

## *The Complete Obama Timeline*

*January 2015*

Effective January 1 the minimum wage is increased in 19 states. The highest is in Washington—\$9.47 per hour. (The Heritage Foundation’s James Sherk notes the law of unintended consequences: “Minimum-wage increases reduce the total earnings of low-wage workers—the higher pay for some workers gets completely offset by the nonexistent pay of those no longer employed.”) [69756]

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi delivers an address in which he says, in part, “I am referring here to the religious clerics. We have to think hard about what we are facing—and I have, in fact, addressed this topic a couple of times before. It’s inconceivable that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire umma [Islamic world] to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing and destruction for the rest of the world. Impossible! That thinking—I am not saying ‘religion’ but ‘thinking’—that corpus of texts and ideas that we have sacralized over the centuries, to the point that departing from them has become almost impossible, is antagonizing the entire world. It’s antagonizing the entire world! Is it possible that 1.6 billion people [Muslims] should want to kill the rest of the world’s inhabitants—that is 7 billion—so that they themselves may live? Impossible! I am saying these words here at Al Azhar, before this assembly of scholars and ulema—Allah Almighty be witness to your truth on Judgment Day concerning that which I’m talking about now. All this that I am telling you, you cannot feel it if you remain trapped within this mindset. You need to step outside of yourselves to be able to observe it and reflect on it from a more enlightened perspective. I say and repeat again that we are in need of a religious revolution. You, imams, are responsible before Allah. The entire world, I say it again, the entire world is waiting for your next move... because this umma is being torn, it is being destroyed, it is being lost—and it is being lost by our own hands.” (Raymond Ibrahim calls the remarks al-Sisi’s “most forceful and impassioned plea to date on the subject”—which is why it does not take long for the Muslim Brotherhood to call for his assassination. Obama, of course, preferred the radical Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi to the level-headed—and possibly even “moderate Muslim”—man who replaced him, al-Sisi.) [69843, 69880, 69926, 70935, 70936]

Robert Spencer, of JihadWatch.org, later writes of al-Sisi’s address: “Although Sisi’s words were directed to Islam’s guardians and articulators, they indirectly lead to several important lessons for Western observers. First, in just a few words, Sisi delivered a dose of truth and hard-hitting reality concerning the Islamic world’s relationship to the rest of the world—a dose of reality very few Western leaders dare think let alone proclaim. ‘It’s inconceivable,’ he said, ‘that the thinking that we hold most sacred should cause the entire umma [Islamic world] to be a source of anxiety, danger, killing and destruction for the rest of the world. Impossible!’ What a refreshingly honest statement to come from not only a political leader but a Muslim political leader who has much to lose, not least his life! Contrast his very true words with the habitual reassurances of the Western

establishment that Islamic world violence and intolerance is a product of anything and everything but Islam. ...[O]ne must appreciate how refreshing it is for a top political leader in the heart of the Islamic world to make such candid admissions that his Western counterparts dare not even think let alone speak. And bear in mind, Sisi has much to lose as opposed to Western politicians. Calls by the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists that he is an apostate are sure to grow more aggressive now.” [70131]

Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo dies at age 82. (Cuomo’s son Andrew is the current governor of New York.) [69776]

WND.com reports, “Malik Zulu Shabazz, the former national leader of the New Black Panther Party, said the radical group will ‘build up an army’ in 2015 to combat police, and he predicted coming events ‘that are gonna [sic] seem tragic to white America and may even shock our own consciences,’ including the killing of police officers. On a recent episode of the New Black Panthers Party’s ‘Black Power Radio’ posted at Breitbart.com, Shabazz, current national president of Black Lawyers for Justice, said: ‘Mister Malcolm X, he consistently teaches us self-defense. The most honorable Elijah Muhammad continuously teaches us self-defense. The honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey teaches us self-defense, and we know, our leader and our teacher, the honorable Khalid Abdul Muhammad, teaches us self-defense. What am I saying? Right now it’s time to build up that army. Right now it’s time for us to build up those corps, those troops. It’s time to get strong. It’s time for lifting weights and working out and going to the gun range and all of that.’” (Obama appeared with Shabazz at a March 2007 event in Selma, Alabama.) [69774]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “Americans should thank the U.S. oilman—from the drillers in the field to the engineers behind the scenes—who did the impossible. They vastly increased the supply of what was supposedly a permanently declining resource, and thereby helped to crash prices. Oilmen, not the government, returned hundreds of billions of dollars to American consumers. They, not Ivy League experts and Wall Street grandees, kick-started the economy where federal subsidies had failed to. They, not the policies of the Obama administration or the rhetoric of Secretary of State John Kerry, weakened our enemies. Almost everything Obama tried for six years in an effort to rev the economy—from near-zero interest rates and \$1 trillion annual budget deficits to Obamacare and vast increases in entitlements—has failed. His foreign-policy stances of resets and leading from behind led to chaos and emboldened enemies. Yet the United States economy is slowly recovering with cheap energy. Consumers have more money. Industries are returning to U.S. soil. Abroad, spendthrift oil producers such as hostile Iran, Russia, and Venezuela are nearly broke. Friendly rivals such as Japan and the European Union can’t compete with the U.S. energy edge. What Obama once ridiculed is now saving him from himself—after he had championed policies that nearly destroyed him. The Greeks had a word for it: irony.” [69813]

USAToday.com reports that “Poor, long-uninsured patients are getting Medicaid through Obamacare” and are visiting doctors in increasing numbers, while “middle-class workers are increasingly staying away” because of the incredibly high deductibles in the

ObamaCare plans. Dr. Praveen Arla says, “It’s flip-flopped,” with patients telling him, “My deductible is so high. I’m trying to come to the doctor as little as possible. ...What is the minimum I can get done?” [69827]

On January 2 the state of California begins taking applications for drivers licenses from illegal immigrants. At Townhall.com Kevin Glass writes, “Before, a legal social security number was required for a license in California, but under the new law as many as 1.4 million illegal immigrants are expected to be granted licenses. ...[T]his wouldn’t be the first state to provide drivers licenses to illegal immigrants, but it would be opening the largest illegal immigrant population in the country to a program that would grant drivers licenses.” [69782]

At 321Gold.com Adam Hamilton writes, “The seemingly-invincible US stock markets powered higher again last year, still directly fueled by the Fed’s [Federal Reserve’s] epic quantitative-easing money printing. But 2015 is shaping up to be radically different from the past couple years. The Fed effectively abandoned the stock markets when it terminated its bond buying late last year. So this year we will finally see if these lofty stock markets can remain afloat without the Fed. ...But extrapolating that incredible upside action of 2013 and 2014 into the future is supremely irrational, because its driver has vanished. The past couple years’ mammoth stock-market rally was completely artificial, the product of central-bank market manipulation. The Federal Reserve not only created vast sums of new money out of thin air to monetize bonds, but it aggressively jawboned the stock markets higher. ...With the Fed printing money with reckless abandon, every minor stock-market dip was quickly bought. But with no significant selloffs to rebalance sentiment, greed flourished out of control. That eventually forced the stock markets to today’s immensely overextended and overvalued levels, which stock-market history shows are exceedingly dangerous. The Fed distortion in these markets is extreme beyond belief.” [69822]

“...By aggressively inflating its balance sheet through money printing, the Fed *artificially suppressed* all the normal healthy stock-market selloffs that should have rebalanced sentiment. But back in late October, it ended its latest QE3 bond-monetizing campaign. And with this new year ushering in a new Congress dominated by anti-Fed Republicans, it is politically impossible for the Fed to launch any kind of QE4. ...Without QE or even the prospect of QE in 2015, the Fed’s implied backstop for the US stock markets *no longer exists*. Sooner or later some selling catalyst will arrive, probably out of Europe like back in 2010 and 2011. And as investors and speculators start to exit stocks, that selling will cascade as there will be insufficient quick buy-the-dip capital inflows with the Fed no longer actively convincing traders to flood back in. ...With the Fed’s balance sheet and zeroed interest rates finally starting to normalize in 2015, the lofty and overvalued Fed-levitated stock markets are in for some tough sledding. The implied backstop that enticed and forced so many traders to over-deploy in the stock markets in recent years has vanished. And the serious gravity of the Fed’s absence will become readily apparent once the next selloff starts cascading.” [69822]

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) posts a photograph of herself pointing to a service station sign advertising gasoline for \$1.989 per gallon. In August 2011, when gasoline was about \$3.50 per gallon, Bachmann was criticized by the mainstream media for arguing that a free market and increased U.S. oil production would lower prices. She was specifically ridiculed for stating, “Under President Bachmann, you will see gasoline come down below \$2 a gallon again. That will happen.” *Time* magazine, for example, wrote, “Assuming OPEC simply reduced its own production to account for increased American drilling—which it would—prices at the pump might drop a whole 3 cents a gallon.” Obama also ridiculed Republican thoughts of lower gas prices. In 2012 Obama said, “We can’t just drill our way to lower gas prices. They’re already dusting off their three-point plans for \$2 gas. I’ll save you the suspense: Step one is drill, step two is drill, and step three is keep drilling.” (Bachmann was right; Sarah Palin’s “Drill, baby, drill” was right; Obama and the media were wrong.) Lower gasoline and home heating oil prices are good for consumers, of course, but there is a slight down side. If prices remain low the result will be oil industry workers losing their jobs because the per-barrel price of oil will not be enough to sustain marginal operations. (That is, some wells and fracking operations that can make a profit with \$100 per barrel oil will lose money if the price is only \$60 per barrel. Some argue that, despite falling prices, Saudi Arabia is refusing to cut its production in an effort to shut down fracking operations in the United States. Fracking is unprofitable with oil priced as low as \$50-\$60 per barrel.) [69783, 69784, 69791, 69813, 69862, 69863, 69927]

