November elections—and after he has done everything he can to block photo ID laws. Some sources, including the Department of Justice, claim that Toobin is incorrect and that Holder is not leaving the Obama administration.) [54885, 54887, 54935, 54936]

WND.com reports that although Obama “insists the Internal Revenue Service is not guilty of the political targeting of nonprofits, WND has learned the agency contracts with an avowedly ‘progressive’ organization supported by George Soros to process data filed by smaller tax-exempt groups. The federal agency process sends details contained in the annual filings for organizations with \$50,000 in annual receipts or less to the Urban Institute, which is funded at least partly by government payments as well as contributions from far-left activist George Soros. The IRS page directs groups to file with the Urban Institute [UI], although apparently other providers also can file the Form 990 documentation, which is required of every nonprofit, small and large. ... The supposedly ‘nonpartisan’ organization’s employees have a record of donating nearly 100 percent of their political contributions to Democrats, and officially, the Urban Institute advocates for totally socialized medicine, carbon taxes and amnesty for illegal aliens. And UI’s president, Sarah Rosen Wartell, is the co-founder of the Center for American Progress, widely considered ground zero for the development of many of the Obama administration’s progressive policies.” (By outsourcing some of its work to the Urban

Institute, the IRS is essentially ordering small, non-profit conservative organizations to turn over their confidential, financial information to a group with totally opposite political ideologies. Obama is using the IRS as a weapon against the American people.) [54891, 54892]

On MSNBC's *The Cycle*, moderator Krystal Ball says, "I deeply respect Hillary Clinton. I think she's a great intellect with great fortitude. I think she was a strong secretary of state, a hardworking and effective senator. But I've come to a difficult realization: I don't want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016. I do not think she is the right person for this moment. ... That [2008] moment has passed. We are now in a moment of existential crisis. As a country we are recovering slowly from the 'Great Recession,' but as we pick our heads up and look around at where we're heading, we don't like where we see. ... Is someone who sat on the rabidly anti-union [board] of Walmart for six years the right person to restore workers rights? At a time when we're still reeling from a global financial disaster brought on by foolhardy bank regulation, is someone who recently took \$400,000 to give two speeches at Goldman Sachs the person we need to wrest control of the asylum back from the banking inmates?" Ball calls for someone who is "mission-driven, who's clearly passionate, living and breathing and feeling in their bones the plight of the worker, of the middle class." Ball then shows a video of Senator Elizabeth "You didn't build that" Warren (D-MA), the latest darling of the "progressives" and the socialists, and says, "To be clear, I would back Hillary with all my heart against any Republican, and I would even support Hillary over most Democrats. But her entry into the race would likely keep out Elizabeth Warren or another middle-class champion. So while I admire and respect Secretary Clinton deeply," she concluded, "I must say: Don't run, Hillary. Don't run." [54845, 54992]

The CBS affiliate in San Francisco reports, "After KPIX 5 ConsumerWatch revealed confusion over which physicians are accepting patients under Covered California, some doctors who did not want to accept patients on the exchange said they were surprised to find out they were on the exchange's list of providers. Last week, KPIX 5 reported on Covered California enrollees who found many doctors on the insurance exchange's list wouldn't accept them as patients. ... Independent physicians across California say they can't afford to participate in Covered California's insurance plans because the reimbursement rates are too low, and they say they don't have the clout doctors with larger medical groups have to negotiate higher rates. They also warn that could mean a shortage of doctors in areas largely served by independent physicians. Dr. Marie President is one of those doctors unhappy with reimbursement rates. The Redwood City internist said she was surprised to even find herself on a provider list published on the Covered California site. 'We were astonished because we hadn't signed anything yet,' President told KPIX 5. Additionally, she says the reimbursement rates offered under the state's plan aren't realistic. Taking patients under those circumstances isn't practical, President said. 'We can't, or we'll be out of business.' ... For example, President said, if a doctor bills \$134 for a standard office visit, a standard insurance policy will reimburse the physician \$87. But under one of the new Covered California policies, the same insurer will reimburse the physician just \$59. By comparison, even Medicare pays more,

at \$84. ‘We can’t maintain operations at that level of reimbursement,’ President said.” [54870]

MediaIte.com reports, “The Seattle Children’s Hospital is suing Washington state’s insurance commissioner over a ‘failure to ensure adequate network coverage’ in the insurance exchanges established as part of the Affordable Care Act. ‘We’re seeing denials in care, disruptions in care. We’re seeing a great deal of confusion and, at times, anger and frustration on the part of these families who bought insurance thinking that their children would be covered,’ a doctor with the hospital said. ‘And, in fact, it’s a false promise.’ A recent CBS News report detailed the experience of one mother whose child recently came down with an ear infection. The mother, who received coverage through Washington’s insurance exchange, was provided with a letter approving her request to see a specialist. Four days later, however, that same insurer sent her a letter denying that request. ‘This is not an isolated incident,’ said The Seattle Children’s Hospital’s Dr. Sandy Melzer. ‘The exclusion of a major provider like Seattle Children’s from a major insurance network in this market is unprecedented.’” [54881]

According to TheHill.com, Healthcare.gov “will be out of order from 3 p.m. on [Saturday] Feb. 15 until 5 a.m. on Tuesday [February 18]... Those seeking [ObamaCare] coverage by March 1 must have signed up online by Feb. 15, but with the website maintenance, those registering at the last minute won’t be able to find out what plans or subsidies they qualify for.” RedAlertPolitics.com points out that “Feb. 15 is also National Youth Enrollment Day, where the administration is promoting more than 200 nationwide events where young people can get covered. Groups such as United Way, Young Invincibles, Get Covered America and the American Cancer Society are partnering to promote enrollment through different events.” (More than 200 events will be used to persuade people to enroll in ObamaCare on a day when its web site will be brought down early for maintenance.) [54931, 54932, 54933]

Investors.com reports, “With less than seven weeks of open enrollment to go, ObamaCare enrollment—and payments—have slowed to a near-crawl in some states. ...The January data available from a handful of states raise new doubts about whether ObamaCare’s downgraded first-year prospects are still too optimistic. Further, a spotty payment rate (50% in Washington and 66% in Nevada) creates a risk that the demographics of the paid exchange population may be older—and possibly sicker—than even the national sign-up data have signaled. ...More will be known about how pervasive these trends are when the Obama administration releases January data for all of the exchanges in coming days. But January data from New York, Colorado, Maryland and Kentucky (easily accessible via [acasignups.net](http://acasignups.net)) all suggest that the momentum which carried from December into January substantially faded in the second half of the month.” [54952]

On their evening newscasts, ABC, CBS, and NBC each report on Obama’s new delay of the health care law’s employer mandate, but not one mentions the possibility that his action may be unconstitutional. [54859]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the latest arbitrary change in ObamaCare by Obama: “Generally speaking, you get past the next election by changing your policies, by announcing new initiatives, but not by wantonly changing the law lawlessly. I mean, this is stuff that you do in a banana republic. It’s as if the law is simply a blackboard on which Obama writes any number he wants, any delay he wants and any provision. It’s now reached a point where it is so endemic that nobody even notices or complains. I think if the complaints had started with the first arbitrary changes—and these are not adjustments or transitions, these are political decisions to minimize the impact leading up to an election, and it’s changing the law in a way that you are not allowed to do. ...It’s not incompetence, it’s willful breaking of the constitutional order. Where in the constitution is a president allowed to alter a law 27 times after it’s been passed?” [54816, 54817, 54843]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly reports a “special rule” in the Obama administration’s delay of the employer mandate to 2016. The revised rule delays the mandate for businesses with fewer than 100 employees, but it *also prohibits* businesses that have 100 or more employees from reducing their workforce to get under 100 unless they *certify to the IRS* that the action had nothing to do with ObamaCare. The new IRS regulations state that “the employer may not reduce the size of its workforce or the overall hours of service of its employees” unless it “self-attests” that it has “bona fide business reasons” that are unrelated to the ObamaCare mandate. *In essence, businesses will need the permission of the IRS to reduce their employee count or reduce working hours.* If the IRS is not satisfied with the employer’s justification, the business can be prosecuted for perjury. (More than a few tax filers know, of course, that the IRS can be unreasonably hard to satisfy.) Absurdly, ObamaCare gives businesses an incentive to lay off employees and reduce their hours and then punishes them if they do so. *(This is totalitarianism, pure and simple. Businesses should fight the rule with all the ferocity they can muster, and Republicans should demand that Obama rescind the rule—or face impeachment.)* Kelly and guest Marc Thiessen of the American Enterprise Institute point out that the Democrats have ridiculed Republicans for suggesting that ObamaCare will cost jobs—and Obama has now implemented a rule that proves they *know* the Republicans are correct. (Employers with 100 or more employees arguably have a basis for challenging Obama’s rule change in court because the delay in imposing the mandate provides smaller businesses with an unfair competitive advantage. A business with 100 or more employees must provide employees with health insurance, while employees with 50–99 need not do so until 2016.) [54840, 54842, 54867, 54938, 55179]

It is worth noting that on March 31, 2008 Obama said, “You know, I taught constitutional law fer [sic; for] ten years. I take the Constitution *very* seriously. The biggest problems that we’re facing right now have to do with George Bush trying to bring more and more power into the executive branch and not go through Congress at all, and that’s what I intend to reverse when I’m President of the United States of America.” (Although Obama portrays himself as having been a “Constitutional law professor”—and the media goes along—he was actually only a part-time law lecturer at the University of Chicago (1992–1996) and senior lecturer (1996–2004). A law lecturer is only one step up from a graduate student teaching introductory courses. Although constitutional law was the subject he

allegedly taught, he was not a full law professor. Obama appears never to have published any law articles, reviews, opinions, or scholarly writings that are expected of faculty members. Obama was not a tenured professor and shied away from friendships with others on the staff. Interestingly, Obama did not seek a spot on the Senate Judiciary Committee when he became a U.S. Senator. One unnamed faculty member of the University of Chicago relates that Obama was “lazy, unqualified,” “never attended any of the faculty meetings,” and had the “lowest intellectual capacity in the building.” [42, 53. 245, 324, 345, 420, 819, 842 pp. 67–68; 935, 936, 1085, 1311, 1362, 2500, 2501, 2510, 8851, 8852, 9189, 9242, 9243, 9335, 9453, 9492, 9493, 9494, 9495, 9594, 10303, 54984, 55044, 55050]

*The Obama Timeline* believes the certification rule is intended not solely to discourage employers from laying off workers to get under the 100 employee ObamaCare threshold. In fact, it is unlikely that the government would actually make any intense effort to prosecute employers for perjury. The certification rule is also meant to prevent employers from *saying* that any layoffs are the result of ObamaCare. If an employer fires three employees because of ObamaCare—and he tells the employees that is the reason they are being let go—that story might make the evening news. Obama has now effectively prevented that from happening, because an employer who certifies to the IRS that the terminations were *not* ObamaCare-related can hardly emphasize to anyone that they were. *Obama’s certification rule is essentially a form of censorship: “Fire them if you have to, but don’t tell anyone why you’re doing it. I want people to blame ‘evil capitalism’ for their job losses, not my ‘signature legislation.’”* The absurdity of Obama’s rule is monumental. If a business has 101 employees and has to provide each of them with health insurance that costs, for example, \$8,500 per employee, that business must come up with \$858,000 per year in new revenue to pay the premiums. If the business does not provide them with insurance, it faces a \$2,000-per-employee penalty, or \$202,000 per year. What if the employer has neither the \$858,000 or even the \$202,000? Does the owner simply shrug his shoulders, give up, and close down the business? Or does he fire two employees to get his employee count under 100, and then falsely “certify” to the IRS that his decision was *not* the result of ObamaCare? *Obama has put the employer in the position of either going out of business or committing perjury.* Obama—who is himself a criminal for implementing rules and waivers without having the Constitutional authority to do so—is making criminals out of honest businessmen. The only other option the employer has is to increase prices on his goods or services—enough to generate an additional \$202,000 or \$858,000 per year. That will happen across the country. It will start with businesses that have 100 or more employees, followed by businesses with 50–99 employees. Prices will skyrocket—but no one will be permitted to say that ObamaCare was the cause. [55179]

Obama hosts a 350-guest state dinner for French President Francois Hollande. (According to WashingtonTimes.com the 2,500-calorie menu featured “a main course of dry-aged ribeye [sic; rib eye] beef served with blue cheese, 12 varieties of potatoes and quail eggs. The first course was American Osetra caviar, farmed from sturgeon in estuaries in Illinois, followed by a ‘winter garden salad.’ Dessert was a selection of sweets: a chocolate malted cake that combined bittersweet chocolate from Hawaii and

tangerines from Florida, served with vanilla ice cream made in Pennsylvania. Also on the menu were fudge made from Vermont maple syrup, lavender shortbread cookies and cotton candy dusted with orange zest.”) Dinner guests include the usual assortment of Hollywood and media leftists, a few token Republican members of Congress, race-baiter Al Sharpton, Stephen Colbert, Cicely Tyson, CNN head Jeff Zucker, and Eliseo Medina—an SEIU leader who fasted for 22 days in 2013 to pressure Congress to pass illegal immigrant amnesty legislation. (Whether Median eagerly consumed all 2,500 calories is not reported.) [54872, 54873, 54876, 54879, 54882, 54886, 54921, 54922, 54923, 54924, 54929, 54958, 54959, 54960, 54961, 54994, 55023]

At the dinner—to which his wife wore a Carolina Herrera dress CNN estimates as costing between \$10,000 and \$12,000—Obama complains that he has less power than French kings, “And the king didn’t have to deal with the filibuster.” (In the past, Obama has complained, “I’m not emperor of the United States,” “I am not king,” is “constrained” by the U.S. Constitution, “I am not a dictator,” “It would be easier to be president of China,” and “The problem is that I’m [only] the president of the United States, I’m not the emperor of the United States. My job is to execute laws that are passed.” Clearly, Obama is obsessed with wanting more power and is frustrated that the Constitution dares to place limits on what he can do without Congressional approval. Some—including *The Obama Timeline*—might argue that he is in need of professional psychotherapy.) On CNN, Sally Quinn later says, “I think that [Michelle Obama’s] dress probably cost around \$12,000. But that’s just my guess. ... The Obamas have entertained less, had fewer state dinners than most [in the White House] because they don’t particularly like to entertain. They keep to themselves a lot, but also because of the economy. I mean, you know, they—when people are starving and don’t have jobs, it doesn’t look good to spend too much money, but I think that the economy is up enough now and it’s important for us to entertain the French. So I think this is—it’s worth every penny.” (Quinn does not explain *why* it is important to entertain the French.) [54872, 54873, 54876, 54879, 54882, 54886, 54921, 54922, 54923, 54924, 54929, 54958, 54959, 54960, 54961, 54994, 55023, 55040]

On February 11 the House of Representatives votes 221–201 to raise the debt ceiling—with no spending cuts or other restrictions attached. The “clean” bill passes with 193 Democrat and 28 Republican votes. Two Democrats join 199 Republicans in voting against the measure. Conservatives will be angry that House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) did not fight for any conditions to be attached to the legislation. Of course, the Senate would very likely not have agreed to them anyway, and in any resulting battle Obama the Democrats—and the mainstream media—would portray the Republicans as the villains. There is arguably little the GOP can do unless they can capture the Senate in the November elections—or are willing to stand firm, demand spending cuts, shut down the government, take the political heat, and force Obama and the Democrats to cave in. Some will argue that the Democrats are the losers in the debt ceiling vote because it takes away the chance that there could have been another “showdown” in which they could pound on the Republicans for putting the nation’s credit rating at risk. Instead, the GOP can continue to pound on Obama and the Democrats over ObamaCare. Nevertheless, soon after the vote conservatives start calling for Boehner to lose his Speaker position. Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson calls the vote the “least bad move” for the

Republicans. [54846, 54857, 54860, 54865, 54878, 54895, 54898, 54911, 54912, 54934, 54941, 54983]

The Heritage Foundation's Stephen Moore alter points out that "the debt ceiling wasn't actually raised, but simply suspended for one year through March 2015. Technically, this allows Congress to spend however much it wants over the next thirteen months with no recourse against an election-year spending spree. So it's Johnny bar the door on new spending in Washington. This is like suspending all the speed limits on the highways." [55046]

Later in the day, the House votes 326–90 to reinstate full cost-of-living-allowance increases to military pensions that had been cut in the latest budget agreement. [54934]

On the floor of the Alabama House of Representatives, Democrat representative Alvin Holmes says he does not like Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas because "he's married to a white woman." Holmes and Thomas are black. (By that logic, Holmes should dislike one half of Obama. Holmes has not criticized New York City's new communist mayor, who is a white man married to a black woman.) Raising the ire of leftists in general and blacks in particular is a (correct) observation by Thomas that society has become far too race conscious. Obama, Attorney General Eric "my people" Holder, and MSNBC's Chris Matthews have no comment. [54979, 54996, 55051, 55098, 55424]

Christa McClure, director of "partner engagement" for the ObamaCare exchange Connect for Health Colorado, is placed on paid administrative leave. According to the *Denver Post*, McClure is "accused of stealing from a nonprofit housing organization she oversaw in Montana." [55001, 55008]

During a joint press conference with visiting President Francois Hollande, Obama is asked by a French reporter, "You have actually praised France very warmly today, and granted our president the first state visit of your second term. Does that mean that France has become the best European ally of the U.S. and has replaced Great Britain in that role, and if so why not extend the no-spying agreement you have with England, after the leaked scandal of the NSA surveillance program?" To the groans of reporters, Obama replies, "First of all, uh, I have two daughters, and they are both gorgeous and wonderful and I would never choose between them. And that's how I feel about my outstanding European partners. All of them are wonderful in their own ways. Now to the serious part of the question, what I do believe is, the U.S.-French alliance has never been stronger. And the levels of cooperation we're seeing across a whole range of issues is much deeper than it was 5 years ago, 10 years ago, 20 years ago. And that's good for France, it's good for the United States, it's good for the world. Because we share certain values and certain commitments, and are willing to act on behalf of those commitments and values." (DailyCaller.com explains, "The French journalist was likely referencing reports of the 'Five Eyes,' a once-secret intelligence sharing club between the English-speaking nations of the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand." "Five Eyes" is not actually a "no-spy" agreement. It is actually an agreement between English-speaking



nations—the United States, Great Britain, Australia Canada, and New Zealand—to cooperate with each other’s spy operations.) [54847]

Obama tells reporters he accepted President Hollande’s invitation to attend ceremonies commemorating the 70th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion. Hollande states, “This will be a strong message because we will commemorate the sacrifice made by those soldiers. But we will also celebrate reconciliation and peace.” (Obama will need new speechwriters if he wishes to come even remotely close to the address delivered by Ronald Reagan at the 40th anniversary ceremonies.) [54871]

Obama also provides an excuse for his illegal delay of the ObamaCare employer mandate, telling reporters, “Our goal here is not to punish folks.” (Obama’s statement is essentially an admission that the employer mandate is, in fact, “punishing folks.” If it were not causing any harm, it would not need to be delayed.) “Our goal is to make sure that we’ve got people who can count on the financial security that health insurance provides. The goal is to make sure folks are healthy and have decent health care, so this was an example of administratively making sure we are smoothing out this transition giving people the opportunity to get right with the law but recognizing there are going to be circumstances people try to do the right thing and it may take time.” (Obama does not refer to the section of the U.S. Constitution that gives him the authority to “smooth out” legislation.) He also says, “I don’t think an employer-based system will be... or should be replaced any time soon.” (Interestingly, he inserts the “or should be” after realizing he was in the midst of a Freudian slip. Clearly he wants to eliminate all private health insurance companies and implement a “single payer” system, but he now realizes he will not be able to accomplish that “any time soon.”) “Where we’ve got companies that want to do the right thing and are trying to work with us, we want to make sure that we’re working with them as well.” (In other words, “Because companies are resisting the mandate and it will result in millions of angry voters, we will delay the disaster until after the November 2014 elections.) “That’s going to be our attitude about the law generally: How do we make it work for the American people and for their employers in an optimal sort of way?” (In other words, “I don’t care what’s in the law; I’ll continue to change it as I see fit—and I dare anyone to try to stop me.”) [54907]

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) tells reporters Obama is “just picking and choosing” with his ObamaCare delays. “First it’s basically the large employers, then it’s medium groups, then it’s 50 to 100—medium-sized. If there’s a problem, there’s a problem. ... We’re sure in a transition period and they keep changing the dates, so I wish everyone would come to grips.” Manchin suggests there is even bipartisan support for delaying all of ObamaCare until 2015, but it not clear which Democrat Senators agree with him. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), who is far more to the political left than Manchin, ignores the fact that Obama’s action violates the Constitution he swore an oath to uphold and sticks by him, saying, “I think it’s more important than we get it done right than fast. [Mikulski did not have that insight when she voted for ObamaCare in 2010.] So I support [Obama’s] decision. Typically these businesses that have to negotiate and—so I support [Obama’s] decision.” Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) says Obama’s action is “probably the right thing to do. I mean, he probably looked at some metrics that caused him to make

that decision. The rollout was rocky, everybody knows that. Evidently there's something he knows that I don't know that would indicate that's the right thing to do." (The "metric," of course, is the concern among Democrats that without another delay of the mandate employers would be announcing employee insurance cancellations or dramatic price increases right before the November 2014 election.) [54905, 54906]

Lost in the debate about whether Obama has the authority to again delay the employer mandate are the millions of Americans who work for companies with 50–99 employees that do not currently provide health insurance. Those workers were expecting ObamaCare to force their employers to provide insurance coverage in January 2014. That date was then shifted by Obama to January 2015, but has now been moved to January 2016. What Obama and his supporters expect those employees to do is not clear. Do they enroll in ObamaCare at Healthcare.gov? Do they buy an individual policy that covers them through 2015? Or do they have to worry that Obama will move the date again—to protect Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign from the damage of a January 2016 employer mandate implementation? Additionally, many of those employees—if not most—may qualify for taxpayer subsidies. By delaying the employer mandate, Obama is shifting the cost of providing those employees with insurance from the employers to the taxpayers. How much that will cost is not known—and has probably not even been considered by the Obama administration, let alone calculated.

DailyCaller.com reports, "Several state [ObamaCare] exchanges have begun reporting the number of customers that did pay their first premiums, and some results are as low as 51 percent. The Obama administration defines HealthCare.gov enrollees as those who have simply selected plans, but not [necessarily] paid. If the limited data available plays out for more states, actual enrollment could be much lower than the three million private insurance signups currently claimed." [54913]

During a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) states, "People [that is, Obama and others in his administration] keep talking about [how] al-Qaeda is on the run, on the path to defeat... To me, it's just the opposite of that." Inhofe asks, "Is al-Qaeda on the run, and on the path to defeat?" National Intelligence Director James Clapper replies, "No, it is morphing and franchising itself, not only here but in other areas of the world." Defense Intelligence Agency Director Michael Flynn replies, "They are not." (At Townhall.com Leah Barkoukis reminds readers of Obama's State of the Union address claim: "[W]e have put al Qaeda's core leadership on a path to defeat.") [54899, 54900]

Iran celebrates the 35th anniversary of its Islamic Revolution with huge rallies and celebrants chanting or carrying placards that read, "Death to America!" "Death to [Secretary of State John] Kerry!" "We are ready for the great battle!" and "Death to Sherman!"—referring to Wendy R. Sherman, Obama's lead negotiator in nuclear talks. Iranian military officials state, "The Americans will know [Iran's power] when their warships, with over 5,000 aboard, sink during a confrontation with Iran," "We are prepared with ballistic missiles, swift boats, and mines," and "The Iranian nation will hand them [Americans] a crushing defeat." [54973, 54974, 55657]

TheBlaze.com reports, “An Al Qaeda-linked group is issuing paper bills in western Iraq featuring images of Osama bin Laden and the World Trade Center towers that were destroyed in the September 11 attacks, according to local media reports. A tribal leader in western Iraq’s Anbar Province showed the media a photo of one of the bills issued by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) printed in the amount of ‘one Islamic hundred pounds.’ ...Iran’s semi-official Fars News Agency reported that the currency—presumably intended to replace the Iraqi dinar—is being called the ‘ISIL dinar.’ The paper bills bear the signatures of ISIL’s leader and finance minister, though their names are not typed out, Fars reported.” [54975, 54976]

The House Ways and Means Committee votes 23–13 (along party lines) to approve legislation that would postpone for one year new IRS regulations intended to block various conservative groups from receiving tax exempt status. (The rules would allow labor unions to continue their efforts to promote Democrat candidates and causes.) Congressman Tom Price (R-GA) states, “Make no mistake about it: the Obama administration is doing this as a blatant attempt to silence political speech.” Committee chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) says, “The notion that the administration would rush forward with rules intended to remove these groups from the public forum is simply unacceptable. I have long made clear that this committee will fight any and all efforts to restrict the rights of groups to organize, speak out and educate the public.” (Even if the legislation passes in the full House, it faces inaction in the Democrat-controlled Senate and a veto by Obama even if it were somehow to get approved by the Senate.) “We now know,” states Camp, “that the IRS targeted not only right-leaning applicants, but also right-leaning groups that were already operating as 501(c)(4)s. At Washington, DC’s direction, dozens of groups operating as 501(c)(4)s were flagged for IRS surveillance, including monitoring of the groups’ activities, websites and any other publicly available information. Of these groups, 83% were right-leaning. And of the groups the IRS selected for audit, 100% were right-leaning.” [54903, 54904, 54928, 54942, 54999]

DailyCaller.com reports, “An Obama administration official has said that the new clean coal rules could increase electricity prices by as much as 80 percent. Dr. Julio Friedmann, the deputy assistant secretary for clean coal at the Department of Energy, told House lawmakers that the first generation of carbon capture and storage technology would increase wholesale electricity prices by ‘70 or 80 percent.’” (During the 2008 campaign, Obama said, “Under my plan of cap and trade, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.” Because he could not get Congress to pass cap and trade legislation, Obama simply chose to have the EPA impose strict regulations on power plants that would do the same thing: raise prices on coal-produced electricity to price it out of existence. Obama’s campaign pledge that he would work to bankrupt the coal industry is one of the few promises he kept.) [2735, 54848, 54897]

At NationalJournal.com veteran journalist Ron Fournier writes, “It’s getting difficult and slinking toward impossible to defend the Affordable Care Act. The latest blow to Democratic candidates, liberal activists, and naïve columnists like me came Monday from the White House, which announced yet another delay in the Obamacare

implementation. ...Not coincidentally, the delays punt implementation beyond congressional elections in November, which raises the first problem with defending Obamacare: The White House has politicized its signature policy. The win-at-all-cost mentality helped create a culture in which a partisan-line vote was deemed sufficient for passing transcendent legislation. It spurred advisers to develop a dishonest talking point—*‘If you like your health plan, you’ll be able to keep your health plan.’* And political expediency led Obama to repeat the line, over and over and over again, when he knew, or should have known, it was false. Defending the ACA became painfully harder when online insurance markets were launched from a multi-million-dollar website that didn’t work, when autopsies on the administration’s actions revealed an epidemic of incompetence that began in the Oval Office and ended with no accountability. Then officials started fudging numbers and massaging facts to promote implementation, nothing illegal or even extraordinary for this era of spin. But they did more damage to the credibility of ACA advocates. Finally, there are the ACA rule changes—at least a dozen major adjustments, without congressional approval. ...Put me in the frustrated category. I want the ACA to work because I want health insurance provided to the millions without it, for both the moral and economic benefits. I want the ACA to work because, as Charles Lane wrote for *The Washington Post*, the link between work and insurance needs to be broken. I want the ACA to work because the GOP has not offered a serious alternative that can pass Congress. Unfortunately, [Obama] and his team are making their good intentions almost indefensible.” [54875, 54902]

Also at NationalJournal.com, CBS White House correspondent Major Garrett writes, “The Affordable Care Act means what it says and says what it means. Until it doesn’t. The arbiter is ...Obama and a phalanx of health care advisers and political strategists. Together, they try to implement what even Obama’s heartiest loyalists concede is an onerous and complicated law. They do this amid myriad Democratic midterm anxieties. And frothy Republican objections. But it’s time to concede that no one has been more adept or aggressive about delaying and defanging Obamacare than Obama himself. Systematically and with an eye toward his party’s immediate political troubles, Obama has reshaped, photo-shopped, reimagined, and reengineered Obamacare. It all sounds techy and cool and flexible—at least to the administration. To those who must live with and live under the law, the arbitrary is the norm. The only pattern is chaos. Obamacare’s worst enemy is Obama.” [54907]

MoneyNews.com reports, “A chart of the Dow Jones Industrial Average going back to July 2012 closely matches one from 1928-29, signaling a crash may be coming later this month or in March, if the correlation continues, says Mark Hulbert, editor of Hulbert Financial Digest. ‘There are eerie parallels between the stock market’s recent behavior and how it behaved right before the 1929 crash,’ he writes in an article for MarketWatch. He first wrote about the chart on MarketWatch in early December, questioning its validity. But now that the pattern has continued to repeat, he’s turning into a believer.” [54877]

BizPacReivew.com reports, “Accenture, the Irish consulting contractor hired to take rescue the Obamacare website, was accused last summer of being an ‘immediate risk of

future fraud' at the Post Office. It has no experience with federal health care systems, but plenty of experience cashing government checks. Since 2000, Accenture has had \$10 billion in federal contracts; less than half of 1 percent have involved federal health care. While it seems to be fine working in the private sector—where the money its clients spend actually matters—it has [a] history of botching government work in Democrat priority areas like food stamps and voter registration systems—costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.” [54919]

DailyCaller.com reports, “White House officials have quietly changed an official transcript to hide ...Obama’s embarrassing historical error during his international press conference with French President Francois Hollande. Obama’s error came when he misnamed Alexis de Tocqueville, a clear-eyed Frenchman who explained the subtle miracle of American culture and democracy in the 1830s. His book is a classic, partly because his insights about Americans’ social equality and civic society have become commonplace among centrists and conservatives. But Obama called him ‘Alex’ in front of the French and U.S. press, and while facing banks of TV cameras. The White House’s official transcript, however, hides the presidential error by using the correct name. It now says that Obama declared: ‘Alexis de Tocqueville—that great son of France who chronicled our American democracy.’ Obama’s error was slight, but badly timed, partly because Obama is holding a state dinner for Hollande tonight. Also, the error is an embarrassment for [a man] who claims to have been a constitutional scholar, and a judicious student of American history. It’s also embarrassing for Obama’s many chattering-class supporters in politics, academia and the media, who have tried to portray Obama as exemplar of... a nuanced, reflective and careful thinker.” [54915]

DailyCaller.com also reports, “Environmentalists and Democrats often cite a ‘97 percent’ consensus among climate scientists about global warming. But they never cite estimates that 95 percent of climate models predicting global temperature rises have been wrong. Former NASA scientist Dr. Roy Spencer says that climate models used by government agencies to create policies ‘have failed miserably.’ Spencer analyzed 90 climate models against surface temperature and satellite temperature data, and found that more than 95 percent of the models ‘have over-forecast the warming trend since 1979, whether we use their own surface temperature dataset (HadCRUT4), or our satellite dataset of lower tropospheric temperatures (UAH).’ ‘I am growing weary of the variety of emotional, misleading, and policy-useless statements like ‘most warming since the 1950s is human caused’ or ‘97% of climate scientists agree humans are contributing to warming,’ neither of which leads to the conclusion we need to substantially increase energy prices and freeze and starve more poor people to death for the greater good. Yet, that is the direction we are heading,’ Spencer wrote on his blog.” (In his State of the Union address Obama falsely declared that the global warming issue “is settled” and is “fact.”) Meanwhile, Lake Superior—the world’s largest freshwater lake—is about 87 percent frozen over as a result of continued below zero weather. (DCClothesline.com posts a letter to a newspaper from a reader who has not only bought into the man-caused global warming theory, he believes Daylight Savings Time is a contributing factor—because it provides “an extra hour of each day of that hot afternoon sun.”) [54916, 54945, 54949, 55107, 55108, 55213]

TheCairoPost.com reports, “National Security arrested a local employee on Jan. 25 who works for the U.S. embassy in Cairo, the embassy confirmed Tuesday. ‘We confirm that one of our local employees was arrested on Jan. 25. According to our information, there are no charges against him so far,’ said Mofid al-Deek, Media Attaché and the spokesperson of the U.S. embassy in Cairo. Deek said the embassy is communicating with the Egyptian government to understand the reason for the employee’s detention. A security source reported National Security arrested Ahmed A. [Ahmed Aleiba], a U.S. embassy employee in charge of the political Islam file. The source added that the employee was in constant contact with Khairat el-Shater, First Deputy of the General Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, when the group ruled the country. The suspect was arrested while participating with others in marches and riots in Giza Governorate. He is being investigated by the National Security Agency to determine the dimensions of his activity.” (In other words, Obama has people who are sympathetic to the radical Muslim Brotherhood working at the U.S. embassy in Cairo and being paid by U.S. taxpayers.) Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer comments, “Barack Obama has been an indefatigable and unstinting supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, as well as of its proxies in the U.S. Thus it is not surprising that U.S. Embassy employees in Cairo would be Brotherhood allies as well. Obama was the target of vociferous criticism during the anti-Brotherhood demonstrations last summer for his uncritical support of the Brotherhood.” Pamela Geller asks, “Who is vetting our employees at the US embassy in Egypt? Could anyone seeking asylum trust that they wouldn’t be putting their lives in danger by going to the US embassy? Any Christian going to the US embassy to try to escape Muslim oppression, persecution and subjugation is putting a target on his or her back. That is what America has become under Hussein Obama.” [54888, 54889, 54890, 55124, 55151]

At Shoebat.com, Walid Shoebat and Ben Barrack later report that el-Shater and Mursi [often spelled Mursi] will go on trial February 16. “Much of the case rests on their dealings with Aleiba, who sent emails in his capacity as a U.S. embassy employee. One of those emails, originated on June 6, 2012—prior to Mohammed Mursi’s election—implicates a Republican U.S. Congressman. The email was sent to al-Shater. On June 10th, Aleiba—using an official U.S. State Department email address—forwarded that same email to al-Shater again with additional information. Al-Shater then forwarded the email to what appears to be Mursi adviser Essam el-Haddad (eelhaddad@gmail.com). It is important to note that el-Haddad was an adviser to Mursi and documents we published last month showed that he was in secret meetings with representatives of Sudan’s Islamic Da’wa Organization (IDO). Essam’s son—Gehad el-Haddad—has a history that includes five years as an employee of the Clintons.” Aleiba’s email reads in part, “I write to you regarding a request to meet with Mohammed Mursi, the candidate for the Freedom and Justice Party to lead Egypt, that came from Rep. David Dreier [R-CA], the Chairman of the U.S. House Rules Committee and the Ranking member (Rep. Louise Slaughter [D-NY]). Rep. Dreier would like to meet Dr. Mohammed Mursi next Tuesday, June 12th, Allah willing. He also suggest 3pm for the meeting. He will be accompanied by the Ambassador of the U.S. to Egypt, Anne Patterson, and the Minister who has been commissioned for political issues from the U.S. Embassy. Again, I value my aid to you and I hope that the U.S. Consulate will connect me with someone responsible for the Mursi campaign to arrange the details.” Shoebat and Barrack ask, “Why was a

Republican U.S. Congressman [now retired] meeting with Mursi and Muslim Brotherhood leaders *before* the election? This was at a very sensitive time, during the race between Shafiq and Mursi, which shows that the U.S. interests preferred the extremist Muslim Brotherhood over the secularists.” [55151]

On *Special Report*, Democrat journalist Kirsten Powers says, “Ron Fournier of *National Journal* wrote something that ran today about—the headline was, “Why I’m getting tired of defending ObamaCare.’ And...I’m going to say, ‘*Amen, brother,*’ because it’s exactly how I feel. People who have supported this law, who support universal health care are constantly put in a position of having to defend [Obama], who has really incompetently put this together, rolled it out, and that’s why he has to do this [delay the employer mandate again], he has to keep doing this because it’s not working.” [54908]

On *The O’Reilly Factor*, Charles Krauthammer responds to the White House claim that Obama’s delay of the employer mandate is justifiable because he can “exercise discretion” in administering laws: “They delayed for the second time the employer mandate. Now, how are you going to pretend that that’s a better way to implement the law? That’s a way to *not* implement the law. ...So it is a contradiction of this supposed excuse... This is not an adjustment... This is not a way to improve the employer mandate; this is a way to negate the employer mandate.” [54941]

On *Crossfire*, Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) says, “At the end of the day, we’re going to pass a clean debt ceiling increase with Ted’s [Senator Ted Cruz’s] or without Ted’s support, with my support or without my support. But at the end of the day, there’s going to be a debt ceiling increase and it’s going to be clean.” (Cruz (R-TX) or another Senate Republican may stage a filibuster against the debt ceiling increase—not necessarily to block it, but to force all Senate Democrats to vote for it. Absent any objections, the Democrats can pass the increase with only 51 votes—intentionally allowing some vulnerable Senators who face tough reelection battles to vote against the measure.) [54946, 54947, 55013]

Former child star Shirley Temple Black passes away at age 85. (Because she was a Republican, leftists find it necessary to post racist, vulgar, and nasty messages on Twitter. Obama has no comment.) [54910]

On February 12 Attorney General Eric Holder, speaking at Georgetown University Law Center, calls on Congress to pass legislation giving all convicted felons the right to vote. (Some states prohibit convicted felons from voting, even after they have served their time and have been released from prison. Most states prohibit inmates from voting while behind bars—but Democrats have been trying to change even those laws.) Holder says, “In many states, felony disenfranchisement laws are still on the books. And the current scope of these policies is not only too significant to ignore, it is also too unjust to tolerate. ...These laws deserve to be not only reconsidered, but repealed.” Holder calls the existing laws “unnecessary and unjust” as well as “counterproductive,” and claims that imposing “stigma and isolation” on ex-convicts increases the likelihood that they will break the law again. Holder then reveals the real reason for his concern, saying the

restrictions have a “disparate impact on minority communities.” (About 38 percent of ex-convicts who are not allowed to vote are black.) “...And although well over a century has passed since post-Reconstruction states used these measures to strip African Americans of their most fundamental rights, the impact of felony disenfranchisement on modern communities of color remains both disproportionate and unacceptable.” (While there are valid arguments on both sides of the issue, race should not be one of them. Either felons should or should not be allowed to vote. Their race is irrelevant—something Holder seems unable to comprehend. His time might be better spent persuading young people of all races not to commit crimes that result in felony convictions.) [54910, 54935, 54937, 55049]

Holder’s statements have little effect in some places. Frank Collins, a spokesman for Florida Governor Rick Scott, states, “Eric Holder’s speech from Washington, D.C., has no effect on Florida’s Constitution, which prescribes that individuals who commit felonies forfeit their right to vote. For those who are truly remorseful for how they have wrecked families and want to earn back their right to vote, Florida’s Constitution also provides a process to have their rights restored.” Jimmy Centers, a spokesman for Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad, states, “Iowa has a good and fair policy on restoration of rights for convicted felons. We don’t have any plans to change the process.” [55049]

The White House neglects to acknowledge Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, but tweets: “Happy 80th birthday to one of the greatest basketball players of all-time, Bill Russell.” [55043]

MrConservative.com reports, “At a press conference for his new documentary on the BP Deepwater Horizon spill, ‘The Big Fix,’ that premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, liberal actor Peter Fonda had some not so nice things to say about [Obama] and his handling of the spill. ‘I sent an email to ...Obama saying, ‘You are a f—— traitor,’ using those words... ‘You’re a traitor, you allowed foreign boots on our soil telling our military—in this case the coastguard—what they can and could not do, and telling us, the citizens of the United States, what we could or could not do.’” The movie is about BP personnel turning away people trying to get on the Louisiana coastline after the largest oil spill in history so they could assess the damage and work to clean it up. Fonda both appears in the film and produced it, and he’s none too happy with how BP or Obama handled the spill. The Easy Rider star is an avid environmentalist and uses the film to call out the administration and BP on the gagging of reporting on the incident.” [55200]

Three people are killed and more than 100 are arrested in anti-government demonstrations in Venezuela, where the Marxist policies of President Nicolas Maduro are destroying the economy and causing inflation and food shortages. Maduro states, “I’m not going to step down. ...No one will remove me from the path of building the Bolivarian revolution.” He also claims the president of Columbia, Alvaro Uribe, “is behind this, financing and directing these fascist movements.” U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry issues a predictable and irrelevant statement: “We are particularly alarmed by reports that the Venezuelan government has arrested or detained scores of anti-government protestors and issued an arrest warrant for opposition leader Leopoldo



Lopez.” At Heritage.org Israel Ortega writes that “... Venezuela is just another reminder of the many failures of the Obama Doctrine. Rather than confront the threats posed by a Venezuelan government providing safe haven to Hezbollah, our Secretary of State is describing the situation in the South American country as nothing more than a weakening of democratic institutions. In the absence of a strong American foreign policy, expect our national security interests to be tested by totalitarian regimes working with our adversaries at every possible turn. Venezuela is not alone, of course. In just a couple of weeks, the Obama Doctrine will be tested when El Salvador holds a presidential election. The outcome matters to us, because as Heritage President Jim DeMint describes in a recent column, ‘El Salvador may be about to turn into a gang haven that will act as a transit point for drugs plunging America’s inner cities further into crime and despair. And the whole mess can be laid at the White House’s door.’ Yet another reminder of the perils of an American foreign policy that votes ‘present.’” (Aside from issuing boilerplate statements of “deep concern,” the White House remains remarkably silent about the disintegrating situation in Venezuela.) [55171, 55172, 55263, 55315]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) files a class action lawsuit in federal court against Obama, the National Security Agency, director of national intelligence James Clapper, NSA head General Keith Alexander, and FBI chief James Comey for violating the Fourth Amendment by conducting surveillance programs against U.S. citizens. Paul states, “I am filing a lawsuit against ...Obama because he has publicly refused to stop a clear and continuing violation of the 4th Amendment. The Bill of Rights protects all citizens from general warrants.” Lead counsel in the lawsuit is Ken Cuccinelli, former Virginia Attorney General. According to TheHill.com, “The president of FreedomWorks, Matt Kibbe, will also join the suit. ‘FreedomWorks is participating in this suit on behalf of our community of 6 million citizens nationwide, along with any American who has a phone,’ Kibbe said. ‘If you use a phone, you should care about this case.’” (The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”) [54917, 54918, 54930, 54944, 54948, 54951, 55131, 55176]

At NationalReview.com Jonah Goldberg writes, “On the Democratic side for 2016, the two top-tier candidates, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden (stop laughing), are both next-in-liners. Clinton is the indisputable front-runner: She’s more popular; she was the runner-up in 2008; she’s the dashboard saint of elite feminist groups; and she and her husband have been working the party machinery nonstop while Biden has been, if you believe *the Onion*, waxing his vintage Trans Am in the White House driveway. ...[I]t’s not clear what the Democrats actually want. They certainly expect Clinton to be the nominee. But should they? She’s easily one of the most overrated political talents of the last quarter-century. Both McCain and Romney were hobbled by the fact that they couldn’t distance themselves from an unpopular GOP president. Having served as Obama’s secretary of state (never mind being the ‘grandmother’ of Obamacare), Clinton would probably have a similar burden. Perhaps the possibility of a female president will substitute for the thrill of nominating an actual outsider. But given where the country is—and likely will be in

2016—I'd put my money on the real thing.” Morning Jolt’s Jim Geraghty adds, “Perhaps the single most fun thing to watch this cycle will be the Hillary Clinton sycophants insisting that a woman who’s lived in Washington since January 1993 and who has been among the capital’s most powerful and influential figures is really an outsider.” [54927]

HotAir.com writes, “If Hillary wants the nomination, nothing’s going to stop her. And the worse Obama’s second term gets, the fewer Democrats there’ll be who are willing to forfeit her electoral advantages in order to roll the dice on a purer liberal like Elizabeth Warren with one-tenth the name recognition of the Clintons and one-thousandth the fundraising potential. There’s a cold calculation coming, just as there was for Romney: At the end of the day, who’s most likely to help us win power? Lay aside what he or she might do with that power. At a bare minimum, no matter how bad it gets, at least we’ll be keeping the ball away from the other team. ... Besides, if lefties are worried about their ticket being insufficiently diverse (with the would-be first woman president at the top of the ticket?), they can take comfort in the fact that [New Jersey Senator] Cory Booker’s almost certainly going to be their VP nominee. [It] Doesn’t matter who they end up nominating for president. Democrats are deathly afraid that increased turnout among minority voters for Obama’s two elections will dissipate once he’s out of politics. If the ‘Obama coalition’ falls apart, they’re in trouble—although Hillary, probably uniquely among Dems, might be able to make up the shortfall with increased support from women. Regardless, Booker, who’ll have spent roughly as much time in the Senate by 2016 as Obama had in 2008 [and who is black], is one way to hedge against that. Exit question: How soon will it be before lefties seize on Hillary’s ruthlessness as a new reason to block her? Bridgegate is an easy peg for a pretext like that. E.g., ‘How can we criticize Chris Christie for bullying when we’re poised to re-nominate a couple who keep an enemies’ list?’ Needless to say, the nanosecond her nomination is assured, they’ll get over it.” [54939]

Former (2002–2010) New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin, a black Democrat who once called the historic town a “chocolate city” because of its large black population, is convicted on 20 of 21 counts against him. The Associated Press reports, “Nagin was indicted in January 2013 on charges he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes and truckloads of free granite for his family business in exchange for promoting the interests of a local businessman. He also was charged with accepting thousands of dollars in payoffs from another businessman for his help in securing city contracts. Before the verdict was read, Nagin said outside the courtroom that he’s ‘been at peace with this for a long time. I’m good.’” HotAir.com’s Erika Johnsen explains, “In a nutshell, [Nagin] used the opportunity of the [Hurricane] Katrina recovery effort to kick city contracts back to any vendors that offered to sweeten the deal, while simultaneously blustering about the incompetence and corruption of everybody else’s post-Katrina commitment. What a swell guy.” (ABC, CBS, and NBC all report Nagin’s conviction, but none bother to mention that he is a Democrat.) [54950, 54991, 55011, 55061]

Townhall.com reports, “An online, semi-scientific poll of more than 60,000 grassroots conservative activists shows that the GOP base is strongly in favor of Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), and Dr. Ben Carson running for president in 2016. And to

the surprise of no one, Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ) finished nowhere near the top of the list.” (Christie finishes dead last, behind Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Ben Carson, Scott Walker, Sarah Palin, Mike Huckabee, Rick Perry, Bobby Jindal, Nikki Haley, Marco Rubio, Condoleezza Rice, Rick Santorum, Paul Ryan, John Kasich, Mary Fallin, Mike Pence, Susana Martinez, Steve King, Kelly Ayotte, John Huntsman, and Jeb Bush.) Daniel Doherty notes, “[T]he tens of thousands of respondents surveyed are not the type of activists who merely show up on Election Day and hope for the best. They are an absolutely clutch GOP constituency that cannot be ignored.” Todd Cefaratti, founder of TheTeaParty.net, observes, “There’s a resounding message in these poll results for the Washington establishment. This is not a survey of casual Republicans or sometimes voters. These are activists who pound the pavement, make the phone calls, and cast their votes in every election every year.” [54953, 54954]

In Texas, Democrat gubernatorial candidate Wendy “abortion Barbie” Davis, who became famous for filibustering a state bill that prohibits abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy, tells the *Dallas Morning News* she now believes such a law is acceptable if it “adequately deferred to a woman and her doctor.” (Of course, Davis is only changing her position because she trails badly in the polls. Further, her suggested qualification for the law is meaningless, as deferring to the woman and her abortionist would do nothing to prevent abortions. Lastly, the Texas law already does allow exceptions in cases of fetal abnormality and for the health of the mother.) [54955]

The Senate votes 55–43 to approve legislation to increase the debt ceiling. According to *WashingtonTimes.com*, “The vote was about as dramatic as they get. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican, held out for 40 minutes before casting the key vote to break his fellow Republicans’ filibuster. His top lieutenants then followed suit, clearing the way for a final vote to approve the debt ceiling increase.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), who led the filibuster attempt, says, “Today’s vote is yet another example that establishment politicians from both parties are simply not listening to the American people. Outside the beltway, Americans of all political stripes understand that we cannot keep spending money we don’t have. Some members of Congress care so much about being praised by the Washington media that they’re willing to mortgage our children’s future. They pretend we don’t have a problem and can just kick the can down the road. Let’s be clear about the motive behind this vote—there are too many members of Congress who think they can fool people and they will forget about it the next week. But sometimes, come November, the people remember.” [54956, 54957, 55013, 55018]

Politico reports, “About 3.3 million people picked health insurance plans in Obamacare exchanges through the end of January, the administration announced Wednesday. Four months into a six-month enrollment period, the new figures reflect a small uptick in interest from young adults, with 27 percent of January sign-ups between 18 and 34 years old. About four in five people who have signed up are eligible for subsidies.” (That is, taxpayers will be paying for some or all of the cost of health insurance for roughly 80 percent of ObamaCare enrollees.)