With the price of gasoline falling, more than a few politicians suggest raising gas taxes. Former Obama economic advisor Lawrence Summers states, “[T]here has always been the concern that a carbon tax would place an unfair burden on some middle- and low-income consumers. Those who drive long distances to work, say, or who have homes that are expensive to heat would be disproportionately burdened. Now that these consumers have received a windfall from the fall in energy prices, it would be possible to impose substantial carbon taxes without them being burdened relative to where things stood six months ago.” HotAir.com responds, “Did you notice what he did there? People were significantly changing their work schedules, opting for ‘staycations’ and making sacrifices so they could heat their homes until we finally found a way to drive the prices down. But under Larry’s plan, *we can make sure that life doesn’t suck any more than it did before!* Everyone should be really excited about that sort of plan.” (California has a new “global warming tax” of 2.25 percent times the *retail* price of gasoline. Because the retail price includes taxes, the fee is also a tax on a tax. According to DailyCaller.com, “Californians pay a whopping 77 cents per gallon extra on gasoline due to fees and taxes.”) [69792, 69882, 69905, 69915]

Obama signs an executive order authorizing financial sanctions on a number of North Korean officials and agencies. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew states, “Today’s actions are driven by our commitment to hold North Korea accountable for its destructive and destabilizing conduct. Even as the FBI continues its investigation into the cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment, these steps underscore that we will employ a broad set of tools to defend U.S. businesses and citizens, and to respond to attempts to undermine our values or threaten the national security of the United States.” (Such

sanctions are generally meaningless. Individuals and companies subject to the sanctions simply use different names to avoid them.) [69788, 69797]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that Obama and his wife “spent a leisurely couple hours at Vintage Cave Honolulu, dropping an estimated \$1,000 on a meal with wine at an upscale restaurant that actually charges \$500,000 for those who want to buy a membership. Mr. Obama passed on the membership at the Vintage Cave Honolulu, but he did order the price-fix menu at \$295 per plate, Mediate reported. And, according to Honolulu Magazine, ‘the total bill for two, with wine, will approach \$1,000.’” The next evening they eat at the exclusive restaurant Nobu, where meals cost “only” about \$180 per person. [69789, 69793, 69795, 69796]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer calls the decline in gasoline prices “the biggest story of the year. It’s damaged our enemies, the Russians, the Venezuelans, the Iranians, and, of course, it’s propelling our economy. And when Obama says that... we’ve been increasing oil production, think of this: oil production on federal lands has *declined* by 16 percent since 2010. This [increased production and lower prices] has happened in spite of Obama and not because of Obama. It’s occurred entirely on state owned and private lands.” [69794]

On January 3 White House spokesman Eric Schultz announces that after returning from his vacation in Hawaii, Obama will travel to Michigan, Arizona, and Tennessee to announce “executive actions and legislative proposals.” (He will not visit the scandal-scarred Phoenix Veterans Administration hospital, even though he will be only one mile away.) Obama “will act next week to lay out specific new actions and preview new policy proposals that will be included in his [January 20] State of the Union address.” According to Schultz, Obama “is eager to get to work and looks forward to working with the new Congress on policies that will make sure middle-class Americans are sharing in the economic recovery. But [Obama] is clear that he will not let this Congress undo important protections gained—particularly in areas of health care, Wall Street reform and the environment.” (Obama’s appearance in Wayne, Michigan, to brag about the revitalized auto industry, will be at a Ford plant that has been temporarily shut down due to slow sales of its hybrid vehicles. Why Obama will speak at a Ford facility is not clear; it was General Motors and Chrysler that accepted bailout money from the taxpayers, not Ford. Of course, it would look worse if Obama went to Italy to brag about how he “saved” Chrysler by giving it to Fiat.) [69798, 69826, 69848]

Former U.S. Senator Edward Brooke (R-MA) dies at the age of 95. Brooke was the nation’s first elected black Senator. (Obama presented Brooke with the Congressional Gold Medal in October 2009. Strangely, the award was approved more than one year earlier. It is unclear why the ceremony was delayed.) FoxNews.com notes, “The first blacks served in the Senate in the 1870s, just after the Civil War, when senators were still selected by state legislatures rather than by popular election. Mississippi’s postwar legislators sent two blacks to the Senate. Hiram R. Revels served about 14 months in 1870-71, and Blanche K. Bruce served a full six-year term from 1875 to 81.” [5746, 5747, 69799]

FreedomOutpost.com posts the response of a fallen Marine after the White House sent him a condolence letter. Steven R. Hogan, father of Lance Corporal Hunter D. Hogan, wrote back to Obama: “I wonder how many of these get returned to you! Mr. Barrack [sic] Hussein Obama, I am deeply saddened that you are the President of the United States. You sir are an embarrassment to the Oval Office. My [late] son, as well as most Marines I know, despise you and your lack of representation for our military. Your ridiculous rules of engagement have caused the massive amount of casualties on your watch in Afghanistan. While we watch your media pander to your administration and clearly sweep things under the rug for you, I fully understand Marines die. You have tied their hands & feet! I am thankful I did not serve under a Comm. in Chief such as you. I am sickened that my son had to. I wonder... I doubt that you will see this, I hope you do though! Steve Hogan” [69818]

After People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) lashes out at Sarah Palin for posting a photograph on Facebook of her young son Trig standing on the family dig to reach the kitchen counter, Palin responds, “Dear PETA. Chill. At least Trig didn’t eat the dog. Hey, by the way, remember your ‘Woman of the Year,’ Ellen DeGeneres? Did you get all wee-wee’d up when she posted this sweet picture [a photo of a little girl standing on her dog to reach the sink to brush her teeth]? Hypocritical, much? Did you go as crazy when your heroic Man-of-Your-Lifetime, Barack Obama, revealed he actually enjoyed eating dead dog meat [when he lived in Indonesia]?” [69814, 69815, 69849]

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee appears on his final program, *Huckabee*. He announces to the audience that he will be exploring the possibility of running for president. [69810, 69812, 69835]

On January 4 attention-seeking journalist Geraldo Rivera is turned away from the funeral of slain New York City police officer Wenjian Liu. Police officers again turn their backs on Mayor Bill de Blasio, despite having been told by the police commissioner not to do so. [69802, 69803, 69804, 69808]

On *This Week*, freshman Congresswoman Mia Love (R-UT) says, “I was elected by my district to make sure that we get the decision-making back in their hands, and I’ve said I was going to do everything I can to repeal and replace it [ObamaCare] with something that is functional... with broad health-care reforms, free-market health-care reforms. And that’s exactly what I’m going to do.” [69829]

On *Fox & Friends*, Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) announces he is a candidate for Speaker of the House, challenging John Boehner (R-OH). Gohmert also releases a statement that reads, in part, “After the November elections gave Republicans control of the Senate, voters made clear they wanted change. There have been numerous examples of problematic Republican leadership, but we were hopeful our leaders got the voters’ message. However, after our Speaker forced through the CRomnibus [spending bill] by passing it with Democratic votes and without time to read it, it seemed clear that we needed new leadership. There had been much discussion. But, until yesterday, no one had

stepped up. ...At this point, the Speaker's election is not about a particular candidate. It is about whether we keep the status quo or make the change the country demands. I am putting forward my name for consideration as Speaker and hope that with a new Speaker, be that me or someone else, we can fight for the ideals and principles that the voters wanted when they elected us in November." (Gohmert is not going to win the contest on the initial vote, but *if* enough House members vote against Boehner, Gohmert can force a second, third, or subsequent vote until a candidate gets the requisite 218 votes. Gohmert, and more than a few Americans, are hoping that if Boehner fails on the first vote, momentum will build to choose someone more conservative and less willing to cave in to Obama.) It is worth noting that the Speaker of the House does *not* have to be a member of Congress. House members could elect *anyone* speaker, as long as he or she is an adult U.S. citizen. [69816, 69817, 69820, 69823, 69824, 69830, 69832, 69840, 69845]

According to Caddell Associates survey of 602 Republican voters, 34 percent say they would "definitely" prefer that House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) be replaced; 26 percent "probably" would prefer someone else; 64 percent call Boehner "ineffective" in standing up to Obama. [69833]

Obama feels obliged to comment on the death of an ESPN sportscaster named Stuart Scott. To no one's surprise, Obama makes the statement about himself: "I will miss Stuart Scott. Twenty years ago, Stu helped usher in a new way to talk about our favorite teams and the day's best players. For much of those twenty years, public service and campaigns have kept me from my family—but wherever I went, I could flip on the TV and Stu and his colleagues on SportsCenter were there. Over the years, he entertained us—with courage and love. Michelle and I offer our thoughts and prayers to his family, friends, and colleagues." (*The Weekly Standard's* Bill Kristol tweets, "Could politicians PLEASE not refer to their OWN careers as 'public service?'" Arguably, of course, it is the golf course, rather than his career choice, that has kept Obama away from his family.) [69805, 69806, 69807]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "More than a year before ...Obama nominated federal prosecutor Loretta Lynch to be attorney general, a former federal judge quietly called on Congress to investigate her U.S. attorney's office for trampling on victims' rights. Paul Cassell, a law professor at the University of Utah, said Ms. Lynch's office, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, never told victims in a major stock fraud case that a culprit had been sentenced—denying them a chance to seek restitution of some \$40 million in losses. Mr. Cassell, in written remarks to a House Judiciary Committee panel in 2013, said if prosecutors were using secretive sentencing procedures to reward criminals for cooperating with them, it could violate the Crime Victims Restitution Act. ...Ms. Lynch's nomination to be attorney general will soon come before the Senate Judiciary Committee, now controlled by Republicans, and the case could surface as a topic of inquiry." [69837, 70464]

*The New York Times* writes, "Because the House has been in Republican hands since 2011, the real test comes in the Senate, where the new majority leader, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, is armed with a 54-46 majority. He will still have to find a way

to make legislation passed by the House attractive to enough Democrats to assemble the 60 votes needed to overcome procedural obstacles and send them to [Obama's] desk." (By "procedural obstacles" the *Times* means "filibuster," which will likely become as acceptable to the mainstream media with Senate Democrats in the minority as it was considered unacceptable when the Republicans were in the minority. HotAir.com observes, "Well, this is the reward for all the work that went into winning historic gains in the midterms. There are now only two tools remaining in the obstructionist work shed. One is for the Democrats in the Senate to filibuster everything that the GOP puts up for a vote. The other is for [Obama] to wear out a few veto pens. And this opening salvo from the New York Times aptly demonstrates the difficulty they will face in trying to pin all the nation's ills on the Republicans.") [69876, 69877]

The BurningPlatform.com warns, "The surreal nature of this world as we enter 2015 feels like being trapped in a Fellini movie. The .1% party like it's 1999, central bankers not only don't take away the punch bowl—they spike it with 200 proof grain alcohol, the purveyors of propaganda in the mainstream media encourage the party to reach Caligula orgy levels, the captured political class and their government apparatchiks propagate manipulated and massaged economic data to convince the masses their standard of living isn't really deteriorating, and the entire façade is supposedly validated by all-time highs in the stock market. It's nothing but mass delusion perpetuated by the issuance of prodigious amounts of debt by central bankers around the globe. ...The global economy is imploding. Stock markets do not reflect the economic circumstances of the average person in Asia, Europe or the U.S. Governments across the globe have been captured by banking, corporate and military interests. They have used their power to subsidize rich elite oligarchs at the expense of the common people. Their weapons have been debt, control of interest rates, ability to rig stock, bond and currency markets, and media propaganda to convince the masses these criminal actions have actually benefited them. The people are beginning to realize government is not their friend. Trusting the government to solve the problems they created which led to the 2008 worldwide financial collapse, is insane. They have saved their .1% benefactors, while impoverishing billions. Now that their 'solutions' are failing again, they will use real weapons wielded by soldiers, police and prison guards to enforce their decrees and self-serving laws. The year of consequences may have finally arrived. The people versus their governments is crystallizing as the impending chaotic clash which will turn violent, bloody and vicious. Your freedom will depend upon the outcome." [69866]

On January 5 lawmakers return to Washington, D.C. from their holiday vacations.

Noah Rothman writes at Townhall.com, "It is certainly tempting to overstate the significance of the Republican Party's victories in 2014. But even a circumspect analysis of ...Obama's sixth year midterm must concede that the damage done to the Democratic Party is staggering. What's more, the party in control of the White House has determined that it is appropriate to respond to their drubbing with petulance and wagon circling, making it all the more likely that the injury done to the Democratic brand will be lasting. ...Maybe the most painful loss for Democrats was the nationwide reproach voters dealt the intellectually vacuous War on Women. A media once predisposed to be friendly



toward the fictitious assault on women's rights almost universally caricatured candidates who based their campaigns on this tired theme. ...Even Sandra Fluke, who moved to California to begin her political career as a state senator after serving as the face of the War on Women, lost to a fellow Democrat by nearly 22 points despite raising \$1 million." [69825]

"...Huffington Post contributor Bob Burnett penned perhaps the most entertaining spasm masquerading as political analysis. 'Republicans don't care if they scuttle our democracy along with the fragile economy, to them winning is all that matters,' his frothing screed read. 'Let's begin the 2016 campaign season by calling Republican politicians by their true name: traitors. Enemies of the United States of America.' ...This is the mainstream liberal response to Republican victories, and they are catered to by no less a figure than [Obama]. Obama gave license to these deeply wounded notables to project recklessly when he responded to his party's repudiation by refusing to acknowledge its legitimacy. 'To everyone that [sic; who] voted, I want you to know that I heard you,' Obama opened a post-shellacking press conference in the White House. 'To two-thirds of voters that [sic; who] chose not to participate in the process yesterday, I hear you, too.' [Obama] twice made note of how few Americans turned out to ratify what his allies had insisted repeatedly was the Republican Party's mindless obstructionism. 'I'm the guy who is elected by everybody and not just from a particular state or a particular district,' Obama later added for those who missed the subtleties in his dismissal of the popular will." [69825]

"Obama and his incautious allies overreached after 2008, and today the Republican Party is restored to a position of power they have not enjoyed since Herbert Hoover's administration. Republicans are well-advised to avoid repeating the Democrats' mistakes; that means exercising caution, avoiding brinkmanship like threatening government shutdowns or impeachment, and taking a pass on show votes designed to placate only the conservative base. Republicans played a good hand well in 2014, and they will have to display all that year's acumen and more in the next two years. But the Republicans will also benefit from a Democratic Party that is imploding along with their repudiated, hubristic leader. In 2008, Obama was unanimously hailed as a Democratic savior who would deliver America into a new progressive era. He would be another FDR, his giddy admirers claimed. Today, many would quietly concede, assumptions about his presidency in tatters, Obama is more likely to be remembered by his fellow Democrats as another Woodrow Wilson." [69825]

*The New York Times* reports that at Harvard, "Members of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the heart of the 378-year-old university, voted overwhelmingly in November to oppose changes that would require them and thousands of other Harvard employees to pay more for health care. [The poverty-stricken Harvard professors, whose annual salaries easily average more than \$100,000, are not happy that they will now have a \$250 deductible and a \$20 co-pay for a doctor visit.] The university says the increases are in part a result of the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act, which many Harvard professors championed. The faculty vote came too late to stop the cost increases from taking effect this month, and the anger on campus remains focused on questions that are

agitating many workplaces: How should the burden of health costs be shared by employers and employees? If employees have to bear more of the cost, will they skimp on medically necessary care, curtail the use of less valuable services, or both?” (In other words, Harvard’s elitists loved Obama and ObamaCare until they learned it would impact them negatively, and not just the peons in the rest of the country. Some might argue that Harvard professors and administrators were “Grubered.”) [69828, 69854, 69879, 69902, 69904, 69923]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki repeatedly refused to answer questions this afternoon about the 53 political detainees Cuba promised to release as part of a deal with ...Obama to normalize relations with the United States. When asked about a lack of transparency in the prisoner exchange process, Psaki said, ‘Well, we know who’s on there. And the Cuban government knows who’s on there.’ ...After Psaki stated that she had no updates to provide, a befuddled [Associated Press reporter] Matt Lee asked, ‘Hold on—hold on a second. Can we—I mean, is it—what’s happening? Are they out? Are they not out? ...Where are they?’ Psaki responded, ‘I don’t have any more updates to provide for you, Matt.’ Lee, frustrated, followed up, ‘So the Cubans don’t actually have to do anything?’ Psaki answered, ‘Matt, no. This is something they’ve agreed to. I would point you to them for any updates on the number of people or the people have been released.’” (“Go ask the Castro brothers” is arguably not the best answer the Obama administration should be giving to the questions, but Psaki was not about to say, “Obama got taken to the cleaners by Fidel and Raul.”) [69838, 69852, 69855, 69878, 69921]