Congressman Rodney Davis (R-IL) introduces the “School Nutrition Fairness Act... to make sure this Administration is aware of the real-life impact their regulations are having on kids who are going hungry and our smaller school districts who are struggling to keep up with the increased costs.” According to BizPacReview.com, the legislation “would require official White House meals to follow the same USDA mandated guidelines for school lunch and breakfast programs.” USDA standards call for about 1,200 calories per day. (The State Dinner hosted by Obama for French President Francois Hollande was about 2,500 calories—or more than two days worth of calories.) [54993]

Asked about the preponderance of campaign cash bundlers Obama has chosen to be ambassadors, White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “Being a donor doesn’t get you a job in this administration, or preclude you from getting a job.” (Obama apparently selects incompetent candidates solely on the basis of their incompetence.) [54980]

Congresswoman Ileana Ros Lehtinen (R-FL) calls on Obama to release the full text of the recent nuclear negotiations agreement with Iran. In a letter to Obama she writes, “While you and members of your Administration have touted the significance of this agreement, the fact is that you have provided only some of the details to the American public while keeping the rest shrouded in secrecy. Since the implementation phase began, we have seen the Iranian regime announce that it has developed centrifuges that are 15 times faster than what they currently possess and claimed to have successfully test fired two long range missiles. Even more alarming is the fact that the Iranian regime, according to reports, believe that these actions are within their right under the Joint Plan of Action. Therefore, I respectfully request that you take every effort to make the full text of the Joint Plan of Action available to the American people so they can judge for themselves the merits of this deal.” FreeBeacon.com reports, “Members of Congress and staffers with high-level security clearances are being forced by the White House to consent to top-secret security measures in order to view the deal text, which is off limits to the American public, according to a senior Senate aide familiar with the process. ...Precise details about the deal and the exact process to view it remain hazy.” [55014, 55015, 55016]

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) introduces a “Welfare Reform and Upward Mobility Act” that “corrects and strengthens current welfare programs by restoring work incentives for individuals and families, improving state administration of welfare programs, rewarding states that transition beneficiaries from welfare to work, and imposing greater transparency in means-tested welfare spending.” The legislation would require able-bodied adults receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits to work 36 hours per month (individuals without dependents) or 72 hours per month (individuals or couples with dependents). States would be penalized with reduced funding if they do not comply with the rules. The legislation would also phase in limits on welfare spending. (Amazingly, the SNAP program has only an income eligibility test; *there is no asset test*. A family can own a mortgage-free house worth \$1 million and still receive food stamp benefits as long as its income is low. An unemployed millionaire can have his groceries paid for by the taxpayers.) [55002, 55003, 55004, 56006]

Rush Limbaugh tells his radio audience, “Now, folks, I’m gonna go out on a limb here. I fully expect the 2014 midterms to be a wave election like 2010. I think the people of this country are gonna sweep Democrats out of office every chance they get, every opportunity they get—and I think there’s plenty of evidence for it right now. You don’t have [Congressman] Henry Waxman [D-CA] and these people retiring unless they know. I mean, they’re in the swan song portion of their lives anyway. Waxman, he doesn’t want to be a member of a minority in the House of Representatives where basically all they’re doing is writing executive orders for Obama with [Congresswoman] Sheila Jackson Lee [D-TX]. These people don’t want to be in the minority. It’s no fun. If a guy like Waxman’s gonna quit... Believe me, this is all he knows. He doesn’t play golf. He doesn’t play shuffleboard. He uses nasal spray, but that’s about it. [Waxman has incredibly huge nostrils.] There’s nothing else. If he’s getting out, they’ve got polling data. But here’s the thing—and I’m not trying to jinx anything. I think this is setting up every bit as big as 2010, if not bigger. The Tea Party, the American people are livid by what’s going on how they are. I mean, nobody on our side is uninformed or unprepared or not aware of what’s going on. They’re beside themselves. They don’t know what to do. They can’t believe that nobody’s standing up opposing this. They can’t believe the people whose power is being stolen are not standing up and trying to get it back. Judges, legislative branch, judicial branch. So they’re gonna do all they know how to do, and they’re gonna turn out and they’re gonna vote in November.” [54962, 55022, 55048]

The Obama administration claims 3.3 million people have signed up for ObamaCare as of February 1. That not only suggests that its goal of 7 million by March 31 will not be reached, fewer Americans enrolled in January than in December—despite the claim that Healthcare.gov was “fixed.” (If administration numbers are to be believed, there were 1,788,000 enrollments in December and 1,146,071 in January. And some of those were certainly “dummy” enrollments, with reporters and other curious people—including *The Obama Timeline*—entering dummy information at Healthcare.gov just to see how the site worked and to obtain premium estimates that remained hidden until one “officially enrolled.”) Only about 27 percent of the enrollees are reportedly between the ages of 18–23. The 3.3 million figure is arguably meaningless, however, as the White House either does not know or will not say how many enrollees have written a check to an insurance company to receive the coverage they selected on Healthcare.gov or a state web site. (Major insurance companies state the non-payment rate is 20–30 percent.) Additionally, an unknown (and perhaps high) percentage of the 3.3 million people enrolled in ObamaCare only because they lost individual policies that were canceled because of the law. (They are not therefore uninsured Americans who now have insurance only because of ObamaCare.) [54985, 54986, 54987, 54988, 54989, 54995, 55012]

Healthcare analyst Avik Roy warns, “Real people—real lives—will be harmed, and *are* being harmed, as Obamacare makes health insurance even less affordable for many in the middle class. In some [conservative, Republican] quarters, there has been a kind of intellectual laziness, a belief that there’s no need for critics to come up with better reforms, because Obamacare will ‘collapse under its own weight,’ relieving them of that responsibility. Obamacare isn’t good for the country. But it’s not going to collapse. And

that makes the development of a credible, market-oriented health-reform agenda more urgent than ever.” (ObamaCare will not cease to exist. It will simply consume ever-increasing trillions of dollars and ruin the lives of millions of Americans.) [54986]

At NationalReview.com former federal prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “It is wearying to catalogue ...Obama’s lawlessness—his systematic, blatant violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws (you know, those statutes that Congress writes) be *faithfully* executed. But this last Obamacare rewrite is especially worth noting. ...The [employer mandate] waiver may provide some relief to endangered Democrats, but it also gives employers an incentive to lay off employees in order to get under 100 and qualify for the illegal waiver. So Obama has unilaterally legislated illegal conditions on the illegal waiver. To wit, employers will be required to *certify to the IRS, under penalty of perjury*, that the waiver was not a motivating factor in the company’s hiring and firing decisions. As Fox News’s Chris Stirewalt quips, ‘To avoid ObamaCare costs you must swear that you are not trying to avoid ObamaCare costs.’ So now Obama, like a standard-issue leftist dictator, is complementing lawlessness with socialist irrationality. Think about how lunatic this is. There is nothing even faintly illegal about businesses’—indeed, all economic actors’—making financial decisions based on tax consequences. ...The tax consequences of Obamacare are profound—that is precisely the reason that Obama is ‘waiving’ them. No responsible officers in a corporation of relevant size would fail to take them into account in making the decision to staff at over or under 100 employees; in determining whether some full-time employees should be terminated or shifted to part-time; or in making any number of the decisions Obamacare’s mind-numbing complexity requires.” [54963]

“...What is illegal and irrational is not a company’s commonsense deliberation over its costs, it is Obama’s edict. And look what attends this one: *criminal prosecution* if Obama’s Justice Department decides the business has falsely certified that its staffing decision was not motivated by Obamacare. Think about that for a second. The waiver is illegal. It flouts the language of the Obamacare statute, under which the employer mandate is required already to have been implemented by now. There is nothing in the law that empowers Obama to waive the mandate, much less to attach lawless conditions to such a lawless waiver. A business that seeks the waiver and fails to pay the mandated tax (in lieu of providing the required coverage) is in violation of federal statutory law, regardless of its compliance with Obama’s outlaw edict. The payments required by the statute, after all, are owed to the public, not to Obama—he’s got no authority to deprive the government of these funds just because it would harm Democrats to collect them. Yet, Obama proclaims his illegal waiver with impunity—Congress apparently unwilling to stop him. You, on the other hand, will be prosecuted for breaking the ‘law’ if you do not comply to Obama’s satisfaction with the illegal and irrational condition he has unilaterally placed on his illegal waiver. Got that?” [54963]

At WesternJournalism.com Chris Zane writes, “Keith Judd, the convict who ran for President, became somewhat of a celebrity after almost beating Obama in the 2012 West Virginia Democratic Primary.” (Judd, aka Prisoner #11593-051, captured 42 percent of the vote; Obama won 58 percent; 20.8 percent voted for “no preference.” In 10 of the

state's counties, Judd actually won more votes than Obama.) "What wasn't reported, however, was that after Obama won the presidential election, Judd filed a series of lawsuits detailing how Obama was illegally placed on the 2012 presidential ballot. One lawsuit, filed on May 9, 2013, is scheduled to be heard before a federal court in the next few months. And rumor has it that the Obama regime is extremely worried. However, Keith Judd—who has strangely been in prison since 1999 for a minor threat made against a local New Mexico college—may never make it out of prison alive. In December of 2013, Judd was mysteriously moved from a federal prison in Texas to the infamous Federal Transfer Center in Oklahoma City. This is the same prison that Kenneth Trentadue, the Oklahoma City bombing John Doe #2 lookalike, was murdered in. And this is just one in a string of suspicious deaths associated with the Federal Transfer Center. Despite the fact Trentadue's throat was cut from ear to ear, despite the fact that he was covered from head to foot with bruises, despite the fact that his skull was bashed in, and despite the fact that there were cable tie marks on his neck and blood splatter covering the prison cell walls, authorities deemed his death a suicide. And who was involved in the cover-up? Someone you may have heard of before: [Attorney General] Eric Holder. Jessie Trentadue, Kenneth Trentadue's brother, has uncovered emails and memos detailing how Eric Holder was the 'point man' in what was referred to as the 'Trentadue Mission' to keep facts about Trentadue's murder from Congress and the public. Is the Obama regime going to stage a 'suicide' to make Keith Judd's lawsuit go away, with Eric Holder again taking the job as 'point man' to cover it up? Or will in fact Keith Judd be the man who finally takes down Barack Obama—from behind bars?!" [32074, 32075, 32076, 32083, 32084, 32085, 32087, 32088, 32091, 32093, 32097, 32098, 32103, 32104, 32107, 32112, 32156, 32158, 32214, 54967, 54968, 55082]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, at the Seattle Town Hall in September 2012 Salt Lake City attorney Jesse Trentadue discussed the 1995 murder of his brother, Kenneth, and the cover-up by then-Assistant Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice. It is believed that Kenneth Trentadue was mistaken for an individual connected to the Oklahoma City bombing. Trentadue was arrested and beaten to death, and the "official" government story was that he committed suicide. Some believe the Oklahoma City bombing was a government operation, part of the secret "PATCON," or "Patriot Conspiracy" program, that was possibly related to Ruby Ridge, Waco, and Operation Fast and Furious. The connections have been verified through various emails, documents, and the testimony of whistleblowers. In late 2011 *Newsweek* magazine had planned to expose PATCON in a major story, but the "meat" was removed before publication. Obama and Holder, of course, cannot afford to let it be widely known that the FBI was involved in Operation Fast and Furious—let alone allow disclosure of the program's connections between the Department of Justice, ATF, ICE, DEA, DHS, and the State Department. According to CoachIsRight.com, documents obtained by Jesse Trentadue via a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit show that Eric Holder "authorized members of the FBI to provide explosives to Oklahoma City bombing criminals Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols immediately prior to the April, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building. ...As Jesse Trentadue s 'PATCON was designed to infiltrate and incite... militia[s] and evangelical Christians to violence so that the Department of Justice could crush them.' Both Waco and Ruby Ridge are now known to have been PATCON

inspired, Department of Justice plots.” Alden Gillis Baker, an inmate at the prison, stated that he heard Kenneth Trentadue being beaten and tortured to death. Baker named prison guards Robert A. Garza and Wiley Creasey as the murderers. Baker sought protection from the government for coming forward—and was then found hanged in his cell. [26633, 26798, 26799, 27518, 27550, 37738, 42183]

According to a Fox News poll, 74 percent of Americans oppose Obama’s use of executive orders to “get around Congress.” “That includes 54 percent of Democrats. Large majorities of independents (80 percent) and Republicans (93 percent) believe it goes against our system for [Obama] to act independently to advance his policies. Even when asked to set aside their views on how the government is supposed to work, by a wide 60-37 percent margin voters still disapprove of Obama going around Congress.” Additionally, “Voters continue to be pessimistic over the future of the economy. A 58-percent majority thinks the worst is yet to come. Not only is that up from 52 percent a year ago, but it is also the highest level recorded since April 2009. At that time, 66 percent said the worst is yet to come. When asked to grade Obama for the job he’s done on improving the economy, nine percent give him an ‘A,’ while 22 percent give him a ‘B’ and 22 percent a ‘C.’ A sizable minority thinks he deserves a grade of ‘D’ (14 percent) or ‘F’ (24 percent). Another nine percent give an ‘incomplete.’ That makes [Obama’s] grade-point average 1.78, which is a C-minus. That’s about the same as Obama received in 2012.” “Over half of American voters regret that the Affordable Care Act passed, and nearly two-thirds say it never would have—if we knew then what we know now. ...Overall, 64 percent of voters don’t think the law would have passed if we knew back in 2009 what we know today. ...By a 16 percentage-point margin, people think the health care law is more about the government ‘controlling our lives’ (56 percent) than about ‘helping individual Americans get the health care they want’ (40 percent).” [54971, 54972, 54981, 55038, 55039]

Gerald Celente, founder of Trends Research, tells KingWorldNews.com, what he thinks of new Federal Reserve Board chairman Janet Yellen’s testimony to a Congressional committee: “She did exactly what was to be expected, saying nothing, pretending to be smart, and promising more of the same. So as Wall Street read it, if things get tough enough and profits aren’t coming in the way they should, the Fed is ready to keep the money pumping-scheme going. We also saw the same reaction from the European markets. So it’s more of the same, with a different face and a different voice. This is just a case of another front-man, or in this case, front-woman, spouting out the exact same propaganda that we’ve now been hearing since the global markets began to crash when the panic of 2008 hit. Since 2008, all we have seen is a major coverup take place as the American people are constantly being lied to by those who run the Orwellian mainstream media, as they continue with their campaign of propaganda.” [54977]

“...Yellen gave a ‘dovish’ speech according to the mainstream propaganda, which sparked the rally in stocks. She also bragged about the falling unemployment rate, failing to acknowledge that the rate dropped primarily because all of the discouraged workers who can’t find jobs and are no longer counted as unemployed. What are the stocks rallying about? Are they rallying about the wonderful jobs numbers that came out last



Friday in the US? Wall Street expected 189,000 jobs to be created, and only 113,00 jobs were created, if you even believe the numbers at all. All the Wall Street shills promptly came out promising the December jobs numbers would be revised up to '200,000+.' What were the numbers actually revised to? From 74,000 to 75,000. There is no recovery, and the only thing Yellen said is that she will keep pumping money into Wall Street and the other equity markets so the Wall Street gang can keep the Ponzi scheme going. ...When you look at Obamacare and the destruction it has caused in so many people's lives, it's just more of the same. Whether it's spying on us, or wars around the world, when you put it all together, the people in charge fall into two categories: sociopaths and psychopaths. Did you hear our secretary of state saying that 'The US will defend Japan against China.' Who is he speaking for? Is he speaking for me? Is he speaking for you? We're going to defend Japan against China? This guy is a madman. These are the characteristics and the traits of sociopaths and psychopaths." [54977]

David Stockman, former Budget Director for President Ronald Reagan, tells KingWorldNews.com that the Federal Reserve Board "is a weapon of financial mass destruction. That's the point that people need to understand. The people running the Fed today have no clue of the danger that they are creating through this massive market intervention and manipulation. The whole market is not trading on any kind of fundamentals. It's trading entirely on the word clouds being emitted by the Fed speakers and the cash which is being massively injected into the market each day. They have totally disabled and corrupted the heart of our financial system. They have turned everyone in the financial markets into Fed-followers and front-runners. It is an extremely foolish and destructive policy, and yet it is now the mainstream view that all of this is for the good. It's a very crazy time when you really think about where this is leading." [55031]

Yet, notes Stockman, the people running the Federal Reserve "are having a grand time. They are at the switchboard. They have anointed themselves, that is the Open Market Committee, the Fed and the senior staff around them, the 'Monetary Politburo' of the United States. Read [chairman Janet] Yellen's testimony and listen to the gravity of her tone. She thinks she's running everything—that she has been given this heavy burden and responsibility for 317 million American citizens. Give me a break. This is institutional imperialism of staggering proportions. ...The gold market could explode at any moment. I'm not going to even venture a guess as to when that might happen, but clearly it is the asset of final resort when we reach the point where confidence in this whole Ponzi scheme that's being run by the central banks finally breaks down. It's almost a sure thing that as we reach the end of this era of massive central bank expansion and domination that the monetary system will break down, the central banks will become totally discredited, and the markets will be in anarchy and dislocation and gold will soar." (Some—including *The Obama Timeline*—believe the gold market is being manipulated partly because the government and the Federal Reserve do not have the gold they claim they have. Market analyst Richard Russell states, "The government and the Fed will fight the gathering depression with lies and propaganda. To fight the depression, the Fed will open the money spigots wide, creating new trillions of 'dollars.' Some wise investors are aware of all this, which is why gold continues to push higher (over \$1300 an ounce

today). IF we had the actual gold, I feel that the US would unilaterally raise the price of gold to \$5,000 or \$10,000 an ounce. The government is not doing this because we don't have the gold. Once the news of the US gold reserves being depleted is out, this will result in an unbelievable scandal. Once the dollar index closes below 80, the fireworks should start. How many items can the Fed manipulate? Sooner or later the Fed will lose its grip on bonds, the dollar, stocks or gold. I think gold over 1300 suggests that the Fed is losing its grip.") [55031, 55099, 55208]

Smarmy political opportunist Charlie Crist, who switched from being a Republican to being an independent to joining the Democrat Party, charges on *The Colbert Report* that Obama has been picked on because he is black: "Sadly, I think another part of it was that he was a... Democrat. But not just a Democrat, an African American, and, um... I've seen a level of vitriol directed at [Obama] that I have never seen directed at, uh, President Kennedy or maybe President Johnson or even President Carter." (HotAir.com writes, "Give the man credit: He may be a soulless careerist who represents everything that's wrong with politics, but he knows how to pander. He's been praising Obama at every opportunity for the past year or two to build Democratic cred. This smear is icing on the cake.") Despite his "limited" political ideology (which Slate.com's David Weigel says consists of only, "elect Charlie Crist"), Crist leads Florida Governor Rick Scott by eight points in a recent latest poll—largely because of blacks. [55009]

*The Kelly File's* Megyn Kelly interviews respected Democrat law professor Jonathan Turley, who warns about Obama's misuse of power: "Well, I'm afraid it's quite serious because the framers created a system that was designed to avoid one principle thing, the concentration of power in any one branch. Because that balancing between these branches in this fixed orbit is what not only gives stability to our system but it protects us against authoritarian power, it protects civil liberties from abuse. And what we've been seeing is the shift of gravity within that system in a very dangerous way that makes it unstable, and I think that's what [Obama] is doing. I think that we've become a nation of enablers. We are turning a blind eye to a fundamental change in our system. I think many people will come to loathe that they remained silent during this period. ...I'm afraid this is beginning to border on a cult of personality for people on the left. I happen to agree with many of ...Obama's policies, but in our system it is often as important how you do something as what you do. And I think that many people will look back at this period in history and see nothing but confusion as to why people remained so silent when the president asserted these types of unilateral actions. You have a [man] who is claiming the right to basically rewrite or ignore or negate federal laws. That is a dangerous thing. It has nothing to do with the policies; it has to do with politics." [55058, 55116]

"...[A] system in which a single individual is allowed to rewrite legislation or ignore legislation is a system that borders on authoritarianism. I don't believe that we are that system yet. But we cannot ignore that we're beginning to ignore a system that is a pretense of democracy if [Obama] is allowed to take a law and just simply say, 'I'm going to ignore this,' or, 'I'm going to shift funds that weren't appropriated by Congress into this area.' [Obama's] State of the Union indicated this type of unilateralism that he has adopted as a policy. Now, many people view that as somehow empowering. In my

view, it's dangerous, that is what he is suggesting is to essentially put our system off line. This is not the first time that convenience has become the enemy of principle. But we've never seen it to this extent. ...Part of the problem really rests with the federal courts. For the last two decades, federal courts have been engaged in a policy of avoidance. They are not getting involved when the executive branch exceeds its powers, they're just leaving it up to the branches. And often they say Congress has the power of the purse, Congress can simply restrict funds. But one of the complaints against ...Obama is that very clearly dedicated funds in areas like healthcare, have been just shifted by the White House unilaterally to different areas. And the courts have adopted this avoidance policy. I am astonished by the degree of passivity in Congress, particularly by Democrats. You know, I first came to Congress when I was a young page and there were people that fiercely believed in the institution. It didn't matter what party held the White House. But what we're seeing now is the usurpation of authority that's unprecedented in this country." [55058, 55116]

On February 13 Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich reports, "The infamously liberal Federal Ninth Circuit Court of appeals has struck down a California law practically banning people from carry a gun in public for self defense in the *Peruta v. San Diego* case. The decision struck down requirements of 'need' or 'cause' to carry a handgun in public based on violent threats to a person as unconstitutional. In other words, the State cannot restrict an individual from carrying a firearm because a government official doesn't think they face enough threats to justify doing so and affirms carrying a gun in public for self defense is in fact a protected right under the Second Amendment. The ruling based much of its decision on the prior Supreme Court ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller* and makes clear that the right to 'bear arms' is equal in definition to 'carrying arms.' ...The decision released by the Court reaffirms the decision of *District of Columbia v Heller* that the Second Amendment is an individual right, not a collective one. ...It is important to point out that government still [has] the ability to restrict carry, meaning that concealed carry can be banned while open carry is allowed and vice versa, but heavy restrictions on both are unconstitutional. One or the other must be allowed." (*Peruta v. San Diego* will almost certainly be appealed to the Supreme Court.) [54982, 55019, 55056]

On Iranian television, a morning show host in Tehran says, "Obama said that companies that would trade with Iran, disregarding the sanctions, would put their credit score at risk. Then he added that any company that would violate the sanctions on Iran—America 'will come down on them like a ton of bricks.' Listen to this... The U.S. would come down on that company like a ton of bricks. It would destroy it. ...Is America like a bogeyman? We don't want to portray it like that, but Mr. Obama himself is insisting on imposing such an image. We keep saying that we are okay with America and its people, and so on. We keep trying to mend the relations, and then along comes Obama and says something that ruins it all. So this is my foreign policy advice to the Americans when dealing with Iran: First of all, Mr. Obama, don't waste a ton of bricks. I sense a personal problem here... instead of wasting a ton of bricks, take just one brick, and knock it against your head. Perhaps parts of his brain will swap places, and his perspective will change. Secondly, if Mr. Obama is such an expert on bricks, he could go back to his old job of unloading

bricks, and stuff.” (Of course, Obama never had a job unloading bricks. He probably never had a job in his life that involved physical labor.) [55206]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration is quietly forging ahead with plans to offer up an international commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to fight global warming—without congressional approval. Reuters reports that the U.S. submitted its vision for a new international global warming agreement to the United Nations on Wednesday, suggesting a ‘bifurcated approach’ of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol—placing different emissions targets for rich and poor countries.” Myron Ebell, director of the Center of Energy and Environment at the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), states, “So this is just the latest example of ...Obama’s contempt for obeying the Constitution and our laws. In the past, rulers who act as if the law does not apply to them were called tyrants. ...CEI has warned for several years that the Obama Administration would follow advice from environmental pressure groups and try to sign a new U.N. agreement that ignores the Senate’s constitutional role. It is also worth noting that any agreement Obama negotiates will not take effect until after he leaves office, so that a future President and Congress will be stuck with the damage it does to the economy. But without Senate ratification, it should be fairly easy for a future President and Congress to dismantle.” (Under the Constitution, all treaties require the approval of two-thirds of the Senate.) [54997, 55017, 55213]

Meanwhile, FoxNews.com reports that the far left John Podesta, “the former Clinton Administration chief of staff who is spearheading ...Obama’s aggressive strategy of government-by-regulation, has also been helping United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with an even more ambitious job: setting the stage to radically transform the world’s economic, environmental and social agenda. That effort—a colossal and sweeping form of global behavior modification—is supposed to get a new kick-start at a special U.N. summit of world leaders to be convened by Ban in New York City on September 25. Its supporters hope that effort will end next year in a new international treaty that will bind all 193 U.N. members—including the U.S.—to a still formless ‘universal sustainable development agenda’ for the planet that will take effect in 2020.” The May 2013 U.N. report, to which Podesta contributed, offers schemes to end “extreme poverty, in all its forms” and states, “We can be the first generation in human history to end hunger and ensure that every person achieves a basic standard of wellbeing.” The ambitious reports even states that “ending extreme poverty is just the beginning, not the end.” The report calls for “a new sense of global partnership into national and international politics” and demands that the world “act now to halt the alarming pace of climate change and environmental degradation,” and bring about a “rapid shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production. ...The new global partnership should encourage everyone to alter their worldview, profoundly and dramatically.” (Translation: citizens of the United States must pay higher taxes and accept a lower standard of living so that their wealth can be redistributed to poorer nations.) [55020, 55021]

TheHill.com reports that although Secretary of Health and Human Service Kathleen Sebelius has said Obama “was not aware of HealthCare.gov’s problems, more than 750

pages of documents obtained by The Hill through a Freedom of Information Act request show she made scores of visits to the White House. The documents reveal that Sebelius met with or attended calls and events with Obama at least 18 times between Oct. 27, 2012, and Oct. 6, 2013, including at least seven instances in which the two were scheduled to discuss the new healthcare law, according to the secretary's draft schedules. She had breakfast or lunch with Pete Rouse, considered one of Obama's closest advisers, at least three times. Moreover, Sebelius had scheduled calls or meetings with Valerie Jarrett, an Obama confidante, and White House chief of staff Denis McDonough. Sebelius also met with or had calls with Chris Jennings, then a White House senior healthcare adviser, at least seven times in the roughly yearlong period. The schedules suggest Sebelius was an active White House presence in the months leading up to the botched rollout, and raise new questions about why Obama wouldn't have known about the problems that were exposed on Oct. 1." [54998, 55006, 55105]

A reporter asks House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) if Democrats would perhaps support a delay of ObamaCare's individual mandate inasmuch as Obama has already delayed the employer mandate twice. She responds, "No, because... no, it, it's, it's a completely different thing. It, you know, that was, [Obama] has, as we do with all legislation, what is the implementation, how can we ease this, uh, uh, uh, uh, not only the enforcement of the law but the improvement of the lives of the American people, and, uh, the implementation is what he's [Obama is] addressing, in terms of the mandate, that is central, that is central to what the law is, and the law is very sound policy. To go back to our [Founding] Founders once again, they sacrificed it all for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This bill, the Affordable Care Act is about a healthier life, the liberty to pursue your happiness, that's solid policy and that is, uh, the mandate is central to that." (At HotAir.com Mary Katherine Ham calls Pelosi's statement "A variation on the 'you're gonna love it once it's fully enacted' chorus of fibs we've been hearing since this thing was passed in 2009 [sic; 2010]. It isn't really news, per se, that Rep. Nancy Pelosi is willing to support a pass for employers for this law that doesn't go to individuals about to be hit with the mandate tax. It's not news that she's willing to ignore the many failings of the law and its implementation and refer to it as utterly 'sound policy,' even as the worst Jenga tower ever constructed is crumbling before her. But it is illustrative of the Democratic plan to put blinders on and say 'but, but, we passed a law!' when faced with the unfairness of the system they've created and the waivers they're granting. It's also illustrative of how lazy an answer Democrats offer on this stuff. 'It's a totally different issue,' she says. Well, that settles that. Enjoy your sound policy. Unless their sound policy took your formerly sound policy away." [55069, 55138]

A federal judge rules that Virginia's law banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. Apparently having missed law school class the day the Declaration of Independence was studied, Judge Arenda L. Wright Allen states in her 41-page decision that the U.S. Constitution provides that all men are created equal. (In 2006 Virginia residents had voted 57-43 in support of the amendment banning gay marriage. An October 2013 poll showed that support for the ban had fallen by only one point, to 56 percent. Because new Democrat Governor Terry McAuliffe is unable to get the GOP-controlled legislature to

reverse the ban, he instead relied on Allen, a black liberal appointed by Obama who named her child after the musician Yanni.) [55032, 55033, 55034, 55036, 55066, 55137]

At Morning Jolt, NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty provides a brilliant summary of "how the ObamaCare discussion has progressed, in short play form."

"Congressional Republicans: Obamacare's new rules are eliminating plans that people like.

Obama: That's not true. We said, 'If you like your plan, you can keep your plan.'

People: Hey, our insurance plan just got canceled!

Obama: 'I am sorry that [you] are finding themselves in this situation based on assurances [you] got from me.'

Congressional Republicans: You have to repeal the law. The law is what's causing these plan cancellations.

Obama: No, it isn't. And no, we don't have to repeal it. We're not going back.

Congressional Democrats: Yeah, what he said. It's. The. Law. We're not going back. We're all united behind Obamacare as is it currently written!

Red State Democrats: Whoa, whoa, whoa. What's all this 'we' stuff?

Obama: Besides, this only impacts a very small number of people on the individual market.

Congressional Republicans: That's several million people. The whole point of this thing was to cover the uninsured, and your law, passed without any of our votes, is creating more uninsured.

[Red State Democrats attempt to quietly slink out of the room]

Obama: This is not a big problem.

[The people get angrier.]

Obama: Okay, fine. I'm reinstating the old plans for a year.

Insurance companies: What, do you think we have these things hooked up to light switches? We can't just flick them back on.

State Insurance Commissioners: Ahem, Mr. [Obama], I think you'll need our approval for this.

Obama: Okay. If you liked your old plan, and if the insurance companies decide to offer it again, and if the state insurance commissioner signs off, you can keep your old plan.

People: Gee, thanks a heap, champ.

Congressional Republicans: The employer mandate isn't going to work!

Obama: Yes, it will! Yes, we can!

Congressional Democrats: They're just nay-saying because they're bitter, and hate [Obama], and they want sick people to die quickly.

(looks around)

Hey, where did the Red State Democrats go?

[The deadline for the employer mandate gets closer.]

Business community: These rules are unworkable.

Obama: Due to unforeseen problems no one saw coming, I have instructed Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to delay the employer mandate until after the midterm elections.

Congressional Republicans: What do you mean, unforeseen? We told you it isn't going to work! And you don't have the authority to just unilaterally decide some parts of the law are delayed!

Obama: Yes, I do. Yes, we can!

Congressional Democrats: Why are you complaining about him doing this? You were the ones complaining about the employer mandate before.

Congressional Republicans: The delay doesn't change much. The employer mandate still isn't going to work!

Obama: Yes, it will! Yes, we can!

[Time passes.]

Business community: These rules are still unworkable. All you've done is give us more time to deal with a set of rules that make things more complicated and more expensive,

and create perverse incentives to eliminate our existing coverage for employees, pay the fines instead, and tell our employees to buy insurance on the exchanges.

Obama: Due to unforeseen problems no one saw coming, I have instructed Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to delay the employer mandate until 2016.

Congressional Republicans: Here we go again.

Congressional Democrats: What are you complaining about? He's giving you what you wanted!

(looking around)

And where the heck did our red-state guys go?

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV): 'There's bipartisan support for legislation postponing the implementation of the entirety of the Affordable Care Act until 2015.'" [55000]

NYTimes.com reports that King Abdullah II of Jordan is in Washington, D.C. to meet with Obama. The two are scheduled to fly to California for dinner at Sunnyland Estate in Rancho Mirage on February 14. Obama is expected to play golf on both Saturday and Sunday. (His wife and children will be elsewhere for the Valentine's Day weekend.) [55005, 55073, 55075, 55077]

The government of Afghanistan releases 65 terrorists from prison, with President Hamid Karzai stating, "Afghanistan is a sovereign country. If the Afghan judicial authorities decide to release a prisoner, it is of no concern to the U.S., and should be of no concern to the U.S. ...I hope the United States will now begin to respect Afghan sovereignty." (Karzai leaves office in April and is, of course, more concerned with pleasing the Afghani people than the Obama administration. He knows that the power of the Taliban and other radicals will increase as soon as the last U.S. soldier departs, and he has no desire to be on their enemies list. On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer emphasizes that point, saying Karzai "releases the prisoners, he has secret negotiations with the Taliban, he denounces the United States left and right, he refuses to sign on to the status of forces agreement. Why? Because either we're gonna leave this year, or even if we don't leave this year, he's already heard the reports that the Pentagon wants to evacuate all Americans in time for 2016 so that Obama can leave with a legacy of having gotten us out of the war. As if our national interests ought to be dictated by how Obama looks in history or how he vindicates a promise that he had made in the past. He [Karzai] looks at that and says, 'The Americans will be gone for sure one way or the other. I'm going to be here and I don't want to be lynched like the last Soviet dictator.'" [55059, 55181]

On *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, Judge Andrew Napolitano says that Obama "is doing the opposite of what he was elected to do. ...At some point he is totally frustrating what Congress has written. ...There's sort of a cult around him in the Democratic Party that



he's 'our guy' and he can do whatever he wants." Newsmax.com writes, "Napolitano said there are 11 million people in the United States who could be deported to their native countries, but Obama has told them, 'If you do A, B, C, D, and E, I won't deport you'—effectively telling them they can break the law and suffer no consequences." Although Senator Rand Paul [R-KY) "sued Obama this week over NSA surveillance, Napolitano said a lawsuit over Obama's executive actions would be tossed out of court. A judge would tell any member of Congress bringing such a suit to instead begin impeachment proceedings"—but Congress does not have the courage to do so, partly because far too many Americans seem not to care that Obama is ignoring the law and violating the oath he took to follow and protect the U.S. Constitution. [55060]

Cavuto also interviews author, attorney, and talk show host Mark Levin, who observes, "Do you realize you could combine all the financial crimes, all the fraud and waste, all in the private sector throughout our entire history and it wouldn't meet one year of waste, fraud and abuse by the federal government—which is approximately a quarter trillion dollar a year, according to the Government Accountability Office. If these men talking, and lying, and spinning—called politicians—were in the private sector, they'd be doing life terms [in prison] for financial crimes." Levin warns, "We have \$100 trillion in unfunded liability, \$17.3 trillion in fiscal operating debt, this debt ceiling increase will kick it to about \$18.2 trillion. Let me tell you something, I am sick and tired of defeatist Republicans going on and on, 'You've got to count the [vote] numbers.' Leaders effect events. Leaders change mindsets. Leaders change trajectory. Today, we're told the Republican Party can't do anything about trillions in unfunded liabilities in debt. Just keep voting for debt ceiling increases, keep funding Obamacare. Let me tell you something. Who among the Republican leaders is explaining day in and day out the coming, the looming catastrophe? You need to communicate this in real human terms to the people, but they don't. ... Well here's the problem. When people say, 'He's not the only one. You have to win first.' What do you do? You go to the American people, [and] say, 'We have to win first!' They go, 'Who the Hell are you? ... Win what?'" [55087]

"...[W]e conservatives and the American people, we can walk and chew gum at the same time. There's a lot going on in this country that's very, very bad and we need to address it. Otherwise, why do these people get into politics in the first place? The American people need to be told: If this continues for many more years, they're going to lose their pensions, they're going to lose their savings, they're going to lose their college funds, and the value of the currency is going to crash. This is a fact. ... The country's bigger than [House Speaker] John Boehner or [Senate Minority Leader] Mitch McConnell... we're talking about here, preserving the Republic. Economies do crash. Societies do crash. We just went through it a few years ago with the housing market, which was spurred by the government policies with mortgages and so forth. We can't keep going through this and we're not going to. ... They [Democrats] don't fear Boehner or McConnell because they've surrendered from day one. Obama's been in office five-and-a-half years; he's never really seriously had to face opposition from a real, strong Republican Party. ... [And] you just don't fight a battle three weeks before the battle's coming. You need to have a strategy. Example: The next debt ceiling is March 2015, start today. Make the

case. Explain it to the American people rather than go on Jay Leno's show [as did Boehner], slouch in the chair and act like an ass." [55087]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Connecticut's gun control deadline requiring gun registration has come and gone—putting tens of thousands of law-abiding citizens at risk of felony charges, should officials decide to crack down on what one gun owner called a stand of 'civil disobedience.' Last January after the Sandy Hook shooting, Connecticut passed a stringent new gun control laws, and in April, Gov. Daniel Mallory approved restrictions which redefined the definition of an 'assault weapon' to ban 100 more types of semi-automatic weapons. The law's grandfather clause allowed gun owners already possessing AR-15s and similar weapons to keep them, but they must submit their personal information to a statewide registry. ... Now, as Connecticut's The Courant estimates, as many as 100,000 gun owners with 350,000 unregistered weapons have yet to come forward, making state officials uneasy. Furthermore, estimates concerning banned magazines holding more than ten rounds—which have no serial numbers and are impossible to track unless registered—show that only 36,932 have been entered into the state's databases, while over two million remain on the market. ... Meanwhile, Scott Wilson, president of Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc. (CCDL) has led the charge against Connecticut's gun restrictions, suing the state in May for passing an unconstitutional law that violates the Second Amendment. 'I think that the state would be better served using its resources going after violent criminals—ones that are perpetuating acts of violence in their community—instead of going after law-abiding citizens,' Wilson told The Daily Caller." [55055, 55067, 55068, 55076]

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld says former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton bears responsibility for the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi on September 11, 2012: "In this instance, there was widespread knowledge, as was pointed out by Congressman [Darrell] Issa [R-CA], the British [and the Red Cross] knew that there were al-Qaeda threats, and they pulled their people out because they knew they couldn't protect them. Our people knew there were al-Qaeda threats, and they not only did not protect them, but they didn't pull them out. That, in my view, is a neglect of important responsibilities. The idea that it falls to someone down the line, I think, is a misunderstanding. Clearly, the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is the person responsible." [55100, 55101, 55166]

At FoxNews.com Todd Starnes reports, "The president of Family Health Care directed staff to block Fox News after a board member complained about our network's coverage of the Affordable Care Act... 'The board member complained that patients were turning the channel to Fox News,' said the employee who asked not to be identified for reasons related to the unemployment line. 'They are pro-ObamaCare and they felt (Fox's) stance did not mesh with our stance.' Family Health Care is a private, non-profit business that operates community health centers in five Michigan towns. According to the employee, the health centers have ObamaCare facilitators on site to help people apply for the program. ... 'I feel like we are being manipulated,' the employee said. 'Who are they to say you can't watch something? If the patient wants to put on Fox they should be able to

put on Fox.’ ...And you won’t believe what the health center is forcing patients to watch. ‘CNN,’ the employee told me. ‘Ugh.’” [55025]

Residents of Nampa, Idaho are outraged after viewing dashboard camera video of a police officer kicking and then shooting to death a dog because it was barking at him. The officer, Tarek Hassani, is a Muslim. The officer claims that the dog attempted to bite him, but it is clear from the video that it did not. In fact, even after being kicked by the officer it did not attack him. (While many Americans are aware that Muslims hate dogs, few probably know that Idaho has a Muslim population.) Obama has no comment. [55026, 55027]

Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) tweets: “Just a matter of time: waiting for the VA [Virginia] GOP to claim this winter storm was caused by the Affordable Care Act.” (A mere 26 seconds later he deletes the tweet.) It is worth noting that, according to BusinessWeek.com, although the nation has experienced a brutally cold winter with above average snowfall, “Last fall the Climate Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted that temperatures would be above normal from November through January across much of the Lower 48 states. ... ‘Not one of our better forecasts,’ admits Mike Halpert, the Climate Prediction Center’s acting director.” (The government cannot get a winter forecast anywhere near correct, yet the taxpayers are expected to believe what it says about “global warming” and long-range climate change.) [55042, 55293]

Meanwhile, *Mother Jones* Washington Bureau Chief and MSNBC contributor David Corn—a leftist who believe in man-caused global warming and thinks the world should wean itself from petroleum products—has a hissy fit when he runs low on heating oil for his home in the tony Washington, D.C. suburb of Takoma Park, Maryland (a “nuclear free zone”). His Twitter messages include, “Blizzard is coming. And my oil ran out today. On the phone with Petro Oil. They’re saying no deliveries tonight. Really, PetroHome?” “PetroHome says no oil tonight. But don’t worry, they’ll deliver later tomorrow. Do they not know a snowstorm is coming?” “My contract with PetroHome is for deliveries BEFORE heating oil runs out.” “Amazing how conservative jerks think a cold house due to nondelivery of heating oil is justifiable revenge for concern re climate change.” (On CBS *This Morning*, Charlie Rose blames the cold weather and snow on “global warming.” Winter storms have arguably created more “shovel ready” jobs in five weeks than Obama has in five years.) [55053, 55062, 55113, 55213]

According to DailyCaller.com, the waiver-happy Obama administration has awarded a three-month extension to the Massachusetts ObamaCare exchange in order “to fix its broken website and get customers enrolled.” “Jean Yang, head of the flailing Massachusetts Health Connector, wept at a Thursday board meeting over her staff’s demoralizing struggle to prevent residents from losing coverage in the face of a broken website and mountain of paper applications to be processed... Staff is working on a backlog of 50,000 paper applications, exchange officials announced at the board meeting, which Yang said would take two hours each to process. The stress left Yang in tears at the board meeting as she described her staff’s malaise. ‘These people came here to lead

and innovate, and instead they're doing manual workarounds, and they are embarrassed to tell friends and family that they work for the Health Connector,' Yang cried." [55052]

FederalJack.com posts an interview with Wolfgang W. Halbig, a former Florida State Trooper, U.S. Customs Inspector, teacher, dean, assistant principal, principal, and Director of School Safety and Security for the Seminole County, Florida Public Schools. The site notes, "Mr. Halbig was invited by the U.S. Department of Justice to train over 3,500 school police officers, school superintendents and school principals. He travels the country providing presentations and keynotes to a variety of school board associations and conferences and is a nationally-recognized school safety and security expert and consultant, who has provided safety training and school assessments for more than 4,000 school districts nationwide." Halbig, who has stated that he does not believe the "official" story of the Sandy Hook Elementary School event and thinks no students died, reports that he was visited by two Lake County, Florida homicide detectives in December 2013 and told that Connecticut State Police would file felony harassment charges against him if he continued to ask questions. (Some believe that the Sandy Hook school shooting was staged in order to gin up public support for strict gun control legislation. It is not difficult to find articles describing and questioning the many discrepancies in the reports of the shooting.) [55070, 55074, 55149, 55392, 55412, 55707]

21stCenturyWire.com later lists some of the discrepancies and questions about the Sandy Hook shooting raised by Halbig and others: "Law enforcement parked 1/4 mile away upon arrival. Why didn't they rush to a heart-wrenching emergency if it really occurred? No trauma helicopters were ordered. This is unheard of for an actual emergency. No paramedics were allowed in the school. This is unheard of. Officials refuse to say who declared all 26 people dead. By law, this must come from a doctor. This refusal of so much basic information indicates lies and cover-ups. Official narrative claims emergency personnel didn't find the school secretary and nurse after 4 hours of searching. This 'event' included a traffic sign lit with the message, 'everyone must sign in.' Officials refuse any comment on this element that would be present for a staged event/drill. Porta potties were on site; again with no comment by officials and consistent with holding a staged event. No names were listed for the 26 children and chorus director at the 2013 Super Bowl event in honor of Sandy Hook. The children resemble the alleged shooting victims. It's unimaginable to not list these names for such a huge deal. No lawsuits filed by parents for negligence against school district. This is unheard of. A shooter with Aspergers [Asperger Syndrome] would have poor motor skills and muscle tone—how did he carry all the gear and shoot with such precision? This combination is impossible to imagine. Two homicide investigators threatened Mr. Halbig for making inquiries consistent with his professional duties to learn about this event for future school safety. Newtown Public Schools won't return any calls." [55392, 55412, 55707]