France drops its 75 percent tax on its wealthiest citizens, after many of them responded by fleeing to Great Britain and elsewhere. To the surprise of no one except socialists and *The New York Times*’ Paul Krugman, the tax generated nowhere near the revenue that was anticipated by the government. (Whether Obama and his fellow Democrats paid any attention to the disastrous scheme is not known.) HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey observes, “This episode does point out the dangers of static tax analysis, a topic that will become important in the new Congress. Republicans want a new CBO [Congressional Budget Office] director who will rely more on dynamic tax analysis than Douglas Elmendorf has in the past in order to score legislation with a view as to how incentives and disincentives will impact the economy. Elmendorf’s CBO has done some dynamic scoring, but not enough for the GOP. The opposition to the change wants to cast Republican motivations as a Laffer Curve/supply-side joke, but the failure of Hollande’s pet project demonstrates the total unreality of static analysis. It’s true that dynamic analysis has to make assumptions about the impact of incentives and disincentives on market behavior, but static analysis makes the ridiculous assumption that neither have *any impact at all.*” (“Static analysis” fails to take into account human behavior. Raising the capital gains tax by 10 percent, for example, will *not* increase revenue by 10 percent, because the higher tax rate will prompt some investors to *postpone* the sale of their assets in order to delay the payment of any tax.) [69839]

Jerome Corsi reports at WND.com, “Since the passage of Obamacare, House Speaker John Boehner has been dogged by critics pointing out his investment portfolio has

benefited from owning insurance and medical company stocks that have profited from the legislation. An analysis of Boehner's current investment holdings includes a number of stocks benefiting from Obamacare in a total portfolio estimated at between \$3.5 and \$5 million in current market value. ...Boehner's Obamacare-related investments trace back to 2009, when the Obama administration was pushing the Affordable Health Care Act through Congress. ...Boehner has continued to profit from health-industry investments tracing back to 2009: Wellpoint Inc, which he bought at \$56 a share, is now trading at \$124.37. Cardinal Health, which he bought when it was trading at approximately \$30 a share in 2011, is now trading at \$80.44; and Pfizer which was trading at under \$20 a share in 2010, is now at \$31.06." [69861]

FoxNews.com reports, "Former CBS News correspondent Sharyl Attkisson has sued the Justice Department over the hacking of her computers, officially accusing the Obama administration of illegal surveillance while she was reporting on administration scandals. In a series of legal filings that seek \$35 million in damages, Attkisson alleges that three separate computer forensic exams showed that hackers used sophisticated methods to surreptitiously monitor her work between 2011 and 2013. 'I just think it's important to send a message that people shouldn't be victimized and throw up their hands and think there's nothing they can do and they're powerless,' Attkisson said in an interview. ...In the lawsuit and related claims against the Postal Service, filed in Washington, Attkisson says the intruders installed and periodically refreshed software to steal data and obtain passwords on her home and work computers. She also charges that the hackers monitored her audio using a Skype account. The award-winning reporter says she and her attorneys have 'pretty good evidence' that these efforts were 'connected' to the Justice Department. She said she was caught in a 'Catch-22,' forcing her to use the lawsuit and an administrative complaint to discover more about the surveillance through the discovery process and to learn the identities of the 'John Does' named in the complaints. ...Attkisson learned through a Freedom of Information request that the FBI opened an investigation of the hacking case in May 2013, but says the bureau never interviewed her or even notified her of the probe. Attkisson resigned from CBS last March after complaining that she was increasingly unable to get her investigative stories on the air. She has published a best-selling book, 'Stonewalled,' about her battles against the network and the administration as she investigated stories on such subjects as Benghazi, Fast and Furious and ObamaCare." [69844, 69881, 69922]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest criticizes the selection of Congressman Steve Scalise (R-LA) as House Majority Whip. Earnest says, "Who they choose to serve in the leadership says a lot about who they are. There's no arguing that who Republicans decide to elevate to a leadership position says a lot about what the conference's priorities and values are." (Earnest does not comment on what Obama's reliance on race-baiter and extortionist Al Sharpton as his "racial tensions czar" says about Obama.) [69873]

Earnest admits to reporters that Obama has no scheduled meetings with any Republican leaders. He tells Julie Pace of the Associated Press, "...I would anticipate that [Obama] will have an opportunity to sit down with congressional leaders in the first couple of weeks that they're back here. I don't have a specific date at this point, but I would

anticipate that that's something that will happen if not this week, then the week or two after that." WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler writes, "Nope, no meetings scheduled to try to usher in this latest new Era of Cooperation and Goodwill. Not even a phone call to a Republican from Hawaii. Only call I know of [Obama] made to a member of Congress from either party was to Harry Reid after Reid fell off an exercise machine and broke his face. Instead, Obama will be doing his usual dog and pony show this week, flying out to Michigan to talk to autoworkers about the autowonders he has performed for them and then to Phoenix and Tennessee to speak to typical Obama-style audiences of gullible school kids." [69874]

At Shoebat.com Ben Barrack provides additional information about the "Barack H. Obama Foundation," an alleged non-profit group founded by Obama's half-brother, Abongo Malik Obama, in 2008. It turns out that the foundation's executive director was Alton Ray Baysden, "a registered Republican with a 35-year career with the U.S. State Department and Intelligence Community, as Shoebat.com has reported. Baysden's field of operation included diplomatic security; he also worked in Karachi, Pakistan at a time when Barack [Obama] was doing work for an employer that helped American businesses operate abroad. That employer also had a history of putting CIA operatives on their payroll, according to the New York Times." Obama briefly worked for Business International, one of the companies the *Times* has noted has CIA ties. In *Dreams From My Father*, Obama wrote, "Like a spy behind enemy lines, I arrived every day at my mid-Manhattan office [at Business International]." [69864, 70668]

Ben Barrack notes that the founding of the Barack H. Obama Foundation (BHOF) "was founded in the home of... Baysden in April of 2008 but never filed for its tax-exempt status... When the heat was put on BHOF in May of 2011, courtesy of a formal complaint by the watchdog group National Legal and Policy Center that was reported by the New York Post, the powers that be kicked into gear. Making the BHOF legal became a top priority from the top down. Paperwork that should have been filed three years earlier but wasn't, was finally filed. BHOF had been accepting tax-deductible donations without being tax-exempt, a crime if done so more than 27 months without that status. BHOF received its 501(c)(3) approval letter, replete with [Lois] Lerner's signature and a date stamp of June 26, 2011—a SUNDAY! Lerner had backdated the approval by a whopping 38 months and in record time! ... As if the crime of fraud is not bad enough, Lerner should have been put on the hook for being an accessory to terror funding as Malik has deep ties to terrorists, terror groups and even one State Sponsor of Terrorism, as Shoebat.com has reported. The most explosive scandal in the history of the United States is being universally ignored and the reason why is clear. A whole lot of people have had their dirty hands tied behind their backs. They've also been gagged by [Obama, who] knows all their secrets and knows how to make them dance. In return, he's been protected and just continues living like a king. Can you think of a better reason why all this is getting ignored [by the media]?" [69864]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Companies will be forced to disclose how many times more their Chief Executive Officers earn relative to rank and file employees, the result of a little known regulation in Dodd-Frank to be finalized later this year. The provision is

backed by labor unions like the AFL-CIO, which seeks to ‘shame companies into lowering CEO pay.’ The price tag of the regulation is expected to be ‘substantial,’ costing more than \$72.7 million and over 500,000 hours to comply. The ‘pay ratio disclosure rule,’ originally found in section 953(b) of the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform of 2010, requires all publicly traded companies to disclose the ratio of the CEO’s salary compared to the median salary of all employees at the company.” (If the average salary of a company’s employees is, for example, \$52,745 and the CEO is paid \$2,435,000, then that CEO earns 46.165 times more than the average employee. That is, of course, totally useless information that tells no one anything about whether the company is profitable, well-run, or has stock worth buying—but the federal government has decided it is worth wasting 500,000 man-hours per year to calculate that information for all publicly-traded companies.) [69867]

Political pundits wonder whether a lawsuit against billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein will harm Hillary Clinton’s presidential run. According to court documents obtained by NationalEnquirer.com, Bill Clinton “traveled on Epstein’s private jet numerous times and partied on a Caribbean island owned by Epstein, who served 13 months for soliciting a minor for prostitution. ‘While it’s been reported that the two men were friends, Bill’s name is all over the legal papers, which are chock-full of sordid claims about Epstein,’ a source told The ENQUIRER.” [69883, 69884, 69916, 69933, 70796, 70797]

Two New York City police officers are shot by two grocery store robbers. The injuries are not life-threatening. The two Hispanic perpetrators flee the scene. (One of the two officers, Andrew Dossi, is reportedly not pleased when Mayor Bill de Blasio visits him in the hospital.) [69872, 69919]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer slams Obama’s “deal” with Cuba, saying it was “hollow from the very beginning. There is no real care in this administration for human rights abroad. Obviously, they have no great interest in these [53 political] prisoners [who may or may not be released by the Castro brothers]; it was a throw-in at the end of the deal. They had none for the revolution in Iran in 2009; they have none for Russian dissidents who stand in the way of the deal with the Russians. Look, the reason that [White House press secretary] Josh Earnest was pretending that this is a humanitarian, independent gesture on the part of the Castros is because we don’t want to ‘offend’ the Cubans into thinking it was somehow a deal. Well, why in God’s name did we immediately release the three Cuban spies and not insist that there be an immediate release of the 53 Cubans? Why is it in stages? Here are people who are entirely innocent of a real crime, other than opposing the regime and [we’re] releasing real criminals. ... We’re going to start negotiations in two weeks on normalization without insisting in advance that the prisoners are released? That’s not a precondition? We’re going to start and get absolutely nothing? It’s impossible to believe that the administration would be so weak and thoughtless in doing that. We will see. They have two weeks to produce. I hope they do, but I’m worried that they won’t.” [69903]