"Mr. Halbig says this non-cooperation to contribute information for other schools' safety is unheard of. The FBI classified the report on Sandy Hook. This has never been done before, and indicates a cover-up of all the evidence that this was a staged event. Radio transmissions are consistent in tone and content for a drill, not an actual emergency. Multiple weapons reported at a limited crime scene were never found. This is not

credible. Law enforcement sent a kindergarten girl from the hall to stay at the crime scene of room 8 to be alone with dead bodies. This is a ridiculous claim that demands investigation and answers. No parents viewed the bodies of their children. This is also unheard of. No documents are being released via Freedom of Information Act requests. This is unheard of. Trauma services were never requested. This would never occur. Tearing down the school is consistent with destruction of evidence, given the HUGE gaps between official accounts and the evidence. There's zero evidence that a bio-hazard company was contacted to clean blood, bodily fluids, and officials refuse comment. This is impossible. Mr. Halbig's inquiries of who installed the school security system has been met with silence. This is unheard of to not get this information to improve other schools." [55392, 55412]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tells radio talk show Mark Levin, "In the 13 months I've been in the Senate it has become apparent to me the single thing that Republican politicians hate and fear the most, and that is when they're forced to tell the truth. It makes their heads explode. ...Make no mistake about it, this [clean debt ceiling extension] was their desired outcome. A lot of the Republicans wanted exactly what Barack Obama wanted, exactly what Nancy Pelosi wanted, exactly what Harry Reid wanted, which is to raise the debt ceiling, but they wanted to be able to tell what they view as their foolish, gullible constituents back home they didn't do it." [55080]

On February 14 Obama's propaganda arm, Organizing for Action, sends an email with a photograph of four kittens. The caption is: "Treat yourself right this Valentine's Day. Get pamPURRED with health care." (Most would assume the message is intended for young women. *The Obama Timeline* believes young women should feel insulted by a White House that believes they are unintelligent and can be easily swayed to sign up for ObamaCare with a picture of kittens and a childish caption.) The White House tweets the message, "True love has no lifetime limits... just like health coverage at Healthcare.gov. Valentines Day. Get covered." Below the text are hearts with, "R U Covered?" (It is clear that the Obama administration includes some very young staffers whose immaturity is exceeded only by their enthusiasm for propaganda.) The equally childish and almost equally leftist National Women's Law Center writes, "Sticks and stones may break your bones; The flu brings aches and chills. Get covered [by ObamaCare] by March 31; To avoid giant medical bills." Meanwhile, across the country women are buying guns, rather than kittens, and are receiving them as "gifts of safety." [55028, 55047, 55130, 55190]

While Americans and others around the world celebrate Valentine's Day, Muslims in several countries protest the expressions of love with protests. In Malaysia, authorities discourage Valentine's Day because it is associated with "elements of Christianity." In Saudi Arabia, florists hide red roses to avoid harassment from "religious police patrols." According to News.Com.au, "Anti-Valentine's Day patrols by the Muttawa religious police—formally known as the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice—started on Wednesday. They began entering premises stocking chocolates, flowers and souvenirs to warn proprietors against selling anything red or heart-shaped and linked to the annual 'infidel celebration' of matters romantic. Saudi Arabia applies a rigorous interpretation of Islam under which the sexes are strictly segregated and any

public display of affection is completely taboo.” (Red roses and heart-shaped chocolates are sold “in the back room,” away from prying eyes.) In Indonesia, the *Jakarta Globe* reports, “[A]ctivists with the Indonesian Muslim Student Action Union (Kammi) urged Indonesian Muslims to avoid celebrating Valentine’s Day. ‘Valentine’s Day should be strictly rejected and [not] celebrated by young people by committing immoral deeds such as premarital sex,’ Jabar Zurniawati, the head of Kammi’s women’s empowerment division, said on the sidelines of the rally... Considering the majority of Indonesians are Muslims, she said, young people should maintain more Eastern traditions and reject Western celebrations of love like Valentine’s Day. In Uzbekistan, religious leaders condemn St. Valentine’s Day as a harmful holiday that contradicts both Islam and local traditions. One mullah says, “The holiday is just another reason that pushes people to fornication.” At Peshawar University in Pakistan, Muslims throw rocks at fellow students who dared to celebrate the day. According to *Tribune.co.pk*, “Violence escalated as the students pulled out weapons and started firing at police officers as well. The police also fired back and thirteen students were taken into custody. The students also set three rooms of the hostel on fire.” [55088, 55089, 55090, 55091, 55092, 55093, 55094, 55095, 55096, 55097]

Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich posts a graphic from the Republican National Committee that shows all 27 of Obama’s ObamaCare delays. [55037]

NJ1015.com reports that a shortage of rock salt for de-icing roads in the northeast can be blamed partly on the 1920 Maritime Act, also known as the Jones Act, which places restrictions on foreign vessels wishing to transport shipments from one U.S. port to another—unless the Department of Homeland Security issues a waiver. (The Jones Act also caused problems during the BP oil spill in April 2010, when Obama refused to issue a waiver that would have permitted foreign vessels to help with the clean-up operations. The assumption is that Obama refused to act in deference to the maritime workers unions. President George W. Bush issued a waiver to help recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina.) [11951, 11952, 12043, 12044, 12062, 12095, 12190, 12218, 12272] 55318, 55319]

Former House Speaker Tom Delay tells *Newsmax.TV*’s Steve Mahlberg the U.S. Constitution “creates a government that reflects the principles given to us in the Declaration of Independence. [It] can only survive and can only carry us into the future if you have people that believe in those principles ... and protect the separation of powers. ... What we have now is [Obama,] who has accelerated the progressive movement that started back with Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson ... to such an extent that I now can tell you that we’re living under a government of tyranny. When you have a [person who] is cruel and unfair to the people using his powers to undermine the Constitution of the United States [in order] to create a ... monarchy within the presidency, and ignores the Congress or the judicial branch, you have tyranny. ... Redistribution of wealth is tyranny. Taking private property is tyranny. The EPA, just this last week, took a whole town in Wyoming, Riverton, and gave it to the Indian reservation. Ten thousand people and their property and gave it to the Indian reservation. I could go on and on [about] what we’re living under right now and the American people need to wake up...” [55103]

“We need a revolution for the Constitution. ...[Republicans] have to [get the message out] or we’re going to lose... If we had the election today, there would be an overwhelming tidal wave throwing these Democrats out of office and it’s set unless the Republicans screw it up. ...One of the things that disappoints me the most is the messaging coming out of the Republicans. They have a perfect opportunity now, because the difference between the Obamanites and the rest of us is so graphically stark, all you have to do is talk about it and the American people say, ‘Oh yeah, now I get it,’ and they’ll throw these people out. ...Unfortunately, the Republicans over the last few years have become so fractured that you can’t get anything done and when you give up before you even fight, when you surrender before you fight, what happens is you can’t hold those people together and lead them in a particular direction. ...The people, where I live, they just want to see a fight for what you believe in. Fight for it. Even if you lose, fight. ...Obamacare is unconstitutional. There is nothing in the Constitution that gives the federal government the authority to regulate healthcare insurance. And there’s no reason for us to fix it. There’s no reason to have it. We need to get through this election and we need to elect people that understand, number one, the Constitution, number two, that Obamacare is unconstitutional and it needs to be stripped out of the federal government.” [55103]

Algemeiner.com reports, “U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is pressuring the Indian government to pull out of a pending deal to purchase Spike missiles from Israel’s Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Ltd., one of the Jewish state’s top arms manufacturers, Israeli daily Ma’ariv reported on Thursday. Until recently, it appeared that the major arms contract between Israel and India was all but finalized, according to the report. The Spike missiles were tested extensively by the Indian army, which had reportedly agreed to spend millions of dollars on the rockets. At the last moment however, John Kerry along with other senior U.S. government officials began to exert political pressure on the Indians to renege on their agreement with Israel. According to Ma’ariv, the Americans’ motivation for meddling is financial. The U.S. government is reportedly trying to lure India into acquiring American-made Javelin missiles instead of the Israeli Spike. ...Evidently, serious cuts to the U.S. defense budget have resulted in a scramble by the U.S. government to line up contracts for the mammoth American defense industry in an effort to prevent this major provider of American jobs from drying up, according to Ma’ariv.” [55057]

FoxNews.com reports, “After a string of rocky confirmation hearings for ...Obama’s diplomatic nominees, the group representing America’s Foreign Service professionals signaled Friday that it’s had enough. The organization, in a major rebuke, is now urging that the White House set minimum qualification standards for its ambassadorial nominees. ‘The topic of the qualifications of ambassadorial nominees is of great interest to AFSA’s membership,’ The American Foreign Service Association said in a statement. ‘All Americans have a vested interest in ensuring that we have the most effective leaders and managers of U.S. embassies and missions advancing U.S. interests around the globe.’ The American Foreign Service Association has long argued that ambassadorial nominees should, for the most part, come from the ranks of career professionals—as opposed to the

ranks of top-dollar political donors. But the organization is taking its concerns to a new level, announcing Friday that it will propose new guidelines for ‘the necessary qualifications and qualities’ for diplomatic candidates. The statement said the group has been ‘closely monitoring’ recent confirmation hearings.” (So far, 37 percent of Obama’s appointments to diplomatic went to campaign donors and political cronies, rather than seasoned and knowledgeable diplomats.) [55078, 55081]

At Breitbart.com Joel B. Pollak reports, “The Covered California [ObamaCare exchange] website includes a special page entitled: ‘No temas si eres indocumentado/a y quieres inscribir a tu familia en un seguro médico’ (‘Fear not if you are undocumented and want to enroll your family in health insurance’). The website goes on to explain that information shared with Obamacare cannot be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It does not explicitly warn that illegal aliens are ineligible. ‘According to the laws and implementing regulations,’ the website says, ‘the information provided by individuals for coverage can not be used for purposes other than ensuring the efficient functioning of the insurance market ( Covered California) or administration of the program, or to verify certain eligibility determinations including verification of the immigration status of these people.’” (Even though Obama insisted in his 2009 State of the Union address that illegal immigrants would not be covered by his proposed health care legislation—prompting Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) to shout, “You lie!”—at least one state is doing nothing to prevent ineligible illegal immigrants from enrolling in ObamaCare.) [55110, 55111]

Workers at the Volkswagen manufacturing facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee vote against a United Auto Workers attempt to unionize the workforce. WSJ.com writes, “The setback is a bitter defeat because the union had the cooperation of Volkswagen management and the aid of Germany’s powerful IG Metall union, yet it failed to win a majority among the plants 1,550 hourly workers. Volkswagen workers rejected the union by a vote of 712 to 626. The defeat raises questions about the future of a union that for years has suffered from declining membership and influence, and almost certainly leaves its president, Bob King, who had vowed to organize at least one foreign auto maker by the time he retires in June, with a tarnished legacy. ‘If the union can’t win [in Chattanooga], it can’t win anywhere,’ said Steve Silvia, a economics and trade professor at American University who has studied labor unions. ...[Some] workers were persuaded to vote against the union by the UAW’s past of bitter battles with management, costly labor contracts and complex work rules. ‘If the union comes in, we’ll have a divided work force,’ said Cheryl Hawkins, 44, an assembly line worker with three sons. ‘It will ruin what we have.’” [55084, 55085, 55102, 55104, 55517, 55518, 55129, 55135, 55146, 55165, 55182, 55191, 55214, 55261, 55277, 55405]

“Other UAW opponents said they dislike the union’s support of politicians who back causes like abortion rights and gun control that rub against the conservative bent of Southern states like Tennessee. Still others objected to paying dues to a union from Detroit that is aligned with Volkswagen competitors like GM and Ford. ‘I just don’t trust them,’ said Danielle Brunner, 23, who has worked at the plant for nearly three years and makes about \$20 an hour—about \$5 an hour more than new hires at GM, Ford and



Chrysler plants.” (Affecting the worker vote may have been a recent statement from State Senator Bo Watson: “Should the workers at Volkswagen choose to be represented by the United Auto Workers, then I believe any additional incentives from the citizens of the state of Tennessee for expansion or otherwise will have a very tough time passing the Tennessee Senate.” Some workers worried that the union would eventually price them out of their jobs; as operating costs escalated, Tennessee would lose the jobs and Mexico or China would gain them. Others were swayed by stories that Volkswagen would expand the facility to produce a new seven-passenger SUV if the vote went against the union—which angered MSNBC leftist Rachel Maddow, who apparently believes it is better to have the UAW represent workers than to expand the plant and hire more workers or increase overtime opportunities.) According to one report, the UA may have spent as much as \$5 million over two years on its organizing effort—or about \$8,000 for each of the 626 votes it received. The UAW’s next target may be the Nissan factory in Canton, Mississippi—where the union will likely “play the race card” with the facility’s many black workers. (Because the UAW has lost members over the years, it has begun organizing non-automotive workers—in casinos and public universities—to increase its union dues revenue.) [55084, 55085, 55102, 55104, 55517, 55518, 55129, 55135, 55146, 55165, 55182, 55214, 55261, 55277, 55405]

At a meeting of House Democrats, Obama says everyone favored the UAW except for Tennessee Republicans, who “are more concerned about German shareholders than American workers.” [55086]

Vice President Joe Biden tells the assembled House Democrats, “There isn’t a Republican Party. I wish there were. I wish there was a Republican Party you could sit across the table from, make a deal, make a compromise and know when you got up from the table it could be done. ...For the first time in my career ...on every major issue, the American people agree with the Democratic Party... I can’t think of a time when the issues that most affect the American people, most affect the middle class, overwhelmingly, overwhelmingly support us.” (Biden’s definition of “major issues” may be at odds with a majority of Americans, who oppose ObamaCare, do not support late-term abortions, oppose NSA spying on U.S. citizens, oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants, support photo ID voting requirements, support reduced federal spending, oppose higher taxes, and support school choice.) [55132, 55133, 55134]

At FoxNews.com Catherine Herridge reports, “New information about the intelligence available in the immediate aftermath of the Benghazi attack raises questions about whether the former No. 2 at the CIA downplayed or dismissed reporting from his own people in Libya that it was a coordinated attack and not an out-of-control protest over an anti-Islam video. Then-Deputy Director Mike Morell, whose own agency lost two employees at Benghazi, former Navy Seals Ty Woods and Glen Doherty, was heavily involved in editing the administration’s internal narrative on what happened—known as the ‘talking points’—which served as the basis for then-U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice’s controversial claims about a protest on the Sunday talk shows after the attack. According to the bipartisan Senate Intelligence Committee report on Benghazi, on Sept. 15, four days after the attack and one day before Rice’s appearance, the CIA’s most senior

operative on the ground in Libya emailed Morell and others at the agency that the attack was ‘...not an escalation of protests.’ Fox News has confirmed that three days earlier, the CIA Chief of Station and the agency's team in Libya also sent situation reports, known as sitreps, to Washington. The raw intelligence reporting described a coordinated attack by extremists, not an out-of-control protest. ...While Morell has a standing invitation to speak with Fox News on camera, in [a] statement he said he does ‘not intend to get into an extended dialogue with you on the subject nor do I intend to grant you an interview on this matter.’” (More than one year after the Benghazi attack, it is still not know who in the Obama administration made the decision to lie about the incident and blame it on a YouTube video.) [55083]

At WesternJournalism.com Gabor Zolna reads a letter from a member of the U.S. Armed Forces: “Here’s the problem for us soldiers. We can’t trust each other, as there are those [among us] who are extreme liberals, socialists, and love the current administration. We’re infiltrated with these traitors and we don’t know how to organize without others turning us in and sabotaging our plans. That’s just one problem. Outside of that, as an organization we have become plagued with dysfunction, toxicity [sic; toxicity], illness, injuries, and betrayal. It does not allow for a good foundation, at the current moment, for us to clean house for our country. They know this. They created the environment as it is right now. We didn’t see it ’til it was too late. Militants are forming, but in small pockets, unable to fully unite and plan our strategies in secrecy. And there are watchdogs out there watching us attempt to plan. I’m sure every word I am typing right now is watched. There is no privacy in which we can operate on our own soil. Our best efforts will only be when they place u on orders against you. That is when we will know what soldiers will bleed for you and which are loyal to this regime. That is when we will... go AWOL and fight, but at this time I do not see even that going well. It will be chaotic at best. We will need help, and it won’t just be the traitors’ new army we will fight. There will be other Americans, our own neighbors, friends, and family that still stand by [Obama], and we will be required to put down our own. There are huge realities in war we will all have to overcome. My heart beats fast when I think what is coming to our citizens that I love so deeply. I am so very sorry; it appears we have failed you.” [55120]

Zolna comments, “[T]hat almost makes me want to tear up, ’cause I believe what he said. This administration is a cancer that has destroyed the moral foundation of our country. And what he said is very telling. They’re gonna wait until this administration orders them to fight us, the American citizens. This is nuts, folks. This is completely and totally insane. It hurts me deeply to see what’s happened to our country. It sickens me to think of what my children and my grandchildren have in their future with this madman destroying what was once the greatest nation in the world.” [55120]

Pamela Geller reports, “For the past year, I have been reporting on the jihad in the Central African Republic (CAR). It is bloody, savage ...unimaginable. Mass slaughter, Muslims beheading children, pastors slaughtered, Bible translators killed, thousands of Christians fleeing after Muslims hunted them door-to-door looking for enemies of ‘Allah’ ...scores of media-blacklisted stories. The UN children’s agency on Friday said it was horrified at how children are being maimed and killed, including by beheadings, in the

country. Unicef officials in the region ‘are horrified by the cruelty and impunity with which children are being killed and mutilated’ and are ‘increasingly targeted because of their religion, or because of their community,’ the organisation said in a statement. At least 133 children have been killed and maimed, some of them in horrific ways, in the past two months and Unicef has verified cases of children intentionally beheaded and mutilated. ‘Impunity must end,’ Fontaine said. There has been an Islamic reign of terror in the Central African Republic. The jihad in CAR has been virtually ignored by the media until now—when they are inverting the narrative of the news and calling the slaughterers victims. Call CNN—send those pompous, elite asses this story and every story of Muslims slaughtering Christians in the Central African Republic (and everywhere else across Africa, the Middle East and Asia). Will Obama have us going to war for the Muslims, the way Clinton did in Bosnia? Or the way CAIR, ISNA, ICNA want us to intervene on behalf of the Muslims in Burma? Islamic supremacists demand the filthy kuffar [or ‘kaffir,’ a derogatory Muslim term for non-Muslims] fight their war against... the filthy kuffar, and the media happily wages war on their behalf in the information battle-space.” [55122, 55123]

Caroline Glick writes, “Anti-Semitic attacks have become regular events in Turkey. In December, after leaving an anti-corruption rally in Istanbul, a young woman was attacked by 10 to 15 supporters of Prime Minister Recip Tayyip Erdogan who had just left a support rally for the premier. They accused her of being a Jew, as they beat her up. In an interview with *The Times of Israel*, Turkish opposition MP Ayken Kerdemir said that Erdogan has cultivated Turkish anti-Semitism. ‘He is not only capitalizing on the existing sentiments,’ Kerdemir explained. Erdogan is ‘fueling some of that anti-Israel and anti-Semitic feeling... with his rhetoric, conspiracy theories, campaign slogans and actions.’ ...Erdogan’s anti-Semitism is not opportunistic. He isn’t simply exploiting a popular prejudice for his own benefit. He is an anti-Semite. And his anti-Semitism informs his behavior toward Israel. In Kerdemir’s view, Erdogan’s uncontrollable hatred of Jews makes it impossible for him to agree to reconcile Turkey’s relations with Israel. As he put it, ‘Erdogan’s core values vis-à-vis Jews and Israel prevent him from dealing with this issue in a tolerant, embracing and sustainable way.’ ...It isn’t simply that Erdogan cannot reconcile with Israel because he hates Jews. As is almost always the case with anti-Semites, Erdogan’s anti-Semitism is part of his general authoritarian outlook informed by a paranoid mindset. Erdogan sees a Jewish conspiracy behind every independent power base in Turkey. And his rejection of Israel is an integral part of his rejection of all forces in Turkey that are not dependent on his good offices. Over the past 10 years, and with ever increasing brutality, paranoia and intensity, Erdogan has sought to destroy all independent power bases in the country. He purged the military by placing hundreds of generals in prison in his delusional Ergenekon conspiracy in which they were accused of seeking to overthrow his Islamist government. He has destroyed most of the independent media in the country and sent hundreds of journalists and editors to prison. The same is the case with independent businessmen.” (As Erdogan moves Turkey further away from a once-moderate secular state and more toward Islam and Shari’ah law, it is worth noting that Obama is closer to him than any other foreign leader and considers him one of his most “trusted friend.”) [55125, 55216]

Michelle Obama and her daughters arrive in Aspen, Colorado for a ski vacation. (Other arriving and departing visitors complain when the Aspen–Pitkin County Airport is closed for about an hour for security purposes.) [55136]

In Los Banos, California, Obama addresses the state’s drought and water shortage problems, saying, “It can’t just be a matter of there’s going to be less and less water so I’m going to grab more and more of a shrinking share of water. Instead what we have to do is all come together and figure out how we all are going to make sure that agricultural needs, urban needs, industrial needs, environmental and conservation concerns are all addressed.” He also proposes a \$1 billion fund to help communities deal with the effects of climate change. Obama then heads to the Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands in Palm Springs to play golf—on a golf course that is among the 124 courses that, Time.com reports, “consume roughly 17 percent of all water there, and one quarter of the water pumped out of the region’s at-risk groundwater aquifer... Each of the 124 Coachella Valley courses, on average, uses nearly 1 million gallons a day due to the hot and dry climate, 3–4 times more water per day than the average American golf course.” Republican National Committee spokesman Kirsten Kukowski comments, “We have seen this brand of hypocrisy from ...before—this time it seems his soap box doubles as a tee box.” (The drought in California would be less harmful if Obama’s bureaucrats at the Environmental Protection Agency would allow mountain water to be channeled to the state’s central farmlands rather than diverted to the ocean to protect a tiny fish known as the “delta smelt.”) [55201, 55202, 55203, 55125, 55338, 55552]

On *On the Record*, Greta Van Susteren notes House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) charge that a vote to place Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt for refusing to cooperate with investigations and provided requested documents is a “shameful abuse of power” and “a Republican plan to attempt to suppress the vote [of blacks and Hispanics because Holder is trying to block photo ID requirements for voting],” and asks for a response from Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC). Gowdy says, “My friend Allen West said the ‘race card’ was the last card in the deck, [but] I think former Speaker Pelosi has opened up a new deck, and has found the two of clubs. I could not believe it when I heard her saying that. Is that all you [Pelosi] have to come back with? Is that the best you can come up with? Is that we got together in this grand scheme to suppress votes in—sure, she didn’t say southern states but that’s what she meant. It’s really beneath the office of a member of Congress to say something that outrageous, and the fact that she was once the Speaker is mind-numbing. Honestly, and I’ve heard a lot in my 16 years as a prosecutor, I couldn’t believe the words coming out of her mouth. But, keep in mind, Greta, that this is the same woman who said that she could have arrested [Bush advisor] Karl Rove any day she wanted, so I don’t know what was wrong with her... when she said that, but I would schedule an appointment with my doctor if she thinks that we are doing this to suppress votes this fall. That is mind-numbingly stupid.” [55140, 55141]

On *The Kelly File*, Congressman Mike Kelly (R-FL) tells host Megyn Kelly it is difficult to block Obama’s actions, even if they are blatantly illegal, without public support: “Now, we can do investigations, as you know, we can expose, but what we really need are the American people to be outraged by what’s going on. The real answer to all of this

is an outcry from the public. ...It [what Obama is doing] doesn't look good to me and it doesn't look good for members of Congress. It certainly should not look good to any single American that's out there." Congressman Kelly, who has asked Attorney General Eric Holder to explain where he thinks Obama gets the authority to act around Congress, explains, "It is very difficult to get answers from the Department of Justice, especially Attorney General Holder. This is the chief law enforcement officer in the country who doesn't answer subpoenas. The Department of Justice does not hold him accountable when he is in contempt of Congress. And I think the people—and this is not a Republican issue, by the way—this is a strictly American issue—if we cannot get answers from these folks, definitive answers as to what has given [Obama] the ability to leapfrog and go over the Constitution, and the powers that he has granted to the Constitution—you cannot just change laws. ... [T]his is a government that works for the people. This is not a place where people work for the government. My goodness, if we can't see clearly right now that, 'If I don't get my way, then I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to disregard the law, I'm going to go above it. I'm going to do what I have to do to get it done. And I dare you to do something about it.' I'm going to tell you, I sit with a lot of men and women right now on both sides of the aisle by the way, that are very, very concerned with what [Obama] is doing. We will not back off. We will continue to investigate and expose." [55197]

On February 15 Paul R. Hollrah, a Senior Fellow at the Lincoln Heritage Institute, explains (as *The Obama Timeline* has done several times) that the terms "citizen" and "natural born citizen" do not mean the same thing. Hollrah notes former Senator Rick Santorum's thoughts of entering the presidential race in 2016, but points out that although Santorum is a "citizen" (having been born on U.S. soil), he is not a "natural born citizen" (because, at the time of his birth, his father was still an Italian citizen and his son therefore did not have the required two U.S. citizen parents). Having been confronted by someone who claimed, "Under [that] definition, none of our initial six or seven presidents would have qualified," Hollrah explains that is why the drafters of the U.S. Constitution "found it necessary to modify the phrase. 'No person except a natural born Citizen,' with the phrase, '...or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution...' Even the most unthinking and uneducated among us must agree that the use of the word 'or' requires an implicit understanding that those who would seek the presidency had to be *either* 'natural born citizens,' *or* 'citizens of the United States' on the day that the Constitution became the law of the land. ...Although Democrats have successfully defended Obama's illegal presidency, based largely on the fact that he is a black man, insulated from the rule of law by the color of his skin, we must insist that constitutional mandates apply equally to presidents of both parties, Democrats and Republicans. This means, of course, that conservatives such as Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Gov. Nikki Haley (R-SC), Gov. Bobby Jindal (R-LA), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), and former Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA)... all born to one or more non-US citizen parents... are not natural born citizens and must be eliminated from consideration for the 2016 GOP nomination." [55106]

*The Obama Timeline* agrees with Hollrah, and reminds readers that on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1862, Congressman John Bingham—the "father of the

14th Amendment”—stated, “All from other lands, who by the terms of [congressional] laws and a compliance with their provisions become naturalized, are adopted citizens of the United States; all other persons born within the Republic, *of parents owing allegiance to no other sovereignty*, are natural born citizens. Gentleman can find no exception to this statement touching natural-born citizens except what is said in the Constitution relating to Indians.” In 1866 Bingham stated, “Every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States *of parents not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty* is, in the language of your Constitution itself, a natural born citizen.” Bingham’s definition was never disputed by other Congressmen. (Note: Obama supporters—including attorneys filing briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court—have omitted the words “of parents” when quoting Bingham’s statement, in a shameful and intentional effort to mislead.) It is also worth noting that the Founding Fathers were more than familiar with Emerich Vattel’s *The Law of Nations*, in which he discussed natural born citizens: “[I]n order to be of the country, it is necessary that a person be born of a father who is a citizen; for, if he is born there of a foreigner, it will be only the place of his birth, and not his country,” and “natural-born citizens are those born in a country of citizen parents.” Additionally, the “grandfather clause” in Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution *makes no sense* if “natural born citizen” means nothing more than born on U.S. soil: “No Person except a natural born Citizen, *or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution* [emphasis added], shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.” That grandfather clause *had to be included* because neither George Washington nor anyone else was a natural born citizen of the United States in 1789, even though they may have been born on U.S. soil. [18420, 18466, 18783, 18784, 18795, 47262, 47263, 47264, 47265, 47511, 55106]

The purpose of the natural born citizen restriction is, of course, to reduce the likelihood of a president being unduly influenced by his or her ties to foreign nations. The assumption is that a son or daughter of parents who are both already U.S. citizens means that he or she is further removed “from the homeland” than the child of non-citizen immigrants. If Senators Marco Rubio [R-FL] or Ted Cruz [R-TX] were elected president, for example, and the United States for some reason saw fit to attack Cuba, what would Rubio or Cruz do if he still has relatives living on the island? Would he call off or delay the strike and put Americans at risk while Cuba attacks the United States? If Governors Bobby Jindal or Nikki Haley were president and India and Pakistan engaged in war, which side would he or she take? Would Jindal or Haley automatically side with India because of ancestry? Even if Pakistan happened to be on the right side of the issue? What if Jindal and Haley have relatives in India? Would Jindal or Haley persuade India to make unreasonable concessions to Pakistan to reduce the chances of those relatives being killed in an attack? Former Senator Rick Santorum may seem to be a bit further removed from Italy than the others are from Cuba and India, but that is *irrelevant*. So is the argument that the United States is not about to bomb Cuba, or would probably be more likely to support India in any confrontation it might have with Pakistan. The law is the law, and the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Those who want the natural born citizen clause changed should call on their Congressman, Senators, and state to legally

amend the Constitution. (Obama's un-American actions with regard to Kenya have been noted in this *Timeline*, of course, as have his anti-British and anti-Israel actions, and they were no doubt influenced by his [purported] Kenyan father's ideology—and that of Obama's communist, racist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis. Although it is impossible to find a presidential candidate who is not influenced to some degree by the ancestry, ideologies, and religions of his or her parents, that the natural born citizen restriction was ignored in the case of Obama has had disastrous effects is obvious.)

At his blog, Commander (Retired) Charles Kerchner (*Kerchner v. Obama*—which the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear because it was afraid to rule that Obama is ineligible to serve as President of the United States) reminds members of Congress of the “three-legged stool” test of natural born citizenship: “A ‘natural born Citizen’ of the United States is a child born with Sole Allegiance and Unity of Citizenship at birth to one and only one country—the USA, i.e., a child born in the USA of two (2) U.S. Citizens. The parents can be Citizens by Birth or they can be Citizens by Naturalization after immigrating to the USA. But to create a ‘natural born Citizen’ of the United States both parents must be Citizens at the time the child is born in the USA. See this legal reference book used by the founders and framers of our Constitution: Law of Nations or Principles of Natural Law, Vol.1 Chapter 19 Section 212, Emer de Vattel, 1758-1797. The overwhelming majority (probably 85%+) of citizens in the United States are natural born Citizens. This clause was added for future presidents as a national security clause. It is from the group of natural born Citizens that our founders prescribed in the presidential eligibility clause in Clause 5, Section 1 of Article II of the U.S. Constitution that we shall choose a President and Commander in Chief of our military as a strong check against foreign influence via birth allegiances on the person in that singular and most powerful office. One needs all three citizenship legs to be a natural born Citizen and have sole allegiance and claim on you at birth to one and only one country—the United States: 1. Born in the USA. 2. Father must be a U.S. Citizen (born or naturalized). 3. Mother must be U.S. Citizen (born or naturalized).” [55119]

“Like a three legged stool if you take away any of these three citizenship legs of the Article II constitutional intent and requirement to being a natural born Citizen, i.e., being born with unity of citizenship in and sole allegiance to the USA, the child is born with more than one country's citizenship and claim of allegiance/citizenship on them at their birth and thus they are NOT a natural born Citizen of the United States. And as in the analogy of a stool designed to stand on three legs and it is missing a leg, it falls down, likewise the person's claim to natural born Citizenship fails if the person does not have all three citizenship legs required to be a natural born Citizen at the time of their birth. ...Natural born Citizens are overwhelmingly the largest subset of all American citizens. The location of birth being in the U.S. to a U.S. father and U.S. mother ...all being U.S. Citizens at the time of birth is the only way one achieves natural born Citizenship status. Natural born Citizenship is gained by the laws of nature not by any man-made law or statute or even a constitutional amendment granting that status. Natural born Citizens need no act of man for their Citizenship was created by nature and nature's Creator. Natural born Citizens of the United States have sole allegiance to one and only one country at birth ...the United States. No foreign power or country can claim their

allegiance under U.S. law or the Law of Nations. Over 85% of American citizens fit that requirement, i.e., born in the USA of two U.S. Citizen (born or naturalized) parents. ...It is from those 85% of American citizens that our founders and framers directed us via Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution that we shall choose our President and Commander-in-Chief, not a dual-citizen son of a foreign national and British Subject father who was never even an immigrant to this country, and said child being born a British subject himself via his foreign national father, as is the case with Obama's birth status." [55119]

At FoxNews.com Jim Angle reports, "People with serious pre-existing diseases, precisely those [who Obama] aimed to help with ObamaCare, could find themselves paying for expensive drug treatments with no help from the health care exchanges. Those with expensive diseases such as lupus or multiple sclerosis [MS] face something called a 'closed drug formulary.' Dr. Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute explains, 'if the medicine that you need isn't on that list, it's not covered at all [by ObamaCare plans]. You have to pay completely out of pocket to get that medicine, and the money you spend doesn't count against your deductible, and it doesn't count against your out of pocket limits, so you're basically on your own.' The plan had claimed it would rescue those with serious pre-existing conditions. The plan had claimed it would rescue those with serious pre-existing conditions. 'So it could be that a MS patient could be expected to pay \$62,000 just for one medication,' says Dr. Daniel Kantor, who treats MS patients and others with neurological conditions near Jacksonville, Florida. 'That's a possibility under the new ObamaCare going on right now.' In fact, one conservative group, Americans for Prosperity, is running an ad on exactly this subject, featuring a woman with lupus, an auto-immune disease. She starts by saying, 'I voted for Barack Obama... I thought ObamaCare was going to be a good thing.' But Emilie Lamb says she later got a letter saying her insurance was canceled because of ObamaCare, pushing her premiums from \$52 to \$373 a month. ...One of the problems is that drugs for some diseases such as MS do not have generic versions. So without cheaper alternatives and no help from ObamaCare, patients could face huge personal out-of-pocket bills, forcing some to skimp on their medications. Kantor worries that 'this may drive more patients' to not buy their medicines, 'which we know is dangerous,' he says. 'We know MS can be a bad disease when you're not treating it. When you're treating it, for most people they handle it pretty well, but we know when you don't treat [it], it's the kind of disease where people end up in wheel chairs potentially.'" [55109]

All Alabama reports that Remington Outdoor, Co. "plans to open a plant to make and develop weapons in Huntsville that could employ about 2,000 workers... The deal is set to be announced Monday at a special meeting of the Huntsville City Council, though sources said there may be a news conference prior to the meeting. ...Although The Military Times said Remington's largest facility in Ilion, N.Y., would not be affected, The Tennessean reported in August that Remington was scouting sites around Nashville after New York's passage of the Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Act. The SAFE Act, which restricts gun ownership and sales in New York, also apparently motivated gun manufacturing company Kahr Firearms to leave New York for Pennsylvania, according to The Associated Press in August. In October, the AP reported



Rochester-based American Tactical Imports would be leaving the state for a new home in South Carolina.” United Mine Workers Local 717 president Fran Madore comments, “The SAFE Act has been a terrible thing from the beginning. You’d think New York would be doing everything to keep us. Instead, it passes a law to cripple us.” (According to Breitbart.com, the union represents 1,180 of the 1,300 Remington employees at the facility in Ilion, which has been in operation since 1816.) [55113, 55114, 55115, 55121, 55167, 55207, 55211]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating falls to 43/50 in a Star Tribune Minnesota Poll. Among men he is 35/60; among women he is 51/40. Obama is “underwater” among all age groups except 18–34 year olds, where his numbers are 59/35. (Obama defeated Mitt Romney 52.8 to 45.1 in Minnesota in 2012.) [55187, 55188, 55189]

At HomelandSecurityUS.com investigator Douglas J. Hagmann express concerns about the recent and arguably questionable deaths of investment bankers. Hagmann warns, “If my findings are correct, each of us might soon experience a severe, if not crippling blow to our personal finances, the confiscation of any wealth some of us have been able to accumulate over our lifetimes, and the end of the financial world as we once knew it. The evidence to support my findings exists in the trail of dead bodies of financial executives across the globe and a missing *Wall Street Journal* reporter [David Bird] who was working at the Dow Jones news room at the time of his disappearance. If the bodies were dots on a piece of paper, connecting them results in a sinister picture being drawn that involves global criminal activity in the financial world the likes of which is almost without precedent. It should serve as a warning that we are at the precipice of something so big, it will shake the financial world as we know it to its core. It seems to illustrate the complicity of big banks and governments, the intelligence community, and the media.” The deaths noted by Hagmann are Tim Dickenson, “a U.K.-based communications director at Swiss Re AG, [who] was reportedly found dead under undisclosed circumstances.” “William Broeksmit, 58, former senior manager for Deutsche Bank, was found hanging in his home from an apparent suicide.” “Karl Slym, 51, Managing director of Tata Motors was found dead on the fourth floor of the Shangri-La hotel in Bangkok. Police said he ‘could’ have committed suicide.” “Gabriel Magee, 39, a JP Morgan employee, died after reportedly ‘falling’ from the roof of its European headquarters in London in the Canary Wharf area.” “Mike Dueker, 50, who had worked for Russell Investment for five years, was found dead close to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in Washington State. Dueker was reported missing on January 29, 2014. Police stated that he ‘could have’ jumped over a fence and fallen 15 meters to his death, and are treating the case as a suicide.” “Ryan Henry Crane, 37, was the Executive Director in JPMorgan’s Global Equities Group.” “Richard Talley, 57, was the founder and CEO of American Title, a company he founded in 2001. Talley and his company were under investigation by state insurance regulators at the time of his death. ... Talley reportedly died from seven or eight ‘self-inflicted’ wounds from a nail gun fired into his torso and head.” (Hagmann does not include in his list Jason Alan Salais, a 34-year-old JPMorgan employee who allegedly died of a heart attack on December 15, 2013.) [55128, 55148, 55295, 55590]

At Shoebat.com Ben Barrack, noting the close relationship between George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, refers to the 1994 book, *Compromised: Clinton, Bush and the CIA* by Terry Reed (a former CIA agent) and John Cummings, which suggests, “The Arkansas-CIA connection became Clinton’s darkest secret—a secret shared by then Vice-President Bush, who himself was compromised by his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal. Their shared guilt kept them silent and tied their hands as they faced off in the 1992 Presidential election with neither mentioning Iran-Contra... Reed puts Clinton directly in the ‘Iran-Contra Loop.’ Both attended a secret meeting where CIA arms arrangements, illegal Contra training and money laundering were discussed... reveals the details and names of all who were involved, including those faceless power brokers now in positions of public prominence in Washington, D.C.... More than \$9 million a week in cash was secretly air dropped into Arkansas, which became the CIA’s domestic ‘banana republic.’ These clandestine funds were laundered for the Agency and then used for the development of Arkansas industry... Bush’s sons were involved in a criminal conspiracy with the Medellin drug cartel in Colombia, a conspiracy that was being contained by the CIA...” Barrack writes, “The Iran-Contra scandal broke open when an American cargo plane carrying weapons was shot down over Nicaragua in 1986. Pilots William Cooper and Wallace Sawyer, Jr. were killed. Damage control predictably ensued. The scandal, as it has become known, involved the CIA—which is not to be operating on U.S. soil—selling weapons to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages. An added benefit was that the funds were diverted to aid the Contras in their war with the Communist Nicaraguan Sandinistas. That official narrative is at near complete variance with Reed’s claims.” [55152, 55153]

Barrack continues, “The Reagan administration circumvented Congress to support the Contras but if it were to be revealed that the CIA was operating on U.S. soil, involved in manufacturing untraceable weapons in Governor Bill Clinton’s state, and then shipping them outside the country, it would become a scandal that would disgrace, neuter, and criminalize some powerful families. Fast forward to 2010. Operation Fast and Furious was exposed when Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry was gunned down near the Mexican-U.S. border. Guns found at the scene were traced back to an operation run out of the Department of Justice, in which ATF Agents instructed gun store owners to sell guns to straw purchasers who would be permitted to traffic those guns unimpeded into Mexico and delivered to drug cartels. Frustrated Americans couldn’t understand why House Republican leadership (Speaker John Boehner [R-OH]) seemed disinterested in pursuing the scandal despite overwhelming evidence that implicated the Obama administration in a federal agent’s death. Based on the accepted version of events about Iran-Contra, awkward comparisons were being made between the two scandals by Democrats. However, based on Reed’s claims, the comparisons were not awkward at all. They were spot-on. If Reed’s account is right, Boehner’s stonewalling would make sense if it meant keeping the truth about Iran-Contra in the closet. Ditto the Benghazi investigation. Boehner began his tenure in the U.S. Congress in 1991 and has long ago demonstrated his loyalty to the Republican Party establishment.” (Similarly, Boehner has shown no interest in fighting the IRS over its badgering of Tea Party organizations—probably because the GOP establishment, like the Democrats would like those groups to go away.) [55152, 55153]

Barrack points out that “every Presidential candidate endorsed by said establishment since Reagan would have either a.) had a personal stake in keeping Reed’s account of Iran-Contra silent... or b.) been someone who could be controlled by the establishment’s political consultants (Bob Dole, John McCain and Mitt Romney). Conversely, on the Democrat side, Bill Clinton didn’t need to be controlled relative to Iran-Contra and neither did Hillary, who is assuredly the Democrats’ choice in 2016. If Reed is correct, Clinton vs. Bush in 2016 would be a ‘mission accomplished’ moment for those who seek to keep the truth about Iran-Contra hidden.” It is clear that the “establishment” wanted John McCain to win in 2008 and Mitt Romney to win in 2012, but Obama nevertheless waltzed into the White House—due to the incompetent campaigns of Hillary Clinton, John McCain, and Mitt Romney, as well as the media’s fascination with and promotion of a half-black candidate. Some might think that Obama, like Ronald Reagan an outsider of sorts, would therefore be a risk to the establishment. But the establishment is effective at controlling Oval Office occupants. Reagan did not accomplish all he set out to do (such as slashing federal spending and eliminating the Department of Education), and neither has Obama. They have been allowed to do only what serves the interests of the northeast banking establishment and the Federal Reserve. Obama could hardly “spill the beans” on Iran-Contra with Hillary Clinton as his Secretary of State, and he no doubt entered the White House knowing that he could be ousted and disgraced at any time if the “right people” saw fit to release information about his past that conflicts with the fictionalized account he created. Obama gets to be in the White House, but he has to “toe the line.” Obama’s problem is that he has proven to be so incompetent that the establishment may not be able to put up with him for three additional years. (On the other hand, the establishment cares little whether Democrats or Republicans are in power. If Hillary Clinton is elected in 2016 she will do its bidding. If Obama is so destructive that he causes Clinton to lose, the establishment will merely see to it that her victorious GOP opponent will do its bidding.) [55152, 55153]

Barrack reviews the strong influence of Muslims in the United States. “One such individual is Abdurahman Alamoudi. Another is Suhail Khan, whose father helped found the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) and the Muslim Students Association (MSA). His mother sat on the board of a Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) chapter. In fact, [Grover] Norquist [founder of Americans for Tax Reform, or ATR] helped Khan become the White House gatekeeper relative to selecting Muslim leaders who the Bush administration partnered with before and after 9/11. Those Muslim leaders belonged to Muslim Brotherhood front groups. In 2004, Norquist married a Palestinian Muslim woman named Samah Alrayyes. ...Have you ever heard [GOP strategist Karl] Rove speak out against the Muslim Brotherhood? ...Consider the issue of immigration. Conservatives all across America have been completely vexed by the desire of Republican establishment figures to grant amnesty to so many illegal aliens. Even the normally astute and incisive Rush Limbaugh couldn’t explain it. ...Take a look at who supports amnesty: Karl Rove, Grover Norquist, Jeb Bush, Jeb Bush, Jr., John Boehner, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Bush Institute, All Democrats. ...By passing amnesty, the conservative [and the Tea Party] vote is marginalized. If this is one of the reasons behind such a strategy, the Republican establishment views Party survival as

being less important than the self-preservation of the individuals who would be exposed. ...The Clinton administration courted Muslim groups and individuals in the U.S. who had nefarious connections and deadly motives for the country. In 1996, a woman with extensive familial ties to the Muslim Brotherhood—Huma Abedin—began working for Hillary. The Muslim Brotherhood’s stated goal is to destroy the United States from within. Since that time, Abedin has risen to become Hillary’s closest and most trusted adviser, to include a stint as Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Clinton during Barack Obama’s first term. Abedin has been with the Clintons for nearly 20 years. ...Just like the inexplicable Republican push for amnesty, so too was the establishment’s defense of Huma Abedin when Rep. Michele Bachmann [R-MN] and four other congressmen called attention to Abedin’s familial connections to the Muslim Brotherhood.” (Hillary Clinton, a rumored bisexual, is alleged to be “very close” to Huma Abedin. Jennifer Flowers, former mistress of Bill Clinton, reportedly stated, “I don’t know Huma or the [Anthony] Weiners. I just know what Bill told me and that was that he was aware that Hillary was bisexual and he didn’t care. He should know. He said ‘Hillary had eaten more pussy than he had.’” Clinton’s other close “gal pals” reportedly include Democrat political consultant Mandy Grunwald.) [55152, 55153, 56263, 56264]

“...Another example is that of Abdurahman Alamoudi. According to IPT News, Alamoudi became a representative for the Bill Clinton State Department in 1992 and spent Clinton’s two terms being the State Department’s representative for American Muslims. In 2003—under the George W. Bush administration—Alamoudi was arrested on charges related to terrorism. In 2004, he was convicted. The Bush-appointed FBI Director at the time—Robert Mueller—resigned in 2013. Shockingly, when asked by Rep. Louie Gohmert [R-TX] at a House Judiciary Committee hearing if he knew the mosque attended by the Boston Marathon bombers was founded by Alamoudi, Mueller said ‘no.’ ...In any event, something has prevented the Republican Party from fighting the opposition while simultaneously motivating it to fight its conservative base. So far, no one has come up with the answer and those who know aren’t telling us why they think selling out their nation is the best option.” [55152, 55153]

HindustanTimes.com reports, “More than 140,000 people, over 7,000 of them children, have been killed in Syria’s uprising-turned-civil war, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Saturday. The pro-opposition Observatory said the period since the ‘Geneva 2’ peace talks for Syria began last month had been the bloodiest of the nearly three-year conflict. The death toll is now at 140,041, according to the Observatory, which is based in Britain but has a network of activists across the country. Among the dead were 7,626 children and 5,064 women.” (Pamela Geller comments, “140,000 dead, and the world obsesses over ...Israel. Muslims march into Cyprus and take over the northern half of the country, and the world obsesses over ...Israel. Millions of refugees were displaced by the partition of India, and the world obsesses over fictional Palestinian refugees. Devout Muslim groups are waging bloody jihad in Nigeria, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Lebanon, Egypt, China, the Philippines, Syria, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, and the world is obsessed with Soda Stream [because it has a manufacturing plant on Israeli land that the Palestinians want]. Syria’s jihad ...\*crickets chirping\*.”) [55163, 55164]