On *On the Record*, Greta Van Susteren asks Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) what would happen if Republicans were somehow able to repeal ObamaCare. He responds, “We could try freedom for a while. We had it for a long time. That’s where you sell something and I agree to buy it because I like it. That’s how we operate in most of rest of the marketplace other than health care. Now [Obama] has said you can only buy certain types of health care that I approve of, and anything I don’t approve of, you are not allowed to purchase. We could try freedom. I think it might work. It works everywhere else.” [69885]

On January 6 the 114th Congress commences, with Republicans holding the majority in both the House and the Senate. House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) ekes out a victory and is reelected to his leadership position; 25 Republicans vote against Boehner, most Democrats vote for Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi gets 164 votes. Congressman Daniel Webster (R-FL) gets 12 votes; Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) gets three votes; 10 Republicans vote for others or simply “present.” At Townhall.com Guy Benson notes, “The 25 ‘no’ votes represent the most revolt tallies cast against any Speaker in more than a century. The uprising fell several votes shy of forcing a second ballot. A small handful of Democrats voted for someone other than Nancy Pelosi.” The House will likely act to quickly approve the “Hire More Heroes Act” (which will benefit military veterans), the “Save American Workers Act” (which would change the ObamaCare work week from 30 to 40 hours so that employers are not forced to reduce working hours to fewer than 30 in order to avoid ObamaCare penalties), and legislation to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Katie Pavlich reports, “On the Senate side, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY] is putting the Keystone XL pipeline at the top of the to-do list in addition to the repeal of unpopular parts of Obamacare like the medical device tax and individual mandate. Education reform, ...Obama’s executive action on illegal immigration and further investigation of the IRS targeting scandal will also be main focuses in coming months. Tax reform is also a possibility.” [69846, 69850, 69851, 69853, 69869, 69886, 69891, 69901]

Boehner retaliates against conservative Republicans for voting against him by childishly removing Congressmen Daniel Webster (R-FL) and Richard Nugent (R-FL) from the House Rules Committee. Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) tells WashingtonExaminer.com, “It’s outrageous. I thought maybe we were actually going to be able to work together, but if people are going to be punished for representing their district, there is another big fight about to happen.” (Whether other conservatives will be punished remains to be seen. Boehner spokesman Michael Steel told DailyCaller.com last week, “Boehner has said publicly that there will be no retribution for ‘no’ votes.”) [69860, 69908]

The recent resignation of Congressman Michael Grimm (R-NY) after tax evasion charges left the House with 434 members, rather than 435. Boehner would have needed 218 votes to win a majority if all 434 members voted, but because a number of Democrats were not present Boehner was able to achieve a majority with only 216 votes. [69901]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters Barack “eager to work with the new Congress” Obama will not sign Keystone XL pipeline legislation. New Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) States, “[Obama] threatening to veto the first bipartisan infrastructure bill of the new Congress must come as a shock to the American people who spoke loudly in November in favor of bipartisan accomplishments.” House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, “After years of manufacturing every possible excuse, today ... Obama was finally straight ... about where he truly stands. Fringe extremists in [Obama’s] party are the only ones who oppose Keystone, but [Obama] has chosen to side with them instead of the American people and the government’s own scientific evidence that this project is safe for the environment.” Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) says, “Don’t tell me that before you even taste the stew, you don’t like it. That’s insane.” [69858, 69859, 69887]

Earnest also tells reporters Obama opposes a change in the ObamaCare definition of full-time employment from 30 to 40 hours per week because it “would be putting even more workers in a situation where we could see some employers cutting back on their hours to try to avoid the requirement of providing them quality health insurance.” (Earnest’s claim is absurd. It is ObamaCare’s definition of a full-time employee as an individual who works at least 30 hours per week that prompted businesses to reduce the working hours of part-timers from 30-39 hours to fewer than 30 in order to avoid providing them with expensive health benefits. Changing the definition to 40 hours means that many part-time workers will be able to *return* to previous schedules where they worked more than 30 hours per week.) [69887]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), new chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, issues a subpoena to Attorney General Eric Holder for documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. (Townhall.com points out, “[T]he new subpoena is identical to subpoenas previously issued to Holder in 2011 and 2013. Subpoenas expire at the end of every Congress and must be reissued.” Holder ignored the previous subpoenas, which is why he was held in contempt of Congress. He will continue to be uncooperative unless Congress shows a willingness to force him to comply with a threat of incarceration.) [69895]

The U.S. Army searches for an “active shooter” at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center, in Fort Bliss, Texas. FoxNews.com reports, “A spokesman for the center said he had no information on casualties or arrests, but the entire hospital complex and its adjacent veterans’ hospital were placed on lockdown. Parts of Fort Bliss were placed on lockdown, though the medical center and the veterans hospital are physically separated.” 10NewsHunt’s Kimberly Hunt later reports that a doctor was shot and killed, and the shooter then killed himself. [69856, 69857]

According to Fox News, Obama is set to release two more terrorists from the detainee camp at Guantanamo. [69868, 69875]

An Instagram photograph of Malia Obama wearing a “Pro Era” t-shirt makes its way into an ad from the company: “Malia Obama rocking that classic Pro Era tee! Make sure you

get your official Pro Era gear from theproera.com!” MadWorldNews.com writes, “The 16-year-old first daughter was photographed in a somewhat questionably posed close-up, sporting a \$32 T-shirt for the hip-hop collective Pro Era (aka Progressive Era), who are based in Brooklyn, New York. Somehow the group’s leader, simply known as Joey Bada\$\$ (dollar signs included, not added for creative censorship), got his hands on the private picture and was pretty excited about the fact that his brand name was being represented in the White House. One of the members of the collective, which consists of rappers, producers, and non-musical members, such as photographers and publicists, told Gawker that Mr. Bada\$\$ had allegedly been sent the snapshot by ‘a mutual friend of Malia’s and the pro era member.’ Although details of just how the photo was received by the sorted [sic; sordid] cast of characters has not been substantiated, one has to wonder who took the photo.” [69930, 69931, 69932, 70003, 70132, 70407]

“...However, what we do know is a little about Bada\$\$, a founding member of Pro Era who shared the photo, and must be supported by Malia by evidence of her t-shirt, despite him having a reputation that is less than favorable considering current events. On Friday night, Joey was arrested and charged with assault after punching a security guard in the face when the guard asked to see his credentials before a show in Australia, ABC.net.au reported. Bada\$\$ broke the man’s nose in the altercation at the Falls Festival near Byron Bay. He was granted bail and is due back in court in March.” YoungCons.com adds, “The real concern here isn’t the selfie, it’s why in the world ...Obama—the leader of our nation—is allowing his daughter to publicly support a group comprised of individuals who have a history of committing acts of violence? Let’s be real. This isn’t responsible parenting. Allowing his daughter to be involved with these people, even from a distance, gives them an even bigger platform to express their ideals, which are questionable at this point. Also, why isn’t greater care being taken to make sure photos of his children aren’t being scattered across the Internet? Surely [Obama] has access to top notch cyber security. The bottom line here is if a man can’t lead and protect his own family, how in the world can he lead and protect a country? The short answer is he can’t.” [69930, 69931, 69932, 70003, 70132, 70407]

According to a Gallup poll, “In 2014, 29% of Jewish Americans identified as Republicans or leaned Republican, little changed in recent years, but higher than in 2008. Meanwhile, 61% of American Jews identified as Democrats or leaned Democratic, down from 71% in the strongly Democratic year of 2008. The diminished Democratic skew among American Jews in recent years is slightly more pronounced than the same trend among all Americans. The percentage of the general population that identifies with or leans Democratic has fallen by about seven percentage points since 2008, compared with the 10-point drop among Jews. The percentage that identifies with or leans Republican among the general population is up three points, compared with the increase of seven points among Jews.” [69910, 69911]

The Associated Press reports, “South Korea said Tuesday that rival North Korea has a 6,000-member cyber army dedicated to disrupting the South’s military and government, a dramatic increase from an earlier estimate of 3,000 such specialists. Without elaborating, Seoul’s Defense Ministry also said in a report that North Korea may also have gained the



ability to strike the U.S. mainland because of its progress in missile technology demonstrated in recent long-range missile tests. It also said North Korea is advancing in efforts to miniaturize nuclear warheads to mount on such missiles. ...North Korea has conducted three nuclear tests since 2006, the most recent in early 2013, and experts believe it has a handful of crude nuclear bombs. Many outside observers speculate that it has not mastered the technology to make the bombs small enough to put on long-range missiles, although some say it may be able to arm shorter-range missiles with warheads.” [69906, 69907]

On January 7, in Paris, three Muslim terrorists claiming to be with “al-Qaeda Yemen” storm the headquarters of the newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* and execute 12 people, including editor and cartoonist Stephane Charbonnier, his police bodyguard, and a police officer brutally shot in the head outside the building even after he begs for mercy. (Ironically, that police officer, Ahmed Merabet, was a Muslim.) The sole female victim is killed because she was Jewish. According to the *Daily Mail*, “Witnesses said the suspected Al Qaeda gunmen were heard to shout ‘the Prophet has been avenged’ and ‘Allahu akbar!’—Arabic for ‘God is great’—as they stalked the building. ...Despite a shoot-out with armed officers, the ‘calm and highly disciplined’ men were able to escape in a hijacked car and remain on the loose.” The gunmen also shout, “We have avenged the prophet [Mohammed].” (Muslims have been angry with the newspaper for its cartoons mocking Islam. Charbonnier has stated, “I’d rather die standing than live on my knees.” Regrettably, even a police bodyguard was unable to stop Muslims from killing him.) Author Frederick William Dame explains the satirical publication’s name: “Charlie is an endearment form of Charles, which means strong and manly. The title *Charlie Hebdo* is a French play on words with the expression *Charia Hebdo*, which means *Sharia Weekly*.” [69888, 69889, 69892, 69896, 69898, 69918, 69924, 69934, 69948, 69956, 69958, 69959, 69977, 70002, 70012, 70105, 70165, 70250]

Examiner.com writes, “What many counter-terrorists in the U.S. find extraordinary is that there are reports coming out of France that police first-responders arrived unarmed and, once they realized the gravity of the emergency, they fled from the heavily-armed terrorists. A witness to the attack, Benoit Bringer, a correspondent with Agence Premiere Ligne (APL), claims he observed a number of men armed with machine guns wearing masks. He noted that there were two French police officers arriving at the scene of the bloody attack riding bicycles and unarmed. According to Bringer, the officers found it necessary to flee instead of fighting the suspected terrorists. According to the French government, the majority of police officers—as in Great Britain—do not carry firearms. ‘It’s also worth noting that France has extremely stringent gun control laws,’ said Robert Farago, a former newsman from the United Kingdom.” [69929, 70017]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells CNN, “The other thing that we have tried to do, uh, is to work with the leaders in the Muslim community, both here in the United States and around the world, to try to counter those violent messages, that, we’ve seen ISIL, you know, distort the name of a peaceful religion and distort the tenants [sic; tenets] of an otherwise peaceful religion to try to inspire people to carry out acts of violence...” (Islam is the most violent religion in the world, but its apologists in the Obama

administration continue to refer to it as peaceful.) Asked by Chris Cuomo if the Paris killings are an act of terrorism (as if they are anything else), Earnest replies, “Uh, well, I, you know, I, I, based on what we know right now it does seem like that’s what, uh, what we’re confronting here, and, uh, this is an act of violence that we would, that we certainly do condemn and, and, uh, you know, if, if based on this investigation, it turns out to be, uh, an act of terrorism, we would condemn it with the strongest possible terms, too.” Earnest tells MSNBC the White House is waiting to see what the “motivation” of the killers was—as if their screaming “allahu akbar” is not a clue—and repeats the administration line that Islam is “a peaceful religion.” [69893, 69900, 69928]

Earnest tells Fox News, “Well... uh, you know, this, this is an, an act of terrorism that we condemn in the strongest possible terms, uh, right now the thoughts and prayers of [Obama and his wife] and everybody here at the White House are with, uh, the families of those who were killed or injured in this attack. Uh, you know, right now is a moment where we stand shoulder to shoulder with our allies over in France, us, as they face down, uh, you know, these, uh, this terrible act of violence.” (Earnest eagerly says, “we condemn [the act] in the strongest possible terms,” but then does not use strong terms at all and merely calls it a “terrible act of violence.” The White House remains unwilling to identify Islam as the problem, and continues to dance around the issue as though every act of terrorism has nothing to do with the radical ideology of that religion.) [69894]

Obama issues a written statement that makes no mention of Islam: “I strongly condemn the horrific shooting at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* magazine in Paris that has reportedly killed 12 people. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this terrorist attack and the people of France at this difficult time. France is America’s oldest ally, and has stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the fight against terrorists who threaten our shared security and the world. Time and again, the French people have stood up for the universal values that generations of our people have defended. France, and the great city of Paris where this outrageous attack took place, offer the world a timeless example that will endure well beyond the hateful vision of these killers. We are in touch with French officials and I have directed my Administration to provide any assistance needed to help bring these terrorists to justice.” (Why it matters that France is “America’s oldest ally” is not clear. One would hope that the U.S. government would offer words of support to any nation that suffers an attack by radical Islamists.) Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reminds readers of Obama’s 2012 statement at the United Nations: “The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” In September 2012, then-White House press secretary Jay Carney criticized *Charlie Hebdo* for publishing cartoons featuring an image of the Islamic prophet Mohammed. He called the images “deeply offensive to many” and said they “have the potential to be inflammatory. ...[O]bviously, we have questions about the judgment of publishing something like this. In other words, we don’t question the right of something like this to be published; we just question the judgment behind the decision to publish it.” [69892, 69946, 69957, 69996, 70018, 70102]

In totally emotion-less spoken remarks, Obama says, “I’ve reached out to President Hollande of France and, uh, hope to have the opportunity to talk to him today, because I thought it was appropriate for me ta [sic; to] express my deepest sympathies, uh, to the

people of Paris and the people of France for the terrible terrorist attack that took place, uh, earlier today. I think that all of us, uh, that France is one of our oldest allies, uh, our strongest allies; they have been, uh, with us at every moment, when we, uh, from 9/11 on, uh, in dealing with, uh, some of the terrorist organizations around the world that threaten us. For us to see the kind of cowardly, uh, evil attacks that took place today, uh, I think, uh, reinforces, uh, once again why it's important for us to stand in solidarity with them just as they stand in solidarity with us. Uh, the fact that this was an attack, uh, on journalists, an attack on our free press, also underscores the degree to which, uh, these terrorists fear freedom of speech, and freedom of the press, uh, but the one thing that I'm very confident about is that, uh, the values that we share with the French people, uh, a belief, a universal belief in freedom of expression, uh, is something that, uh, can't be, uh, silenced because of the senseless violence, uh, of a few." (Pamela Geller posts a video in which Obama *does* show emotion and outrage—not at a terrorist action, but over his disgust at Americans who oppose his efforts to impose more gun controls.) [69914, 69946]

NYDailyNews.com posts a 2011 photograph of slain editor and cartoonist Stephane Charbonnier holding up a cartoon—but pixelates the image so as not to offend Muslims. (Pamela Geller points out that the *New York Daily News* “has long shilled for jihadists.” Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “Do these fools at the Daily News think that they will be spared? Do they think that if they adopt Sharia blasphemy laws forbidding mockery or criticism of Muhammad, that they will avoid the jihad onslaught? And if they adopt Sharia restrictions on freedom of expression of their own accord, does it even matter if they are spared? The free press is dying of a self-inflicted wound. Now is the time for every newspaper in the world to republish Charlie Hebdo’s cartoons of Muhammad, in solidarity with the jihad murder victims and as a show of defiance—a signal that we will protect free speech and free societies. But this will not happen. Instead, watch for more pusillanimity, more temporizing, more denial that this had anything to do with Islam, and more calls for ‘respect’ for ‘religious sensibilities’—i.e., the placement of Islam in a protected category, above criticism.”) [69899, 69951, 69952, 69978]

In Muslim-intimidated Great Britain, *The Telegraph* warns, “France faces rising tide of Islamophobia.” (Dead French journalists apparently do not bother *The Telegraph*; it worries that someone might give a Muslim customer a dirty look while buying croissants at the local boulangerie.) In what will likely be one of the greatest understatements of the year, Whitehall editor Holly Watt writes, “The attacks were seen as a symptom of serious problems in French society, which has a large immigrant population from former French colonies including Algeria.” [69925, 69955, 69976, 69979]

*The Telegraph* also uses the headline, “Charlie Hebdo attacks: Anti-Islam [political] parties are now on the march across Europe.” Robert Spencer writes at JihadWatch.org, “You might think that in the wake of an Islamic jihad attack that murdered twelve journalists and jihad attacks becoming ever more frequent in Europe, the Telegraph might find room for a piece headlined, ‘Islamic jihadists on the march across Europe.’ But no, instead the focus is on ‘anti-Islam parties.’ Did ‘anti-Islam parties’ shoot up the Charlie

Hebdo offices? Subjugated Britannia is an absurd place with a ‘free press’ so cowed and submissive to Islam that it puts Al Jazeera to shame. Britain is a clown circus; some enterprising entrepreneur (from, say, Dubai) should just put a fence around it and charge admission.” [69976]