In Washington , D.C., the Future of Freedom Foundation holds a forum on Civil Liberties and the National Security State, during which Obama gets criticized from the political left. Film director Oliver Stone—who supported Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez—says that Obama “stunned us with a lack of spine. He is a weak man. ...Something happened because none of the things he promised—transparency, a government that would reconsider the war on terror and these programs—none of that happened, none of it.” Stone calls former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates a criminal, and says, “It was very clear right away, when [Obama] picked Hillary Clinton and Robert Gates... On everything he backed down. I was stunned.” Author Jeremy Scahill, national security correspondent for leftist magazine *The Nation*, says, “MSNBC is like a DNC [Democrat National Committee] meet-up, while Fox News is just filled with conspiracies about this Muslim Manchurian candidate [Obama].” Noting the drone assassination of U.S. citizen Anwar al-Awlaki, Scahill says, “If you watch MSNBC, they have figured out every possible excuse for why al-Awlaki was killed. Perhaps it’s because Obama has convinced liberals he is fighting a clean war, or that Democrats have checked their conscience[s] at the door [for] Obama...” [55168, 55169, 55170]

On *Justice with Jeanine*, author Ann Coulter tells Judge Jeanine Pirro that Obama is illegally “vetoing legislation by refusing to enforce it. This is the bottom of the slippery slope, and I think he would be impeached if he weren’t America’s first black [in the White House].” [55174]

On February 16 ObamaCare advocates push “Youth Enrollment Day” in an effort to get healthy young people to sign up for overpriced health insurance they don’t need. (The process is not aided by the Healthcare.gov web site, which is shut down for maintenance in the evening.) [55192]

In Jakarta, Indonesia, Secretary of State John Kerry visits the Istiqlal Mosque and beats a drum to signal the Muslim call to prayer. Kerry states, “It has been a special honour to visit this remarkable place of worship. We are all bound to one God and the Abrahamic faiths tie us together in love for our fellow man and honour for the same God.” (Kerry has no comment on the persecution of Christians in Indonesia.) [55468, 55469]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) defends his illegal extension of ObamaCare’s employer mandate, saying he “is simply providing small businesses with the flexibility they need to be able to start adopting the law. So if this were against the Constitution, someone would have sued by now, and [Obama] would have had to stop.” Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) disagrees, saying, “Look, if that kind of broad regulatory mandate buried somewhere within the Internal Revenue Code can authorize [Obama] to do what he’s purporting to do here, then there’s almost no limit to his authority, and we have a government of one; we have a super-executive and super-legislator vested in the [White House]. That is of course not what we have, as any high school civics student can tell you. [Obama] knows this is wrong, and it’s not defensible. He’s violating the Constitution. He’s exercising power that doesn’t belong to him. It belongs to the American people.” Lee notes that suing Obama is not a simple task: “First of all, as to

taking him to court, there are many instances in which [Obama] might violate the Constitution but in which—for a variety of practical reasons and some constitutional reasons—the courts might not end up exercising jurisdiction over that case. It’s very difficult, for example, for someone to challenge in court [Obama’s] suspension of the employer mandate. It’s difficult to identify the kind of plaintiff that would suffer the kind of injury, in fact, that’s particularized to the plaintiff so as to be able to establish Article III standing in court.” [55196]

*Fox News Sunday* panelist George Will comments on Obama’s unyielding climate change claims: “I’m one of those who are called ‘deniers.’ And the imputation is that I deny climate change. It’s be impossible to state with greater precision the opposite of my view, which is, ‘Of course the climate is changing; it’s *always* changing. That’s what gave us the Medieval Warm Period, that’s what gave us, subsequent to that, for centuries, the Little Ice Age; *of course it’s changing*. [But] When a politician on a subject implicating science, hard science, economic science, social science, says, ‘The debate is over,’ you may be sure of two things: the debate is raging and he’s losing it. ...Frankly, as a policy question... the only question is, ‘How much money are we going to spend, and how much wealth are we going to forego creating in order to have zero discernable effect on the environment?’” [55203]

In a “global warming” speech to high school students in Jakarta, Indonesia, Secretary of State John “do as I say, not as I do” Kerry claims, “The science of climate change is leaping out at us like a scene from a 3D movie. It’s warning us, it’s compelling us to act. And let there be no doubt in anybody’s mind that the science is absolutely certain. ...We simply don’t have time to let a few loud interest groups hijack the climate conversation,” such as “big companies” that “don’t want to change and spend a lot of money. ...We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists and science and extreme ideologues to compete with scientific facts. Nor should we allow any room for those who think that the costs associated with doing the right thing outweigh the benefits. The science is unequivocal, and those who refuse to believe it are simply burying their heads in the sand. We don’t have time for a meeting anywhere of the Flat Earth Society. ...This city, this country, this region, is really on the front lines of climate change. It’s not an exaggeration to say that your entire way of life here is at risk.” (Kerry apparently believes that a Keystone XL pipeline from Canada is more of a threat to Americans than Iran having nuclear weapons. He may not be aware that pipelines already exist that carry tar sands oil from Hardisty, Alberta to Texas’ gulf coast. The Keystone XL pipeline is a more direct expansion of the existing pipeline route.) [55127, 55150, 55194, 55195, 55213, 55230, 55231, 55232, 55233, 55236, 55239, 55240, 55329, 55337, 55339, 55344, 55407]

“...In a sense, climate change can now be considered the world’s largest weapon of mass destruction, perhaps even, the world’s most fearsome weapon of mass destruction.” (Ben Stein later responds, “Really? Is burning coal worse than burning Jews? Is the internal combustion engine as deadly as the atom bomb? Is burning natural gas as bad as the machine gun at Ypres?”) Kerry does not mention the size of his own considerable “carbon footprint.” Nor does Kerry note that Australia has eliminated its “Climate

Commission,” frozen government spending on “renewable energy,” and is considering eliminating its “renewable energy targets”—after figuring out that they have been expensive, ineffective, and wasteful. NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty points out that Kerry’s six-day trip takes him through Seoul, South Korea; Beijing, China; Jakarta, Indonesia; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and then back to Washington. “In case you’re wondering, flying first class from Washington to Seoul to Beijing to Jakarta to Abu Dhabi and then back to Washington runs up roughly 12.16 metric tons of carbon dioxide, according to CarbonFootprint.com, which uses data from the EPA and Department of Energy. The average American generates about 19 tons of carbon dioxide in a year. So in one week, just from flying from meeting to meeting, Kerry generated about two-thirds the carbon output of the average American in one year.” (Meanwhile, a study by the Social Science Research Network concludes that Democrats are more likely than Republicans to consider astrology a science, and less likely to believe that the earth revolves around the sun and takes one year to do so. What Kerry believes on those two issues is not known. Additionally, compared to conservatives, liberals are more likely to own cats than dogs.) Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich tweets, “Does kerrey [sic] really believe global warming more dangerous than north Korean and iranian nukes? More than Russian and Chinese nukes? Really??” [55127, 55150, 55194, 55195, 55213, 55230, 55231, 55232, 55233,, 55236, 55239, 55240, 55283, 55329, 55337, 55339, 55344, 55407]

While his wife and daughters ski in Aspen, Colorado, Obama plays a second day of golf in Palm Springs—enjoying the lush, watered grounds while farmers in central California suffer from drought conditions. [55136, 55201]

On WABC, Kathleen Willey, a former volunteer aide to Bill Clinton, tells Aaron Klein, “Hillary Clinton *is* the war on women, and that’s what needs to be exposed here. The point is what this woman is capable of doing to other women while she’s running a campaign basically on women’s issues. It just doesn’t make any sense. She singlehandedly orchestrated every one of the investigations of all these women [who accused her husband of sexual crimes]. They’re the people reminding us of how sordid this all is. ...They [Bill and Hillary Clinton] take up all the oxygen in the room, and everybody is depressed. We’re gonna go back to all the sordid details [if Hillary Clinton runs for president]. They need to just go away because they’re forcing themselves on us is the way I feel. Just pack your bags. You’ve had your 15 minutes. ...Stop forcing us to have to look at this stuff again. We’re sick of it! ...All of these women’s groups, they’re all pro-Hillary, they need to ...talk to someone like me and listen here, what Hillary Clinton has done to me and many, many, many other women. They are so hypocritical, it’s unbelievable. And this is the woman that [sic; who] wants to be president.” (Hillary Clinton was, of course, her husband’s enabler. Instead of packing his bags and kicking him out of their marriage after any of his many marital discretions or sexual assaults on women, she not only allowed it to continue, she attacked the victims and intimidated women who dared to come forward and relate their experiences. WND.com notes, “Willey and her husband, Ed, were Democratic activists who founded Virginians for Clinton and helped send Bill and Hillary to the White House in 1992. While serving as a volunteer in the White House and facing financial hard times, Willey says she met with

Bill Clinton in the Oval Office to request a paying position. But instead of getting help, she says, she was subjected to ‘nothing short of serious sexual harassment.’ Distraught, Willey fled Clinton’s presence, only to discover that her husband Ed had committed suicide that same tragic afternoon. Later, she was drawn ‘unwillingly’ into the Paula Jones lawsuit, the Ken Starr investigation and impeachment proceedings.” [55139, 55516]

The radical Islamist group Boko Haram kills more than 90 residents of the mostly Christian village of Izge, Nigeria. (Obama has no comment.) [55155, 55156]

LATimes.com reports, “The Obama administration is making contingency plans to use air bases in Central Asia to conduct drone missile attacks in northwest Pakistan in case the White House is forced to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan at the end of this year, according to U.S. officials. But even if alternative bases are secured, the officials said, the CIA’s capability to gather sufficient intelligence to find Al Qaeda operatives and quickly launch drone missiles at specific targets in Pakistan’s mountainous tribal region will be greatly diminished if the spy agency loses its drone bases in Afghanistan. The CIA’s targeted killing program thus may prove a casualty of the bitter standoff with Afghan President Hamid Karzai over whether any U.S. troops can remain in Afghanistan after 2014, as the White House has sought. Karzai has refused to sign a bilateral security agreement to permit a long-term American deployment, and some White House aides are arguing for a complete pullout. According to current and former officers, CIA analysts operating from fortified outposts near the Pakistani border evaluate electronic intelligence, while case officers meet sources who help them identify targets. They pay people to place GPS trackers on cars or buildings to help guide the drone-launched missiles.” [55384, 55385]

London’s *Sunday Times* reports, “The full scale of the terrorist threat to Britain can be revealed today with the disclosure that about 250 British-based jihadis who went to train and fight in Syria have returned home. Senior security officials say the high number of ‘returnees’—five times the figure that has been previously reported—underlines the growing danger posed by ‘extremist tourists’ going to the war-torn region. [Intelligence agency] MI5 and police have already thwarted one serious plot last autumn by a cell of ‘returnee’ jihadis who were allegedly preparing a Mumbai-style gun attack on civilians, probably in a crowded public place in London. The security services are closely monitoring the 250 returnees, who include several veteran hardliners who have fought in Afghanistan or Pakistan. They are suspected of wanting to carry out attacks here or inciting others to do so.” (Pamela Geller notes that Obama has “proposed importing thousands of Syria ‘refugees,’ and I am not talking about Syria Christians.”) Meanwhile, radical Islamists bomb a tour bus heading to Cairo, Egypt, killing four and injuring 14. The Obama-backed radical Muslim Brotherhood, which is trying to regain power, blames the attack on government “negligence.” [55157, 55158, 55159, 55160, 55161, 55162, 55310]

Former NBA basketball player Charles Barkley interviews Obama and asks if he minds the health care law being referred to as ObamaCare. In his best fake southern black



accent, Obama replies, “I, I like it. I don’t mind, and, and, and I tell you, five years from now, when everybody’s sayin’ [sic] ‘Man, I’m sure glad we got [sic] health care, uh, they’re gonna [sic] be a whole bunch of people who don’t call it ObamaCare anymore because they don’t want me to get the credit, uh, but, you know, you don’t know what life will throw atcha [sic; at you], aaand sometimes people don’t recognize, particularly young people, how important it is to have coverage until you get sick, and you realize you may lose everything you have, or your parents may lose everything they have, tryin’ [sic] to make you well. So we’re, uh, encouraging people to sign up [for ObamaCare]; they’ve got until March 31st to sign up for this year... Folks, uh, our age, I mean I won’t call us old yet, but, you know... so once you’re 50, you know, you wake up sometimes... and somethin’ [sic] hurts and you don’t know exactly what happened, right? ... We’d like to encourage more young people ta [sic; to] sign up, partly because, be... since they’re healthier, their premiums are actually, uh, uh, generally, uh, gonna [sic] be fairly cheap; they can find good options fer [sic; for] less than their cable bill, less than their cell phone bill, and, it’s just part of growin’ up, is [sic] makin’ [sic] sure that you’re taking care of your body, taking care of your health, and if you’ve got a young family, you know, you’ve gotta [sic] make sure that, uh, your family is protected with health insurance as well and this allows you to do it.” [55185]

HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey comments on Obama’s response: “Growing up can certainly be a tough proposition, even without the government forcing young adults to buy comprehensive health insurance that they’ll never use. Paying thousands in premiums while having deductibles that all but guarantee they won’t see any benefits at all from those plans is just part of the maturation process, Barack Obama explained to Charles Barkley in an interview for the cable channel TNT. After all, we older folk have lots of aches and pains—and you can’t expect us to cover the cost of our own risk, can you? ... In practice, young and healthy adults are now being forced to pay hundreds of dollars a month for plans with thousands of dollars in deductibles. Even if they get subsidies from the federal government on the premiums, they still have to spend thousands of dollars out of pocket before seeing the first dollar of benefits (and other taxpayers are making up the rest anyway). The smarter option—and until ObamaCare, the available option—is to buy catastrophic insurance and put pre-tax earnings into HSAs [Health Savings Accounts] to deal with routine care. Of course, that would mean that mandated coverage for all of those achy 50-year-olds—myself among them—would have premiums that reflected their actual risk to the pool, but that would make them angry and no longer Democratic voters.” [55186]

In an interview with USAWatchDog.com’s Greg Hunter, investor and author Peter Schiff says, “The employment base is collapsing; so, the tax base is collapsing. The budget deficits are going to get bigger than ever. They [Congress] just voted to raise the debt limit, but they didn’t actually just raise the limit—they suspended it. So, in fact, the sky is the limit. They can pile on as much debt as they want to because right now, there IS no limit to the amount of debt we can have, which means we are going to get a lot more debt. Everybody thinks this is good news. ... Why is that good news? Maybe that’s good news if you are a gold investor, but it’s bad news for everybody else.” (Note: *The Obama Timeline* invests in gold and silver.) Schiff warns, “The messes get progressively bigger

because the bubbles get progressively bigger. We have the biggest bubble ever blown right now because we have a simultaneous bubble in the stock market and the real estate market and the bond market. ...The air is coming out of all of them. The Fed knows this bubble is too big to pop. That's why the Fed is going to come back with an even bigger round of QE [qualitative easing, or expansion of the money supply] than the last round. We're going to be hit with a tsunami of inflation. ...I think we're going to be stuck with a lot of the money, which means it will bid up consumer prices. New Fed[eral Reserve] chief Janet Yellen said she wants more inflation. Well, she's going to get it. ...The dollar will go poof first [that is, the value of the dollar will plummet]. Remember, the Federal Reserve can buy up all those bonds to stop the prices from collapsing, but in order to do so, it has to print dollars. But, eventually, the dollar collapses because the world figures out the game. The Fed can print all the dollars they want, but they can't force people to accept them. That is going to be the problem." (Of course, people will *accept* dollars, but they will demand *more of them* for whatever they are selling.) Hunter adds, "The economy is going to be so bad by the November mid-term elections that he's [Schiff is] not sure the Republicans will take back the Senate. Schiff contends, 'The weaker the economy is, the stronger the Democrats will be because people will be more dependent on government. People don't need dependency, they need freedom. The Democrats cripple you and then give you free crutches.'" [55209]

On February 17, as the nation celebrates Presidents Day and commemorates the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Democrat strategist Donna Brazile sends a Twitter message: "Enjoy Presidents Day. With Congress on [sic; in] recess, this is action day! Let's move America forward." (Independent Journal Review responds, "That a political pundit would so shamelessly and cheerfully call for Obama to further their agenda through such unconstitutional means should be outrageous to everyone who would call themselves an American.") [55199, 55260]

Obama again plays golf in Palm Springs, California. [55200, 55201]

At Spectator.org David Catron writes, "It is the *duty* of the House of Representatives to impeach Obama. Every member of Congress takes an oath to defend the Constitution and the President has declared war on that foundational document. Barack Obama is systematically destroying the checks and balances the framers put in place to limit the power of the office he holds. The powers of the Presidency, as the founders conceived them, were meant to be constrained by two coequal branches of the government—the national legislature and the judiciary. ...Obama routinely flouts inconvenient laws passed by the former and publicly excoriates the latter when its rulings displease him. Much of what this man has done since taking office is clearly illegal, and he is becoming more and more brazen about it every day. His most recent crime against the Constitution was, of course, his latest unilateral revision of the deadline by which businesses must conform to Obamacare's employer mandate. This mandate, according to the stipulations of the health care 'reform' law, should have taken effect January 1. However, that date proved politically inconvenient for the Democrats, so Obama ordered his minions to change the deadline—twice—despite lacking any legal authority to do so. What has been done by the people invested with the power to put a stop to such illegal decrees? Virtually

nothing. ... Why not? In the words of Senator Ted Cruz [R-TX], 'There aren't enough votes in the Senate.' I admire Senator Cruz, but he is evidently confused. It is true that, to remove a President from office, a two-thirds majority of the Senate must vote to convict him of charges emanating from the House impeachment process. However, impeachment itself is a separate step—roughly analogous to an indictment in a criminal court—and requires only a simple majority in the House of Representatives. Today, the Republicans control that body by a margin of more than thirty seats. In other words, one or more articles of impeachment could be passed against Obama in the House of Representatives without a single Democrat vote." [55336, 55517]

“Why would the GOP pursue such a controversial course when they know the Senate will never produce the super majority required to convict Obama? That question, the opinion of Senator Cruz notwithstanding, is utterly irrelevant. If a policeman sees a thief picking your pocket, should he stand by and ponder the very real possibility that some clever defense attorney might help the criminal escape justice? Of course not. It's his job to arrest the pickpocket and make sure that he faces trial for his crime. Then, even if a corrupt judge or a simple-minded jury lets the crook off, at least he has done his job. In the case under discussion here, Obama is the crook and the House of Representatives is the policeman. ... There may not be enough votes in the Senate to convict Obama, but there are certainly enough Republicans in the House to pass articles of impeachment. Their inaction is not about votes. It's about cowardice. The GOP is more concerned about its short-term political prospects than the long-term good of the Republic. Sadly, there is a precedent for this and where it leads. The Roman Emperor Tiberius once alluded to it with the following remark concerning the self-seeking and moral cowardice that had allowed Rome's once-powerful Senate to be emasculated: 'Those men are fit to be slaves.' If our elected representatives in Congress don't do something about Obama, they will be regarded by posterity with equal scorn.” [55336, 55517]

WorldTribune.com reports, “Egypt's ousted [and Obama-backed] Islamist president was said to have conducted a dialogue with Al Qaida. Egypt's pro-regime media have asserted that President Mohammed Morsi engaged in a dialogue with Al Qaida commander Ayman Zawahiri. Morsi, overthrown in a military coup in July 2013 and now charged with treason, was said to have focused on the prospect that Zawahiri, a former Egyptian Army officer, would be allowed to return to the Sinai Peninsula. 'We are currently in the stage of consolidating power and need the help of all parties,' Morsi was quoted as telling Zawahiri. 'We cannot at this time apply the Iranian model or Taliban rule in Egypt. It is impossible to do so now.’” (Pamela Geller comments, “President Mohammed Morsi engaged in a dialogue with Al Qaida commander Ayman Zawahiri. Morsi colluded with al Qaeda. Obama backed and unequivocally support Morsi. If A =B and B=C, then A = C. Further proof of Obama's collusion with the jihadists who attacked this country on home soil and murdered thousands of Americans. Obama is working against us. He is an enemy of freedom, America, the free world. This is yet another news story that should splashed across every major news station and lede every nightly news report in America. Obama threw everything he had behind Morsi. After supporting the ouster of our 30-year ally [President Hosni] Mubarak, Obama applied intense pressure to expedite the Muslim Brotherhood takeover of power in Egypt. Obama threatened Egypt

with the withdrawal of billions in aid if they did not hand over the country to the Muslim Brotherhood. And after they did hand over power and Morsi took over and epically failed in his sharia power crush, Obama withdrew aid to the Egyptian people for rejecting this Islamic supremacist totalitarian. And Obama engendered enormous anger among the Egyptian people. He repeatedly tried to save/reinstate Morsi after the Egyptian people threw off the Muslim Brotherhood yoke of Islamic tyranny. And the enemedia continues to whistle past the graveyard of religious minorities and victims of jihad.”) [55308, 55309, 55465]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A student at McGill University in Montreal, Canada was forced to issue a formal apology for emailing a picture of ...Obama kicking open a door—all because some students thought the image was somehow racist. The image was actually an edited .gif, and was shown by Jay Leno on ‘The Tonight Show’ last fall. It humorously suggests that [Obama] may be fed up with press conferences. McGill student Brian Farnan, vice president of the university’s student government, sent out an email with the .gif and the harmless caption, ‘Honestly midterms get out of here,’ according to Legal Insurrection. What happened next is almost unbelievable: Another student issued a formal complaint against Farnan for committing a ‘micro-aggression.’ For those not up-to-date on the PC lexicon, ‘micro-aggression’ is the latest phrase of choice for leftist radicals seeking to blame racism for common annoyances suffered by people of all races. Minority activists at the University of Michigan, for example, have insisted that trivial slights, such as ‘Having your opinion second-guessed in a group assignment,’ are micro-aggressions that betray the campus as a hostile place for students of color. The .gif of Obama kicking a door was racist because of the ‘cultural, historical and living legacy surrounding people of color—particularly young men—being portrayed as violent,’ according to the apology letter that Farnan was forced to write. ...The decision to force Farnan to apologize was apparently made by an ‘equity commissioner,’ whose will can only be overturned by a two-thirds majority of the student government. Like a true victim of the thought police, Farnan was forced to denounce his heretical email.” [55175, 55217]

Famed labor leader and former Polish president Lech Walesa tells Newsmax.com he is “disillusioned” with Obama, who “wasn’t ready” for the White House. Walesa says, “Personally, I feel that two politicians disillusioned me the most—myself and ...Obama. I prefer to skip talking about myself, but let’s discuss why Obama has been such a disappointment. When he was elected, everyone hoped and expected that he would reform not only the United States but also the rest of the world. But he failed to implement any constructive reforms. Moreover, it seems like perhaps he doesn’t even care if America is still perceived as the superpower it once was. If that’s the case and if the U.S. doesn’t really want to be a superpower anymore, I’d say let Poland take over that leadership and we’d take care of the rest. I promise you, we’d know what to do.” Obama, says Walesa, is “very talented... But his problem is that he wasn’t committed in his mind to leading a superpower. Despite his intelligence and ability to govern, he wasn’t ready to take on this big task. And that’s a shame, frankly, because out of everyone before him, he had the best opportunity to reshape things. But who knows? Maybe there is still a chance that he will suddenly snap out of it and change his way of thinking. ...We need to reform this old organization [the United Nations]. Better yet, transform it into the global

parliament. Transfer the power of the Security Council to the global government. NATO should also be changed into the ministry of the global defense. Then we could have a big banner announcing: ‘We, the generation of the 21st century, won’t tolerate the following crimes against humanity: racism, anti-Semitism, ethnic cleansing, etc.’ Should any nation break these rules, the new organization would take care of that. We would elect leaders for each sector who would be responsible for maintaining order. In my mind, these kinds of actions and initiatives are expected from the United States. They have always been the savior and the last hope for the world. Unfortunately, it feels now like we’ve lost that sense of hope and that’s very unsettling.” [55180]

In Geneva, Switzerland talks over ending the civil war in Syria break down. In Jakarta, Indonesia, Secretary of State John Kerry says, “Right now, [Syrian President] Bashar Assad has not engaged in the discussions along the promised and required standard that both Russia spoke up for and the regime spoke up for. ...It is very clear that Bashar Assad is trying to win this on the battlefield instead of coming to the negotiating table in good faith.” (At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, “And this surprises ...whom, exactly? Let’s start with Iran. We’re currently negotiating with Tehran on an end to their nuclear-weapons program, while Hezbollah is intervening on behalf of Assad in Syria, whom we oppose. In what world, diplomatic or otherwise, does this make any sense at all? Iran and Hezbollah need Assad in their camp in order to leverage Syria against the West and Israel. The only reason we’re not sold on an outright intervention to blow Assad out of Syria is because the alternative is worse, with al-Qaeda controlling ground in Iraq and Syria now thanks to American retreats in the former country. Russia, meanwhile, wants to keep up its arms sales, prevent the West from creating another failed state on the Mediterranean, and to stick his thumb in the eye of NATO. One of those three is actually a good idea, and perhaps we should be asking ourselves how we got to this point in the first place. But the other two make it very clear that Russia is no ally, and that the Obama administration’s ‘reset button’ to Moscow sent a very clear signal that the White House has no idea what it’s doing in the Middle East any longer. No one, and I mean no one, who has read any history at all could possibly be shocked, shocked that a Russian autocrat is ready and willing to exploit a Western failure in this part of the world.” [55183, 55184]

According to HollywoodReporter.com, “Scenes with an actor who played the devil but looked a lot like ...Obama have been edited out of the upcoming movie *Son of God*... The film, which 20th Century Fox opens on Feb. 28, is primarily a reshaped version of *The Bible*, last year’s hit TV miniseries that featured actor Mohamen Mehdi Ouazanni as Satan. For *Son of God*, the 10-hour miniseries needed to be cut down to the two hours or so that focuses [sic; focus] on Jesus; [co-producer Roma] Downey says they went out of their way to leave the controversial Satan out of the film...” She states, “Someone made a comment that the actor who played the devil vaguely resembled [Obama], and suddenly the media went nuts. The next day, when I was sure everyone would only be talking about Jesus, they were talking about Satan instead. ...For our movie, *Son of God*, I wanted all of the focus to be on Jesus. I want his name to be on the lips of everyone who sees this movie, so we cast Satan out. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the devil is on the cutting-room floor.” [55193]

On CNN's *New Day*, George Zimmerman, infamous for the brawl with teen-aged thugs Trayvon Martin that left Martin dead, says of the Obama administration's investigation of him for possible civil rights violations, says, "[I'm] like a scapegoat ...for the government, [Obama], the Attorney General. I don't know what they're thinking, or why they're thinking it. All I know is that they're doing it. I don't know what agenda they have. ...I'd like to professionally continue my education and, hopefully, become an attorney. I think that's the best way to stop the miscarriage of justice that happened to me from happening to somebody else. I don't think it should happen to anyone ever again. Not one person." Zimmerman says God is "the only judge that I have to answer to. He knows what happened. I know what happened. But, I leave it up to Him." Interviewer Mario Cuomo implies only Martin was a victim in the confrontation, Zimmerman says, "I certainly was a victim when I was having my head bashed into the concrete, my nose broken, and beaten. So, I wouldn't say I was not a victim." [55198]

At TeaPartyNation.com David Lawrence writes, "Obama is such a failure that calling him a failure belittles the magnificence of his failure. If America is [the] Monopoly [game], he has lost all his houses and hotels. He has pulled the card, 'Go to Jail,' but no one has the courage or intelligence to put him there or to try to impeach him. Obama has diminished our economy, our military, our honesty, our morality and our self-respect. ...Obama is worse than the worst; a beacon of weakness shining through the core of our once proud, self-reliant country. ...His rhetoric is popcorn and a hot dog. Swallow it; swish it down with beer; it's the same old rhetoric of utopian progressives who say what they say to feel good about themselves while they steal opportunities from job hungry Americans." [55204]

"...Obama is a collage of communism, liberalism, socialism and progressivism. He has taken elements of government that have failed consistently and praised them blindly as if they were really efficacious. Obama identifies with government rather than people. He is a naïve intellectual who prefers ideas to heart. He thinks he can figure it all out. All he needs is enough regulations and rules. He wants to be the House in a game of cards. He wants to deal our marked cards according to his limited progressive philosophy. ...He is a dimwitted intellectual who prefers ideas to heart. He understands regulations. He is the real Tin Man. He has no heart. His destruction of American pride is like a bracelet of diamonds. He bejewels us with failure. He lends us gems of rhetoric like he is Harry Winston lending diamonds to the stars for the Academy Awards. ...Obama offers us health care while he attacks our health with a failed system. He is the first [candidate] to take away our doctors while winning reelection on the promise that we can keep them. ...He is the man that reads other people's words from a teleprompter. Obama promised to lift the middle class. He is responsible for them earning twenty-four hundred dollars less a year. Most blacks voted for him. Their standard of living went down. They chose to vote for color rather than character. Martin Luther King had warned us about this." [55204]

Disabled veteran Brian Kolfage writes an open letter to Obama: "...I'm a triple amputee and retired Air Force veteran who was severely wounded on September 11, 2004 in Iraq.

I nearly died in a war that most of your colleagues supported overwhelmingly, including the two presidents who came before you. Many citizens may not agree with waging war in Iraq to free the oppressed Iraqi citizens, but it's something that warriors like myself have no control over. I joined to serve my country and to better my life. I've seen things that you could never imagine, and they have made me the person I am today. Mr. Obama, even though we have extreme opposite views, we have one thing in common, we both attended school in Hawaii. However, that's where the similarities end. You see, as you attended your exclusive, private school, I would ride my bike to Kaimuki High School in one of the roughest areas in Hawaii. Every morning I would ride past Punahou, the exclusive private school you attended and I would notice all of the Bentleys, Maseratis, and fancy foreign cars that all the kids were dropped off in; wow it must have been extremely rough in Hawaii living that life, right? I could only imagine what it was like to have that kind of money. Fortunately for you, not many people are aware of the school that you and the upper class citizens of Hawaii attended. The tuition to attend your exclusive, private school [for one year] was more than it cost me to obtain a [four year] Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Arizona. You talk a big game when it comes to financial inequality, yet I'm quite sure you have no idea what it's truly like to have to sacrifice. You were one of the elitist children in Hawaii. After High School, we each chose very different paths. You were able to attend America's finest Ivy League schools, while I pursued a career in the military, in hopes of earning a degree. What we have in life as children usually helps to set the tone for how we achieve success later in life. I worked to get where I am today, while it was HANDED TO YOU... Mr. Inequality." [58594, 58595]

"I volunteered to go to Iraq on both of my deployments, and the second time I begged to go even after I wasn't selected. During that second deployment, I was ultimately placed on the team where I would lose both legs and my dominant arm. Even though many Americans were against the war in Iraq, I've never asked myself if it was worth it after losing 3 of my limbs. I am frequently reminded of the many young Iraqi children who would beg me for water, food, and toys while I was stationed in Iraq. Children, who in all aspects made the poorest of poor American children look rich. You have no idea what it really means to be poor. It's laughable that you, who would have no idea what it means to be poor would so frequently play the inequality card. While I was in Iraq, our mission was to liberate the Iraqi citizens from a tyrant and that's what we did. Never forget, it was your people who sent us there, like the Clintons, John Kerry, Nancy Pelosi & Carl Levin. However, since the day you busted onto the scene you've been talking about ending the war and pulling the troops out, not understanding the blood sweat and tears that so many Americans and Iraqi's invested. And with complete disregard for every life sacrificed, every limb lost, and every broken family, you bailed on our mission to pursue an agenda that was completely centered on your re-election in 2012. If you didn't bail on Iraq you were worried that you may not get re-elected and that's a fact. Just before elections on Oct 11, 2012 you said 'Al Qaeda is on the run and Osama bin Laden is dead.' Look at Iraq now, they are in shambles and the Al Qaeda flag is flying freely. Clearly, you're unfit for duty as a Commander in Chief. You put your own agenda ahead of America's agenda, and now you have single handedly ruined and destroyed nearly everything we gained in Iraq. It clearly means nothing to you, because the only thing that you've

personally invested in that country was a promise to bail on them. However, people like me gave limbs, friends have died, and we've watched families destroyed by war's aftermath." [58594, 58595]

"I'm not placing blame on you for the war, I'm placing blame on you for destroying what we've worked so hard to build. You're not a leader, you're a community organizer. A leader would have stood up regardless of the situation and put America's agenda first and that is ensuring a secure Iraq even after 10 years of war. But, you placed Barack first, just as Robert Gates confirmed in his new book. I can't help but think of those poor kids who I gave water and toys to 11 years ago. They're probably 15 or 16 years old now, and I can only imagine what it's like for them to have their nation being torn apart yet again; all because of your poor leadership qualities. Regardless of why we went to Iraq, its water under the bridge. We went there, we waged war, and we not only owed it to our KIA's but we owed it to the citizens of Iraq. We invaded their country and turned it upside down, and you bailed on them. You bailed on our soldiers and you've wasted every death and every limb, it's all for nothing. And to make matters worse you blame others for your failures. You're just another elitist rich thug who's pretended to live the rough life growing up in the inner-city. You're only worried about your own agenda and furthering your party instead of taking care of Americans. Your inability to be a leader at some of the most critical points has caused both of our wars to fail. You've been a joke to most of our veteran community and we have no faith in your ability to lead." [58594, 58595]

BizPacReview.com reports, "The latest sign that the Democratic Party may be expecting dismal results in November is evident in reports that they'll employ the tactic known as a 'discharge petition.' Viewed by some as a 'Hail Mary' of sorts, the legislative tactic requires at least 18 Republican lawmakers to join forces with Democrats. The idea is to use the [petition] in the GOP-controlled House to force votes on issues that stand to benefit Democrats—issues such as raising the minimum wage and immigration reform... Democrats understand a discharge petition is a long shot—the last time it worked was in 2002 to deliver a vote on campaign finance legislation. 'I don't think we're ever confident that we're going to get 18 Republicans to sign a discharge petition,' said House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD)." (A discharge petition requires a simple majority of House members. The Democrats would not be able to gather enough votes for a majority unless they can persuade 18 Republicans to join them.) [55219, 55642]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius—who apparently never reads a newspaper—claims with a straight face, "There is absolutely no evidence, and every economist will tell you this, that there is any job loss related to the Affordable Care Act." (On February 3 Investors.com posted a list of job actions of multiple employers across the country that shows how ObamaCare is, in fact, resulting in lost jobs and reduced working hours.) [55258, 55259]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The billionaire Univision owner [Egyptian-born Haim Saban] whose company is promoting Hillary Clinton on Spanish-language media platforms is a Clinton friend who said that seeing Clinton in the White House is his 'big dream' and that 'Hillary is Obama's natural successor.' The partnership raises serious questions about the



role independent media networks can play in preparing Clinton for a presidential run.” Saban told the Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*, “Seeing her [Hillary Clinton] in the White House is a big dream of mine.” [55222, 55561]

In Hong Kong, JP Morgan investment banker Li Junjie jumps to his death from the bank’s 30-story local headquarters. According to the *South China Morning Post*, “the man worked for the firm’s investment-banking business in Hong Kong. An initial police investigation showed he had recently told a colleague he was under heavy work-related stress, according to a police source involved in the investigation. The police said no suicide note was found.” DCClothesline.com notes, “Over the past few weeks at least seven bankers have died under mysterious circumstances, including another JP Morgan senior manager who jumped off the top of a skyscraper in London last month. Speculation is rife that the series of deaths are connected to some kind of looming financial crisis or a huge legal case targeting bankers for malfeasance, although no definite link has been established.” [55251, 55252, 55295, 55312]

At NationalReview.com Peter Kirsanow writes, “[Obama] issued an executive order last week purporting to raise the minimum wage for employees of federal contractors to \$10.10 an hour. The order is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court made clear in *Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co. v. Sawyer* [1952] that ‘the President’s power, if any, to issue the [executive] order must stem either from an act of Congress or from the Constitution itself.’ Furthermore, ‘when the president takes measures incompatible with the expressed or implied will of Congress, his power is at its lowest ebb, for then he can rely only upon his own constitutional powers minus any constitutional powers of Congress over the matter.’ Nothing in the Constitution grants [a] president authority to set or raise the minimum wage independently of an act of Congress. Furthermore, although [a] president generally has authority to improve the efficient discharge of federal contracts, [a] president’s minimum-wage order is incompatible with the expressed and implied will of Congress. Congress has made its will regarding the minimum wage for federal contractors abundantly clear in four separate statutes: The Service Contract Act, the Davis Bacon Act, the Walsh-Healey Act, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Under those statutes, the minimum wage for many, if not most, employees of federal contractors is the prevailing minimum wage for employees in the specific job classification in the locality where the work is to be performed. For the remaining classifications of employees for whom no prevailing minimum wage exists, the minimum wage is slotted into the minimum for similar jobs, or is governed by the minimum set by Congress in the Fair Labor Standards Act, i.e., \$7.25.” [55242, 55243, 55244, 55527]

“Interestingly, the executive order, replete with enough double negatives and disjunctive clauses to make the average federal bureaucrat’s head explode, contains a severability and savings clause as well as several qualifiers that the order be implemented ‘consistent with applicable law,’ ‘to the extent permitted by law,’ and consistent with ‘prevailing wage law.’ If the order is so implemented, most of it will be rendered a nullity, for its substantive provisions directly conflict with applicable law. Moreover, these clauses don’t render the order constitutional. This suggests that the White House came up with the idea for the executive order and put it in the State of the Union address before fully

vetting it with the people charged with crafting the actual language and implementing it lawfully. The result is an order that is unconstitutional and/or a charade. Nonetheless, the order exists and, until such time as Congress or the courts weigh in, federal contracts will contain [Obama'] minimum and federal contractors will have to consult with their lawyers on how it applies." [55242, 55243, 55244, 55527]

The CBS affiliate in Los Angeles reports, "A local restaurant has added a surcharge to every tab in order to pay for its employees' healthcare. République, located on La Brea, is emerging as one of LA's more popular, newer restaurants. However, the three percent surcharge is bringing about mixed reactions from the restaurant's customers." Owner and chef Walter Manske says, "Even if this isn't the perfect solution, it's definitely a solution, and so far, there isn't any other solution." [55269, 55270]

ZeroHedge.com notes that large-scale investments by Obama's leftist billionaire buddy George Soros suggest he "may be anticipating some major market downslide. ...[P]erhaps more notable was the \$25 million call position that Soros put on the gold miners ETF which has been beaten into oblivion over the past year, in the fourth quarter. Does Soros think that it is finally the miners' turn to shine?" (Soros has essentially bet \$1.3 billion that the S&P is headed for a significant decline.) [55249, 55250]

At NationalReview.com Deroy Murdock writes, "America is unraveling at a stunning speed and to a staggering degree. This decline is breathtaking, and the prognosis is dim. For starters, Obama now rules by decree. Reportedly for the 27th time, he has changed the rules of Obamacare singlehandedly, with neither congressional approval nor even ceremonial resolutions to limit his actions. Obama needs no such frivolities. ...[By] fiat, Obama has postponed the employer mandate. When Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) effectively tried to do this through legislation last fall, Democrats virtually lassoed and branded him. Also by decree last week, Obama decided unilaterally to soften political-asylum rules. Refugees and other immigrants who provide terrorists 'limited material support' now can come to America. So what if someone merely clothed and fed Mohamed Atta or Khalid Sheikh Mohammed? After all, garments and meals don't blow up. Welcome to America, Mustafa! Meanwhile, the Justice Department is working hard to revoke the asylum of and deport the Romeikes. This evangelical-Christian family was granted refuge in America to escape prosecution for homeschooling their children, which German law forbids. So, Obama believes, those who are only somewhat helpful to deadly, anti-U.S. terrorists may become Americans, while religiously oppressed homeschoolers who face prison should get the hell out. ...The CBO ...estimated that by 2021, Obamacare's disincentives to hire and incentives not to work would slash labor hours by the equivalent of 2.3 million jobs. Rather than dispute these figures, key Democrats embraced them. ...[R]ather than expand economic growth and jobs, Democrats applaud as Americans stop working—to do watercolors, draft poetry, and take naps—while exhausted taxpayers foot the bill. ...Clearly unafraid of Obama, Iranian warships for the first time are steaming toward America's Atlantic maritime borders. ...Nearby, embattled Syrians flee the city of Homs while they and their United Nations protectors dodge incoming mortar shells. This sorry spectacle has exposed Obama's Syrian policy as a miserable flop. So does the fact that Syrian president Bashar Assad has handed over only 4 percent of the chemical weapons

that his deal last September with Obama and Vladimir Putin was supposed to neutralize.” [55248]

“... Rather than resist an increasingly weak—yet ever more assertive—Obama, GOP congressional leaders hand him whatever he wants. ...On February 12, [House Speaker John] Boehner and [Senator Minority Leader Mitch] McConnell helped send Obama a measure to suspend the debt limit until March 15, 2015. (The debt ceiling was not raised from \$17.2 trillion to a higher level; it simply was removed. The gas pedal remains in Obama’s Little Red Cor-debt, but the brakes are gone.) ...The debt ceiling is now a debt sunroof. And what did Washington’s top two Republicans get for giving Obama 13 months to shop till America drops? Nothing! ...America is a total mess. The Land of the Free is governed by an out-of-control egomaniac, neither bolstered by managerial competence nor hindered by the legislature’s institutional prerogatives. In the Home of the Brave, half of Congress cheers Obama’s unconstitutional behavior, while the other half grumbles and then meekly carpet-bombs his path with white flags. The American people have been betrayed—both by Obama and the Democrats, whose lust for control intensifies daily, and by Republican leaders in Washington, whose cowardice and defeatism have turned their guts and spines into tapioca. America, as Paul Simon sings, is slip-slidin’ away. And the worst part hasn’t happened yet.” [55248]

Orlando WFTV reports that the Spanish language version of Healthcare.gov still contains terrible translations, even though the Obama administration was told about them months ago. In another visit to Florida, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius does her best to provide yet another excuse, telling reporters, “Terminology in insurance is pretty arcane, even in English, and ...they probably did not have the smoothest translation into Spanish.” WFTV reports, “...Mike Nieves, the head of a local marketing firm that specializes in cutting through cultural barriers, said the government failed to do just that. ‘Honestly, I was dumbfounded,’ Nieves said. For ‘monthly payment,’ the website uses the word ‘prima,’ but to Nieves, it means ‘female cousin.’ [Reporter Nancy] Alvarez and Nieves looked through the Spanish version of HealthCare.gov and found sloppy translations are still to be found. In one instance, the site reads, ‘Costo de bolsillo.’ ‘They’re trying to say, ‘Out of pocket cost,’ but they’re actually saying, ‘Cost of my pocket,’ said Alvarez. ‘...It doesn’t make sense, does it?’ said Nieves.” Sebelius insists that “real people” did the translations, but to some observers it might appear that all they did was use Google or Bing utilities to obtain the Spanish wording. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey asks, “Er, how ‘arcane’ are the terms ‘monthly payment’ and ‘out of pocket costs?’ I’d bet insurers in Mexico, Spain, and South America have found ways to express those concepts without resorting to ‘female cousin’ and the cost of a pocket. [55226, 55227, 55228]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer says, “[Obama] pretends that this [theory of man-caused global warming] is all settled science. [But Isaac] Newton’s laws were considered settled for 200 years until a patent clerk [Albert Einstein] in Switzerland turned them over with a single paper in 1903—and that was pretty settled science. The idea that this is all settled is absurd. However, even if you accept it, then you look at what he [Obama] did last week. He wants to pretend that these individual weather events are

caused by global warming, which is supposedly the settled science. And *The New York Times*—which is not exactly a right-wing rag—it says that there is no definitive evidence that it is causing the drought in the West Coast. In fact—and I’m quoting here, [the *Times* wrote,] ‘the most recent computer projections suggest that as the world warms, it should be getting wetter, not drier, out there in the winter. So if you accept the settled science of climate change, you would have the exact opposite affect of what we saw last week in California.’ So the arrogance of this is rather appalling, but worse is the application of it to our economy. Shutting the coal industry, hurting us in mass transit, getting us out of our large cars. All of this is driven by this ideology, which in and of itself is a matter of almost theology.” [55223]

On *On the Record*, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) comments on Obama’s nomination of campaign cash bundlers to be ambassadors, despite being totally unqualified for the positions: “They can’t find the equator on a globe with Lewis and Clark standing over their shoulder.” [55302, 55303, 55323]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly reports that Oregon’s ObamaCare exchange web site has yet to enroll *anyone* (All enrollees in the state have done so by filling out a 20-page form.)

On February 18 early voting begins for the March 4 Texas primary elections, and the state continues to enforce its photo ID legislation—despite the Obama administration’s attempts to thwart the law. According to Breitbart.com, “The [Attorney General Eric] Holder Justice Department [DOJ] filed a federal lawsuit against Texas in summer 2013 on the claim that voter ID was a violation of the Voting Right Act, as part of a wider national campaign to block election integrity reforms. On February 11, the DOJ requested the court consider postponing the September 2014 trial date—arguing they did not have ample time to analyze data among ethnic groups and, therefore, their effort would be ‘irreparably prejudiced’ as a result. The DOJ was rejected on Friday [February 14]. Based on Heritage Foundation analysis of Texas’ initial voter ID election in 2013, the DOJ does not have the best minority voter turnout data to build a case upon. Senior Legal Fellow Hans von Spakovsky argues the ‘requirement has done nothing to suppress voter turnout throughout the state. In fact, turnout in last year’s constitutional elections in Texas yielded some of the highest turnout numbers in the past decade for similar type elections.’ Spakovsky adds that compared to the last Constitutional Election in 2011, registered voter turnout had nearly doubled overall, across ethnic and economic segments as well.” [55210]

The militant Islamist group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis warns tourists to leave Egypt and threatened to attack any who stay in the country after February 20. (The group has also claimed responsibility for the February 16 suicide bombing of a Cairo-bound bus full of tourists.) [55157, 55158, 55159, 55160, 55161, 55162, 55310, 55311]

TheHill.com reports, “Nineteen Democratic senators signed a letter Tuesday to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services warning of the dire consequences for seniors

if cuts to Medicare Advantage go through as expected later this month. The letter was signed by party heavyweights, including Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), as well as vulnerable Democrats facing reelection, such as Sens. Mark Pryor (D-AR) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA). Twenty-one Republicans also signed the letter. The GOP has sought to make cuts to Medicare Advantage an election-year issue.” (The cuts in the Medicare Advantage program are required by the Affordable Care Act—which Schumer, Pryor, and Landrieu voted for.) The letter asks for the cuts to be delayed until 2015—after the November 2014 elections. (The Medicare Advantage actually includes some degree of competition and patient choice. That is enough for Obama to want it eliminated.) [55328]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “According to new data released by Reporters Without Borders [RWOB], the United States has fallen to 46th place in the world when it comes to freedom of the press. The ranking shows the U.S. behind countries like South Africa, Cyprus, Uruguay, Canada, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom and many other European countries. RWOB uses the presence of ‘conflict’ as a way to determine press freedom. This ranking comes after news last year the Department of Justice was (and probably still is) tapping the phones and monitoring emails of reporters from the Associated Press, Fox News and other news outlets. In the case of Fox News, the Department of Justice went so far as to monitor the phone lines of Fox News Chief Washington Correspondent James Rosen and his parents. Fox News executives were also monitored.” [55212]

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that increasing the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, as Obama wants, would cause the loss of 500,000 jobs. The White House claims the CBO study does not reflect a “consensus” of economists. (That is nonsense. The vast majority of economists—even liberal economists—recognize that increasing the minimum wage causes job losses because it prices unskilled labor out of the job market.) Obama advisor Dan Pfeiffer tweets, “The logical extension of the GOP position on today’s CBO report would be to call for lowering the minimum wage → lots of jobs at \$2/hr—.” Council of Economic Advisers chairman Jason Furman tells reporters, “Our view is that zero is a perfectly reasonable estimate of the impact of raising the minimum wage on employment.” (If increasing the minimum wage has “zero” effect on employment, some might wonder why Obama is not suggesting a minimum wage of \$100 per hour. The proper policy is to not have a minimum wage at all. That would create more jobs—especially for those who are not worth \$10.10 per hour to any employer. Obama and his fellow Democrats fail to realize that although the government can force employers to pay all workers at least \$10.10 per hour, it cannot force employers to hire additional workers or prevent them from firing those who do not produce at least \$10.10 per hour of value.) Meanwhile, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 64 percent of workers who earned the minimum wage or less in 2013 were 29 years old or younger, and 63 percent worked in restaurants, bars, or retail. (CBS reports the CBO job loss prediction on its evening news broadcast. ABC and NBC ignore the story.) [55216, 55229, 55238, 55245, 55255, 55266, 55271, 55317]

It is worth noting that labor unions support an increase in the minimum wage not because it helps unskilled Americans obtain jobs (it generally works against them), but because

many collective bargaining agreements include automatic wage increases for union workers when the minimum wage is increased—even though those union workers are paid far more than the minimum wage. (For example, a labor contract might call for a baseline minimum wage of 180 percent of the federal minimum wage. Another might call for a baseline minimum wage of the federal minimum wage plus \$8.00.) Thus, an increase in the minimum wage means more cash in the pockets of union workers, even though it would mean fewer job opportunities for unskilled Americans. [55272]

WVAH reports the closure of three West Virginia day care centers: “The daycare centers, which currently serve 120 students and have 40 people on staff, have operated at a loss for the past several years, and since the school year started, have lost about \$65,000, according to Bob Calhoun, Kanawha County Schools Executive Director of Elementary Education. The daycares—which enroll children up to 4 years old—are run by the Kanawha County Schools Community Education Program, which operates various school programs outside of class time. The daycare centers receive no funding from the public school system and rely solely on fees charged to families. In addition to a financial deficit, the centers have faced increased facility costs and decreased enrollment, according to Calhoun. ...In a letter addressed to parents on Tuesday, Calhoun and Community Education Program Director Clara Jett pointed to the Affordable Care Act as another contributor to the closures, citing looming insurance costs for employees. ‘We would have to start offering an insurance to employees. Right now, [employees] are contracted. So we’d have to start offering benefits, either that or double staff and reduce their hours, and it’s just not something we’re able to do,’ Calhoun said.” [55279]

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley announces support for legislation that would allow state residents to carry weapons without permits or training. According to BizPacReview.com, “The pending legislation, called the ‘Constitutional Carry Act,’ is sponsored by state Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, who noted that the Second Amendment ‘gives Americans the right to carry firearms without any government restrictions.’ He called for the state to be more like Arizona, where gun ownership is not government-controlled. ‘Criminals are dangerous, and I think that every resident should be allowed to protect themselves from criminals,’ Haley told The State.” (How long it will take for Obama or Attorney General Eric Holder to order the IRS to go after Haley with an aggressive audit is not known.) [55218]

Airhead actress Alexandra Daddario tweets that Obama “has seen my boobs.” (Obama is apparently a fan of the HBO series *True Detective*, in which Daddario appears topless. Why she considers it newsworthy that the nation’s arguably biggest boob has seen hers is not clear. But if the tweet does not improve her career she can claim she is a lesbian. Among the actress’ other memorable Twitter messages: “Breakfast: hot chocolate mix in coffee no milk extra sugar, 1 large pancake.” “Jet lag. 2 am. Just ate a bowl of mashed potatoes and a mars bar. Reading about serial killers online. Things are looking bleak.”) [55220, 55221]

The Associated Press reports that former Illinois Congressman Mel Reynolds, a Democrat, “is under arrest again, this time for allegedly possessing pornography and

violating immigration laws in Zimbabwe. ...The ex-politician, who lost his seat in Congress almost two decades ago because of the statutory rape conviction, was arrested Monday by police and immigration officials at a Harare hotel, according to the state-controlled newspaper, The Herald. He allegedly brought several Zimbabwean models and other women to his hotel room where he took photographs and videos. ...Reynolds resigned from his congressional seat in 1995 after he was convicted by a jury of having sex with a former campaign worker while she was underage, and then trying to thwart the investigation. While in prison he was also convicted of bank and campaign fraud for concealing debts to obtain bank loans and diverting money intended for voter registration drives into his election campaign. He was in jail until his sentence was commuted by then-President Bill Clinton in Jan. 2001.” [55224, 55225]

As noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, Reynolds played a pivotal part in Obama’s political career. Obama was elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996. He took the seat long held by Democrat State Senator Alice Palmer (also an official of the U.S. Peace Council, an affiliate of the Soviet front group World Peace Council), who agreed to let Obama run for her state seat only if she lost her bid for U.S. Congress. By a wide margin Palmer then lost the Congressional election (a special election held in November of 1995, with Jesse Jackson, Jr., and State Senator Emil Jones finishing ahead of her), but Obama reneged on his agreement and worked with his lawyers to get Palmer and three other opponents (Mark Ewell, Gha-is Askia, and Ulmer Lynch) removed from the primary ballot on technicalities, in order to insure an opponent-free victory. On January 2, 1996, a group of Obama operatives descended on the offices of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners to challenge, one by one, all the signatures on the nominating petitions of all of Obama’s challengers. They do not stop until Obama’s was the sole name on the ballot. The Congressional seat Alice Palmer attempted to win had been held by disgraced Congressman Mel (‘I won the Lotto’) Reynolds, who was sentenced to seven years in jail for having sex with a 16-year-old campaign volunteer. It was his resignation that prompted the special election in November 1995. [75, 269, 1361, 1470, 1471]

Reynolds’ sentence was later commuted by Bill Clinton, perhaps because of a special affinity for elected officials who have sex with young campaign workers. After leaving prison in early 2001, Reynolds was hired by Reverend James Meeks to work at his Salem Baptist Church in Chicago. Reynolds also worked with Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition/Operation PUSH organization as a youth counselor—an arguably unlikely position for someone who served prison time for sex with a minor. Palmer was popular among the district’s voters, but her fate was sealed when Jesse Jackson Jr. also decided to run for the seat. That explains some of the animosity between Obama and Jesse Jackson. Had Jackson’s son not entered the Congressional race Alice Palmer would have won and Obama would not have had to resort to signature challenges to get the popular incumbent Palmer off the State Senate ballot. The main animosity, of course, was that Obama won the White House, which Jackson failed to win because he was considered too radical—even though Obama is exponentially more radical than Jackson ever was. (Jesse Jackson, Jr., of course, also ended up in prison. Whether that congressional district is bad luck or its voters are incredibly poor judges of character is not known for certain. Nor is it known whether Obama will follow in the footsteps of Reynolds and Jackson and someday land

in the hoosegow.) [75, 269, 1361, 1470, 1471]

Ten members of the Ironworkers Union's Local 401 are arrested and charged in a RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Criminal Organizations) case. According to Examiner.com, the Pennsylvania union officials "are charged with alleged criminal acts, including arson, extortion, assault, and the destruction of private property, in order to force construction contractors to hire union ironworkers, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Local 401 business manager, 72-year-old Joe Dougherty, as well as union representatives Ed Sweeney, Sean O'Donnell, Christopher Prophet, and William O'Donnell, and five other officials are facing serious prison time if convicted of the charges, according to the FBI and prosecutors. The federal indictment reveals several incidents in which the union officials behaved as if they were organized crime figures rather than labor activists. According to the FBI, they threatened or assaulted contractors and their employees, damaged construction equipment and vandalized job sites in order to force contractors to hire Local 401 workers, even when those workers did no work. The Ironworkers Union locals are major contributors to the Democratic Party and big supporters of ...Obama's programs including Obamacare. So far, in the run-up to the November 2014 elections, the Ironworkers contributed over \$600,000.00 to the Democrats..." [55247]

On Hugh Hewitt's radio program, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, "With these fiascos underway in Kiev, a massacre, and in Venezuela, the arrest of opposition leader, Leopoldo Lopez today, [Hillary Clinton's] foreign policy trifecta is complete. She's lost South America, she's lost the Middle East, and she's lost Eastern Europe. How does anyone recover from that and run for the presidency? When people talk about Hillary being a superb secretary of State, I just ask one question. Name me one thing, just one, not three, give me one thing she achieved in her four years as secretary of state. I have yet to hear an answer. ...I think she is the frontrunner [in 2016]. I don't think the convention will be a coronation. It's going to be a worship service. But that's not exactly why we have a secretary of state. I do think it's really awful that you can have a four year term, achieve nothing, and as you say, go backwards with Russia, backwards on Iran, backwards on Syria, backwards on Venezuela, backwards in relation with just about all of our allies, including, I would add, Keystone [pipeline], which sits on [Obama's] head, and antagonizing Canada, for God's sake. Canada, of all people [sic]—that's quite an achievement when you can antagonize Canada. That's not easy to do. And to get them upset, which has never happened in about 100 years, I mean, this is a foreign policy of failure. And the only reason people haven't focused on it is because there's been so much failure at home that it's overshadowed what's happening abroad." [55257, 55278, 55316]

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and 71 other Democrat Senators and Congressmen send a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack asking him not to implement the one percent reduction in the food stamp program called for by the farm bill recently signed by Obama. The letter says, "Our states need time to adjust their policies to accommodate this drastic cut and roll out the changes seamlessly." (HotAir.com's Erika Johnsen notes, "That \$8 billion spending cut, by the way, is going to come over ten years and amounts to a barely one percent reduction to the federal food stamp program's



budget, and according to the farm bill, the USDA is supposed to start phasing them in next month. These Democrats, evidently, are having difficulty abiding by that ‘drastic’ cut for the sake of our national budget, despite the noticeably absent ‘stimulus’ effect Secretary Vilsack once promised would result from the tens of millions more Americans added to the food-stamp rolls during ...Obama’s tenure.” 55234, 55235]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Given a chance to do it all over again, only 79 percent of those who voted for ...Obama [in 2012] would vote for him again and 71 percent of Obama voters now inclined to vote for somebody else ‘regret’ their vote to reelect [him], according to a new poll. [Newsbusted’s Jodi Miller quips, “Coincidentally, those 71 percent are now being audited by the IRS.”] The Economist/YouGov.com poll found that Obama would lose enough votes in a rematch with Mitt Romney that the Republican would win. ‘90 percent of people who voted for Romney would do it again, compared to only 79 percent of Obama voters who would,’ said the poll. ‘Clearly Romney fares better, although he had fewer voters to begin with. As a proportion of the voters each of them actually received in 2012 (66 million for Obama and 61 million for Romney), the GOP candidate ends up with 55 million votes retained to Obama’s 52 million. Not exactly a wipeout. It’s also unclear for any poll that hypothetically revisits 2012 how much it says about renewed hope for Mitt Romney—who has notably been liberated from the scrutiny of a presidential campaign—rather than about dissatisfaction with [Obama,] who has spent the last year defending his administration over leaks, scandals and Obamacare roll-outs,’ added the poll.” [55237, 55286, 55734]

Congressmen Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-CA)—who former Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA) referred to as a “bimbo”—announce they will not seek reelection in November. (Both seats are in Democrat strongholds that the GOP will likely not be able to flip.) [55254, 55273, 55281]

At a Safeway distribution center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Obama announces he will order the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Transportation to implement stricter fuel efficiency and “greenhouse gas” standards for trucks by the end of March 2016. According to FoxNews.com, “The White House claimed that the requirements would save a projected 530 million barrels of oil and save owners and operators more than \$50 billion in fuel costs.” (The requirements will also increase truck prices.) Obama falsely claims that before he entered the White House “Carbon pollution was going unchecked, which was having severe impacts on our weather.” He also falsely claims that he “set in motion the first ever national policy aimed at both increasing gas mileage and decreasing gas pollution for all new cars and trucks sold.” (Minimum corporate average fuel economy standards and pollution limits on vehicles have, of course, been in effect for decades.) [55241, 55246, 55256, 55262, 55284, 55288]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The Department of Homeland Security wants a private company to provide a national license-plate tracking system that would give the agency access to vast amounts of information from commercial and law enforcement tag readers, according to a government proposal that does not specify what privacy safeguards would

be put in place. The national license-plate recognition database, which would draw data from readers that scan the tags of every vehicle crossing their paths, would help catch fugitive illegal immigrants, according to a DHS solicitation. But the database could easily contain more than 1 billion records and could be shared with other law enforcement agencies, raising concerns that the movements of ordinary citizens who are under no criminal suspicion could be scrutinized. A spokeswoman for DHS's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) stressed that the database 'could only be accessed in conjunction with ongoing criminal investigations or to locate wanted individuals.'" At PJMedia.com Stephen Kruiser writes, "In this ever spiraling out of control world we live in we almost have to spend as much time keeping an eye on the good guys as we do the bad guys. Of the many liberty-choking ideas that have come about since the creation of this bureaucratic behemoth, this is easily in the Top Three worst. It is also the kind of thing the GOP could score points with a wide variety of people with if they vocally oppose this horrific idea. Then again, it was big government Republicans who gave us DHS in the first place so... breath holding is not advised at this time." [55290, 55291, 55331]

In an interview with Bloomberg.com's Jeffrey Goldberg, Gary Samore—a former Obama advisor on weapons of mass destruction and the Iranian nuclear program—states that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says Iran "won't dismantle a thing. He says he has to have an enrichment facility big enough to provide fuel for the Bushehr nuclear plant, and that would be tens of thousands of centrifuge machines, fifty or sixty thousand of the current machines, to provide fuel for a single year's fuel load. And they say they need their heavy water research reactor to produce isotopes. So I think we're miles apart. And I think both sides are really locked in by their domestic politics. If Rouhani were free to act, he might very well accept restrictions for the sake of getting the sanctions lifted and for changing Iran's international position. But he's very constrained by the hard-liners. ...I think he and [Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad] Zarif are genuine in their desire to move away from a revolutionary confrontation with the United States to a policy that cooperates with the U.S. on some issues. Not all issues. And certainly he is sincere in wanting to see his country's economy flourish, and that means ending international isolation, and getting access to Western and American technology. But whether or not he's genuine doesn't matter. The fact is he cannot make the kinds of concessions necessary. I don't think the Supreme Leader and the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps hard-liners would allow it. And ...Obama is trapped, too. I mean, if Obama were to agree to any kind of final deal that would allow Iran to essentially be a nuclear threshold state under the guise of a civilian nuclear program, Congress would overturn it." [55276]

"We all know that Iran's nuclear program is nothing but a disguise for their effort to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, and as part of the deal we should allow them to have some fig leaf, a cosmetic program. The truth is they don't need any centrifuges; they don't need a heavy water research reactor. These are all part of an effort to acquire a nuclear weapons capability. But what we'd settle for, I think, is a year—that they would need a year from the moment they decided to go for a bomb to produce weapons-grade material for a bomb. This means they could be left with a couple of thousand centrifuge machines and a vastly reduced stockpile of low-enriched uranium. If we were confident

that we would have a year's advance notice that they were starting to break out—to produce weapons-grade uranium—that would give us more than enough time to destroy the facility. If the Iranians accepted this, I think the White House would go along. ...[But] I don't think the Iranians feel compelled to make these kinds of concessions. This would mean giving up everything they've achieved over the past decade, and this is a very important project for them. This won't work in terms of finding a comprehensive solution. These negotiations can lead to an interim solution, so that's what is happening now. We slow the program down; they're not making dramatic advancements in terms of their enrichment capacity, in their ability to complete the heavy water research reactor, and they get a respite from additional sanctions. But this is a truce. It's a classic truce. Both sides are benefiting from this period of diplomacy. And the question will be: How and when will it end? At some point, there could be internal changes in Iran, if the Supreme Leader dies and someone else takes over. We don't know what the person's calculations will be. It could be that the Iranians at some point in the future feel strong enough to walk away from negotiations. ...The best scenario for them is to build secret plants, secret enrichment facilities, and produce a couple of nuclear weapons, and then when they test one, they've got a few to back up what they have." [55276]

At least 25 people are killed in confrontations between pro-freedom demonstrators and the police in Kiev, Ukraine. The White House "condemns violence by any side" and states that the Ukrainian government "bears special responsibility to de-escalate the situation." White House press secretary Jay Carney says, "We continue to condemn street violence and excessive use of force by either side. Force will not resolve the crisis." WashingtonPost.com notes, "The protests began Nov. 21 when [Ukrainian President Viktor] Yanukovich backed away from a trade deal with the European Union, eventually turning to Russia for \$15 billion in support." (The Ukrainian people seek increased freedoms, not increased ties with the Kremlin.) Vice President Joe Biden telephones Yanukovich to express "grave concern" about the violence. (The concern is apparently not so great as to have prompted Obama to make the call.) MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell comments, "And the very fact that [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has said, 'Stay out of my back yard,' would mean it would be almost too much of an affront for ...Obama himself to get involved." (In other words, Obama did not have the nerve to make the call himself.) [55274, 55275, 55280, 55292, 55330]

DailyCaller.com reports that Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) "is launching a new political action committee to help defend House conservatives from 2014 attacks from mainstream Republican PACs... The new GOH Conservative PAC, inspired by the Senate Conservatives Fund, 'defends conservative Republicans from the attacks that come from the mainstream,' Gohmert told TheDC. 'That's been a problem, we've seen in some races, where we've had leadership come and play and there was no counterbalance. So I'm going to do something about it.'" [55264]

DailyCaller.com also reports, "The fourth Georgia hospital in two years is closing its doors due to severe financial difficulties caused by Obamacare's payment cuts for emergency services. The Lower Oconee Community Hospital is, for now, a critical

access hospital in southeastern Georgia that holds 25 beds. The hospital is suffering from serious cash-flow problems, largely due to the area's 23 percent uninsured population, and hopes to reopen as 'some kind of urgent care center,' CEO Karen O'Neal said. ...The federal government has historically made payments to hospitals to cover the cost of uninsured patients seeking free medical care in emergency rooms, as federal law mandates that hospitals must care for all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Because the Affordable Care Act's authors believed they'd forced all states to implement the Medicaid expansion, Obamacare vastly cut hospital payments..." but many states, including Georgia, chose not to expand Medicaid coverage because of budget concerns. [55265, 55296]

On *The Kelly File*, former Bill Clinton volunteer worker Kathleen Willey discusses Hillary Clinton's role in enabling her husband's philandering and sexual misconduct and her efforts to attack and discredit his victims. Willey says, "I think she needs to be exposed for all of the terror campaigns that she raised against women who were in the wrong place at the wrong time with her husband. ...How can you be a champion of women's rights and turn around and do what she's done to women like me?" Willey, who knows Clinton rape victim Juanita Broadrick, says, "That woman is telling the truth." [55268, 55289]

Late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel asks his audience if anyone had signed up for ObamaCare; no hands are raised. [55320]

On February 19 White House economic adviser Gene Sperling appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* to push a minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour and calls the 39 percent increase "moderate." He says, "These are people who just want to work hard and support their family. That's why Americans support increasing the minimum wage. That's why [Obama] supports it." (Americans who will lose their jobs because of an increase likely do not support the increase, nor would most Americans support it if they understood it would cause higher prices.) [55287]

Iran's "moderate" president, Hassan Rouhani, calls for the "liberation of the Holy Quds [Jerusalem] from the yoke of Israel." [55375, 55376]

BizPacReview.com reports, "Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and other staffers may be inappropriately raising funds to promote Obamacare as enrollment woes continue. Troubling questions and Freedom of Information Act requests by the Washington Examiner seem to be fraying nerves in certain quarters of the Obama administration. Republicans on Capitol Hill were outraged to learn in May that Sebelius was asking high-powered CEOs to 'donate' to Enroll America, a nonprofit organization created by Obama loyalists and designed to encourage Americans to sign up for the Affordable Care Act, according to an exclusive report by the Examiner. Now, eight months later, a Sebelius spokesperson is evading questions about whether the potentially unethical practice has continued." Senator Alexander (R-TN), "the ranking member of the Senate Health Oversight Committee, said Sebelius' solicitations are illegal because

Congress denied funds to implement Obamacare and her behavior parrots Iran-Contra fundraising. He has asked the Government Accountability Office and the Health and Human Services inspector general to look into the extent of the agency's relationship with Enroll America." [55267]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "The Obama Administration may extend beyond 2016 a federal reimbursement program for health insurance companies that lose money by participating in the newly created health care exchanges. Industry insiders told the *Washington Examiner* a plan to extend the Affordable Care Act's 'risk corridors' are under discussion, but that administration officials have not made a final decision. The risk corridor program was written into the 2,700-page health care bill to help the insurance companies offset losses if they enroll too few healthy customers and sign up too many people with high health care costs." (ObamaCare's "risk corridor" provision is essentially an insurance company bailout. If health insurers lose money on the ObamaCare exchanges, the taxpayers will fund payments to those insurers to help offset their losses. Extending the scheme beyond what is called for in the law would be yet another illegal action by Obama.) [55285]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking a 'social media analytic tool' that will give the government access to 'full Twitter historical data,' according to a solicitation released on Tuesday. The agency is seeking feedback for a 'possible future acquisition to provide near real time social media analysis.' HHS said it wants to use the tool for 'ongoing monitoring' of public health issues. HHS provides a long list of requirements, including 'access to real-time social media posts,' and 'access to full Twitter firehose.'" HHS argues, "In the midst of an event we want to know when hospitals and/or nursing homes are evacuating patients," yet it also wants at least five years of "full Twitter historical data." The government certainly does not need five years of Twitter messages if its purpose for the access is to aid in evaluation of real-time emergencies and "ongoing monitoring of public health issues." Bryan Preston writes at PJMedia.com, "This government has been collecting our cell phone metadata and lied about it, under oath. It wanted to track our license plates. It wants our twitter data. Big Brother's appetite seems to know no end." [55519, 55520, 55524]

WND.com reports, "A new investigative video by guerrilla journalist James O'Keefe's Project Veritas reveals Democrat activists in Texas boasting about breaking the state's election law by mining confidential records. O'Keefe, who helped bring down ACORN, the community 'organizing' behemoth for which Barack Obama worked as a lawyer, shows Battleground Texas Field Organizer Jennifer Longoria confirming on video that the group is culling names, telephone numbers and addresses from voter registration cards to campaign for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis. However, Project Veritas points out that copying the personal details is illegal in Texas. In the video, Longoria explains that the goal of her group, run by a former field director for Obama for America, is to increase the number of voters in Texas to try to raise the support for Democrats. 'So every time we register somebody to vote, we keep their name,

number,' she says. When a Project Veritas investigator asks, 'That's from the voter registration form?' Longoria responds, 'That data collection is the key.' However, according to the video, state law forbids that. 'The registrar may not transcribe, copy, or otherwise record a telephone number furnished on a registration application,' the law states. But Longoria says the Democrat group takes the information, puts it in a database and then uses it. 'So when we get to get out the vote, three weeks before, we can give those people a call,' she says." [55294, 55297, 55324]

At a town hall meeting in Mankato, Minnesota, a citizen asks, "I thought the Affordable Care Act would save \$2,500 per family. What happened?" In response, Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN) responds, "I voted no, so I'll let these guys answer it"—referring to Senator Amy Klobucher (D-MN) and Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN) who are seated next to him—and who both voted for ObamaCare. Walz's weak defense of his vote is to admit that the law is not perfect but to lecture the audience, "[D]on't pretend there was some type of safe harbor before this where everything was just peachy keen." (Many viewers of the video of the exchange are angered over the manner in which the legislators initially laughed and joked about the question, as if losing one's insurance or having to pay higher premiums is a laughing matter. BizPacReview.com observes, "'Everything wasn't peachy keen before!' isn't much of a [campaign] battle cry—not even in Minnesota.") [55389, 55415]

While visiting Mexico, Barack "red line" Obama comments on the pro-freedom demonstrations in Ukraine: "The United States condemns in the strongest terms the violence that's taking place. We hold the Ukrainian government primarily responsible for making sure that it is dealing with peaceful protesters in an appropriate way, that the Ukrainian people are able to assemble and speak freely about their interests without fear of repression... We've also said we expect peaceful protestors to remain peaceful and we'll be monitoring very closely the situation [sic], recognizing that with our European partners and the international community there will be consequences if people step over the line." (Some might assume that the demonstrators expect little help from the Obama administration, and that the Ukrainian government and Russian President Vladimir Putin will care little about the consequences of crossing another Obama line—not that Obama bothered to explain what those consequences might be, or even where he thinks the line is located.) [55299, 55326, 55332]

Vice President Joe Biden says, "We may not get to [our goal of] seven million [ObamaCare enrollees by March 31]; we may get to five or six, but that's a hell of a start." [55313, 55314, 55327, 55349]

In a speech at the Kaiser Family Foundation, White House health care advisor Phil Schiliro argues that it is wrong to claim that ObamaCare causes job losses because some jobs have been created since the legislation was passed in 2010. (That is tantamount to claiming that no houses are ever destroyed by fire because a greater number of new houses are built each year, or that abortion does not reduce the population because babies who are not aborted continue to be born.) [55325]

At Heritage.org Ariel Cohen, a Russian and Eurasian Studies expert at The Heritage Foundation, points out, “Ukraine is strategically important. It has a massive industrial base; abundant agriculture; and a lengthy shoreline along the Black Sea. It also borders four NATO allies: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. Russia covets it for its renewed sphere of influence. A lot is riding on next steps by the U.S. and our European allies. Washington has to exhibit strong leadership to resolve the crisis in Ukraine peacefully—and in accordance to strategic U.S. interests. It should call for an immediate cessation of government brutality and violence and helping Ukrainians to map out a path to a constitutional reform and the new elections this spring.” [55298]

WashingtonPost.com reports that *House of Cards* actress Robin Wright learned “from a conversation with an unnamed ‘senior person’ in the Obama administration [that] Washington reporters sleep with their sources.” In a *Capitol File* magazine interview, Wright states, “[Washington] D.C. is more corrupt than Hollywood. It really is. It’s more sleazy than Hollywood... how much infidelity goes on.” [55300, 55301]

In the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, attorney Orly Taitz files an opposition to a defense motion to dismiss *Dr. Orly Taitz v. Carolyn Colvin* due to an admission by the defense that the Social Security Administration never bothered to looking for a Form SS-5 for Harry (or Harrison J.) Bounel, a form that Taitz had requested under the Freedom of Information Act. (Although Obama has used more than one Social Security number over the years, for some time he has used 042-68-4425. On various databases and public records, that number is linked not to Obama, but to Harrison J. Bounel—a man who has been dead for decades. Taitz requested Bounel’s Form SS-5, his application for a Social Security number. The government initially refused to provide the form, claiming an invasion of privacy. Inasmuch as Bounel was reported as age 50 in the 1940 census, he is most certainly not alive and cannot object to the release of his form. The government claims it cannot find Bounel’s Form SS-5, yet never actually bothered to look for it. According to Taitz, Obama also once used the Social Security number of Lucille Ballantyne, the late wife of Harry C. Ballantyne—a former Social Security Administration actuary. (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama has had to use stolen Social Security numbers because he never had a valid U.S. birth certificate to prove citizenship and obtain a valid number.)

JudicialWatch.org reports, “A radical foreign policy adviser fired by ...Obama years ago for meeting with the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has been hired by the White House to be the senior director at the National Security Council (NSC). How generous of the commander-in-chief to let bygones be bygones when it comes to this extremist, a Middle East ‘expert’ named Robert Malley whose family had close ties to Yasser Arafat, founder of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Fatah movement. Malley was an adviser in Bill Clinton’s White House and he consistently exonerates Palestinians and condemns Israel. Over the years he has published a number of newspaper opinion pieces urging the United States to reach out and negotiate with terrorist enemies like Hamas, Hezbollah and Muqtada al-Sadr. A website that documents the networks and

agendas of the political left offers details about Malley's scary past and provides links to the outrageous articles he's published, including several co-written with Hussein Agha, a former adviser to Arafat. Malley grew up in France and his Egyptian-born father [Simon Malley] was a key figure in Egypt's communist party and a close friend of Arafat's. His parents were fervently anti-Israel and huge supporters of several leftist revolutionary liberation movements, especially the Palestinian cause. Malley published a piece in a mainstream newspaper declaring that Israel was responsible for the failure of Bill Clinton's peace talks with the Palestinians. ... When Obama launched his 2008 presidential campaign, he brought Malley on as a foreign policy adviser focusing on the Middle East. The then-Illinois senator reportedly dumped Malley around May for meeting with and having regular contact with Hamas, which has long been classified as a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department." (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Simon Malley had been expelled from France in 1980 for, according to government officials, "political activities which do not correspond with, and even run contrary to, French interests in certain countries..." and some articles written by Malley that were "genuine appeals to murder foreign chiefs of state." Robert Malley served as Clinton's Special Assistant for Arab-Israeli Affairs (1998–2000). In May of 2008, Obama removes Malley from his list of official advisors after it was reported that he had met with the terrorist group Hamas, but Obama continued to rely on his advice and support.) [453, 453, 55306, 55307]

During a joint press conference in Mexico with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, a Canadian reporter asks about the Keystone XL pipeline. Obama—who is in Mexico to discuss a Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement with Pena Nieto and Harper—responds, "I said previously that how Keystone impacted greenhouse gas emissions would affect our decision. But frankly, it has to affect all of our decisions at this stage because the science is irrefutable. We're already seeing severe weather patterns increase. That has consequences for our businesses, for our jobs, for our families, for safety and security. It has the potential of displacing people in ways that we cannot currently fully anticipate and will be extraordinarily costly. So I welcome the work that we can do together with Canada." (Harper supports the pipeline—as do most Americans who have not fallen for the enviro-socialists' "global warming" scare tactics.) "One of the wonderful things about North America," says Obama, "is [that] we have this amazing bounty of traditional fossil fuels, and we also have extraordinary businesses that are able to extract them in very efficient ways—and that's something we should welcome because it helps to promote economic growth. But we only have one planet." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama will stall a decision on the pipeline until after Democrat candidates have cashed their campaign contribution checks from environmental groups—and from hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer.) [55333, 55359, 55383]

On February 20 Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* and in a dig directed at both Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton he says, "I can't think of a single place in the world where we're better off today than we were four years ago. And part of it is this lack of resolve—the sense that the United States is not going to be there for our allies. And if we're not there for our allies, our enemies notice



that. So look, this is very concerning.” [55334]

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reports the March 14 resignation of Jon M. Hager, executive director of Nevada’s “glitch-riddled” ObamaCare exchange. “Hager’s announcement follows a Feb. 13 meeting where the exchange’s board of directors chastised him for cutting March 31 enrollment goals from 118,000 to 50,000. They also told Hager to put together a ‘disaster recovery plan’ to fix technical problems that have plagued the exchange’s Nevada Health Link website since it launched on Oct. 1. ...The exchange had 17,047 paid enrollees as of Feb. 15.” [55357, 55358]

United States District Court Judge Ronnie Greer throws out the lawsuit *Green Party of Tennessee v. Tre Hargett*, which challenged the state’s photo ID requirement for voting. At PJMedia.com J. Christian Adams writes, “While the decision was bad for the Green Party in Tennessee, the opinion may be even worse for voter ID opponents nationwide such as the NAACP, the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and Eric Holder. Greer’s opinion undermines most all of the arguments being pushed by leftwing election-integrity opponents like Eric Holder and the NAACP. One of the favorite talking points of the left is that voter ID is a ‘solution in search of a problem.’ Any search of stories about voter ID reveals a coordinated push of this strategy by the left and their paid public relations firms. But Greer, like the United States Supreme Court before him, ruled that states are entirely free to enact election-protection statutes even without proof of voter fraud. In other words, states have the power to get ahead of the criminals and vote-fraudsters. ...Not to be deterred, however, Holder’s leftist lawyers have cooked up a fall-back plan. In North Carolina they are arguing what they already argued and lost in Texas and South Carolina—that the lack of ‘widespread’ voter fraud means that the voter ID law must be a racially motivated legislative plot to harm minorities. If you didn’t catch that, it goes like this. Since legislators in Texas, South Carolina, and North Carolina could not point to ‘widespread’ voter impersonation, racism must be the real reason behind passing voter ID. ...Judge Greer echoes what sensible Americans already understand: it’s no big deal for a state to require you to prove you are who you say you are when you go to vote. This isn’t a racist plot by southern white male legislators or the Ku Klux Klan version 2.0. It’s common sense. Judge Greer’s opinion upholding Tennessee’s voter ID law was all about common sense.” [55447, 55448]

BizPacReview.com reports, “Despite congressional opposition, the Federal Communications Commission plans to send researchers to oversee TV and radio newsrooms, casting what promises to be a chill on freedom of the press. When House Republicans got wind of the plan in December, they sent a letter to the FCC, according to The Hill. ...FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, in a Wall Street Journal op-ed, informed the public that as of last week, the agency’s plans were still very much in the works. He said: ‘Last May the FCC proposed an initiative to thrust the federal government into newsrooms across the country. With its ‘Multi-Market Study of Critical Information Needs,’ or CIN, the agency plans to send researchers to grill reporters, editors and station owners about how they decide which stories to run. A field test in Columbia, S.C., is scheduled to begin this spring. The purpose of the CIN, according to the FCC, is to ferret

out information from television and radio broadcasters about ‘the process by which stories are selected’ and how often stations cover ‘critical information needs,’ along with ‘perceived station bias’ and ‘perceived responsiveness to underserved populations.’ Journalists are now up in arms. The last thing a newsroom needs is a Soviet-style political officer looking over the shoulders of reporters and editors, and helping them shape the news to the Obama administration’s liking. If FCC officials want to learn how stories are selected, they can go to journalism school. Otherwise, stay out of the newsroom.” (Pai opposes the proposal, which would be pure political intimidation and a violation of First Amendment rights and should be protested as strongly as possible. The Obama administration’s target is not television as much as it is talk radio. If the FCC “agents” have an attitude of “Nice radio station you’ve got there; it’d be a shame to lose your FCC license,” station owners can be intimidated into dropping programs of people like Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, and Mark Levin.) [55321, 55322, 55361, 55366, 55370, 55371, 55372, 55379]

Reuters reports, “Two senior officials at JPMorgan Chase & Co and predecessor companies repeatedly confronted Bernard Madoff over irregularities in his business, a new lawsuit said, suggesting that bank leaders had ‘direct knowledge’ of his Ponzi scheme. The lawsuit filed in federal court in Manhattan on Wednesday on behalf of shareholders against Chief Executive Jamie Dimon and 12 other current and former executives and directors was based in part by statements made by Madoff himself during a series of interviews. ‘JPMorgan was uniquely positioned for 20 years to see Madoff’s crimes and put a stop to them,’ the lawsuit said. ‘But faced with the prospect of shutting down Madoff’s account and losing lucrative profits,’ it added, ‘JPMorgan—at its highest level—chose to turn a blind eye.’ JPMorgan spokeswoman Tasha Pelio declined to comment on the lawsuit, one of several seeking to hold bank officials responsible for failing to uncover the fraud before it surfaced publicly in December 2008. Madoff, 75, is serving a 150-year prison term after pleading guilty to fraud in March 2009.” [55382]

TheHill.com reports, “Yielding to pressure from congressional Democrats, ...Obama is abandoning a proposed cut to Social Security benefits in his election-year budget. [Obama’s] budget request for fiscal 2015, which is due out March 4, will not call for a switch to a new formula that would limit cost-of-living increases in the entitlement program, the White House said Thursday.” (Obama has offered to implement a modified cost-of-living-allowance for Social Security benefits that would slightly reduce spending—provided the Republicans would agree to tax increases.) Brendan Buck, spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds, “This reaffirms what has become all too apparent: [Obama] has no interest in doing anything, even modest, to address our looming debt crisis. The one and only idea [Obama] has to offer is even more job-destroying tax hikes, and that non-starter won’t do anything to save the entitlement programs that are critical to so many Americans.” [55340]

Gene Sperling, director of the National Economic Council, tells Politico that Obama’s proposed 2015 budget will focus on “investments” (that is, spending). He says, “And I think what we don’t want is for our deficit reduction to come at the expense of the

investments in the future. You want to have a more robust ability to invest in research, in children, in training and higher skills. Those are things—infrastructure—those are the things where one generation invests for a stronger future.” (Obama’s budget will, of course, include little or no deficit reduction at all.) “So I think that what you’ll see in our budget is more of a move to be more pro-growth and to change the composition of deficit reduction so that we do allow more investment in the future—in education, in training, in the middle class—and that our savings are more directed towards the long term and that they are a responsible mix of revenues and sensible mandatory savings.” (In other words, “We’re going to spend more money now and postpone the reality of massive government debt until the future.”) [55361]

Iran’s FARS News Agency writes, “‘Why are we ready for a fight’ is the question whose answer will make the US and Israeli presidents realize that our preparedness for a war of defense is not a bluff, but a reality with deep roots in our religious tenets, which has grown into our culture as Iranians. The Prophet of Islam has said, ‘Whoever has not fought for his Imam or does not wish for Jihad, he will die a hypocrite.’ Now in compliance with the Great Prophet of Islam and to show his obedience to his Imam, the Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, has recently stated that ‘we are ready for the big fight with the United States.’ Although the General comes from a generation that has already passed a practical test of Jihad with much honor and glory, his wish for Jihad is actually a statement on behalf of the younger generation who has not tasted the sweet flavor of Jihad and wish for this holy war in order not to die a hypocrite. This statement raises a question the answer to which could change the approach of the US and Israeli militaries and politicians to the conditions of the Muslim Iranians and make them stop relying on their so-called ‘military options on the table.’ This answer could fade away the hopes that the US Defense Secretary, Chuck Hagel, and ... Barack Obama, their Israeli counterparts and future presidents and defense secretaries of Israel and the US have pinned on repeating their ‘military option’ catch phrase and make them realize that our preparedness to fight them is not a bluff, but a reality with deep roots in our religious tenets which has grown into our culture.” (Pamela Geller observes, “Iran confirms what everybody knows. And yet the White House, the Dems, the media, Islamic apologists, leftwing dhimmis refute this with every cell of their being. Or try to.”) [55401, 55402, 55403]

White House press secretary Jay Carney states, “We are outraged by the images of Ukrainian security forces firing automatic weapons on their own people. We urge President [Viktor] Yanukovich to immediately withdraw his security forces from downtown Kiev and to respect the right of peaceful protest, and we urge protesters to express themselves peacefully. ... We urge the Ukrainian military not to get involved in a conflict that can and should be resolved by political means. The use of force will not resolve the crisis—clear steps must be taken to stop the violence and initiate meaningful dialogue that reduces tension and addresses the grievances of the Ukrainian people. The United States will work with our European allies to hold those responsible for violence accountable and to help the Ukrainian people get a unified and independent Ukraine back on the path to a better future.” [55341]

BizPacReview.com reports, “In the wake of ...Obama’s 23rd vacation, Judicial Watch estimated the first family has milked the public trough for more than \$18 million in hotel and resort expenses, security costs, car rentals and airfare. And the ‘most transparent administration in history’ has been anything but cooperative, the Washington Examiner reported last week. The Washington, D.C.-based watchdog group has been forced to file a stream of Freedom of Information Act requests because of White House stonewalling.” Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton states, “The Obama administration has simply stopped voluntarily producing information about the costs of travel. It is radio silence. They are in cover-up mode. ...The Obamas are abusing the perks of public office. Taxpayers shouldn’t be footing the bill for their luxury travel.” [55346]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Obama’s forthcoming budget request will seek tens of billions of dollars [reportedly \$56 billion] in fresh spending for domestic priorities while abandoning a compromise proposal to tame the national debt in part by trimming Social Security benefits. With the 2015 budget request, Obama will call for an end to the era of austerity that has dogged much of his White House tenure] and to his efforts to find common ground with Republicans. Instead, [Obama] will focus on pumping new cash into job training, early-childhood education and other programs aimed at bolstering the middle class, providing Democrats with a policy blueprint heading into the midterm elections.” (The *Post*’s “era of austerity” description is absurd. Since Obama entered the White House, the national debt has increased by more than \$6 trillion, the federal government spent \$3.67 trillion in 2010, \$3.75 trillion in 2011, \$3.61 trillion in 2012, \$3.44 trillion in 2013, and is expected to spend about \$3.54 trillion in 2014. The *Post* does not provide the total amount of Obama’s proposed 2015 budget, but it will almost certainly exceed \$3.5 trillion. In each of those years, tax revenue has never exceeded \$2.81 trillion. [55350, 55351, 55352, 55353, 55377, 55440]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the Obama administration’s plan to have FCC representatives visit newsrooms “to ascertain the process by which stories are selected, station priorities (for content, production quality, and populations served), perceived station bias, perceived percent of news dedicated to each of the eight CIN’s [sic; CINs; critical information needs], and perceived responsiveness to underserved populations.” Krauthammer states, “If government were to bring any coffee into Fox, I’d get a taster before I would touch it. Look, this is... as if the IRS, and the EPA, and the NLRB haven’t done enough damage, the FCC now has to trample on what rights are remaining. This is an outrage, disguised as a study. The FCC regulates the media. It [already] has the power to remove your license—meaning to ruin you overnight. So any question it asks is never innocent. And what is it asking about ‘critical information needs?’ Who decides as to critical information needs? The critical information need is a concept that you have in Kiev or in Moscow; you don’t have it in the United States. Everyone decides on his own. ...This is absolutely an outrage. What the House of Representatives ought to do *tomorrow* is to pass a law withholding every penny from any such study now or ever more.” (The “critical information needs” study would be conducted by the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Communication and Democracy—both of which are leftist schools that have received

significant funding from Obama's billionaire buddy George Soros' Open Society Foundation.) [55343, 55363, 55366, 55370, 55371, 55372, 55408, 55409, 55411, 55935]

On the *Tonight Show*, Michelle Obama appears in an embarrassingly unfunny skit with new host Jimmy Fallon and alleged comedic actor Will Farrell and pushes ObamaCare on young people who she calls "knuckleheads" for believing they are invincible and do not need health insurance. She says, "A lot of young people think they're invincible. But the truth is, young people are knuckleheads, ya know [sic]? They're the ones who are cooking for the first time and slice their finger open. They're dancing on the bar stool." (The "knuckleheads" are also voters who supported her husband by a wide margin.) Fannon is far more of a fan of leftist politics than was his predecessor, Jay Leno. Whether that will affect his ratings remains to be seen.) [55342, 55345, 55348, 55360, 55364, 55368, 55378, 55388]

On February 21 leftist Fox News contributor Alan Colmes, who is generally an Obama supporter, lambastes the FCC's proposal to "monitor" newsrooms. Colmes says, "I think this is horrendous. Look, I'm against the Fairness Doctrine. I'm one of the few liberals who feel that the FCC should not be involved in content. And the notion of suggesting, or saying—even though they call it voluntary, there's still nevertheless peer pressure to participate—to go into newsrooms, for what? There's no reason for the FCC to visit broadcast operations. You know what they're doing by tuning them in. ...I'm a liberal. I don't agree with a lot of things Democrats do. I think that the Democrats should be very outspoken about this. And I agree... [that] if a conservative administration were doing this, liberals would be all over it. ...[Obama] should be very clear that this is not something the government should do." (The FCC initially responds to several days of outcry by stating it will change some of the questions to be asked by its media monitors. It then puts the scheme on indefinite hold. Townhall.com's Conn Carroll writes that the FCC scheme is "straight from [John] Podesta's Fairness Doctrine playbook." Podesta, now an Obama advisor, is the former head of the leftist Center for American Progress—which in 2007 "produced a 40-page report detailing how the FCC could use existing statutory authority to weaken conservative voices on talk radio in favor of more progressive opinions.") [55347, 55354, 55366, 55369, 55370, 55371, 55372, 55373, 55379, 55387, 55390, 55425]

Via Facebook, Sarah Palin comments on the mainstream media's selective outrage and the FCC's scheme to monitor the media: "What? Lamestream ['lamestream media'] calls for empathy, even outrage, for a First Amendment violation that's on par with all the abuse we've brought to your attention as Obama stomps on our Constitution. You've IGNORED us, you've marginalized us, you've left us for 'destroyed.' But when Obama's boot is on YOUR neck you finally wake the h\*ll up and cry foul? Good Lord." [55438]

Satellite talk radio's Howard Stern says, "I've voted Republican and I've voted Democrat. I have vowed I will never vote for a Democrat again. I don't give a [expletive]—no matter who they are. I don't care if God becomes a Democrat. ...I backed Hillary Clinton, I backed Al Gore, I backed John Kerry. I am done with them."