*The New York Times* writes, “The sophisticated, military-style strike Wednesday on a French newspaper known for satirizing Islam staggered a continent already seething with anti-immigrant sentiments in some quarters, feeding far-right nationalist parties like France’s National Front.” (The *Times*, like *The Telegraph*, is worried about a “backlash” against Muslims. It is the *Times* and the *Telegraph* that are the real “Islamophobes.” They so fear Muslims that they will publish whatever nonsense is necessary to curry favor with them and avoid offending them. The *Times* fears the National Front party—as if its members are modern-day Nazis. They are not. They merely want France to be *France*—not Algeria.) French Muslim Arnaud N’Goma complains, “Some people when they think terrorism, think Muslims.” Samir Elatrassi adds, “Islamophobia is going to increase more and more. When some people see these kinds of terrorists, they conflate them with other Muslims, and it’s the extreme right that’s going to benefit from this.” (It apparently has not occurred to N’Goma and Elatrassi that there are reasons why people equate terrorism with Muslims.) [69939, 70041]

The *Times* also writes, “What We Know: Twelve people were killed. Three gunmen were said to be involved. They escaped by car and remained at large. French officials raised the national terror alert to its highest level. What We Don’t Know: The identities of the individuals or groups responsible for the attack. All of the victims’ identities, said to include police officers, editors and cartoonists. The reason Charlie Hebdo was targeted, though its provocative fare has angered Islamic extremist groups in the past.” (The *Times* may want to hire some new writers if their current ones cannot figure out why the magazine staff was targeted.) [69971, 69972]

National Front leader Marine Le Pen correctly blames the Paris killings on Islamic radicals, stating, “Time’s up for denial and hypocrisy. The absolute rejection of Islamic fundamentalism must be proclaimed loudly and clearly.” DailyCaller.com notes *Bloomberg Businessweek*’s Islamophobic headline: “Le Pen plays Islamist card linking attacks to immigration.” (Some might wonder if, after the murder of actress Sharon Tate and several others by the crazed followers of Charles Manson, Bloomberg wrote, “Los Angeles police play cult card.”) [69999, 70000]

The Associated Press states that it will not publish cartoons of “the Prophet Muhammad” because “It’s been our policy for years that we refrain from moving deliberately provocative images.” (This would be the same Associated Press that posted a photograph of Andres Serrano’s “artwork” called “Piss Christ,” which consisted of Christ on the cross in a bottle of urine. Examiner.com points out that in 1999 *The New York Times* published an image of Chris Ofili’s “The Holy Virgin Mary,” a painting of the Virgin Mary smeared with elephant dung and with images of genitalia prominently displayed in the background. The Associated Press and the *Times* did not mind offending Christians—because they know that offending *them* would not put their lives in danger. But they fear

negative reactions from Muslim readers and therefore treat them with kid gloves. It is the mainstream media that is Islamophobic.) [69936, 69945, 69969, 70060, 70061]

Meanwhile, Islamic organizations call for increased security at mosques and more “interfaith dialogue”—as if Muslims were the targets in the Paris attack. [69954, 69955]

Aiman A. Mazyek, speaker of the Central Committee of Muslims in Germany, claims the Parisian assassins have nothing to do with Islam, a friendly and tolerant religion. Another Muslim apologist appears on German television to claim that the killers may have shouted “The Prophet has been avenged!” and “Allahu akbar!” only to improperly direct attention toward Islam. Others claim the real danger are the nationalist groups in France (the National Front) and Germany (PEGIDA, or Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West), which (for good reason) oppose the Islamization of Europe. (The award for the “best defense” of Islamist jihad remains firmly in the hands of CNN apologist Marc Lamont Hill, who once said, “People behead for all sorts of reasons.”) [69960, 69961, 69962, 70045, 70046, 70399]

Germany’s Interior Minister, Thomas de Maiziere, states, “We have no indication for similar attack plans in Germany or concrete evidence of terrorist motivated attacks in general in Germany. The situation is serious. There is reason for concern and as a precaution, but not to panic. ...The extremist Islamism, Islamist terrorism, is something quite different from the [‘normal’] Islam. And this differentiation is urgently needed just on a day like today.” (He stops short of suggesting that “moderate” Muslims wear a “scarlet M” on their clothing, while the Jihadists wear “J” armbands.) [69963]

*Variety* whines, “The Charlie Hebdo carnage will likely fuel the racism and anti-Islam sentiment which has been on the rise in France. It will also certainly boost the popularity of far-right (Front national) party leader Marine Le Pen, who is expected to run for President in 2017.” (Yes, the carnage likely will fuel anti-Islam sentiment, just as the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942 fueled anti-Hirohito sentiment and Germany’s bombing of London fueled anti-Hitler sentiment.) [69974, 69975]

The Catholic League’s Bill Donahue condemns Charlie Hebdo for publishing articles and cartoons that offend Muslims: “Those who work at this newspaper have a long and disgusting record of going way beyond the mere lampooning of public figures, and this is especially true of their depictions of religious figures. For example, they have shown nuns masturbating and popes wearing condoms. They have also shown Muhammad in pornographic poses. While some Muslims today object to any depiction of the Prophet, others do not. Moreover, visual representations of him are not proscribed by the Koran. What unites Muslims in their anger against Charlie Hebdo is the vulgar manner in which Muhammad has been portrayed. What they object to is being intentionally insulted over the course of many years. On this aspect, I am in total agreement with them. Stephane Charbonnier, the paper’s publisher, was killed today in the slaughter. It is too bad that he didn’t understand the role he played in his tragic death. In 2012, when asked why he insults Muslims, he said, ‘Muhammad isn’t sacred to me.’ Had he not been so narcissistic, he may still be alive. Muhammad isn’t sacred to me, either, but it would

never occur to me to deliberately insult Muslims by trashing him.” (Whether Donahue is ignorant or simply frightened to death of Muslims is not clear.) [70096, 70097]

Pamela Geller notes the monumental hypocrisy of *The Washington Post* in its criticism of Fox News for not showing any of the anti-Mohammed *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons and “attempt[ing] an explanation of what may have prompted these killings without showing what may have prompted these killings.” The *Post* has also not shown any of the cartoons. Nor have CNN, MSNBC, ABC, or NBC. [69947, 69967, 70009]

On MSNBC, FirstLook.org’s Eric Bates tells Alex Wagner, “This isn’t just Islamic extremism. If you go back to the 80s, and if you’re in the Reagan administration, when Jerry Farwell sued... *Hustler* magazine for portraying him having, uh, I believe it was drunken incest with his mother in an outhouse, uh, uh, again in a visual form, and won a \$150,000 court case against *Hustler* for that, there was [sic; that was] overturned by the Supreme Court, I think eight to zero, um, so, you know, religious fundamentalists of all stripes and of all nationalities have this penchant to say, ‘We wanna [sic; want to] be able to tell you what you can and can’t portray.’” The comparison is absurd—as is the dim-witted Alex Wagner’s response: “And yet, Islam is, because of the age of terror in which we live, occupies, is a third rail, in a way, that you can show, sort of, blasphemous photos or drawings—not photos, but drawings of the Pope. Charlie Hebdo was an equal-opportunity slanderer or satirist, whatever you want to call it, in terms of religion. And yet, we focus very specifically on Islam, because it is much more incendiary and much more controversial to talk about.” (We focus on Islam because it is Muslims, not Christians or Jews or Buddhists or Sikhs, who persecute and savagely murder those who refuse to accept their ideology.) [69937, 69938, 69968, 70021, 70022]

Robert Spencer writes, “This appallingly risible analysis [by Eric Bates] is the mainstream. If you point out that suing someone for libel is quite different from massacring someone, you’re just a racist, bigoted Islamophobe.” Falwell, of course, did not storm *Hustler* magazine and blow anyone’s brains out. He merely filed a lawsuit charging slander—which failed because the court found that the contemptible *Hustler* article was of a nature that reasonable people would consider parody. Further, Mohammed has been dead for about 1,400 years; the likelihood of him showing up to file a slander lawsuit is minimal. The MSNBC guest’s reference to the Reagan administration and fundamentalists is clearly intended to suggest that conservatives and Christians are intolerant.) [69937, 69938, 69968, 70021, 70022]

Also on MSNBC, NBC “terror analyst” Evan Kohlmann says, “I think we need to understand here, there, there has to be the ability for people to be critical of other religions, of other ideas and whatnot. There has to be that ability. At the same time, look, we have to also respect Islam and we should not deliberately go out and poke our fingers in other people’s eyes, you know? It, there is—everyone should have the right to critique Islam, but at least we should do it with some sense of respect so that people don’t get the idea that this is Islamophobia, that it’s racism, that this is the exact same kind of critique or analysis that we would apply to Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, any other philosophy out there, that, look, it’s worthy of critique and debate.” [69964, 69965]

Former Vermont governor Howard Dean makes the ridiculous statement, “You know, this is a chronic problem, uh, I stopped calling these people Muslim terrorists. They’re about as Muslim as I am. I mean, they have no respect for anybody else’s life, that’s not what the Quran says. And, you know, Europe has an enormous radical problem. I think ISIS is a cult. Not an Islamic cult. I think it’s a cult...” (Dean is not asked what kind of cult it is.) [69970, 69980, 69986, 70014]