[55365, 55404]

Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, says, “[The West] is trying to achieve, through sanctions and negotiations, what it could not achieve by means of threats. This is obviously impossible. ...Regardless of what some Western countries think, time is not on their side. They think that since the sanctions are still in place, time is on their side. Undoubtedly, time has been, and will continue to be, in Iran's favor. They sought to use time to accomplish their goal of curbing our nuclear program. Since they could not dismantle it, they sought, at the very least, to curb it. This never happened. From 160 centrifuges, or maybe even less, we have now reached 19,000 centrifuges. This is in terms of quantity. The leap was much greater in terms of quality. The West knows this full well. This does not appear in the media. Economically, these sanctions were hollow. Some people thought that these sanctions would be paralyzing. These sanctions may have been annoying, but certainly not paralyzing. ...The commitments made by Iran can be retracted. These were voluntary commitments. ...In the Joint Plan of Action, Iran got more than it gave. This has been the case so far. The main reason for this is that the other side has de facto accepted that Iran can continue its enrichment, even though the purpose of all the U.N. Security Council resolutions and sanctions was to get Iran to freeze its uranium enrichment. This is our most important achievement. Secondly, Iran’s commitments are temporary and non-obligatory.” (In other words, Iran could not care less about what it agreed to with the United States and other nations. Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry are clearly naive if they believe Iran can be trusted to honor any agreement.) Pamela Geller observes, “Iran is letting us know they are engaging in the Islamic practice of the *hudna*. Under Islam, a *hudna* (ceasefire or truce) is always temporary. It is a device used to disarm and rearm. Over the course of history, *hudna* became the standard term to describe a cessation of hostilities during jihad.” [55716, 55717]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Ukraine pulled back from the brink of chaos Friday when President Viktor Yanukovych signed a deal with opposition leaders to dilute his powers, form a caretaker government and hold early elections. But the accord appeared likely to be a hard sell among the thousands of demonstrators who vowed that nothing short of his ouster would get them off the streets. The agreement represents a remarkable, humiliating fall for Yanukovych, whose decision to turn away from closer ties with the European Union and toward Russia sparked protests that began here peacefully in November but turned increasingly violent. The atmosphere remained tense late Friday in Independence Square, the epicenter of the protests. When one of the opposition leaders, former boxing champion Vitali Klitschko, told the crowds this was the best deal they could get, one of the protesters grabbed the microphone and demanded that Yanukovych resign Saturday morning or face the wrath of the people. ‘We will go with weapons,’ said the protester, who leads one of the more militant groups in the square. ‘I swear it.’ The pact, reached after Ukraine’s bloodiest week of street fighting, following all-night negotiations sponsored by European and Russian officials, calls for an immediate return to the 2004 constitution, which gives parliament, not the president, the right to choose a prime minister and most of the cabinet. The accord also called for authorities and the opposition to refrain from violence and withdraw from public spaces, and to return the country to

normal life. Protesters were to turn illegal weapons over to police.” (Some might argue that turning in one’s weapons to the government one is trying to overthrow is not a reasonable idea.) [55355, 55356]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Ukraine Defense Minister Pavel Lebedev has refused to take multiple phone calls made personally by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, the Pentagon said Thursday. ‘Secretary Hagel has been trying, himself, since early this week,’ Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters. Lebedev refuses ‘to communicate, to accept a phone call’ from Hagel or the Pentagon. ‘We haven’t been able to connect with anybody from the Defense Ministry there in Ukraine,’ he said. ‘We’ve been trying pretty diligently here in the Pentagon, we’ve been trying pretty diligently this whole week. I’d say it’s pretty unusual.’” [56027]

At Heritage.org Nile Gardiner, director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, writes, “The Obama Administration’s lack of leadership on international crises has become so apparent that even *The Washington Post* is launching broadsides at the White House. In a tweet highlighting a major piece on Ukraine and Syria, the Post declared: ‘The ‘Obama Doctrine’ flounders as Kiev and Syria crumble.’ This is, of course, what conservatives have been pointing out for years: In a 2010 paper on the pitfalls and perils of the Obama Doctrine, my Heritage colleagues Kim Holmes and James Carafano argued that the Obama stance on foreign policy was making the United States and the world ‘less secure, courting global instability... The Obama Doctrine is anchored in the belief that America is devoid of singularity, exceptionalism, or historic mission rather than a country with unique resources, experiences and devotion to freedom.’ This flawed approach, with a fundamental rejection of the notion of American exceptionalism, is amply on display over the Ukrainian crisis. The Russian reset has spectacularly backfired, resulting in staggering complacency in Washington over Ukraine and Moscow’s ambitions. ...[Obama] has been largely invisible as Ukrainian demonstrators are ruthlessly picked off by government snipers and left for dead, while Russian President Vladimir Putin vows that Ukraine will remain in Russia’s orbit. ...The U.S. simply cannot afford to be a bystander in the face of tyranny. ...This should be a moment for real leadership from [Obama], who should stand with those fighting for freedom. The White House should place itself on the right side of history at a pivotal moment in the 21st century.” [55435, 55436]

At OneNewsNow.com Michael Youssef writes that former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s “greatest blunder was failing to recognize the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt for what it was: a terror organization. The Muslim Brotherhood is just like its kissing cousin, Hamas. Their definition of democracy is: one man, one vote, one time. After the first election, you’ll never see another. Clinton’s unbridled support for the Brotherhood leader and now-disgraced former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was inexcusable. A freshman in Foreign Policy 101 would have seen through the charade that led to her historic miscalculation. Tapes recently released by Egyptian intelligence reveal that the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas were working hand-in-glove together.” After the ouster of Morsi, “The new, temporary leader of Egypt, General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi—now field

marshal, who had acted as a steward to protect the freedom of the Egyptian people—saw no hope in dealing with the Obama administration. So on February 12, 2014, he visited Russia. There he was hailed as a hero and given a reception appropriate for a head of state. While ...Obama felt the need to lecture Sisi, Putin declared him the up and coming leader of Egypt. As the U.S. government continues to offer the cold shoulder, 22 million Egyptians have signed a petition to draft Sisi to run for president. No wonder the Egyptian public detests Obama more than his most ardent opponents in the U.S. are capable of doing. Clinton may be made of Teflon when it comes to her responsibility and response to the Benghazi attack—but her culpability in losing a key U.S. ally to Russia is not only unforgettable, it should be politically unforgivable.” (*The Obama Timeline* disagrees with Youssef, who apparently believes both Clinton and Obama fell for the Muslim Brotherhood’s “we are moderate” act, and thinks that they secretly support the Muslim Brotherhood and hope it will help destroy Israel. Clinton and Obama believe Israel is the problem, not radical Muslims.) [55394]

According to a Fox News poll, 66 percent of registered voters believe Congress should continue to investigate Benghazi; even 50 percent of Democrats agree. [55481, 55482]

In a WBAP radio interview in Dallas, rock legend Ted Nugent says, “I do apologize—not necessarily to [Obama]—but on behalf of much better men than myself, like the best governor in America, Governor. Rick Perry, [and] the best attorney general in America, Greg Abbott. I apologize for using the street fighter terminology, like ‘subhuman mongrel,’ instead of just using more understandable language such as ‘violator of his oath to the Constitution.’ I apologize for using the term. I will try to elevate my vernacular to the level of those great men that I’m learning from in the world of politics.” (In January, in an interview conducted at the Shot Show, Nugent said, “I have obviously failed to galvanize and prod, if not shame enough Americans to be ever vigilant not to let a Chicago communist raised, communist educated, communist nurtured, subhuman mongrel like the ACORN community organizer gangster Barack Hussein Obama to weasel his way into the top office of authority in the United States of America.” Nugent also slammed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for allowing four Americans to die in Benghazi and then arrogantly stating, “What difference does it make” who killed them or why. [53874, 55386, 55427]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration announced Friday cuts were on the table next year for Medicare Advantage, giving new ammunition to critics of [Obama’s] health care law and disappointing some Democrats. The politically dicey move affecting a private insurance alternative highly popular with seniors immediately touched off an election-year fight.” Senator John Thune (R-SD) states, “Every senator who voted for this train wreck owes America’s seniors an explanation for these Medicare cuts, which are already resulting in higher costs and reduced access to the doctors they had and liked.” [55367]

Sikorsky Aircraft announces the layoff of about 600 employees—mostly in Stratford, Connecticut—because of “challenging and unstable economic conditions.” [55395]



Newsmax.com reports, “Four Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have demanded that FBI Director James Comey answer specific questions regarding the "routine review" of campaign filings that led to last month’s indictment of conservative commentator and best-selling author Dinesh D’Souza on campaign-finance charges. The letter, dated Wednesday [February 19], was signed by the committee’s ranking GOP member, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, along with Sens. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, Ted Cruz of Texas, and Mike Lee of Utah. The letter, which was reported by The Weekly Standard and other news organizations, quotes former Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz's recent column in The Wall Street Journal attacking D’Souza’s indictment. ‘I can’t help but think that [D’Souza’s] politics have something to do with it. ...It smacks of selective prosecution,’ the letter states. ...D’Souza, 52, directed the 2012 film critical of ...Obama, ‘2016: Obama’s America.’ It is a top-grossing documentary, with a take of more than \$33 million. His second documentary film—‘America’—is scheduled to be released July 4.” [55391]

At Guns.com Chris Eger reports, “The gun production numbers are in from 2012 and one can reasonably conclude that the Obama administration is great for the firearms industry. According to figures from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives there were more than 8.57 million guns produced in the U.S in 2012, which is a 31 percent increase from the prior year and nearly triple from 2000. ...[I]n the first four years of the Obama administration, over 26 million guns were produced in the United States, compared with just 25.05 million guns made during the entire eight years of the Bush administration.” [55417, 55418]

CNSNews.com reports, “The electricity price index soared to a new high in January 2014 with the largest month-to-month increase in almost four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, data from the Energy Information Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Energy, indicates that electricity production in the United States has declined since 2007, when it hit its all-time peak. The U.S. is producing less electricity than it did seven years ago for a population that has added more than 14 million people.” [55451]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer states, “The premise of the whole [Russian] reset policy was that we are not in competition and [President Vladimir] Putin could not believe his luck, to come across a naïf in the White House who believed that. Reset was a way of saying we’re not in competition, we’re going to rupture our relations with the Poles and the Czechs over missile defense as a way to make you feel calm. [But] The Russians did not cooperate on Iran, they’re running Syria, they’re arming Syria, [and] thumbing their nose at us with [NSA whistleblower Edward] Snowden and now Ukraine. And they are playing a zero sum game. The fact that no one answers our call in the Defense Ministry in Kiev is a sign of how weak and irrelevant the U.S. has become. I can assure you that if Putin’s on the line, the phone is answered.” [55380]

On *On the Record*, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) addresses ways to deal with

Obama's abuse of power. He notes, "We still have appropriations bills that are coming. So, what we ought to say is, '[Mr. Obama], you want to run roughshod over the Constitution? We have the power of the purse. We're not gonna fund your pet projects. We're not gonna fund your green energy initiatives. We're not gonna fund your vacations. ... You're 'blank right' we're gonna do it. ... There are a host of my colleagues that are not just gonna sit around and mope and cry because [Obama] overreaches. We're gonna respond, and we're gonna respond in the appropriations process.'" (Although Obama has veto power and can prevent a bill from becoming law, he has no power to force Congress to spend money it chooses not to spend. Even the Democrat-controlled Senate cannot force the House to spend money—and all spending bills must originate in the House. If House Republicans wish, for example, to defund a particular government agency or department it can do so—and neither the Senate nor Obama has the power to appropriate money to restore funding. Any such defunding action requires nothing more than courage from House Republicans.) [55396]

On February 22 the Ukrainian parliament votes to declare President Viktor Yanukovich unable to carry out his constitutional duties and designates May 25 as the date for an election to replace him. Yanukovich states, "They are trying to scare me. I have no intention to leave the country. I am not going to resign, I'm the legitimately elected president. Everything that is happening today is, to a greater degree, vandalism and banditry and a coup d'état. I will do everything to protect my country from breakup, to stop bloodshed." According to FoxNews.com, "Parliament also arranged the release of Yanukovich's arch-rival, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, by voting to decriminalize the count under which she was imprisoned. Tymoshenko was convicted of abuse of office, charges that domestic and Western critics have denounced as a political vendetta." (Meanwhile, protesters in the cities of Bila Tserkva, Khmelnytsky, and Zhytomyr topple statues of Soviet revolutionary Vladimir Lenin.) In the middle of the night, Yanukovich escapes from Kiev by helicopter to an undisclosed location. [55374, 55393]

AFP reports, "President Nicolas Maduro said Saturday that remarks by US Secretary of State John Kerry on the unrest in Venezuela gave violent groups a 'green light' to carry out attacks. In a tweet, Maduro also slammed the remarks made by Kerry late Friday as 'arrogant' and 'insolent.' 'John Kerry threatens Venezuela with more violence, with his statements gives the green light to violent groups to attack our people,' Maduro wrote. [Kerry] on Friday condemned Venezuela's 'unacceptable' use of force against anti-government protesters, and declined to respond to a call from Caracas for bilateral talks. 'The government's use of force and judicial intimidation against citizens and political figures, who are exercising a legitimate right to protest, is unacceptable and will only increase the likelihood of violence,' Kerry said. At least nine people have been killed, 104 injured and 137 arrested in weeks of anti-government street demonstrations in Caracas and other major cities that begin peacefully but have often turned violent. Pro-government 'collectives' have been blamed for attacking demonstrators, who are seen as the biggest test to Maduro since he succeeded leftist icon Hugo Chavez last year." [55397]

Reuters reports that the Taliban has told the Pakistani government “there was no chance of peace in the country unless Pakistan changed its political and legal system and officially embraced Islamic law.” Taliban spokesman Shahidullah Shahid states, “Despite recent bombings in North Waziristan and killing of our 74 men by the security forces during the peace talks, we are still serious about the talks. If talks are to be held it would be only under sharia (Islamic law). We have made this clear to the government committee. We are fighting for the enforcement of sharia and we are holding talks for the same purpose.” (Knowing that U.S. forces will soon leave Afghanistan gives the Taliban reason to believe it has a stronger hand in negotiations in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.) [55540, 55541]

At NYPost.com 2010 Republican U.S. Senatorial candidate from Delaware Christine O’Donnell asks, “Whether Democrat or Republican, do you really want your private tax information leaked with impunity? On March 9, 2010, around 10 a.m., I announced my plans to run for senate representing Delaware. Later that same day, my office received a call from a reporter asking about my taxes. It’s since come out, after a halting and unenthusiastic investigation, that a Delaware Department of Revenue employee named David Smith accessed my records that day at approximately 2 p.m.—out of curiosity, he says. That these records ended up in the hands of the press is just a coincidence, the IRS claims. To add insult to injury, the tax records given to the reporters weren’t even accurate. I had never fallen behind on my taxes, and a supposed tax lien was on a house I no longer owned. The lien was highly publicized and used as political ammunition by my political opponents. The IRS later withdrew the lien and blamed it on a computer glitch but, at that point, the damage—and the invasion of my privacy—was done. I wasn’t the only one preyed upon by the IRS, of course. The agency admits to targeting conservative nonprofits, asking them for membership lists and other data not required while delaying their tax-exempt status. And opponents of ...Obama have been subjected to audits soon after criticizing the administration. What we all have in common: no answers.” [55398]

“In January 2013, a US Treasury Department special agent told me that my tax records were compromised and misused. That was three years after my campaign. Now, in the 12 months since, no one has been called to testify, no more answers given. How did Smith’s curiosity become an erroneous tax lien? How did the material end up in the hands of a journalist? Neither Smith, nor anyone else in the Delaware Department of Revenue, nor anyone at the IRS has never been placed under oath to explain this. Fortunately, two congressional committees are working hard to break the stonewall and get answers. The House Ways and Means Committee has joined the Senate Judiciary Committee in an investigation into what happened and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) has publicly raised questions about this case. In a brutal irony, even if Congress does track down answers, they may not be able to share what they discover with me. This is because the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), the agency looking into my case alongside Congress, cannot publicly disclose any information about what it finds in this investigation. That’s supposedly according to Section 6103 of the US code which is intended to protect the privacy of personal tax information. Too bad it didn’t protect mine. What was written as a well-meaning law to protect taxpayers has inexplicably transformed into a shield for the perpetrators. Unless the law is changed, there will be no

public accountability for those who committed this crime, no one will be brought to justice and there will be no deterrent preventing such crimes from being committed again.” [55398]

“While there has been bipartisan support for resolving these cases, Congressmen Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA) and Matthew Cartwright (D-PA.) are attempting to further impede investigations into my case as well as others. Shortly after the Ways and Means Committee confirmed it was investigating my case, these congressmen attacked TIGTA, accused that agency of being pro-Republican and called for an ethics investigation. Let’s imagine if the situation was reversed. What if, while a Republican was president, the IRS leaked the tax records of Democratic candidates to the press? What would the reaction look like then? Would journalists be dismissing this as ‘not a scandal?’ You may not agree with my politics, but is this the kind of precedent Democrats really want to set—that leaking private information is no big deal? Surely if either of Connolly or Cartwright had a family member, neighbor, friend or constituent who was targeted by the IRS this way, they would be doing everything in their power to get justice. One would think they realize if they don’t use their power in Congress to stop these illegal activities, the same crimes could be committed to smear them. ...Obama recently said there was ‘not a smidgen of corruption’ at the IRS, even though evidence continues to mount and investigations continue to be pursued. It has already been 10 months since Sen. Grassley and I were told by Treasury Department officials that we would be given information about my case. What is taking so long? The only way people will be confident the government is truly on their side is if these cases are resolved with the perpetrators held accountable and brought to justice. Until then, any taxpayer is a potential target.” [55398]

Speaking at the Western Conservative Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, actor Steven Seagal says, “If the truth about Benghazi were to come out now, I don’t think this man [Obama] would make it through his [second] term. I think he would be impeached.” [55591]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration is launching an ‘attack’ on the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D programs as part of Obamacare that will result in higher costs and fewer health care options for seniors, according to a U.S. House subcommittee. The administration is quietly introducing ‘policies that would undermine the integrity and success of the Medicare Part D program’ according to the subcommittee. President Bush signed Medicare Part D into law in 2003 to subsidize prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries. The Daily Caller has learned that the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing Feb. 26 in Room 2123 of the Rayburn Building entitled, ‘Messing with Success: How CMS’s Attack on the Part D Program Will Increase Costs and Reduce Choices for Seniors.’” [55410]

RT.com reports, “A wealthy US investor got the go-ahead for his campaign to carve up California into six separate states, according to the Secretary of State’s Office. Critics call the plan just another scheme for the wealthy to hoard tax dollars. While initiatives to split up America’s most populated state have been floated since at least around the time of the

Civil War, Silicon Valley venture capitalist, Tim Draper, may just have the clout and connections to pull it off. Draper, who has made a fortune investing in internet startups, like Skype and Hotmail, believes that California is simply too populated and diverse to adequately address the demands of its residents, according to Draper's plan. 'Vast parts of our state are poorly served by a representative government dominated by a large number of elected representatives from a small part of our state, both geographically and economically,' the plan reads. The initiative aims to carve up the state of some 38 million inhabitants into 'six smaller state governments, while preserving the historical boundaries of the various counties, cities and towns.' With the current structure, California is 'ungovernable,' Draper told USA Today. 'Six Californias allows a refresh,' he added. ...Draper's initiative will require at least 807,615 petition signers, or 8 percent of the total votes cast in the 2010 gubernatorial elections, by July 18 to make it on to the November ballot." (If the initiative were to pass, Congress would have to approve the division. That approval may be more likely if the GOP gains control of the Senate, as six states in place of one could result in more than half of the 12 new Senators being Republicans. In fact, the division of any of the 50 states would likely benefit the GOP, as the regions with large cities would remain Democrat strongholds while the newly formed states would more likely tilt conservative.) [55419, 55420, 55421]

MarketWatch.com reports, "In a move that will likely signal higher food prices nationally, a federal agency says California's drought-stricken Central Valley—hundreds of thousands of acres of the most productive farmland in the U.S.—won't get any irrigation water this summer. Friday's [February 21] announcement by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation follows an earlier warning of no irrigation deliveries from the California State Water Project and leaves Central Valley farms and cities with only wells and stored water to get through the worst drought since the state began keeping records in the 1800s." [55432, 55433]

On February 23 Congressman Tom Rice (R-SC) announces a February 26 hearing of the House Judiciary Committee to discuss Obama's abuse of the U.S. Constitution. [55413, 55414, 55532]

Lis Smith, a "rapid response director" for Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, tweets, "If i [sic] were MittRomney, I would never talk about foreign policy again. Like ever [sic]" (On April 6, 2012 far left journalist Katrina vanden Heuvel tweeted, "Gallup poll finds only 2 percent of Americans think Russia's US's main enemy. Romney clueless in this arena too. Only neocons want a Cold War." She apparently cannot comprehend the difference between *wanting* another Cold War and *recognizing* that Russia believes it is still in one.) [55775, 55776, 55777]

On *Meet the Press*, Obama's National Security Advisor Susan Rice says she has no regrets about her September 2012 Sunday talk show appearances in which she claimed the Benghazi attacks were caused by a response to a YouTube video. Rice says, "[T]he notion that somehow I or anybody else in the administration misled the American people is patently false. And I think that that's been amply demonstrated." She also states that

the information she provided in 2012 has been “well validated in many different ways since.” (In fact, that Rice lied has been validated. Host David Gregory does not bother to question her lie.) [55435, 55437, 55446, 55454]

In the *Meet the Press* panel discussion, MSNBC’s Chris Matthews says, “To the Democrats this election, a rosy scenario is to lose five Senate seats, not six. They could lose 10. And so what they’ve said is, if we’re gonna lose 10 seats—potentially, they could well do that, a big sweep—they’re going to their battle stations. Nothing [will be said] on Social Security. [But there will be] All out talk about minimum wage. Nothing [will be said] on trade.” (That is, the Democrats will promise the voters “free stuff” and pound on the Republicans for not going along with the handouts. The Democrats have nothing to run on except “populism,” the “race card,” and accusing the GOP of a “war on women.”) [55523]

*The Guardian* reports, “An Egyptian prosecutor on Sunday accused [Egypt’s] ousted Islamist president of passing state secrets to Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, the first such explicit detail in an ongoing espionage trial. If convicted, Mohamed Morsi could face capital punishment. He already stands accused of a string of other charges, some of which also carry the death penalty, levelled [sic; leveled] as part of a crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood group after the military deposed him last summer. At Sunday’s hearing, part of which was aired on state television, the prosecution accused Morsi and 35 other Brotherhood members of conspiring to destabilize the country and cooperating with foreign militant groups—including Palestinian Hamas and Lebanon’s Hezbollah. The case’s chief prosecutor, Tamer el-Firgani, said Morsi, his aides and senior Brotherhood members had ‘handed over secrets to foreign countries, among them national defense secrets, and handed over a number of security reports to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in order to destabilize the country’s security and stability.’” (Pamela Geller calls the charges “Further proof of Obama’s treacherous alliances. Obama sides with evil. Back in 2010 I wrote of his ‘switching sides.’ Now we find further proof of the Axis of annihilationists made strong under Obama. Obama threw everything he had behind Morsi. After supporting the ouster of our 30-year ally [Hosni] Mubarak, Obama applied intense pressure to expedite the Muslim Brotherhood takeover of power in Egypt. Without thought, statecraft or strategy, he turned the keys of our 30-year ally over to an 80-year-old terrorist group, banned in Egypt, and which is now accused of turning those secrets over to Iran, which has been at war with us since 1979.”) [55466, 55467]

The Taliban announces it is suspending prisoner exchange discussions with the United States; the White House claims there have been no “active negotiations.” [55453]

In an interview with Politico, Massachusetts Governor Deval “tax and spend” Patrick hints he may run for president in 2016. (As a candidate for governor in 2006, Patrick told a crowd, “I’m not just asking you to take a chance on me. I’m also asking you to take a chance on your own aspirations.” Obama “borrowed” the statement and used it repeatedly in his own 2008 campaign. Obama’s campaign advisor, David Axelrod, was also Patrick’s campaign guru, using a “personality over policy” tactic. Patrick is widely

considered to be an ineffective governor, but inasmuch as he is black he would be more difficult for Hillary Clinton to attack—as she learned in 2008. After the death of Senator Edward Kennedy, Patrick took advantage of a hastily-passed law allowing him to name a replacement and delay a special election. Patrick chose Kennedy pal Paul G. Kirk, Jr. to “keep the seat warm”—and to maintain 60 Democrat votes in the Senate. Republican Scott Brown later won the Senate seat, defeating Democrat Martha Coakley in the special election. As governor, Patrick has kowtowed to Muslims, giving in to their demands for Islamic “cultural awareness training” for law enforcement agencies and forcing private businesses to accommodate Muslims for their Friday afternoon prayers. Patrick told the Muslims, “Yours is a peaceful faith, and I know that. I know you are worried that others [do not] know that.” Patrick has also played the race card, accusing Republicans of being “almost at the level of sedition” in their opposition to Obama. According to DailyCaller.com, Patrick “served on the board of a company that is widely blamed for helping start the subprime mortgage crisis in 2007. Beginning in 2004, Patrick served two years on the five-member board of ACC Capital Holdings, the parent company of Ameriquest Mortgage. ...The company’s short-term success had much to do with the fact that it would loan money to just about anyone, regardless of income.” Some have suggested that Patrick is a closet homosexual. Patrick’s wife is a partner at the law firm Ropes & Gray, which represented the leftist organization Demos—which Obama helped found—in a lawsuit related to a scheme by Democrat Elizabeth Warren to use taxpayer funds to register welfare recipients to vote. As governor, Patrick helped “grease the skids” to end the lawsuit and help Warren, who defeated Senator Scott Brown. Patrick once vetoed legislation that would have banned using EBT cards [food stamps] for pornography, tattoos, jewelry, guns, and bail money. Patrick also refused to release information related to whether welfare payments had been provided to the Boston Marathon bombers, Tamarlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Obama commuted the sentence of Reynolds Allen Wintersmith, Jr., a first cousin of Patrick who had been serving a life sentence for drug distribution.) [842, p. 315; 3113, 3121, 4893, 5062, 8127, 8597, 8604, 11427, 11428, 11429, 11482, 11483, 11488, 11710, 29510, 32225, 32227, 32235, 32245, 32254, 32256, 32259, 32272, 32273, 32300, 39947, 44516, 44537, 52755, 55492]

On February 24 Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) files documents to run for reelection and is confronted by reporters who press her on her support for ObamaCare and her statement, “If you like your plan you can keep it.” Predictably, she dodges the questions. [55416]

MainStreet.com reports, “The New York Fed’s study last April found student loans were preventing many recent graduates from buying their first home. Now comes another that reaches similar conclusions. It doesn’t come from the federal government, but from the home loan industry itself. An analysis by the Mortgage Bankers Association found that loan applications for home purchases have slipped nearly 20% in the past four months compared with the same period a year earlier. It’s not only more current than the Fed’s findings of last year, but provides evidence of a trend. ‘This is a huge issue for us,’ David Stevens, chief executive of the Mortgage Bankers Association told the Washington Post last week. ‘Student debt trumps all other consumer debt. It’s going to have an extraordinary dampening effect on young peoples’ ability to borrow for a home, and that’s going to impact the housing market and the economy at large.’” [55679, 55680]

The Communist Party USA (CPUSA) announces that its annual convention will be held June 13–15 in Chicago. Its agenda sounds remarkably like that of the Democrat Party. According to IllinoisHerald.com, “Among the issues to be discussed at the annual convention are the minimum wage, fast food workers, voting rights, the environment, immigrant rights, the economic crisis, marijuana legalization and more. Local CPUSA leaders were obviously excited to learn the news that they’d be hosting the important event. ‘We expect about 250 delegates and guests from around the country,’ Illinois district organizer John Bachtell told us, ‘They’ll be coming from all walks of life and over 40 states. It may surprise some that a good number are coming from the South.’ The party announcement also points to two items to show just how far the Communist Party has come. First, the annual convention in Chicago is expecting fellow party members from all over the world including Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, South Africa, and Germany. Second, they point to polls that show, ‘30 percent of Americans age 30 and under think socialism is a good idea.’” (Those polls help explain how Obama won the youth vote.) [55606]

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), apparently fearful of the thousands of jobs the Keystone XL pipeline would create, calls for a cancer study as an excuse to delay or stop the project. She says, “The Environmental Impact Statement was woefully inadequate when it came to exploring human impacts of the pipeline. ...I do believe the public health impacts are something that average people can really relate to because they know cancer is the second leading cause of death in this country—heart disease is number one—and all of this filthy air contributes to both of those.” Katie Brown, spokeswoman for industry-supported group Oil Sands Fact Check, states, “Keystone XL clearly passes ...Obama’s climate test, so opponents are scrambling to find any other way to slow down the process.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes Democrat opposition is based primarily on a fear of losing campaign donations from environmental activist groups—not a fear of “global warming” or cancer from oil flowing through pipes. In other words, the politicians are placing campaign cash ahead of job creation. *Thousands of miles* of pipelines already exist in the United States—and this is the first time Boxer has ever expressed a concern about them “causing cancer.”) [55575, 55576]

At Spectator.org David Catron reports, “Buried beneath the avalanche of recent news reports about the latest Obamacare-mandated funding cuts to the Medicare Advantage (MA) program is a related but far more disturbing story—the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken a major step toward rationing medications to the elderly. Since passage of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, seniors enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program have been guaranteed access to ‘all or substantially all’ of the drugs in several classes of pharmaceuticals. ...Obama’s health care bureaucrats, however, have proposed removing three of these classes from the ‘protected’ list. The *New York Times* reports, ‘The administration’s proposal would remove the protected status from... immunosuppressant drugs used in transplant patients, antidepressants and antipsychotic medicines.’ Yes, you read that correctly. These are drugs used to facilitate organ transplants and treat patients suffering with mental illness. The *Times* names a few of the medicines in question: ‘They include many well-known



drugs, such as Wellbutrin, Paxil and Prozac to treat depression, and Abilify and Seroquel to treat schizophrenia.’ There can be little doubt that the next step CMS plans to take will involve a decision not to cover the most expensive of these medications at all.” [55705]

Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate from Kentucky, distances herself from Obama by refusing to tell MSNBC whether she would like Obama campaigning with her. She says, “This race is about putting the people of this state first, and I speak for myself, and don’t need any other surrogate, uh, to do that, uh, I stand in sharp contrast to [Obama] and many, uh, of his, uh, ideas and platforms.” (NationalReview.com notes, “Despite Grimes’s denial that she doesn’t need ‘any other surrogate’ to bolster her campaign, she will be joined by Bill Clinton in Louisville on Tuesday.”) [55456, 55457, 55498]

Obama’s Israel-hating ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, issues several Twitter messages related to her Daniel Pearl Lecture at the University of California at Los Angeles: “[I was] Honored to give the Daniel Pearl Lecture at UCLA and meet his parents, who responded to the hate that killed their son by urging dialogue.” “We must be vigilant in protecting the rights of the press. 2013 = 2nd highest # of journalist deaths and arrests all-time.” (Ironically, Power is part of an administration that has shown itself more than willing to limit freedom of speech and the press.) The anti-Semitic Power creates an uproar with her third tweet: “Daniel Pearl’s story is reminder that individual accountability & reconciliation are required to break cycles of violence”—absurdly suggesting that reconciliation is even possible with savages who behead journalists simply because they are Jews. Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) calls on Obama to ask Power to resign. [55422, 55423, 55444, 55463, 55507]

Of Power’s tweet Pamela Geller writes, “This is not moral equivocation. This is immoral depravity. ...The Daniel Pearl beheading was the first and last Muslim supremacist beheading [video] I watched. Once I saw that vomit-inducing video, once I witnessed the savagery, I understood this enemy was evil and had to be defeated with the iron fist of freedom and good. Samantha Power is not a soldier for freedom or for good. I wrote extensively of her dangerous alliances and positions. She was so toxic she was fired from Obama’s 2008 campaign when the controversy surrounding her got to be too much (she advocated for an invasion of state of Israel on behalf of the ‘Palestinian jihadists’). Khalid Sheikh Mohammed slit Pearl’s throat and sawed his head off on camera... That’s Power’s idea [of a] cycle of violence? Cycle of violence is the favorite euphemism of leftists for those who defend themselves. Muslim supremacists bomb a kindergarten in Sderot? If Israel responds, it’s a ‘cycle of violence.’ But Daniel Pearl? ...This woman should be fired. Today. But Obama is one of them so that won’t happen. ...Power’s anti-Israel, anti-American positions are no secret. She has long blamed Israel and the US for the Middle East conflict.” [55422, 55423, 55444, 55463, 55507]

At JewishPress.com Yori Yanover writes, “In one instant, in a flash of unintended honesty, Ambassador Powers [sic; Power] showed she learned absolutely nothing, but I mean zero, zilch, nada, from the Daniel Pearl tragedy. She showed that she is as

unqualified to give the Daniel Pearl annual speech as, I don't know, Noam Chomsky, maybe. ...The fact is, millions of us have walked away from the Daniel Pearl execution with the universal conviction that the only way to go now must be to annihilate these [radical Islamist] bastards, until they're all dead and gone. It was a [Winston] Churchill in Dunkirk moment, following which the old bulldog gave his heroic 'we shall fight them on the beaches' speech. Just as there was no possibility to negotiate with Hitler in 1940, there's no negotiating with the jihadists. They are enemies of humanity and must all be exterminated—that's what the entire civilized world took from the Pearl beheading. Well, not the entire civilized world, as it turns out." [55464]

At Townhall.com Michael Schaus reports that Democrats have “unleash[ed] the lawyers” in response to an anti-ObamaCare ad featuring a leukemia patient whose insurance policy was canceled because of the Affordable Care Act. “Michigan Democrats, who support Gary Peters [the Democrat Congressman targeted in the ad], have filed paperwork to get the ad pulled from the air. They've even threatened to have the FCC pull the broadcast licenses of any station that decides to air the ad. Lawyers for the Democrat Representative have claimed that the ad is ‘misleading’ and ‘deceptive’ and therefore could violate broadcaster's obligation to the FCC and general public. Yep... Michigan Dems are willing to use the FCC to censor a cancer victim...” (The Democrats absurdly claim that the patient in the ad *might* actually end up benefiting from ObamaCare in the long run, and it is therefore wrong to use the fact that her policy was canceled and her expenses would go up now to criticize the law or those who voted for it.) Additionally, the Perkins Coie law firm sends a letter to television stations threatening the loss of their FCC licenses if they continue to run the ad. (It is worth noting the Perkins Coie's top attorney, Robert Bauer, has defended Obama in various eligibility lawsuits. Bauer, who also served as Obama's White House counsel, is married to Anita “I love Chairman Mao” Dunn, Obama's former White House communications Director.) [4262, 11138, 11521, 11522, 11616, 55426, 55441, 55442, 55515]

Attorney General Eric Holder tells *The New York Times* that state attorneys general do not have to defend laws banning same-sex marriage if they disagree with those laws. (Needless to say, Holder does not suggest that the states can refuse to implement the Affordable Care Act.) At Townhall.com Hugh Hewitt writes, “This is astonishing and troubling, and of a piece with [Obama's] and the Administration's growing lawlessness. There is no precedent for the idea that states' attorneys general ought to pick and choose among the laws they defend, just as there is no precedent for [Obama's] decision to serially alter his signature legislative ‘achievement’ as he has done with Obamacare, or to empower his agencies to regulate far in advance of authority granted them by the Congress. ...If an attorney general can refuse to defend one portion of his state's constitution, why not another? Will the Attorney General encourage pro-life attorneys general to stop defending abortion clinics beset by protesters? Will he encourage district attorneys convinced that heroin addiction is a disease and the use of heroin wrongly classified as a crime to cease prosecuting offenders brought by their law enforcement officials to their jails? ...The Attorney General's latest encouragement to lawlessness ought to press an answer from every attorney general candidate before every election: Will you uphold your oath and defend the laws of the state as you swear to do, or do you

not take such things as oaths seriously?” [55428, 55429, 55509, 55553]

Slate.com posts an article discussing—and partly defending—abortion *after* the birth of the child. (It is worth noting that, as an Illinois state senator, Obama opposed a bill that defined as a person a fully born baby who survived an abortion. Obama argued that defining “...a pre-viable fetus” that survives an abortion as a “person” or “child would essentially bar abortions, because the Equal Protection Clause does not allow somebody to kill a child, and if this is a child, then this would be an anti-abortion statute.” Obama was essentially arguing, “We can’t call it a person because then we can’t kill it.”) Testifying in favor of the law was an Illinois nurse, Jill Stanek, who had witnessed infants being left to die by abortionists, and who later wrote, “Obama articulately worried that legislation protecting live aborted babies might infringe on women’s rights or abortionists’ rights. Obama’s clinical discourse, his lack of mercy, shocked me.” In a state senate hearing Obama also argued it would be a “burden” to require that surviving babies be treated because, in his view, “...essentially adding an additional doctor who then has to be called in an emergency situation to come in and make these assessments is really designed simply to burden the original decision of the woman and the physician to induce labor and perform an abortion.” That is, Obama doesn’t want anything to interfere with the killing of the child. Although a “pre-viable fetus” that survives an abortion is not considered a “person” by Obama, he has never provided a reasonable or legally acceptable name for those living, breathing, kicking, and crying viable “non-persons.”) [346, 412, 2262, 55430, 55431]

Via Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, the Obama administration announces a proposal to slash the size of the U.S. military—to pre-World War II levels. Hagel calls for the closure of some military bases, eliminating the Air Force fleet of A-10 Warthog attack jets, decommissioning some Navy cruisers, and reducing the subsidies for troop commissaries (post exchanges). The Army would go from 520,000 soldiers to fewer than 450,000; the Marines would fall from 190,000 to 182,000; the National Guard and Reserves would lose 30,000. (Obama wanted Hagel as Secretary of Defense precisely because, as a Republican, he could deflect some of the criticism Obama knew he would receive once he started to slash defense spending. Obama wants to slash defense spending, of course, *not* to reduce the deficit, but to spend the money on domestic programs that benefit Democrat voters.) [55439, 55500, 55501, 55502, 55518, 55534, 55542]

On *America’s News Headquarters*, retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North calls the defense cuts “a page out of Jimmy Carter’s playbook. ... The strategic description of what the military is supposed to look like [should be] based on your adversaries and your allies. The Obama team apparently came up with a number and backed into their force structure.” At his web site, former Congressman Allen West writes, “It seems [Defense Secretary Chuck] Hagel, in his insidious and dubious manner, fails to realize that the most technologically advanced weapon on the battlefield is a trained, resolute, and determined warrior. Instead of ‘investing’ in the most important task of our federal government—providing for the common defense—we shall now focus on ‘investing’ in

the expansion of the welfare nanny-state. There is no doubt where ...Obama's priorities lie. ...We have departed from the maxim of 'peace through strength' to a belief in 'appeasement through weakness.' Obama somehow believes kumbaya is a strategic objective. And don't give me the crap about drones, because we learned during Vietnam that a president should not be directing strikes from the White House—implemented by another failed progressive president, Lyndon Baines Johnson.” [55494]

Obama meets with the National Governors Association, again calls for a “year of action,” and again threatens to use his “pen and phone” if the House Republicans do not cave in to his demands. Obama reportedly tells the governors he would have a Keystone XL pipeline decision ‘In a couple of months.’ After the meeting, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a Republican, tells reporters Obama should approve the Keystone XL pipeline if he is serious about creating good jobs, rather than push a minimum wage increase: “The Obama economy is now the minimum wage economy. I think we can do better than that.” Connecticut Governor Daniel Malloy, a Democrat, interrupts, “[L]et me just say that we don't all agree that moving Canadian oil through the United States is necessarily the best thing for the United States economy.” Jindal pushes another Malloy hot button, saying, “I think we can grow the economy more if we would delay more of these ObamaCare mandates.” [55452, 55455, 55503, 55512, 55513, 55560]

Texas Governor Rick Perry says, “I don't mind telling you, I was a bit troubled today by the tone of [Obama]. When you have governors, and we all compete against each other—we are the laboratories of innovation—and for [Obama] to look Democrat and Republican governors in the eye and say, ‘I do not trust you to make decisions in your state about issues of education, about transportation infrastructure,’ ...that is really troubling. ...I hope that we're not about to make a tragic mistake in this country by hollowing out our [National] Guard in our states... in some political statement of, ‘You're all going to feel the pain,’ because that's certainly what I heard from [Obama] today. As a matter of fact, he said in that meeting—he said: ‘If I hear any of you pushing back, making statements about Washington spends too much money, you'll hear from me.’ If I'm a Democrat governor, if I'm a Republican governor, I'm highly offended by that.” (The Obama administration plans to cut the National Guard from 355,000 to 335,000 members.) North Carolina Nikki Haley adds, “The tone completely changed when we started talking about the National Guard. It automatically went into an aggressive nature by him [Obama], implying that many of you have asked for cuts. ‘This is what you said you wanted. Don't start coming in and now complaining that these cuts are affecting you because you said you wanted it, now you're going to get it, you're going to have to live with it, and if somebody questions it, I'm going to have something to say about it’—[it was a] completely different change in tone. And it was towards the end of the meeting. But—and it wasn't just a change in tone from him to Republican governors; you felt it to all governors. And so it chilled the room quite a bit. ...Look at what you are telling all of these soldiers across the country, that they left their businesses, and they left their families, and they left their children and all these things to go serve their country multiple times, in multiple deployments, because they got the call. And now you're going to say that's going to be the first part we cut?” [55452, 55455, 55503, 55512, 55513, 55560, 56131]

Maryland terminates its \$193 million contract with its state ObamaCare exchange contractor, Noridian Healthcare Solutions. [55499]

Congressman John Dingell, Jr. (D-MI), who turns age 88 in July, announces he will not seek reelection. He states, “I’m not going to be carried out feet first. I don’t want people to say I stayed too long.” (For the record, people have been saying that about Dingell for some time. He was served in the House since December 13, 1955. His father held the seat from 1933 until his death in 1955.) Dingel’s wife Debbie, who was born in 1954, is expected to announce her candidacy. [55445, 55472, 55504, 55529]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) addresses the Senate and slams Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) for believing communist propaganda about Cuba’s health care system. (Harkin spent the previous week in Cuba, no doubt being spoon-fed lies about the country and being allowed to visit only the health care facilities that are maintained for Cuban officials—rather than the filthy clinics available to the average Cuban.) Rubio also condemns the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro for its Castro-like tactics. (Obama has been remarkably silent on the issue of civil rights abuses in Venezuela—likely because he supports the same Marxist ideology embraced by Maduro.) [55315, 55470, 55471, 55473, 55497]

According to a Gallup poll, 53 percent of Americans believe leaders of other countries do not have much respect from Obama; 41 percent believe he is respected. [55449, 55450, 55506]

Reuters reports, “Libyan police have found seven Egyptian Christians shot dead on a beach in eastern Libya, security officials and local residents said on Monday, in the second such execution-style killing since the start of the year. A police officer told Reuters the bodies were found with gunshots to the head outside Benghazi in the east, where assassinations, kidnappings and car bombs are common and Islamist militants are active. ‘They were killed by headshots in execution style,’ a police officer said. ‘We don’t know who killed them.’” (Obama has no comment.) [55458, 55548]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Nearly two-thirds [65 percent] of small businesses that currently offer health insurance to their workers will pay more for coverage as a result of new rules in the health care law, as will millions of small-business employees and their family members, according to new estimates released by the Obama administration. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS], which has spearheaded the implementation of the law, has acknowledged that new rules requiring insurers to offer guaranteed coverage and renewal options to small employers will likely drive up the price of insurance for some companies. So will rules banning insurance companies from varying their rates based on factors like a company’s industry or the age of its employees.” (Most employers will pass on some or all of the increased premium costs to their employees, either directly or via fewer or reduced wage increases.) The Fox News Channel’s Martha MacCallum, referring to Obama’s repeated claim that ObamaCare

would save the average family \$2,500 per year, tweets, “11 million will pay higher rates for health insurance sz [says] CMS. So wait, who saves \$2500?—“ [55475, 55476, 55479, 55491, 55495]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds to the CMS report: “The Obama administration has finally been forced to disclose what we’ve long feared: the ...health care law means higher premiums for millions of American workers. This is another punch in the gut for Americans already struggling in [Obama’s] economy.” [55491]

Obama’s former campaign advisor David Axelrod shamelessly uses the death of actor/writer/director Harold Ramis to promote Obama, sending a Twitter message: “Harold Ramis will be remembered for his ingenious films. I’ll also always appreciate him as a very early supporter of Barack Obama. R.I.P.” (In the Obama world, *everything* is apparently about Obama.) [55478, 55505, 55515]

*The Washington Post* gives Obama “four Pinocchios” for claiming that seven million Americans have “access to health care for the first time” because of ObamaCare and the expansion of Medicaid. Obama is including in his claim all new Medicare recipients—even those who would be eligible without the expansion called for by ObamaCare. The actual number is closer to two million than seven and, in any event, it should not be considered a “success” because every new Medicaid enrollee is just one more American living off the taxpayers. (Success should be measured by how many people are removed from the welfare rolls as they find jobs, not the number who are added.) [55483, 55484]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) destroyed veterans’ medical files in a systematic attempt to eliminate backlogged veteran medical exam requests, a former VA employee told The Daily Caller. Audio of an internal VA meeting obtained by TheDC confirms that VA officials in Los Angeles intentionally canceled backlogged patient exam requests. ‘The committee was called System Redesign and the purpose of the meeting was to figure out ways to correct the department’s efficiency. And one of the issues at the time was the backlog,’ [said] Oliver Mitchell, a Marine veteran and former patient services assistant in the VA Greater Los Angeles Medical Center... VA Greater Los Angeles Radiology department chief Dr. Suzie El-Saden initiated an ‘ongoing discussion in the department’ to cancel exam requests and destroy veterans’ medical files so that no record of the exam requests would exist, thus reducing the backlog, Mitchell said. ...Mitchell tried to blow the whistle on the scheme and ended up being transferred out of his department and eventually losing his job. ...Mitchell eventually wrote to Congress about the issue in January 2011. Two months later, in March 2011, he was fired.” [55485, 55521]

According to CNSNews.com, “The Department of Defense (DoD) will continue to use the liberal Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as a resource for its training materials despite numerous complaints about the SPLC’s biases by a coalition of Christian and conservative groups. The SPLC’s website features a ‘hate map’ that lists the Christian and conservative Family Research Council (FRC) as a ‘hate group’ because of its defense

of traditional marriage. The ‘hate map’ helped inspire convicted domestic terrorist Floyd Lee Corkins in his decision to attack the FRC in 2012 when he shot and wounded a security guard before being subdued.” (The FBI eventually removes the SPLC from its web site list of “official” hate crime “resources”—but is not actually breaking ties with the radical leftist group.) [55510, 56142, 56788, 56789, 56808, 57027]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “US State Department figures from 2013 reveal a sharp 80% rise over the course of the year in Israeli visa requests that were rejected, continuing a trend of Israeli visa rejections over several years. The figures, which were published Monday morning in *Yediot Aharonot*, show that last year about 125,000 Israelis requested tourist visas to the US, with 9.7% of them being refused. The previous year in 2012, that figure was at 5.4%. The percentage of rejected requests has risen dramatically in the past years. As recently as 2007, a mere 2.5% of the requests were denied.” [55546, 55547]

AFP reports, “Two homemade bombs exploded Monday on the popular Indian Ocean tourist island of Zanzibar, but with no casualties, police said, in the latest in a series of attacks. ‘Investigations are ongoing to find out details of the blasts and the motive behind them,’ assistant police commissioner Mkadam Khamis told reporters. One blast took place at the Anglican cathedral, a historic building in the heart of the narrow and winding ancient streets of Stone Town, the UNESCO-listed historical centre of the capital of the semi-autonomous Tanzanian archipelago. The other occurred at the seafront Mercury’s restaurant and bar, a favourite of tourists. ‘It is suspected that the explosives are homemade bombs thrown by unidentified thugs,’ Khamis said, adding that the blast at the cathedral had caused only minor damage to parked cars. The bar, located near the main port and seafront square, is named after flamboyant rock musician and Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, who was born on the island.” At JihadWatch.org Robert Spencer writes, “Note yet again the lack of an actor in AFP’s headline [‘Bomb blasts hit Zanzibar cathedral and tourist bar’], as if the bombs just decided to hit the cathedral and the bar. This is standard mainstream media practice when the perpetrators are Islamic jihadists. In any case, this bombing is unlikely to cause Anglican church leaders to pause for more than a second or two on their way to the next ‘interfaith dialogue’ meeting where smiling imams will tell them that Islam is a Religion of Peace, and only greasy Islamophobes think otherwise.” [55549, 55550, 55551]

On *Special Report*, Jim Angle reports that the Obama administration “has cut the maximum [amount] allowed by law [the Affordable Care Act] from [Medicare] home health care funds—cuts deep enough that officials offered a negative prediction of the impact, saying, ‘We estimated that approximately 40 percent of providers will have negative margins. ... Those cuts put in jeopardy 498,000 jobs of home health care workers who work just for that 40 percent of firms that’ll go into the red because of federal cuts.’ (“Negative margins,” of course, means “losing money”—and going out of business if expenses are not cut. A reduction in home health care funding means fewer professionals coming to the homes of senior citizens to provide nursing care and physical therapy.) Morning Jolt’s Jim Geraghty asks, “[W]hy does Paul Ryan get ads depicting him throwing Granny off the cliff when Kathleen Sebelius *really is* cutting funding for

care for the elderly right now?” (Some suspect that the home health care providers are being punished by the administration as payback to the Obama-supporting Service Employees International Union, which has been largely unsuccessful in its attempts to organize the workers—who see no point in joining a union because the federal government largely controls the amount of money they can make via Medicare.) [55634, 55635, 55688]

On *On the Record*, Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) comments on National Security Advisor Susan Rice’s *Meet the Press* claim that she had “no regrets” over the Benghazi events: “There is no evidence to support that false narrative of a video. Not a scintilla of evidence. All of the evidence pointed exactly to what she claimed it wasn’t: a preplanned, coordinated attack. So she was fabulously wrong when she said it the first time, and stunningly arrogant in her refusal to express any regret for lying to our fellow citizens. ...I would love the chance to ask follow-up questions of Susan Rice, because David Gregory apparently did not avail himself of that opportunity. ...I just listened to the clip. I get tougher questions in the Bojangles [fast-food restaurant] drive-thru than he asked her. ...There’s no regret about lying to your fellow citizens? No regret about the fact that in 18 months, not a single solitary person has been brought to justice? No regret for misleading the families and the loved ones of those four murdered Americans? I can certainly help her if she is struggling to come up with an area of regret. ...So she can either tell the truth, or she can blame it on a video for which there is no evidence whatsoever. And she opted to protect her career and parrot the talking points that were provided to her by the White House.” [55486, 55665]

On *Hannity*, former Vice President Dick Cheney tells Sean Hannity, “I have not been a strong supporter of Barack Obama. But this slashing of the Defense budget] really is over the top. It does enormous long-term damage to our military. They [in the Obama administration] act as though it is like highway spending and you can turn it on and off. The fact of the matter is he is having a huge impact on the ability of future presidents to deal with future crises that are bound to arise. ...The other thing I know for a fact too, Sean, from keeping in touch with some of my old friends that I used to deal with in the Middle East—they no longer have any confidence at all in American security guarantees. They’re absolutely convinced that they can no longer trust the United States to keep its commitments—that includes the Israelis, Saudis, a lot of others in that part of the world. They peddle this line that now we’re going to pivot to Asia, but they’ve never justified it. And I think the whole thing is not driven by any change in world circumstances, it is driven by budget considerations. [Obama] would much rather spend the money on food stamps than he would on a strong military or support for our troops.” [55489, 55511]

Vice President Joe Biden appears on the inaugural broadcast of *Late Night with Seth Meyers*. (Neither the program nor Biden get high marks, and guest Amy Poehler receives top billing over Biden—whose appearance lasts for only five minutes.) [55480, 55487, 55490, 55522]

On February 25 the Australian Broadcasting Company reports, “At least 59 children have



been killed in Nigeria after Islamist gunmen opened fire at a boarding school before burning it to the ground, officials say. Members of the Boko Haram group targeted secondary school students as they slept in a dormitory, police say. Military spokesman Lazarus Eli said the gunmen ‘opened fire on student hostels’ at the Federal Government College, which is in the town of Buni Yadi in Yobe state and attended by students aged 11 to 18. ‘Some of the students’ bodies were burned to ashes,’ police commissioner Sanusi Rufai said. Bala Ajjiya, an official at the Specialist Hospital Damaturu, said: ‘Fresh bodies have been brought in. More bodies were discovered in the bush after the students who had escaped with bullet wounds died from their injuries.’ The name Boko Haram means ‘Western education is sinful’ and school attacks have featured prominently in the group’s four-and-half-year Islamist uprising, which has killed thousands of people. ...Boko Haram—declared a terrorist organisation by Nigeria and the United States—has said it is fighting to create an Islamic state in Nigeria’s mainly Muslim north.” [55462, 55544, 55545, 55655, 55656]

*Time* magazine’s Simon Shuster declares, “No, Russia will not intervene in Ukraine.” [55847]

CNN.com reports, “Ten days after a radiation leak was reported at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant outside Carlsbad, New Mexico, tests on samples collected from numerous areas in the plant found ‘slightly elevated’ levels of airborne radioactivity, the U.S. Department of Energy said. ‘These concentrations remain well below a level of public or environmental hazard,’ the department said Monday in a news release. The leak was reported on February 14, and the samples were collected on February 17 and 18. Dose assessment modeling of the leak ‘showed a potential dose of less than one millirem at each of the environmental sampling locations,’ about a tenth the amount a person would receive from a chest X-ray, the release said. ‘The average person living in the United States receives an annual dose of about 620 millirem from exposure to naturally occurring and other sources of radiation,’ it said. According to its website, WIPP ‘safely disposes’ of the nation’s defense-related radioactive waste.” (On February 20 the Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s Albuquerque, New Mexico office posted an order for “1200 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) single-use overgarments, hoods and footwear... Non-ventilated protective clothing shall protect the wearer against particulate radioactive contamination, and items must comply with applicable test standards listed...” Some may wonder why the government needs 1,200 suits to protect against radiation if there is no risk.) On February 27 the Associated Press reports, “Thirteen workers at the nation’s underground nuclear waste dump in southeastern New Mexico have tested positive for radiation exposure after a recent leak, raising questions about whether the facility’s safety systems worked as well as officials have said.” [55607, 55608, 55609, 55610, 55611, 55613, 55714]

During a Black History Month event, Vice President Joe Biden criticizes photo ID laws for voting—apparently unaware that a majority of black voters support the laws. He says, “These guys never go away. Hatred never, never goes away. The zealotry of those who wish to limit the franchise cannot be smothered by reason. ... This fight has been too

long, this fight has been too hard, to do anything other than win—not on the margins, but flat-out win.” [55617, 55618, 55619]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “Seventy-one percent (71%) of Likely U.S. Voters say it is not the government’s role to monitor the content of news organizations in this country... Just 18% think it is the government’s job to monitor news content. Eleven percent (11%) are not sure.” (A whopping 29 percent of likely voters are therefore apparently unfamiliar with or do not support the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.) [55474]

Alex Sink, a Democrat candidate for Congress in Florida pushing “immigration reform” in a debate with her GOP opponent, says, “Immigration reform is important in our country. We have a lot of employers over on the beaches that rely upon workers and especially in this high-growth environment, where are you going to get people to work to clean our hotel rooms or do our landscaping? We don’t need to put those employers in a position of hiring undocumented and illegal workers.” (It apparently does not occur to Ms. Sink that employers might resort to hiring *Americans* if illegal immigrants are not given amnesty. HotAir.com comments, “The choice... as presented by Alex Sink, is either to let businesses continue to hire the serf class we’ve illegally imported or legalize that serf class so that businesses can then hire them in good conscience. No third option, evidently. Which, again, is why neither side can be trusted on border security. Once today’s serfs become tomorrow’s citizens, where do tomorrow’s serfs come from? There’s a reason we’re negotiating a new amnesty 25-30 years after the last one.”) [55477, 55496]

Obama and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) hold a closed-door meeting in the White House, probably to discuss how to pass “comprehensive immigration reform” over the objections of conservative Republicans and the American people. (In fact, when later asked by a reporter what he and Obama agreed on the most, he replies, “Immigration. We had a very healthy conversation on immigration.” Whether that means the “amnesty fix is in” remains to be seen.) [55488, 55699]

The White House releases an embarrassing video featuring Michelle Obama and actor Will Ferrell interviewing several clearly disinterested children about proper eating and exercise. Mrs. Obama says, “We wanted to get your opinions on how you think we can get kids like you to eat healthier and to get more exercise.” Ferrell asks, “Is there one trick to having, you know, a great beach bod for the summer, getting healthy?” She responds, “It’s not about tricks. Getting a good body and staying healthy, is about dedication and consistency and eating right.” (For the record, most people would probably agree that neither Michelle Obama nor Will Ferrell have a “great beach bod.”) [55493]

On *The View*, Vice President Joe Biden asks the audience, “How many of you are single women with children, in a dead-end job? You’re there because of your health insurance. You would rather have the opportunity to spend the next couple of years with your child

until they get—if that was your choice—until they get into primary school. You’re now trapped in that job because if you leave, you lose your health insurance. Now you’ll be able to do—make an independent choice. Do you want to stay in that job and still have health insurance, or do you want to—I mean, do you want to stay in that job, even though you can get health insurance absent that job? And it gives women a great deal more freedom.” (Translation: “Why bother working for a living and paying for health insurance when you can get the taxpayers to pay for your ObamaCare coverage—as well as your welfare checks and food stamps?”) [55582]

At DailyCaller.com, retired Major General Jerry Curry—Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Jimmy Carter—excoriates Obama over his proposed defense spending cuts. He writes in part, “Senior White House and Pentagon officials say [Obama] is deadly serious about reducing the size of the nation’s military and cutting military pay and benefits, which is in keeping with ...Obama’s disdain for our military forces, some of which was described by [former] Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates in his book ‘Duty.’ ...If the security of the nation is not preserved, what good does it do to shrink the size of our armed forces and allocate money to non-security programs? Just because non-defense spending goes down, does not mean that defense spending must go down. The size of the nation’s defense budget should be based on strategic national defense interests, requirements and needs, not on how much money is left over after the non-defense spending programs have been satisfied and allocated by the scribbling’s [sic; scribbling] of some contract accountant who has never been shot at by an enemy. There are those in the Congress and the Administration who would send our soldiers off to fight in the Middle East and when they return wounded and psychologically crippled, cut their health-care benefits. While fathers and mothers are overseas being shot at by snipers or blown up by Improvised Explosive Devices, their children back in the United States are being forced to exist off of food stamps. Not satisfied with these extreme sacrifices, those same officials want to eliminate the military family commissary grocery store subsidies on which some of those families barely manage to exist.” [55566]

“No priority is more important than that the members of our armed services—those who risk and sacrifice their lives for the future welfare of this country and its citizens—be fairly and properly rewarded and that they be freed from the shackles, penalties and clever congressional budgeting gimmicks of this Administration. Military pay and benefits are not paid to our service members because they are owed, but because they are earned. There is something wrong with a nation which insists on slowing the growth and reducing the pay, benefits and housing allowances of those who have lost arms and legs in the service of their country. Defense spending should not be determined by the size of entitlement spending or savings. We should first determine the size of the military forces needed to win, and then match that requirement. If we can’t match it, we shouldn’t be involved in that particular military action in the first place. America shouldn’t increase or limit the number of soldiers, aircraft, submarines and carriers it deploys around the world based on non-military budgetary matters such as entitlement spending. We should deploy the nation’s armed forces into combat based only on national defense needs, requirements and strategy.” [55566]

“Academic military and foreign policy elites believe that in the future there will be no more full scale ground wars. Haven’t we heard all this before? No one can make such predictions with complete confidence. Who knows whether China or Russia will stir up a limited ground war, as could North Korea or Syria, or whether China will strike out by scarfing up several South China Sea islands, or make trouble in the Formosa Strait. What if Iran looses some of its hordes into Saudi Arabia? This is no prediction, it is simply a reminder that stranger things have happened, and that wise leaders should not shrink their nation’s armed forces in the midst of this unrest and uncertainty. Is this really the right time for a rash of military personnel reductions, base closings, military pay and compensation shrinkage, military commissary closings, and a decrease in military health compensation? What kind of insanity is this? In Afghanistan we are counting our chickens before they hatch. We really don’t know how that war will end and neither does anyone else. What nation in the middle of an existing war down-sizes its military forces worldwide? Is there some kind of a divine deity at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue who foretells the future? [Obama], his officials, the Chinese and the Russians may be sleeping well, but the leaders and officials at Riyadh, Jerusalem, Tokyo, Seoul, Paris and London can’t be sleeping well at all. ...Isn’t it time the Congress learned the lesson that the United States of America—the world’s only Super Power—cannot afford to drastically and arbitrarily down-size its military forces, ever? I say the Congress because The White House, just as it seems determined to work around the Constitution, seems determined to unilaterally disarm the United States.” [55566]

According to the White House, Obama has told Pentagon official to allow for the possibility of leaving no troops behind in Afghanistan at the end of 2013. (There had been assumptions that as many as 8,000 troops would remain for training purposes and counterterrorism operations, but Obama has been unable to broker a deal with President Hamid Karzai.) At WashingtonPost.com Jennifer Rubin writes, “[T]hreatening to bug out entirely and bashing Karzai in public aren’t prudent in the least. For starters, as one expert on Afghanistan reminded me, [Afghani] elections are coming up. With Karzai leaving, this sort of public spat serves no one’s interests, aside from White House aides who want this so-called ‘zero option.’” Reuel Marc Gerech of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies warns, “We will likely have civil war in Afghanistan within a year or so. It’s reasonable to guess that [al-Qaeda leader] Ayman az-Zawahiri could even reappear in Jallalabad, which is where bin Ladin landed in ’96. This could become excruciatingly surreal and dangerous. Possibly even a greater defeat for the United States than Obama’s flight from Iraq and the red-line fiasco in Syria.” Rubin observes, “The danger here is that Afghanistan’s central government crumbles, the most dogged Taliban fighters gain the upper hand and back will come the jihadis (although many have found a home in Syria thanks to that Obama foreign policy debacle). Add to that the potential for growing support for the Taliban from the increasingly radicalized Pakistan army and you have a situation that looks remarkably like pre-Sept. 11 Afghanistan.” [55570, 55571, 55581]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius again says the Obama administration never stated that seven million ObamaCare enrollees by March 31 would be considered a success. (On September 30, 2013 Sebelius told NBC, “Well, I think

success looks like, uh, at least seven million people having signed up by the end of March 2014.”) [55554, 55578, 55580]

CNSNews.com reports, “A coalition of black pastors announced on Tuesday at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. that they are launching a campaign to gather one million signatures on a petition calling for the impeachment of Attorney General Eric Holder for violating his oath of office by trying ‘to coerce states to fall in line with the same-sex ‘marriage’ agenda.’ ‘...Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have turned their backs on the values the American people hold dear, values particularly cherished in the black community: values like marriage, which should be strengthened and promoted, rather than weakened and undermined,’ says a statement by the Coalition of African American Pastors that has been posted online with their impeachment petition. ‘Our nation calls for the building up of a healthier marriage culture; instead, our elected leaders are bent on destroying marriage, remaking it as a genderless institution and reorienting it to be all about the desires of adults rather than the needs of children,’ says the coalition. ‘In pursuing this intention, [Obama] and his administration are trampling the rule of law. Attorney General Holder in particular has used the influence of his office and role as the chief law enforcement figure in our nation to try to coerce states to fall in line with the same-sex ‘marriage’ agenda,’ says the coalition. ‘Millions of voters in 30 states have voted to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman, but Attorney General Holder is attempting single-handedly to throw those votes away! For abandoning the oath he swore in taking office and his duty to defend the common good, Attorney General Holder should be impeached by Congress,’ says the coalition.” [55508]

Whatsupic.com reports, “On Saturday [February 22], a complaint was filed with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center against Colorado resident Nathaniel C. Marshall over a Facebook event calling for the execution of Col. Harry Riley, the retired officer heading up Operation American Spring, a protest movement that seeks to remove ...Obama and Vice President Joe Biden from power, along with congressional leaders of both parties, Col. Riley said in an exclusive interview.” (Riley has organized a May 16, 2014 rally in Washington, D.C. to bring attention to Obama’s lawlessness and increase support for an action to remove him from office.) [55525, 55533]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “For Obama’s supporters, what matters is not what he does, but what he says and represents. ...Obama’s polls are creeping back up again. They do that every time the latest in the series of scandals—the IRS, AP, NSA, Benghazi, and Obamacare messes—recedes into the media memory hole. The once-outrageous IRS scandal was rebranded as psychodramatic journalists being outraged. The monitoring of AP reporters and of James Rosen is mostly ‘Stuff happens.’ The NSA octopus was Bush’s creation. You can keep your doctor and your health plan—period—begat liberation from ‘job lock’ and the ability to write poetry because you don’t have to work. ...Who cares that fiscal discipline is now defined as raising taxes so as to borrow only \$600 billion rather than borrowing \$1 trillion a year for six straight years? And who cares that millions will lose their doctor, their health-care coverage, and most likely their jobs because of Obamacare? Ditto foreign policy. Who cares that Obama

issued five deadlines to Iran to cease enrichment and, when rebuffed, unilaterally dropped sanctions in favor of negotiation? ...Ditto also leading from behind in Libya, the flip-flopping from the radical Islamists of the Muslim Brotherhood to the junta in Egypt, the reset with Putin, the friendly initiatives to the late Hugo Chávez that ignored the near collapse of Venezuela, as Latin America goes back to the late 1970s in another failed round of coerced statism.” [55528]

“In short, Obama will always poll around 45 percent. That core support is his lasting legacy. In a mere five years, by the vast expansion of federal spending, by the demonizing rhetoric of his partisan bully pulpit, and by executive orders and bizarre appointments, Obama has so divided the nation that he has created a permanent constituency that will never care as much about what he does as it cares about what he says and represents. For elite rich liberals, whose money and privilege exempt them from the consequences of Obama’s policies, and their own ideology, he will always be their totem. He is iconic of their own progressivism and proof of their racial liberalism, and thus allows them to go on enjoying their privilege, without guilt and without worrying too much about how they got it or whether they might lose it. For the vast new millions on federal disability insurance, food stamps, and other entitlements, Obama is their lifeline to government support. Who would risk losing that by worrying that the world is becoming a very dangerous place? If the IRS has to become politicized, better that it become politicized by going after right-wing tea-party types who would cut government. ...And if the country is going broke, at least those who will raise taxes are preferable to those who might cut government. In short, there can be no scandals, or even good or bad news, just what Obama represents—an exemption from normal protocols of public and media scrutiny of his actual record. And so he has established two legacies. He will probably never win back a majority of inductive Americans again, and he will rarely lose his deductive base.” [55528]

Patrick Moore, co-founder of the environmental activist group Greenpeace, tells a Senate committee, “There is no scientific proof that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) are the dominant cause of the minor warming of the Earth’s atmosphere over the past 100 years. Today, we live in an unusually cold period in the history of life on earth and there is no reason to believe that a warmer climate would be anything but beneficial for humans and the majority of other species. It is important to recognize, in the face of dire predictions about a [two degrees Celsius] rise in global average temperature, that humans are a tropical species. We evolved at the equator in a climate where freezing weather did not exist. The only reasons we can survive these cold climates are fire, clothing, and housing. It could be said that frost and ice are the enemies of life, except for those relatively few species that have evolved to adapt to freezing temperatures during this Pleistocene Ice Age. It is ‘extremely likely’ that a warmer temperature than today’s would be far better than a cooler one.” [55564, 55588, 55729, 55738, 55750]

“The fact that we had both higher temperatures and an ice age at a time when CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 10 times higher than they are today fundamentally contradicts the certainty that human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the main cause of global warming. When

modern life evolved over 500 million years ago, CO2 was more than 10 times higher than today, yet life flourished at [that] time. Then an Ice Age occurred 450 million years ago when CO2 was 10 times higher than today. ...From 1910 to 1940 there was an increase in global average temperature of [0.5 degrees Celsius] over that 30-year period. Then there was a 30-year 'pause' until 1970. This was followed by an increase of [0.57 degrees Celsius] during the 30-year period from 1970 to 2000. Since then there has been no increase, perhaps a slight decrease, in average global temperature. This in itself tends to negate the validity of the computer models, as CO2 emissions have continued to accelerate during this time. The increase in temperature between 1910–1940 was virtually identical to the increase between 1970–2000. Yet the IPCC [United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] does not attribute the increase from 1910–1940 to 'human influence.' They are clear in their belief that human emissions impact only the increase 'since the mid-20th century.' Why does the IPCC believe that a virtually identical increase in temperature after 1950 is caused mainly by 'human influence,' when it has no explanation for the nearly identical increase from 1910–1940?" (Another Greenpeace co-founder, Paul Watson, once said, "It doesn't matter what is true, it only matters what people believe is true." As time has passed, Moore has apparently decided to join the side of "what is true.") [55564, 55588, 55729, 55738, 55750]

Moore later appears on *Hannity* and says, "It is a powerful convergence of interests among a very large number of elites, including politicians who want to make it seem as though they are saving the world, environmentalists who want to raise money and get control over very large issues like our entire energy policy, media for sensationalism, universities and professors for grants—you can't hardly [sic] get a science grant these days without saying it has something to do with climate change. ...There are millions of children dying every day from preventable vitamin deficiencies and diseases and we're spending hundreds of billions of dollars on a problem that may not exist. ...You could learn more about the [climate] future by throwing a bunch of bones on the ground [than by observing computer models]." [55564, 55588, 55729, 55738, 55750]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) delays action on a minimum wage bill—because only 32 Democrat have signed on as co-sponsors to the proposal from Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA). (Reid is worried that he won't have enough votes to pass the legislation. Some Senate Democrats up for reelection are worried that raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour will cause job losses and price increases—in time for their GOP opponents to blame them before the November elections.) HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey asks, "Let's get this straight. This is Obama's highest domestic agenda priority item, and the chamber which his party controls can barely get half of their caucus to sign onto it? That's some genius work at the White House. Who's their legislative liaison these days?" [55573, 55574]

Mark Throdahl, CEO of OrthoPediatrics, tells DailyCaller.com that ObamaCare's medical device tax will have a devastating effect on his company: "We are a company that is not yet profitable. We've only been in the market for 5 years. This is a very burdensome tax because it is based on sales, not profits, and the only way we can pay a

tax like this is to cut expenses. In terms of magnitude, [the tax] is about the size of our entire product development budget. We have had to reduce our development budget. We're developing less [sic; fewer] products than we otherwise would. It has cut into our development expenses. The only way we can trump up the money to pay this tax is to reduce expenses. We've not cut people because that's not our program but we have deferred adding additional positions at the company so as to make room for the expense reductions." (OrthoPediatics is the only company in the world that specializes in orthopedic equipment for children. The ObamaCare medical device excise tax is a 2.3 percent tax on income, *not* profit. If, for example, a company's income is \$1 million the tax would be \$23,000, *even if* the company's profit was less than 2.3 percent, or the company earned no profit at all. In the case of OrthoPediatics, the company has yet to earn a profit because its income has been reinvested in product development and testing. The ObamaCare tax therefore means the company *must* cut spending by 2.3 percent in order to pay the tax.) Although the Obama administration claims the Affordable Care Act has not caused *any* jobs to be lost, DailyCaller.com notes that "Obamacare's medical device excise tax has already created a job loss of 33,000 people in the medical device industry [alone] and 132,000 more job losses are expected with other jobs expected to be outsourced outside the United States, according to a recent report from the industry trade group the Advanced Medical Technology Association. Nearly one-third of the medical device companies surveyed by AdvaMed reported cutbacks in research and development (R&D)." [55565]

Throdahl adds, "An excise tax which is what this is—a tax on sales—is used typically for things like liquor and tires, and it's incredible that the government has levied this tax on medical devices for kids. ...I have spent about a third of my career living and working outside the United States. The U.S. medical device industry is one of the few industries left where our country has competitive advantage. We really are the global leader. It is so maladroitness that the U.S. government is burdening one of the few industries where we're still a leader. The majority of companies in our industry are small businesses. It's not like you're tacking a 2 percent tax onto [a large corporation like] Pfizer. There are hundreds of companies just like ours that are struggling with this tax... The expenses in this industry are enormous. We have 16 surgical systems in the market now. These are very expensive to maintain. We have a direct sales force. We're selling [products] outside the United States. It will be several more years before we break even. ...There is no doubt that nationally there have been headcount reductions in the major firms and a slowdown in hiring. There's no question that this is having an impact. R&D [research and development] is the lifeblood of an industry like this which is based on new technology." [55565]

Politico reports, "A trove of Clinton White House records long processed for release remains hidden from public view at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock—even though the legal basis initially used to withhold them expired more than a year ago. The papers contain confidential advice given to or sought by President Bill Clinton, including communications with then-first lady Hillary Clinton, and records about people considered for appointments to federal office. About 33,000 pages of documents are involved, according to the National Archives, which runs the library. Under the Presidential



Records Act, such records can be withheld for up to 12 years after a president leaves office. However, at the 12-year mark, those broad restrictions fall away and the once-secret presidential papers are generally subject to disclosure. For the Clinton files, that milestone came and went in January 2013. The long-sealed records pose a delicate series of choices for the Clintons, and even ...Obama. They could allow disclosure of the papers, fueling new stories about old controversies like Whitewater and pardons granted as the 42nd president left office in 2001. Or they could fight to keep some or all of the files secret, likely triggering a court battle and stoking concerns that the former president and his wife are unduly secretive.” (It can be assumed that the documents will be carefully reviewed and many will be released—and any that would hurt Hillary Clinton’s chances of winning the presidency will be kept under lock and key.) [55562, 55563, 55572]

HotAir.com points out, “Unlike the Dianne Blair notes, which were private records, these are *official* records of the Clinton administration—and of the American people. They relate directly to Hillary’s impact on the executive branch, at least as an unofficial counselor to the President, and perhaps to her input on appointments (and are related to appointments whether she influenced them or not). The only reason for keeping them secret would be to keep people from discovering something uncomplimentary about Hillary and/or Bill; after all, if they demonstrated that she was highly insightful and competent, the Clintons would have released the papers themselves. This has more relevance to both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama than the still-legitimate Blair papers. ...The longer these papers stay sealed, the more likely they are to contain some embarrassing revelations, and we’ll see just how transparent Obama is when it comes to his politics.” [55562, 55563, 55572]

Democrats in Wisconsin, eager to destroy Governor Scott Walker for daring to reduce the influence of labor unions in the state, froth at the mouth after uncovering “proof” of his past crime of violating campaign rules. Walker’s evil deed: in 1988 he told some fellow students he would soon be announcing his candidacy for student president of Marquette University—thus “violating” the rule that “No campaigning may begin before a candidate is registered.” (Walker is seen as a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2016.) [55584, 55585]

The White House threatens an Obama veto of proposed House legislation that would block the IRS from continuing its discriminatory practices against Tea Party and other conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status. (The official White House stance is apparently, “We didn’t do anything wrong, but we’re not going to let you stop us from continuing to do it.”) [55586]

LATimes.com reports, “A new report shows that as many as 125,000 young California immigrants may qualify for an expansion of Medi-Cal, the state’s Medicaid program. The Affordable Care Act bars insurance subsidies and enrollment in the Medicaid expansion for undocumented immigrants, but a wrinkle in California rules does offer coverage for those with ‘deferred action status.’ The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program

was created by ...Obama in 2012 to grant immigrants who came to the country illegally as children—sometimes called Dreamers—legal status and work authorization for two-year periods.” [55529, 55530]

LATimes.com also reports that ObamaCare’s \$120 million exchange in Hawaii has enrolled only 4,300 people—making the cost per person about \$27,900. According to Tiownhall.com the Oregon exchange—which cost \$330 million—has so far had *no* successful online enrollments. [55614, 55615]

Americans for Tax Reform warns that the IRS has already begun using scare tactics to induce taxpayers into paying the ObamaCare penalty for not having “government-approved” health insurance. The IRS “quietly released a series of Obamacare ‘Health Care Tax Tips’ warning Americans that they must obtain ‘qualifying’ health insurance—as defined by the federal government—or face a ‘shared responsibility payment’ when filing their tax returns in 2015. The term ‘shared responsibility payment’ [which could instead be called the ‘You are now responsible for someone else’s health insurance payment’] refers to the Obamacare individual mandate tax, one of at least seven tax hikes in the healthcare law that directly hit families making less than \$250,000 per year.” The IRS states, “If you (or any of your dependents) do not maintain coverage and do not qualify for an exemption, you will need to make an individual shared responsibility payment with your return. In general, the payment amount is either a percentage of your household income or a flat dollar amount, whichever is greater. You will owe 1/12th of the annual payment for each month you (or your dependents) do not have coverage and are not exempt. The annual payment amount for 2014 is the greater of: 1 percent of your household income that is above the tax return filing threshold for your filing status, such as Married Filing Jointly or single, or Your family’s flat dollar amount, which is \$95 per adult and \$47.50 per child, limited to a maximum of \$285.” (The Affordable Care Act does *not* contain any penalties for taxpayers who refuse to pay the penalty—but the IRS and the Obama administration are not eager for anyone to learn that. The IRS will deduct the penalty from any refund due the taxpayer, but if there is no refund due there is no provision in the law for the IRS to collect the penalty via wage garnishment or any other method. Its only form of persuasion is therefore fear.) [55531, 55556, 56095]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, “The Obama administration regularly cuts a break for businesses that hire illegal immigrants, reducing their fines by an average of 40 percent from what they should be, according to an audit released Tuesday that suggests the government could be doing more to go after unscrupulous employers. According to the audit, conducted by the Homeland Security Department’s inspector general, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement cut one business’s fine from \$4.9 million to slightly more than \$1 million—a 78 percent drop. Investigators said the reduction is legal, but it may be undercutting the administration’s goal of getting tough on businesses that hire illegal immigrants.” (Some might argue that the Obama administration does not, in fact, have any such goal.) [55579, 55592]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, writes former IRS official Lois Lerner’s attorney to state that he

expects her to appear before the committee on March 5. Issa writes, “Because the committee explicitly rejected her Fifth Amendment privilege claim, I expect her to provide answers when the hearing reconvenes on March 5.” (At a hearing in 2013 Lerner refused to testify based on her Fifth Amendment rights, but she did so only *after* she made an official statement. By making that statement, she arguably waived her right to “plead the Fifth.”) Lerner’s attorney, Bill Taylor, tries to weasel out of testimony, claiming Lerner “has been the subject of numerous threats on her life and safety, and on the life and safety of her family.” (It is clear that Lerner—if she even appears on March 5—will likely again refuse to respond to questions. Lerner almost certainly knows who was responsible for the IRS’ decision to discriminate against Tea Party and other conservative groups that filed for tax-exempt status. If she testifies and lies to protect others, she can end up in jail. If she tells the truth, she can implicate herself and others above her. Issa’s committee should come down hard on Lerner—who has almost certainly violated federal law—and threaten her with contempt of Congress charges and jail time. If she does not testify, Issa should subpoena others in the IRS who worked with Lerner and get them to testify. If she wants to avoid jail, she could ask to be granted immunity in exchange for her testimony. But if that testimony implicates Attorney General Eric Holder, Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett, or even Obama, Lerner may regret ever having accepted a job with the government. *The Obama Timeline* believes evidence exists that links the IRS scandal directly to the White House.) [55557, 55558, 55559, 55645]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Multiple companies currently exploring new business ventures in Iran are also cashing in on highly lucrative contracts with the U.S. Defense Department, raising questions about whether their dealings with Iran could run afoul of U.S. law. At least 13 major international companies have said in recent weeks that they aim to reenter the Iranian marketplace over the next several months. The companies have received Pentagon contracts totaling well over \$107 billion, according to a *Washington Free Beacon* analysis that tracked DoD contracts awarded since fiscal year 2009. ...Lawmakers, congressional insiders, and other experts expressed shock when presented with the figures detailing billions in taxpayer funds that have gone to companies eager to partner with Tehran. These companies include Boeing and General Electric—which have DoD contracts worth \$87 and \$12 billion respectively—as well as the Italian oil company Eni, Merck, Safran, Vitol, Bosch Rexroth, Sanofi Pastuer, and AVL. Lawmakers say that companies should be forced to choose between doing business with the Pentagon and doing it with Iran.” Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) says, “The fact that major federal contractors are even considering business with Iran during this interim period demonstrates that we need to be incredibly vigilant in enforcing the existing sanctions. And even if their activity is technically not captured by our existing sanctions laws, these companies should know that Congress is watching. We will focus on defense and other federal contractors. And we will make sure that if there are deals that do violate the law, they will be debarred from federal contracting or worse. ...If you sell anything to Iran but food or medicine, you are ineligible for a federal contract, grant or other assistance. At some point, you may have to say to these firms, you either do business with us or with them.” [55543]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “In a revelation missing from the official investigations of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the FBI placed a human source in direct contact with Osama bin Laden in 1993 and ascertained that the al Qaeda leader was looking to finance terrorist attacks in the United States, according to court testimony in a little-noticed employment dispute case. The information the FBI gleaned back then was so specific that it helped thwart a terrorist plot against a Masonic lodge in Los Angeles, the court records reviewed by The Washington Times show. ‘It was the only source I know in the bureau where we had a source right in al Qaeda, directly involved,’ Edward J. Curran, a former top official in the FBI’s Los Angeles office, told the court in support of a discrimination lawsuit filed against the bureau by his former agent Bassem Youssef.” [55597]

Obama, addressing a group of leaders of his propaganda arm, Organizing for Action, says, “Information is so contested, and people are separated from how they get news, that oftentimes to break through what’s necessary is the validation of a neighbor or a friend, or a co-worker, or a family member. It doesn’t work if we don’t have folks on the ground who are speaking out on behalf of these issues and these values... [But you can] reach people where they live—at the kitchen table and at the water cooler at work. ...[Y]ou’re able to say, hey, here check it [ObamaCare] out, take a look on the website—if you reach out to your Republican friend who can’t stand Obama, but is basically a nice person... but they watch the wrong newscast [that is, Fox News].” (In other words, “Your job is to identify anyone who opposes my agenda and work to convert him into a leftist.”) Obama complains that “politics has become so toxic,” and whines that his policies are blocked by “an implacable opposition that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions of dollars, spreading misinformation.” Obama says, “The work you’re doing is God’s work.” [55594, 55595, 55675, 55832]

On February 26 the Obama administration celebrates the 95th anniversary of the declaration of the Grand Canyon as a national park by tweeting a photograph of Barack “it’s all about me” Obama looking at the canyon. [55666, 55709]

*The Columbus Dispatch* reports that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a far left “civil rights” organization based in Montgomery, Alabama, has removed the Nation of Islam from its “hate group” list. (The criteria used by SPLC to classify an organization as a “hate group” are not publicly known.) The SPLC continues to include Jihad Watch and Stop Islamization of America as hate groups because it considers them “anti-Muslim.” (They are not anti-Muslim; they are anti-jihad. Opposing gay marriage and promoting liberty and states rights is also a good way to get included on the “hate group” list.) The Nation of Islam, headed by Obama’s virulent Jew-hating Chicago neighbor, Louis Farrakhan, not only should not have been removed from the list, it should have been at or near the top of the list. The Chicago church Obama attended gave Farrakhan a “lifetime achievement award” for his “commitment to truth, education, and leadership.” Farrakhan has said, “Hitler was a very great man,” “Judaism is a gutter religion,” and “white people are potential humans, they haven’t evolved yet.” Farrakhan has called Jews “bloodsuckers” and “satanic,” and claimed that he enjoys an “open channel” of communication with Obama.” Dr. Vibert White, Jr., a former top-ranking official of the

Nation of Islam, confirmed in an interview that Obama has deep ties to the group and Farrakhan.[36, 37, 38, 39, 284, 286, 315, 353, 471, 558, 559, 825, 842 pp. 304–307; 844, 1185, 2213, 9260, 9261, 9280, 11632, 11638, 11639, 11693, 17996, 18012, 18028, 18029, 18037, 21651, 21726, 30035, 30083, 30236, 55535, 55536, 55537, 55538, 55539, 56142]

In October of 1995, Obama attended the male-only Million Man March organized Farrakhan. In mid-2004 Michelle Obama joined a Women’s Event panel discussion at a Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Conference held at Trinity United Church of Christ. Farrakhan and his wife also attended the event. There have been allegations that Michelle Obama’s talk developed into a rant against the evils of America and how whites are to blame for Africa’s problems. The more the crowd reacted, the more rabid she reportedly became in her comments. Some claim that her repeated denunciations of “whitey” were recorded. A recording of the speech (purportedly on DVD and briefly sold via the Church Web site) allegedly reveals Michelle Obama saying, “Once again, the white man keeps us down, what’s up with Whitey, why’d he attack Iraq? Why’d he let Katrina happen? Why’d he leave millions of children behind? This is the legacy the white man gives us.” When asked about the incident in 2008, candidate Barack Obama refused to deny that his wife made the remarks and instead criticized the reporter for asking the question, saying, “Frankly, my hope is people don’t play this game. It is a destructive aspect of our politics.” Obama’s tap-dancing suggested to some that the story is true, and arms have been twisted (or money has exchanged hands) to keep the recordings from being made public.) [36, 37, 38, 39, 284, 286, 315, 353, 471, 558, 559, 825, 842 pp. 304–307; 844, 1185, 2213, 9260, 9261, 9280, 11632, 11638, 11639, 11693, 17996, 18012, 18028, 18029, 18037, 21651, 21726, 30035, 30083, 30236, 55535, 55536, 55537, 55538, 55539, 56142]

In February 2008 Farrakhan praised Obama as the “new messiah.” In February 2010 Farrakhan told an audience, “It’s not an accident that a great earthquake took place in Chile. It was a precipitate of what I have to tell you today of what’s coming to America. You will not escape.” Farrakhan blamed whites in America for opposing Obama’s health care legislation in order to limit him to one term in office. He warned, “There are Christians praying for God to kill Obama,” “The white right is trying to set Barack up to be assassinated,” and “The Zionists are in control of Congress.” Farrakhan’s speech also included details of his 1985 trip on a UFO, where aliens warned him of future cataclysmic events. Visitor logs show that Farrakhan has made trips to the White House. In a May 2010 visit to Chicago, it is believed that Obama secretly visited the home of Farrakhan—who once received a \$5 million interest-free loan from Libyan dictator Moammar Gaddafi. In fact, Gaddafi once spoke by satellite to Farrakhan’s Saviour’s Day Convention in Chicago and, according to WND.com, “reportedly told Farrakhan supporters he was prepared to provide weapons to a black army in the U.S. to destroy ‘white America.’” Farrakhan, who was enraged by Obama’s actions to oust Gaddafi in Libya, said, “We voted for our brother Barack, a beautiful human being with a sweet heart and now he’s an assassin. They turned him into [one of] them. ... That’s a murderer in the White House. ... You talk about a man killing his own people. When you lie to the American people saying that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. When

you lie and then take innocent young men who come to serve their country, and send them to die in Iraq and Afghanistan, over lies, that's a murderer in the White House. [36, 37, 38, 39, 284, 286, 315, 353, 471, 558, 559, 825, 842 pp. 304–307; 844, 1185, 2213, 9260, 9261, 9280, 11632, 11638, 11639, 11693, 17996, 18012, 18028, 18029, 18037, 21651, 21726, 30035, 30083, 30236, 55535, 55536, 55537, 55538, 55539, 56142]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, “Protesters took to the streets across Turkey on Tuesday [February 25], after audio recordings purportedly of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordering his son to dispose of vast amounts of cash amid a graft probe surfaced and went viral on the Internet. Thousands of people demonstrated in 11 cities, including Ankara and Istanbul, shouting anti-government and anti-Erdogan slogans, according to China’s Xinhua news agency. Police in the capital fired tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd that chanted, ‘The government resigns’ and ‘Thief Erdogan.’ In Istanbul, protests were reportedly held at 10 locations, with the biggest demonstration in the district of Kalikow, where some 5,000 people marched to the district center, carrying banners reading, ‘Where are the thieves?’ and ‘You will answer to the people.’” (Pamela Geller comments: “Another epic Obama failure. Turkey is melting under the crushing dictatorial and corrupt rule of Prime Minister Recip Tayyip Erdogan. ...Obama’s ‘most trusted and favorite’ ally Erdogan is caught on tape with his son, plotting to hide stolen millions. I predict another Obama buddy’s days are numbered.” [55658, 55659])

Muslim-fearing Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Alex Kozinski orders YouTube.com to remove the promotional trailer for the film *Innocence of Muslims*—the trailer that the Obama administration claims prompted September 11, 2012 rioting in Cairo, Egypt and Benghazi, Libya. FrontPageMag.com’s Daniel Greenfield notes that Kozinski once “got in trouble for putting up ‘a photo of naked women on all fours painted to look like cows and a video of a half-dressed man cavorting with a sexually aroused farm animal’ on his website, but the moral judge drew the line at videos that offend Muslims writing an absurd opinion that has no basis in copyright law.” Kozinski sided with an actress in the film who disagreed with the producer’s marketing. (Although she may disagree with how the movie turned out and how it was being marketed, she has no legal basis for blocking its promotion or distribution, Kozinski wrongly believes otherwise. Pamela Geller writes, “The dhimmi Judge who ordered Google to take down the YouTube video that [allegedly] set off our now constant companion, the hair-trigger violence of the Muslim world, is a pervert who won’t offend Muslims but thinks nothing of degrading women and sharing his predilection for bestiality. Selective censorship, Judge Moo. The craven cowardice of the 9th Circuit’s ruling was a craven capitulation to the dictates of the sharia [Islamic law] was based on technical copyright law. Imagine if every actor and actress sued to remove a film where the producer changed the story or their lines were dubbed: we’d have very little cinema (with the crap Hollywood produces these days, not an altogether bad thing). The ruling was an affront to every freedom-loving American. Did [actress] Cindy Lee Garcia sign a release or did she not? And if she didn’t, why not just blur out her craggy face out and give us all a break?”) Kozinski writes in his ruling, “The problem isn’t that ‘Innocence of Muslims’ is not an Arabian adventure movie: it’s that the film isn’t intended to entertain at all.” (One could argue that

if all non-entertaining movies were pulled from distribution half of Hollywood would be unemployed.) [55660, 55661, 55687]

At Townhall.com John Ransom writes, “There’s a damning number regarding our economy that Obama doesn’t want to talk about. It’s a number [that], but for him, would be lower. And, lower, in this case would be a good thing for the economy. ‘Although estimates vary,’ says Joel Kurtzman, a senior fellow at the Milliken Institute, ‘American companies have between \$4 and \$5 trillion in liquid assets, a sum greater than the size of the German economy.’ How is it that companies can now have more cash than anytime in history, while unemployment remains so high, inflation in many goods so low, and national income grows so anemically? Oh, yeah. Democrats at work. Shhhh. ...[T]hose high cash balance sheets are telling us a few things. They are telling us that hiring isn’t an investment that companies want to make right now: Too much risk and too little reward they fear to bring people on the payrolls. They are saying that companies would rather keep cash on the balance sheet than make investments in new plants and equipment and even sales. Again, this is a matter of balancing against risk and reward. Many corporate types are more concerned that they have enough cash for the next downturn, versus concern with putting liquid assets to use to generate return on investment the old fashioned way, by growing their base business. ...Agitated investors, overblown cash balances and sluggish GDP growth are not signs that a recovery is under way. In fact, they are each signs that perhaps the best of the so-called recovery is over. The best way to put capital to work is by hiring, we can all agree. But until the politics changes in Washington, D.C. that’s not going to happen. And we won’t get another recovery until 2017.” (In addition to the cash being held by corporations, U.S. banks are sitting on mountains of cash that they are afraid to risk via loans. If and when the economy *does* recover, those trillions of dollars will be loaned and spent, and that mountain of cash entering the economy will cause monumental price increases across the nation.) [55555]

At a House hearing, Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX) accuses the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) of “cooking the books” on deportation statistics. Smith says, “The administration has been making a sales pitch that they are deporting or removing record numbers of individuals compared to previous administrations.” (According to The Heritage Foundation, “[D]eportations by prior Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) standards actually are ‘down 40 percent since 2009.’ The difference... is that unlike its predecessors the Obama administration also counts ‘turn-backs’ or ‘turn-arounds’ at the border as ‘deportations.’ But according to ICE, these are cases of individuals who were ‘attempting to unlawfully enter the U.S.’ but who actually had not successfully done so.”) Smith tells DHS head Jeh Johnson, “You’re inflating your figures so that you can claim to be setting records when in fact you’re not.” (According to the Center for Immigration Studies, Obama’s first term saw “the lowest total and annual average [of deportations] since the mid-1970s.”) [55832, 55970]

Smelling a Democrat loss of the Senate in the November elections, desperate, Joe McCarthy-channeling Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) delivers a rant against conservatives who dare to spend money running ads that criticize ObamaCare and Democrat policies. On the floor of the Senate, Reid says, “I can’t say that everyone of the

Koch Brothers ads are a lie, but I'll say this, ...the vast, vast majority of them are. [David Koch and Charles Koch head Koch Industries, and have donated millions of dollars to various conservative foundations, such as Americans for Prosperity.] Just because you have huge amounts of money you should not be able to run these false, misleading ads by the hundreds of millions of dollars ...When you make billions of dollars a year you can be as immoral and dishonest as your money will allow you to be... It's too bad that they're trying to buy America, and it's time that the American people spoke out against this terrible dishonesty of these two brothers who are about as un-American as anyone that I can imagine." (Needless to say, Reid expresses no outrage at the hundreds of millions of dollars labor union have spent for pro-Democrat campaigns, or the enormous amounts of cash Obama's billionaire pal George Soros has spent subsidizing leftist organizations and campaigns.) Reid also claims that *all* of the anti-ObamaCare stories in the media about canceled policies and higher premiums and loss of doctors are "untrue" and "stories made up from whole cloth"—including that of leukemia patient Julie Boonstra, who appeared on *The Kelly File* to report that her insurance policy had been canceled and the replacement policy now leaves her with higher out-of-pocket expenses than her former policy. [55567, 55589, 55601, 55616, 55620, 55636, 55669, 55673, 55677, 55684, 55696, 55697, 55703]

Philip Ellender, president of Koch Companies Public Sector, LLC, responds to Reid's rant: "We are disappointed, but not surprised, that Senate Majority Leader Reid has once again falsely attacked Charles Koch and David Koch today on the Senate floor. The Democrats in general and Senator Reid in particular have targeted Charles Koch and David Koch and tried to silence their disagreement on important public policy issues since 2010, using references to the IRS on occasion to do so. Senator Reid's attack today—his third against Koch since Jan. 30th—is particularly troubling because he appears to reference a television advertisement produced by Americans for Prosperity in which a Michigan woman [Julie Boonstra] suffering from leukemia shared her experiences under Obamacare. While Charles Koch and David Koch were not responsible for the advertisement in question, we believe it is disgraceful that Senator Reid and his fellow Democrats are attacking a cancer victim as part of their campaign against Charles Koch and David Koch. ...It is unfortunate that rather than focus on the many issues facing our country, Senator Reid chooses to attack Charles Koch and David Koch, who are proud and patriotic Americans that have devoted their lives to advancing tolerance and freedom in America. Koch companies proudly employ 60,000 people in the United States. Instead of waging war on private citizens, we encourage Senator Reid to work constructively to advance a free society where every individual is judged on his or her own individual merits and they are free to make decisions about their lives." (Few will be surprised if the Koch brothers respond to Reid's attack by spending even more money on pro-liberty ads.) [55567, 55589, 55601, 55616, 55620, 55636, 55669, 55673, 55677, 55684, 55696, 55697, 55703]

Conservative author Ann Coulter writes, "Democrats believe they've hit on the perfect issue to distract from the horror of Obamacare in the 2014 elections: the minimum wage. Apparently, increasing the minimum wage was not important for American workers during the first five years of Obama's [administration]—least of all his first two years,



when Democrats controlled Congress and could have passed anything. (And did!) No. The minimum wage did not become a pressing concern until an election year in which the public's hatred of Obamacare is expected to be the central issue. ...To most people, it seems as if the Democrats are giving workers something for nothing. But there are always tradeoffs. No serious economist denies that increasing the minimum wage will cost jobs. If it's not worth paying someone \$10 an hour to do something, the job will be eliminated—or it simply won't be created. The minimum wage is the perfect Democratic issue. It will screw the very people it claims to help, while making Democrats look like saviors of the working class, either by getting them a higher wage or providing them with generous government benefits when they lose their jobs because of the mandatory wage hike. Of course, the reason American workers' wages are so low in the first place is because of the Democrats' policies on immigration. Republicans might want to point that out. Since the late 1960s, the Democrats have been dumping about a million low-skilled immigrants on the country every year, driving down wages, especially at the lower end of the spectrum. ...You want a higher minimum wage? Turn off the spigot of low-wage workers pouring in to the U.S. and it will rise on its own through the iron law of supply and demand. In response to the Democrats' minimum wage proposal, Republicans should introduce a bill ending both legal and illegal immigration until the minimum wage rises naturally to \$14 an hour." [55568]

FoxNews.com reports, "Security experts worried that 35 state health exchange websites were vulnerable to hackers and were rated as 'high risk' for security problems before ObamaCare's launch, documents obtained by Fox News show. ...[T]he issues detailed in documents and emails provided by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee reveal broader concerns than the federal Department of Health and Human Services has previously acknowledged. They show a frenzied behind-the-scenes juggling act by officials and contractors as the Oct. 1 deadline for new health insurance exchanges loomed." [55569, 55577]

FoxNews.com reports that the Obama administration continues to block construction of an 11-mile gravel road that would connect a small fishing village to an airport—because of "the negative environmental impact on grizzly bears, caribou and water fowl like the Pacific black brant. ...According to local Aleutian elders, 19 people have died since 1980 as a result of the impossible-to-navigate weather conditions during emergency evacuations." In a visit to Alaska, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell told an audience, "I've listened to your stories, now I have to listen to the animals." (Jewell apparently values bears, caribou, and birds more than human beings, and has already turned down a land swap offer in exchange for the road that would yield an additional 56,393 acres for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.) [55583]

At NationalReview.com Jillian Kay Melchior reports, "A terrorist from Jordan briefly worked as an Obamacare navigator in Illinois while authorities remained unaware of her conviction for involvement in a deadly grocery store bombing and two other attacks. Rasmieh Yousef Odeh was convicted in Israel for her role in several bombings, including the 1969 attack on an upscale Shufersol grocery store, which killed two Hebrew University students who had stopped in to buy groceries for a hiking trip in the Jerusalem

hills. Leon Kanner and Eddie Joffe were killed by a bomb hidden in a candy box tucked on a shelf, which also injured nine or 10 others, according to a website maintained by the Israeli government to commemorate terror victims. The Illinois Department of Insurance quietly revoked Odeh's certification as a Navigator In-Person Counselor on November 24, explaining in a disciplinary report that the decision was 'based on an investigation which revealed that she had been convicted in Israel for her role in the bombings of a supermarket and the British Consulate in Jerusalem and failed to reveal the conviction on her application.' ...Odeh, who has as many as nine aliases, was indicted in October for allegedly lying on her U.S. immigration and naturalization application papers. On Dec. 9, 2004, she had been sworn in as a U.S. citizen in a district court in Michigan, the same state where bombing victim Kanner had spent six months studying English. If Odeh is convicted, she could lose her U.S. citizenship and serve up to 10 years in prison. Separately, the Illinois Insurance Code permits civil penalties to be levied after a hearing on any Obamacare navigator whose certificate has been denied, suspended or revoked." [55593, 55625, 55676]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) threatens to put a hold on Obama's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Hallegere Murthy. Paul states, "Historically, the Surgeon General of the United States has been a position with the purpose of educating Americans so that they may lead healthier lives, rather than advancing a political agenda. Dr. Murthy has disqualified himself from being Surgeon General because of his intent to use that position to launch an attack on Americans' right to own a firearm under the guise of a public health and safety campaign. ...I have serious concerns about Dr. Murthy's ability to impartially serve as 'the Nation's Doctor.' The majority of Dr. Murthy's non-clinical experience is in political advocacy. As you know, Dr. Murthy is the co-founder of Doctors for America, born out of the campaign organization Doctors for Obama, and it is a project of the left-leaning think tank Center for American Progress and has worked closely with Organizing for America, ...Obama's political organization. ...As a physician, I am deeply concerned that he has advocated that doctors use their position of trust to ask patients, including minors, details about gun ownership in the home. His organization has also advocated that physicians collect and report data on gun ownership to the Federal Government and increasing Federal funding for gun control research." Murthy believes "guns are a health care issue" and that doctors should counsel patients about gun use—a convenient way to get gun ownership information entered into the national ObamaCare health care database. (*The Obama Timeline* suggests the position of Surgeon General be eliminated. One former Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin, who served from November 3, 2009 until July 16, 2013, provided what Forbes.com called "a stunning record of non-achievement during four years in her position. Most of her attention was focused on a single issue—obesity—but without anything new or specific to suggest: She promised to '[h]elp Americans lead healthier lives through better nutrition, regular physical activity and encouraging communities to support healthy choices.' (Ironically, Dr. Benjamin herself is obese.))" [52888, 55596, 55602, 55603, 55604, 55605, 56132, 56155]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Several Environmental Protection Agency employees obstructed an investigation into the mismanagement that allowed a senior EPA official to

bilk taxpayers for nearly \$900,000, the EPA Inspector General said in a letter to Senator David Vitter (R-LA) released Wednesday. EPA employees threatened Inspector General investigators, refused to cooperate, and handed out non-disclosure agreements to other employees to keep them from being interviewed, EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins Jr. wrote in response to a request for information by Vitter on the case. ‘Over the past 12 months, there have been several EPA officials who have taken action to prevent OI [the Office of Investigations] from conducting investigations or have attempted to obstruct investigations through intimidation,’ Elkins wrote.” Vitter states, “The whole agency seems to be in complete disarray, which is exactly why we need to have a full [Environment and Public Works] Committee hearing on the fraud surrounding this case and other prevalent problems.” [55600, 55641]

Speaking in Florida, Hillary Clinton says of ObamaCare, “I think we are on the right track in many respects but I would be the first to say if things aren’t working then we need people of good faith to come together and make evidence-based changes. ...Part of the challenge is to clear away all the smoke and try to figure out what is working and what isn’t. What do we need to do to try to fix this? Because it would be a great tragedy, in my opinion, to take away what has now been provided. This is going to be challenging and I don't think we should throw the baby out with the bath [sic; bath water].” (In other words, “I agree with you if you like ObamaCare and I also agree with you if you dislike ObamaCare. I’m not about to stick my neck out and commit either way because I want to win the White House in 2016.”) [55637, 55638, 55647]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating stands at 41/51 percent in a New York Times/CBS News poll. Only 10 percent of those polled are “very satisfied” with his performance, while 59 percent are “totally disappointed.” Republicans hold a 42/39 percent lead over Democrats among registered voters on a “generic Congressional ballot.” (A three-point lead among Republicans should worry Democrats, because “registered voters” do not all show up to vote—and angry Republicans will be more likely to vote in November than Democrats who will not see Obama’s name on the ballot.) Asked whether they support ObamaCare as it is, want changes, or prefer full repeal, the percentages are 6, 50, and 42. [55621, 55622, 55626, 55639]

Congressman Cory Gardner (R-CO) announces he will challenge ObamaCare-supporting Senator Mark Udall (D-CO). Republican Ken Buck, the Weld County District Attorney, drops out of the Senate race and announces he will run for Gardner’s Congressional seat. Another GOP candidate for Udall’s seat, Colorado State Representative Amy Stephens, announces she will drop out of the race and support Gardner. (The announcements are bad news for the Democrats because the popular Gardner stands a good chance of defeating Udall, and Buck is likely to defeat his Democrat opponent. Gardner won 58 percent of the vote in 2012 and Mitt Romney won 59 percent in that district. NationalReview.com’s Jim Geraghty observes, “Mark Udall isn’t toast—yet—but his year just got a whole lot tougher.”) [55623, 55624, 56189]

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer caves in to pressure from leftists and the media and vetoes SB 1062, legislation that “would provide that people are covered when state or local

government requires them to violate their religion in the conduct of their business, and it would provide that people are covered when sued by a private citizen invoking state or local law to demand that they violate their religion.” At PJMedia.com Paula Bolyard notes, “Contrary to the widespread misreporting, this was not an ‘anti-gay’ bill and nothing in the text of the bill would have overtly permitted businesses to deny services or ‘discriminate’ against anyone. [The terms “gay” and “homosexuals” do not even appear in the bill.] It merely would have made clear that individuals and businesses could raise religious liberty as a defense in certain cases. Arizona’s current RFRA [Religious Freedom Restoration Act], parts of which were copied verbatim from the federal law, left some ambiguity as to when that defense would be appropriate...” Brewer states, “The bill is broadly-worded and could result in unintended and negative consequences. After weighing all of the arguments, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1062 moments ago. ...I understand that long-held norms about marriage and family are being challenged as never before. Our society is undergoing many dramatic changes. However, I sincerely believe that Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve.” (Politico previously observed, “If Brewer signs the legislation, the major concern of [Republican] party strategists is that opponents would launch an effort to overturn it. A referendum in November would allow the debate about whether denying services to gays is discriminatory to simmer through November, drawing global attention and increasing turnout among younger, liberal voters.” In other words, by vetoing the legislation Brewer may help keep Democrat voter turnout down in November.) [55628, 55640, 55672, 55699, 55700, 55708, 55772]

At FourWindsw0.net Dr. Paul Craig Roberts writes, “Who’s in charge in Ukraine? Certainly not the bought-and-paid-for-moderates that Washington and the EU hoped to install as the new government of Ukraine. The agreement that the Washington and EU supported opposition concluded with President Yanukovich to end the crisis did not last an hour. Even the former boxing champion, Vitaly Klitschko, who was riding high as an opposition leader until a few hours ago has been booed by the rioters and shoved aside. ...Where does Obama find morons like [National Security Advisor] Susan Rice and [Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs] Victoria Nuland? These two belong in a kindergarten for mentally handicapped children, not in the government of a superpower where their ignorance and arrogance can start World War III. ...Ukraine is far more important to Russia than it is to the US or EU. If the situation in Ukraine spirals out of control and right-wing extremists seize control, Russian intervention is certain. The arrogant and stupid Obama regime has carelessly and recklessly created a direct strategic threat to the existence of Russia. According to the Moscow Times, this is what a senior Russian official has to say: ‘If Ukraine breaks apart, it will trigger a war.’ Ukraine ‘will lose Crimea first,’ because Russia ‘will go in just as we did in Georgia.’ Another Russian official said: ‘We will not allow Europe and the US to take Ukraine from us. The states of the former Soviet Union, we are one family. They think Russia is still as weak as in the early 1990s but we are not.’ ...The American media is a useless news source. It serves as a Ministry for Government Lies. The corrupt propagandists are portraying the undemocratic removal of Yanukovich as a victory for freedom and democracy. When it begins to leak out that everything has gone wrong, the prostitutes will blame it all on Russia and Putin. The Western media is a plague upon humanity. Americans have no idea

that the neoconservative regime of the White House Fool is leading them into a Great Power Confrontation that could end in destruction of life on earth. Ironic, isn't it. [Obama], the person liberals thought would restore justice, morality, and reason to Western civilization, is instead now positioned as the person who will have to accept humiliating defeat or risk the destruction of life on earth." [55815]

ThePostEmail.com reports that Wikipedia "has deleted its entry for Barrister and British Intelligence operative Michael Shrimpton after videos of his declaration that Barack Hussein Obama was born in Kenya surfaced and were widely circulated on the Internet Wednesday and Thursday [February 25 and 26]. Shrimpton is seen in the video [which is from March 2008] stating that British intelligence had known that Obama was born in Kenya since at least 2008... and shared that intelligence with both Hillary Clinton and Sen. John McCain..." [55630, 55631, 55632, 55653, 55664, 55952, 55953, 55954, 55994, 56072, 56073]

On *On the Record*, Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) criticizes proposed new IRS rules that would limit the actions of conservative groups while allowing labor unions to continue their political actions. He states, "They're shutting down [tax exempt status for] more of the groups that they think are unfavorable [while] the unions are not shut down. Remember? They're allowed to do the same thing. ...What did we get today from Lois Lerner's attorney? She's supposed to come testify? She wants immunity. Now if it was all trumped-up, that the IRS was going after all these groups, why would she have asked for immunity? Why would she have taken the Fifth? And why would the IRS come after free speech?" McCarthy tells host Greta van Susteren Congress will hold Lerner in contempt if she refuses to testify: "Yes! You have to get to the bottom of this! She spoke at the very beginning and then took the Fifth. She had an opening statement. ...What's taken so long? Because they will hold up every firewall they can to not do the investigation. What did they tell the American public at the very beginning? 'Oh, it's just two ladies off to the side [in the IRS office in Cincinnati], looking at something.' We find out it was much more than that. They won't give you the information, and now they won't even come testify. If it's nothing, come before us, testify, answer the questions and don't say you have to have immunity. The only people I know who ask for immunity before they testify [are those who] have something to hide." [55629]

On February 27 Attorney General Eric Holder is briefly hospitalized. The Department of Justice's Director of Public Affairs Brian Fallon states, "During his regular morning meeting with senior staff, the attorney general began experiencing symptoms including faintness and shortness of breath. As a precaution, the attorney general was taken to MedStar Washington Hospital Center to undergo further evaluation. He is currently resting comfortably and in good condition. He is alert and conversing with his doctors. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available." (Holder is released later in the day.) [55598, 55612, 55646]

The House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing to review Obama's abuse of power and failure to "faithfully execute the laws." The well-respected Democrat law professor from George Washington University, Jonathan Turley, says, "My view [is] that [Obama] has,

in fact, exceeded his authority in a way that is creating a destabilizing influence in a three branch system. I want to emphasize, of course, this problem didn't begin with ...Obama, I was critical of his predecessor President Bush as well, but the rate at which executive power has been concentrated in our system is accelerating. And frankly, I am very alarmed by the implications of that aggregation of power. What also alarms me, however, is that the two other branches appear not just simply passive, but inert in the face of this concentration of authority. ...The fact that I happen to think [Obama] is right on many of these policies does not alter the fact that I believe the means he is doing [it] is wrong, and that this can be a dangerous change in our system, and our system is changing in a very fundamental way. And it's changing without a whimper of regret or opposition." Florida International University College of Law professor Elizabeth Price Foley states, "Situations like this, these benevolent suspensions [ObamaCare waivers and delays], as they get more and more frequent and more and more aggressive, they're eroding our citizens' respect for the rule of law. We are a country of law and not men. It's going to render Congress superfluous. ...If you want to stay relevant as an institution, I would suggest that you not stand idly by and let [Obama] take your power away." Congressman Jim Gerlach (R-PA) says, "Given the growing number of examples where [Obama] has clearly failed to faithfully execute all laws, I believe it is time for Congress to put in place a procedure for a fast-track, independent review of those executive actions. ...The ACA has been revised, altered and effectively rewritten by [Obama] and his administration 23 times since July." Congressman Tom Rice (R-SC) says, "When we have these constant changes at [Obama's] whim, think about what that does to businesses' planning capabilities and hiring capabilities and their expansion capabilities. We shouldn't wonder why our economy is struggling." [55559, 55633, 55704]

At Townhall.com Hugh Hewitt lists 14 Senate seats that Republicans may be able to capture in the November mid-term elections: West Virginia (where Congresswoman Shelley Moore Caputo is likely to win the seat of retiring Democrat Senator Jay Rockefeller); South Dakota (where Republican and former governor Mike Rounds is likely to win); Arkansas (where Congressman Tom Cotton can defeat hapless Senator Tom Pryor, who already trails in the polls); North Carolina (where businessmen Thom Tillis—and every other GOP challenger—is ahead of ObamaCare-defending Senator Kay Hagan in the polls); Michigan (where former Lieutenant Governor Terri Lynne Land will gain from being in the same ticket as popular Governor Rick Snyder); Virginia (where Republican Ed Gillespie probably has an uphill battle against Senator Mark Warner but has a chance because of ObamaCare); Alaska (where Democrat Senator Mark Begich is unpopular because of his ObamaCare vote and can barely maintain a 40 percent approval rating); Montana (where Congressman Steve Daines may be able to unseat Democrat John Walsh, who was given the seat when Senator Max Baucus—a certain reelection loser—was named Ambassador to China); Colorado (where popular Congressman Cory Gardner has announced he will challenge a vulnerable, ObamaCare-defending Senator Mark Udall); Louisiana (where incumbent Democrat Senator May Landrieu has about as much chance of winning reelection as Joe Biden has of becoming president); Minnesota (where businessman Mike McFadden may be able to unseat Al Franken, unless Franken again resorts to vote fraud—to compensate for his 39 percent approval rating); Iowa (where the race is the GOP's to lose, not the Democrats' to win); Oregon (where Dr.

Monica Wehby is challenging incumbent Senator Jeff Merkely); and New Hampshire (where Senator Jeanne Shaheen is toast if Scott Brown or Mark Steyn enter the race). (Republicans need to pick up six seats to gain control of the Senate. At the time of this writing, it seems likely that they will do so. Republican incumbents are generally not at risk in Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming.) [55623, 55624, 55710]

BizPacReview.com reports, “A South Florida orthodontist is taking on ...Obama’s penchant for unilaterally altering the Affordable Care Act without the approval of Congress. And he’s got a shot at winning. Larry Kawa took to Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., Wednesday morning to announce a lawsuit filed on his behalf with the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. It’s the only case of its kind against any of the 29 executive orders relating to Obamacare. If successful, the court could force the Obama administration to adhere to the employer mandate that it has twice delayed, contradicting the plain text of the law. ...Because he employs more than 50 workers, Kawa Orthodontics is subject to complicated regulations and penalties under Obamacare. In March 2013, Kawa spent \$5,000 on legal fees to make sure his business was in compliance with the health law. Kawa said he spent 100 additional hours learning about the law, including meetings with insurance agents and his accountant. Four months later it was all for naught. The administration changed the law without congressional approval. It was delayed again on Feb 10. ‘Whatever the stated reason for the new delay, it is illegal,’ reported the Washington Post. Kawa, along with Judicial Watch, a conservative legal organization, is suing under the Administrative Procedure Act, a bill of rights for those whose affairs are regulated and controlled by administrative agencies. Kawa said he doesn’t want his money back. He wants something the administration can’t buy. ‘I’m suing for the court to declare that the act of Congress (the Affordable Care Act) was real and not something the president can change at will,’ he said. ...Ironically, if the court rules in favor of Kawa Orthodontics, the mandate would go into effect immediately, something wary businesses and the administration don’t want. However, the fallout could send the law back to Congress for an immediate legislative fix, which the administration is trying to avoid from the outset. ‘If ...Obama truly wants to fix Obamacare, he will have to go through Congress,’ said Tom Fitton, president of Judicial Watch. The latest delay reportedly was an attempt to stem voter backlash ahead of the November midterm elections.” [55627, 55651]

Weekly first-time claims for unemployment benefits increase to 348,000—14,000 more than the prior week. [55643]

A chain of Florida restaurants called Gator’s Dockside has begun adding a one percent Affordable Care Act surcharge to its customers’ bills—to help pay for the health insurance that the law requires will have to be provided to about 250 employees. (The surcharge will reportedly bring in about \$160,000 per year in additional revenue. The insurance will cost the restaurants about \$500,000 per year.) Heritage.org reports, “[A]s the surcharge shows, Obamacare is no free lunch. Most businesses probably won’t opt to add a specific surcharge in order to cover their new health care costs, but some will certainly raise prices—or reduce quality of their products. Obamacare hasn’t driven down

the costs of health insurance, or found a magical new source to cover those costs.”  
[55648]

MotherJones.com discusses a study that claims that “from 2010 to 2099, climate change will ‘cause’ an additional ‘22,000 murders, 180,000 cases of rape, 1.2 million aggravated assaults, 2.3 million simple assaults, 260,000 robberies, 1.3 million burglaries, 2.2 million cases of larceny, and 580,000 cases of vehicle theft’ in the United States.” (At TheOtherMcCain.com, Robert Stacy McCain asks, “How are we supposed to have meaningful discussions of politics and policy, when Democrats are devoted to promoting paranoia? ... This certainty of impending climate-induced doom is intended to provoke global-warming panic that will elect more Democrats pledged to enact draconian anti-business regulations that will strangle the economy. The resulting poverty and misery can be blamed on ‘the rich,’ who will be targeted with punitive confiscatory taxes. Irrational fear and hatred are essential to the agenda of the Democrat Party, and this kind of ‘science’ gives them an excuse to say that if you oppose their environmental policies, you are *pro-rape*.” [55649]

The Obama administration unveils new regulations for nutrition labeling on food packaging. Politico reports, “What’s considered a serving size would get larger [sic; that is, a larger font would be used], the type used to display calories would get bolder and added sugars would have to be listed on roughly 700,000 consumer products—from cereal to energy drinks...” In announcing the changes, Michelle Obama says, “So there you stood, alone in some aisle in a store, the clock ticking away at the precious little time remaining to complete your weekly grocery shopping, and all you could do was scratch your head, confused and bewildered, and wonder, is there too much sugar in this product? Is 50 percent of the daily allowance of riboflavin a good thing or a bad thing? And how on Earth could this teeny little package contain five whole servings? This stream of questions and worries running through your head when all you really wanted to know was, should I be eating this or not? Is this good for my kids or not? And if it is healthy, how much of it should I be eating? But unless you had a thesaurus, a calculator, a microscope, or a degree in nutrition, you were out of luck. So you felt defeated, and you just gave up and went back to buying the same stuff you always buy. And that’s a familiar scenario for far too many families and parents trying to do the right thing for their kids—and it’s simply not acceptable. As consumers and as parents, we have a right to understand what’s in the food we’re feeding our families. Because that’s really the only way that we can make informed choices—by having clear, accurate information. And ultimately, that’s what today’s announcement is all about.” (In other words, Americans are too stupid to decide for themselves what is healthy and what isn’t, so the government will decide for you.” From Michelle Obama’s perspective, young adults are “knuckleheads” and supermarket shoppers are ignorant.) [55698, 55706, 55782]

Obama delivers a “my brother’s keeper” address at the White House about increasing opportunities for young blacks and Hispanics. Former NBA player Magic Johnson, who attended the event, tells CNN’s Wolf Blitzer, “It was, uh, very emotional, a lot of amens and people was [sic] really backing [Obama’s] speech and his message to America, not just to black and Latino young men but to America because America will be better if



Latino men and African-American men are, are educated and they can go on and be successful [sic; successful] in life, but you could just feel the, the, the room, like, it was sp, uh, they were so happy... It was a special feeling in the room, it was almost like we were in church in a sense, and he delivered a powerful message and then those young men behind him, I got a chance to meet with them for an hour afterward and all of them were so excited to be at the White House, to know that ...Obama looked like them, and gave them a message of hope, and that if they get a quality education they can be achievers in life and have a successful... successful [sic] career as far as anything they want, uh, to become in life.” [55667]

CNN’s Don Lemon (a gay black) tells Jake Tapper that Obama “has a responsibility to help everyone, but he is a black man and as I said he understands the issues that we as African-Americans face... I think he has more of a freedom now in his, listen, in his first term he really didn’t do that much about, uh, uh, you know, gay rights, about same-sex marriage, whatever, and it’s starting to happen in his second term. I had said in the beginning that that issue would be a second term issue. He had to prove to himself in the beginning [sic]. He had probably more criticism than most... because when you, when you are the first of anything, there is a, a bigger responsibility put on, on you. [For the record, George Washington was the first in the position, not Obama] He is a spectacle in a way. Everyone is looking to hit him and everyone is looking to punch him and I understand that, and as a journalist, you know, weighs, you weigh whether, how much you should criticize [him] because he’s black, what have you, but then you have to do it because ultimately you’re a journalist. [Journalists have to weigh whether to criticize Obama because he is black? Why is his race relevant to his performance in office?] So, yeah, he gets it from all ends, he gets it from everyone, so I think now that he’s in his second term, five years in, and he see, he’s thinking about his legacy, he realizes that he must do something on this particular issue [black and Hispanic unemployment and advancement] and you know what? I believe him. I believe him when it comes to this particular issue and I think that everyone has to hold him to it, journalists have to, black people have to, white people, Hispanic, we all must hold him to this because as he said it is an issue for the country, not just for one demographic.” (Some might argue that “journalists” like Lemon help explain why CNN’s ratings have plummeted.) [55668]

A pet store owner in New York tells YNN-NY he will not expand his business because of ObamaCare. Matt Sames says, “Everything is on hold. We won’t grow. We won’t reach that [50 employee] threshold. It is not worth it for us.” Plans to add two more locations have been “scrapped” by Sames because that would bring his total employee to count to at least 50—forcing him to either provide all employees with health insurance or pay the \$2,000-per-worker penalty for not insuring them. HotAir.com observes, “In order for small businesses to grow past the 50-employee mark, the return on that staffing investment has to exceed not just the base compensation of those employees (as it always must), but also the added costs of either health insurance or a penalty for each existing employee as well. That provides a huge disincentive to expansion, so it’s hardly surprising that business owners are choosing to avoid the risks of expansion and job creation altogether and staying put at current size.” [55701, 55702]

Eleven-term Congressman Ed Pastor (D-AZ) announces he will not seek reelection. (Pastor had no Republican challenger in 2012. His Libertarian challenger in the heavily Democrat and Hispanic district won 18 percent of the vote. There is speculation that Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), who faces a tough reelection fight in the state's 9th District, may now run in Pastor's much safer 7th District. If she runs to safety in the 7th, the Republicans may have an easier time winning the 9th.) [55650, 55674]

ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau reports on the media's fear of covering Obama's phony past and his forged birth certificate in particular. She writes, "Over the last five years, anyone seriously seeking information on Barack Hussein Obama II has been harassed, intimidated, had email accounts and websites breached, and received threats, a fact confirmed by Cold Case Posse lead investigator Mike Zullo. ...During a presentation to the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPFOA) last spring, Zullo said, "The media shut this issue down 24 hours after the birth certificate was released. I have been in contact with... media people who cannot and will not disclose their identities... some fear for their jobs, and some fear for their safety. There were threats made; there were people threatened with their occupation—losing their occupation—if they continued this. I can tell you personally we were supposed to be on Hannity and we got cut. I know people out there... talking heads [television commentators]... want to cover it. I know there are people at Fox News that want to cover it and they're being told not to. ...[WheresObamasBirthCertificate.com's Michael] Volin told The Post & Email that following the first [Cold Case Posse] press conference [held by Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Zullo] on March 1, 2012, Zullo was scheduled to go on Hannity's show, but it was canceled. 'He had execs and broadcasters call him up telling him they were in fear for their job and couldn't do anything about it. ...We've been sold out by the media. They were worried about their jobs, so rather than report the truth, we got sold down the river. I want to point out to everybody that that's the problem: the media is covering up, for whatever reason; the powers that be have done that, and we don't appreciate that.'" [55652, 55713]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The IRS's new proposal to crack down on nonprofits was in the works a year before the tea party targeting scandal broke, according to a Treasury Department official who told congressional investigators it was spurred by pressure from outside parties. The revelation follows earlier testimony from former IRS Commissioner Steve Miller, who told investigators that they started 'brainstorming' ways to crack down on nonprofits while under pressure from a senior Democratic senator who was 'complaining bitterly to us' about the way groups were engaging in politics while organized as social welfare nonprofits. House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa and subcommittee Chairman Jim Jordan [R-OH] recounted the testimony in a letter sent this week to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, who now must decide what to do about the proposed crackdown. The two lawmakers said the evidence proves the IRS crackdown was under way well before the revelation last May that the tax agency had improperly targeted tea party and conservative groups for scrutiny, and delayed many of their applications for nonprofit status." [55654]

The Congressional Budget Office issues a report on the weak economy that declares, “More than four and a half years after the end of the recession, employment has risen sluggishly—much more slowly than it grew, on average, during the four previous recoveries that lasted more than one year. At the same time, the unemployment rate has fallen only partway back to its prerecession level ...and a significant part of that improvement is attributable to a decline in labor force participation that has occurred as an unusually large number of people have stopped looking for work. Moreover, the rate of long-term unemployment—the percentage of the labor force that has been out of work for more than 26 consecutive weeks—remains extraordinarily high. ...CBO expects that, under current laws governing federal taxes and spending, output will grow more rapidly in the next few years than it has in the recent past but recovery in the labor market will continue for some time. The agency projects that by the second half of 2017, the gap between actual and potential GDP will return to its average historical relationship—bringing the effects of cyclical conditions on unemployment and labor force participation back to their average values in 2018. ...The pace and nature of the economic recovery have been difficult to predict, and the path of the economy and the labor market will no doubt hold surprises as well. CBO’s projections of the labor market are subject to several sources of uncertainty, and many developments could cause outcomes substantially different from those CBO has projected.” [55685, 55686]

At TheDailyBeast.com Eli Lake writes, “U.S. intelligence estimates conclude that Russia has no intention of invading Ukraine. This, despite the launch of a massive, new Russian military exercise near Ukraine’s border and moves from armed men to seize two key airports in the country’s Crimea region.” The official states, “The mere fact of the timing when you consider what is going on in Ukraine and you see the sudden nature of the exercise would cause concern. From an intelligence perspective we don’t have any reason to think it’s more than military exercises.” [55719, 55720]

Secretary of State John Kerry tells reporters, “We believe that everybody now needs to step back and avoid any kind of provocations [with regard to Ukraine].” [55720]

On February 28 Eric Margolis writes at LewRockwell.com, “Now that western Ukraine has fallen to anti-Russian, nationalist groups, Russia-oriented eastern Ukraine is also threatening to explode. This nation of 44 million is already de facto split into two parts. How Ukraine’s armed forces respond remains an important question. On Thursday their command vowed to resist any incursion by Russian troops, but loyalties remain uncertain. Unrest and some violence have now erupted in Crimea. Though 80% ethnic Russian, this highly strategic peninsula was given by the Soviet leadership to the Soviet Ukrainian Republic in 1954. ...On my last assignment in Crimea, it was clear that most of its people desired reunification with Russia. Equally important, Sevastopol is Russia’s second most important naval base, and its gateway to the Mediterranean. ...Adding complexity, Crimea’s remaining Muslim Tatar population is now calling for their own state independent of Russia. ...Tatars remain a partly homeless internal refugee population calling for redress from the uncaring Russian state. Many Tatars want no part of Russia—like their fellow victims of Stalin, the Chechen. ...The Cold War seems to be resuming, at least in Ukraine. Unrest is also brewing in neighboring Belarus, a nasty Stalinist

dictatorship closely aligned with Moscow. The West and Moscow are trading accusation of meddling in Ukraine. In truth, both are busy stirring the pot, a dangerous game that has brought NATO and Russia to the brink of armed confrontation. The neocon Undersecretary of State for Europe, Victoria Nuland, said US has spent \$5 billion promoting anti-Russian groups in Ukraine. Chances of a Ukrainian civil war are also rising. Ukraine is flat broke. Kiev needs at least \$35 billion in immediate loans. Russia has withdrawn its offer of \$15 billion. Who wants to lend money to a bankrupt, chaotic Ukraine filled with restive, angry people?” [55662]

Also at LewRockwell.com, Michael S. Rozeff warns, “[Secretary of State] John Kerry’s mouth is a danger to us plebes and rubes out here in the sticks. He said ‘Any kind of [Russian] military intervention that would violate the sovereign territorial integrity of Ukraine would be a huge, a grave mistake. The territorial integrity of Ukraine needs to be respected.’ There is no discernable threat posed by either the Ukraine or Russia to ordinary Americans. [But] Kerry’s capacity to create frictions or confrontations with the Russians is a definite threat to Americans. The game between Kerry and Putin is between two governments, the U.S. and Russia. It’s the equivalent of two gangsters having a spat and posturing with one another. Putin is more than posturing, however. He will use his army to hold Crimea. Over 150,000 troops are doing a ‘military exercise.’ The option of splitting off part of Ukraine also remains open. Hence, what Kerry is saying is already academic unless the U.S. wants to match Putin’s raise and call him by some concrete measures. ...Why should Kerry be sticking his nose into their business anyway and acting as if he knows what’s right for them? The only reasonable answer is that this Ukrainian matter is strictly and only power politics. Kerry cared less about democracy in Egypt and Syria! He doesn’t respect the unique kinds of Islamic republics that arise. This matter is strictly gangster Kerry talking to gangster Putin during a very real poker game. ...The only sensible way to understand the kinds of things that U.S. leaders like Kerry say about matters like these is in terms of the expansion of the U.S. empire. Their rationales in terms of ‘robust democracies’ are hype.” [55663]

After planes carrying an estimated 2,000 Russian troops land in the Crimea, Ukraine, and capture airports, Obama issues a statement: “The Ukrainian people deserve the opportunity to pursue their own country. We are now deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside Ukraine. ...Any violation of Ukrainian sovereignty would be deeply destabilizing to the region. ...It would represent a profound interference in matters that must be determined by the Ukrainian people. ...The United States will stand with the international community in confirming their will be costs for military intervention in Ukraine. [Obama does not elaborate on what those costs might be.] In this difficult moment, the United States stands in support of his [Ukrainian Prime Minister Aresniy Yatsenyuk’s] efforts. Human beings have a universal right to determine their own future. I commend the Ukraine for its restraint.” Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “Fox News’ Jennifer Griffith has reported eye witnesses on the ground in Crimea describe the atmosphere as ‘increasingly militarized.’ The troop movement comes a week after former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted. Half of the country wants to join the European Union and the other half is sympathetic to the former Soviet Union, as is Putin. ...Apparently the Obama

administration isn't calling thousands of troops landing on the ground in Crimea an 'invasion,' but rather an 'uncontested arrival.'" [55670, 55671, 55681, 55689, 55692, 55695, 55711, 55722, 55723, 55735]

Meanwhile, a Russian intelligence ship is docked in Havana, Cuba. (Whether its goal is gathering intelligence or taunting Obama is not known.) [55690, 55691]

In the understatement of the year, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) tells CNN that Russian President Vladimir Putin "does not have a great deal of respect for ...Obama." McCain says, "Obviously we're not going to be sending troops anywhere or armed conflict. But I really believe that when Vladimir Putin looks around the world—sees what happened in Syria when the red line turned pink and [Obama] didn't act, our acquiescence to their occupation of Georgia, all of the actions that have to do and indicate a decline of the United States of America—I think he's emboldened and he's acting. I'm sure you saw the pictures of President Putin and ...Obama sitting next to each other at their last meeting. The fact is that President Putin does not have a great deal of respect for ...Obama. They have a very chilly relationship. ...Putin has made it clear many times that he will restore the way of Russia, and Ukraine is the crown jewel. ...When Putin sees [Obama] say, 'We are going to act if they cross a red line' and they don't, and when he sees [Obama] say, 'Tell Vladimir that when I'm reelected I'm going to be more flexible,' when we were pushing the 'reset button,'—I think that Vladimir Putin, being the old KGB apparatchik that he is, does not believe that the penalty for this behavior will be very severe." [55682, 55733]

Somali employees at Minneapolis City Hall declare February 28 "Hijab Day" and persuade other female employees to cover their heads—including city council members and lesbian Police Chief Janee Harteau (who is married to a female sergeant on the police force). (The White House has no comment, but Pamela Geller asks, "When are they having FGM [female genital mutilation practiced by Muslims] Day?") [56205, 56202]

DailyCaller.com reports, "If you listen to the chattering class in Washington, D.C., Hillary Clinton is a virtual certainty for the 2016 Democratic nomination, and the front-runner in the next presidential race. But in private, rumors persist that the former Secretary of State may not even be capable of making it to Iowa and New Hampshire. Clinton, these skeptics often say, will not run for president again because of health concerns." Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill claims, "She's 100%." [55678, 55746]

DailyCaller.com also reports on a document from the Clinton archives related to a "HillaryCare" promise that was eventually left out of Bill Clinton's January 1994 State of the Union address. The memorandum to two Clinton speechwriters says, "We have a line on p. 10 that says 'You'll pick the health plan and the doctor of your choice.' This sounds great and I know that it's just what people want to hear. But can we get away with it? Isn't the whole thrust of our health plan to steer people toward cheaper, HMO-style providers? It's one thing to say we'll preserve your option so pick the doctor of your choice (recognizing that this will cost more), it's quite another to appear to promise the nation that everyone will get to pick the doctor of his or her choice. And that's exactly

what this line does. I am very worried about getting skewered for over-promising here on something we know full well we won't deliver." (DailyCaller notes, "The line did not make it into the final speech.") [55683]

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis adjusts its estimate of fourth quarter 2013 growth from an annual rate of 3.2 percent downward to 2.4 percent. GDP growth for the entire year was a mere 1.9 percent—lower than the 2.8 percent in 2012. [55693, 55694]

Immediately after issuing his comments on the Ukraine, Obama heads to a Democrat National Committee fundraiser where he says, "Well, it's Friday. It's after 5 o'clock. So, this is now officially happy hour with the Democratic party. I can do that. It is an executive action. I have the authority." According to WashingtonTimes.com, "An audience member then asked [Obama] to 'tell us about your plans for nuclear war with Russia.'" Obama responds, "I'm sorry, who's, who, who's that back there [in the audience]? What, what the heck are you talking about? ...No, no, don't worry about it. ...We're, we're, we're, we're okay. Have a seat. The, uh, I don't know anything about *that* plan. I don't know what you've been reading. Let, let, let, let, let me return to what I was talkin' about. The, uh, see, he thought happy hour started earlier." Obama also says, "As Democrats, we've let the other side define the word 'freedom' for too long. ...Freedom is the peace of mind of knowing that if you got sick, you won't lose everything. Freedom is the ability to change jobs and start a new business, chase a new idea without fear of losing your health insurance." (In other words, "Freedom is having others pay for your health insurance.") "Freedom is the knowledge that your future in this country is secure; you're not going to be treated like a second-class person once we fix our broken immigration system." (That is, "Freedom is the ability to break the law and enter the country illegally and be treated like legitimate citizens.") [55718, 55721, 55810]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, "As [Obama] and his national security team are apparently the last to learn, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has scant regard for international norms when they run counter to his goal of re-establishing Soviet-style regional hegemony over unfortunate states like Georgia and Ukraine who have the temerity to want a more free, prosperous future for their people. And Putin is under no illusions that [Obama's] vague threats mean any more than his infamous 'red line' in the Syrian desert. If we were serious about standing up to Putin's power grab, we would immediately suspend Russian membership in the Group of Eight [G8], which should consist of nations that can contribute to a civilized order. And if the Russians persist in this aggressive action, we should look into additional measures such as suspension from the World Trade Organization and even the United Nations Security Council. The United States should stand with Ukraine." [55719]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, "The U.S. cannot accept Russian aggression against a neighbor and United Nations member in blatant violation of international law. Tyrants like Vladimir Putin may threaten and intimidate, but the clear arc of history favors people's universal desire to be free." [55719]

Former Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), who chaired the House Intelligence Committee, tells Newsmax.com, “[Obama] talked about ‘there will be costs’ [to Russia for its actions in the Ukraine]. He didn’t say what those would be. What does this mean? Where does it go? There’s not a whole lot the United States can do.” [55733]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says, “The Ukrainians, and I think everybody, is shocked by the weakness of Obama’s statement. It is—I find it rather staggering. And the fact that we have done nothing of any importance... He said, ‘We will stand with the international community’—meaning we’re going to negotiate with a dozen other countries who will water down the statement—‘in affirming that there will be costs.’ Meaning, in making a *statement*, not even imposing the cost, but in making a *statement* about imposing a cost, ‘for any military intervention.’ So he’s like three levels removed, and what he’s saying is we’re not really going to do anything and we’re telling the world.” [55712]

RealClearDefense.com reports, “One member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is considering resigning in protest over recent defense cuts, says Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK). The ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee told reporters at a Defense Writers Group breakfast on Thursday that the nation’s top military officers have privately expressed their discontent with the continuing budget uncertainty at the Defense Department. Time magazine’s Mark Thompson asked Inhofe, ‘How close do you think [the chiefs] are to saying, ‘Screw this, I’m out of here?’ ‘I’m not going to tell you who they are, but there’s one who’s very close to doing just what you’re suggesting, responded Inhofe. His role on the Senate Armed Services Committee entails frequent meetings with top military commanders.” Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are: Chairman General Martin Dempsey; Vice Chairman Admiral James Winnefeld; Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno; Air Force Chief of Staff General Mark Welsh; Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos; and Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert. [55715]

At ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau reports, “On ‘Freedom Friday’ this evening, host Carl Gallups revealed that ‘major media’ are now participating in the criminal investigation launched by Maricopa County, AZ Sheriff Joe Arpaio as an adjunct to the probe launched by the Maricopa County Cold Case Posse into the long-form birth certificate image posted on the White House website nearly three years ago. The posse declared that the image was a ‘computer-generated forgery’ two years ago tomorrow, on March 1, 2012, along with Obama’s Selective Service registration form, which has been sent to those filing FOIA requests for it, including The Post & Email. ...In 2007 and 2008, the media either refused or failed to investigate Obama’s background and life story. Anyone attempting to mention on air Obama’s lack of documentation and later, the declared forgeries, was precluded from doing so. CNN, MSNBC, NBC News, ABC News, and CBS News have all run notably positive coverage of the Obama regime and ridiculed anyone questioning Obama’s eligibility or integrity. Now, of ‘major media,’ Gallups said, ‘They’re coming to Arpaio and [lead investigator Mike] Zullo’ and ‘making their promises’ to report to the public Zullo and Arpaio’s discoveries. Both Arpaio and Zullo have received death threats as a result of their work,

as have bloggers and online reporters who continued to investigate Obama's background. Zullo has stated that he possesses statements from media employees who said they were threatened with their jobs or that they felt their 'safety' was at risk because they had begun to probe the birth certificate issue." [55739, 55740]

"Gallups and others have affirmed that the information Zullo is preparing to release is supported by 'hard-copy documentation' and is 'universe-shattering.' According to Gallups, the information is tentatively scheduled for release in 'late March,' although he said it could be later if developments and coordination with major media necessitates a delay. ...It is generally understood by most Americans that a 'natural born Citizen' is one born in the United States. Historically, [however,] the citizenship of the parents was at least equally important to the person's birthplace to assign 'natural born' status. Zullo and Gallups have previously stated that the question regarding Obama is whether or not he is even a U.S. citizen at all. Citizens who petitioned their elected representatives since 2007 to look into Obama's credentials and eligibility were ignored or told that since Obama claimed he was born in Hawaii, he was eligible to serve as president. Mike Volin of WheresObamasBirthCertificate.com has recently reported, however, that 'members of Congress' are now cooperating with the investigators, although none has spoken publicly about the matter to date. In July 2010, a researcher funded by The Post & Email and a private citizen traveled to the Hawaii Department of Health to gather information from the 1961-64 Birth Index, where Obama's name and birth date were listed with an anomaly showing directly above it. A researcher who made the same trip in 2009 stated in a sworn affidavit that at that time, Obama's name did not appear in the Birth Index." (Arpaio, Zullo, and Gallups are approaching the point where they run the risk of undermining their credibility with repeated claims that "something big is coming!"—that never sees fruition.) [55739, 55740]

WorldTribune.com reports, "Israel has determined that the Iranian-sponsored Hizbullah acquired an advanced Russian cruise missile. Israel Navy officers said Hizbullah has received the P-800 coastal defense system sold by Russia to Syria. The officers said Hizbullah was believed to have already deployed the Yakhont cruise missile, with a range of 300 kilometers and capable of striking Israel's entire Mediterranean coast. 'We assume that advanced Yakhont missiles have also reached the hands of Hizbullah, and we are preparing for that,' Rear Adm. Eli Sharvit, commander of the naval base in Haifa, said." [55747]

CNSNews.com reports, "At a time of escalated tensions with the West over Ukraine, Russia says it is negotiating with eight governments around the world for access to military facilities, to enable it to extend its long-range naval and strategic bomber capabilities. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday the military was engaged in talks with Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Algeria, Cyprus, the Seychelles, Vietnam and Singapore. 'We need bases for refueling near the equator, and in other places,' [Russian news agency] ITAR-Tass quoted him as saying. Russia is not looking to establish bases in those locations, but to reach agreement to use facilities there when required. The countries are all strategically located—in three leftist-ruled countries close to the U.S.; towards either end of the Mediterranean; in the Indian Ocean south of the Gulf of Aden;



and near some of the world's most important shipping lanes in the Malacca Strait and South China Sea.” [55814]