Kohlmann is incorrect. There is no law (at least not yet in the United States) that says one must “respect Islam.” People are free to *not* respect that ideology, just as people are free to not respect Nazism or communism or socialism—or any other ideology. Free speech *includes* the right to *not* respect other people’s beliefs, as long as one does not engage in illegal actions against those other people. (One is not only free to not respect abortionists; one is free to hate abortionists; but one is not free to murder an abortionist or burn down his abortion facility.) Further, disrespect of Islam cannot be “racism” any more than hatred of Catholics can be “racism.” Islam is a religion and ideology; it is *not* a race. Following Kohlmann’s guidelines, atheists would not be free to ridicule anyone who believe in a God. That would not be free speech; that would be an abrogation of free speech. Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “[I]n reality Leftists and Islamic supremacists such as the Hamas-linked Council on American-Islamic Relations condemn *all* criticism of Islam and opposition to jihad terror as ‘Islamophobia,’ and have never identified criticism of Islam they deemed legitimate. In reality, the charges of ‘Islamophobia’ and ‘racism’ are tools used to intimidate people into thinking it wrong to oppose jihad terror and Islamic supremacism.” (Additionally, a phobia is generally defined as an irrational fear of something. Fear of radical Islam is arguably not irrational; there is a mountain of evidence to support those fears.) [69964, 69965]

Reuters tweets, “Police searching for two brothers from Paris region, other man from Reims area linked to attack on satirical weekly: police source.” [69912, 69913]

NBC incorrectly reports, “Paris Attack Suspect Dead, Two in Custody, U.S. Officials Say.” (NBC later tells TheBlaze.com, “NBC News issued an earlier report based on intelligence from two consistently reliable U.S. counterterrorism officials in different government agencies. As soon as it became evident that our sources doubted their information, we immediately updated our reporting across all platforms and continue to do so as this fast-moving story unfolds.”) [69948, 69966, 70002, 70010]

Around the world and across the Internet, Muslims celebrate the killings in Paris and praise the assassins. They write, “[This] is news that quenches the thirst for revenge. By Allah, beloved ones, let us not think lightly of prayers. By Allah, they [the attackers] are soldiers of Allah.” “France was [once] part of the land of Islam and will return to be the land of Islam, in spite the worshippers of the Cross.” “Congratulations to France and to its people for reaping what their hands sowed. Did these evil cartoonists think that we were a nation that would remain silent in face of those who insult our Prophet...? Did [French President Francois] Hollande and the governments that preceded him think that their interventions and despotism in the lands of the Muslims would not be met with

retribution? No, by Allah, from now on the youths of Islam will no longer remain silent, especially since we have a state [ISIS] to mobilize armies if anybody insults the nation of Islam.” “Paris Is Burning. Oh Allah slaughter them, Allah attack them. This newspaper insulted the Messenger of Allah and Islam.” “France turned the lands of the Muslims into battlefields, and now the Muslims have turned Paris into a battlefield. Allah akbar.” “Oh Allah, the honor of your prophet has been cleansed.” “They were lone wolves [smiley] haha. A go-pro ‘camera’ on their AK47s, walking to Charlie Hebdo, that would be nice.” “This is the status and punishment in Islam for those who insult Allah and his messenger.” “Die in your rage... Haha, the next one is the president, Inshallah [“Allah willing”]... Brothers, fire up the volcanoes of Jihad, go forth to paradise that is as wide as the heavens and the earth. Allah’s victory is close! The hearts of the infidels are trembling, Allah be praised! As for the news about the brothers [who carried out the attack], may Allah grant them the highest of ranks! Pray for them!” [69949]

At Vox.com, leftist Ezra Klein joins the chorus of Islamist apologists, writing, “[T]his isn’t about Charlie Hebdo’s cartoons, any more than a rape is about what the victim is wearing, or a murder is about where the victim was walking. What happened today, according to current reports, is that two men went on a killing spree. Their killing spree, like most killing sprees, will have some thin rationale. Even the worst villains believe themselves to be heroes. But in truth, it was unprovoked slaughter. The fault lies with no one but them and their accomplices. Their crime isn’t explained by cartoons or religion. Plenty of people read Charlie Hebdo’s cartoons and managed to avoid responding with mass murder. Plenty of people follow all sorts of religions and somehow get through the day without racking up a body count. The answers to what happened today won’t be found in Charlie Hebdo’s pages. They can only be found in the murderers’ sick minds. ...But we shouldn’t buy into the bullshit narrative of a few madmen that their murders were a response to some cartoons. ...This is a tragedy. It is a crime. It is not a statement, or a controversy.” [70015, 70016]

It is worth mentioning Pakistani-American Muzzammil Syed Hassan, the co-founder (with his wife Aasiya Zubair), owner, and CEO of Bridges TV, the first American Muslim television network broadcast in English. Hassan intended to report the “countless stories of Muslim tolerance, progress, diversity, service and excellence” in order to counteract what he and his wife believed were extreme stereotypical images of Muslims in the media. In 2009 Hassan was arrested and charged with stabbing and beheading his wife after she filed for divorce. [70087, 70088]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “French police officials say they have identified three men as suspects in a deadly attack against newspaper offices that killed 12 people and shook the nation. Two officials named the suspects as Frenchmen Said Kouachi and Cherif Kouachi, in their early 30s, as well as 18-year-old Hamyd Mourad, whose nationality wasn’t immediately clear. One of the officials said they were linked to a Yemeni terrorist network. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to publicly discuss the sensitive and ongoing investigation. Cherif Kouachi was convicted in 2008 of terrorism charges for helping funnel fighters to Iraq’s



insurgency and sentenced to 18 months in prison. No arrests have been confirmed in the hunt for the attackers.” [69941, 69942, 69943, 69944, 69948, 69953, 69973]

At the Place de République in Paris, tens of thousands of people gather to express their support for freedom of the press, chanting, “Nous sommes tous Charlie” (“We are all Charlie”). In Trafalgar Square, Londoners gather for a silent vigil for the murdered journalists and cartoonists. Crowds also gather in Brussels, Barcelona, and other European cities. [69934, 69935, 69940, 69950]

In Wayne, Michigan, Obama speaks at a temporarily closed Ford plant to tout the success of the auto industry bailout. Obama says, “The auto companies have now repaid taxpayers every dime and more of what my administration invested in you.” (That is a lie. The taxpayers lost more than \$16 billion on the bailout scheme. WhiteHouseDossier.com explains Obama’s deception: “First of all, you have to read the fine print. The clear impression Obama is seeking to convey is that the auto bailout was cost-free. But note he said ‘what my administration invested.’ He is purposely, and deceptively, not including the money [former President George W.] Bush handed the automakers. If you do that, there’s [sic; there are] billions in losses. ... If Bush hadn’t handed the auto companies the cash he did, Obama would not have been able to achieve his ‘rescue.’ Or, if the companies somehow survived without the Bush money until Obama was inaugurated, then Obama would have had to lend them the ‘Bush money’ that was lost.”) [69897, 69920, 70007, 70071]

Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler expresses support for Obama’s “net neutrality” proposal that would permit the government to regulate the Internet as it does the telephone industry. According to NationalJournal.com, “Although Wheeler didn’t explicitly commit to any details, he did speak favorably about Obama’s position that the FCC should classify broadband Internet as a ‘telecommunications service’ under Title II of the Communications Act. He also argued that the rules should apply to Internet service on cell phones. ... Wheeler said he plans to put the regulations up for a vote by the five FCC commissioners on Feb. 26.” [70006]

According to a study of employer-provided health benefits by the Commonwealth Fund, ObamaCare has not resulted in lower costs for workers and their families. The *Chicago Tribune* writes, “Nationwide, the average contribution an employee made to an insurance premium in 2013 and the average deductible together represented 9.6% of the median income of American households with members under age 65. That is up from 8.4% in 2010 and nearly double the 5.3% that households were paying for employer-provided health coverage in 2003.” [70069]

The Environmental Protection Agency announces it will postpone until mid-summer a final “global warming” rule related to carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. FuelFix.com notes that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has vowed to overturn the emissions rules. He tried in January 2014 when Democrats controlled the chamber. But Congress’ investigative arm said he would have to wait for a final rule. That rule will lock in a transition to cleaner energy that’s already underway.

The proposed rule was announced in September 2013, but not published until January 2014. Republicans charged the [post-election] delay was political.” Senator James Inhofe (R-UT), who will now chair the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, tells DailyCaller.com, “If you talk to people in the real world they’ll tell you that EPA regulations are so onerous they can’t be competitive. ...Obama is trying to do the things he couldn’t do through legislation through regulation. ...We’re gonna [sic] be able to use the CRA.” (The Congressional Rules Act allows Congress to vote down some agency rules before they go into effect.) [69997, 69998]

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) tells radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt, “I think [Obama] is undercutting the president of Egypt [Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who called for reform of Islam]. We’re in a religious war. These are not terrorists. They’re radical Islamists who are trying to replace our way of life with their way of life. Their way of life is motivated by religious teachings that require me and you to be killed, or enslaved, or converted. [Obama] tip-toes around the threats we face, and he is trying to diminish the religious aspect of this war. Why? I don’t know. And he is not engaging the enemy in an aggressive fashion, which makes it more likely we’ll get attacked. What he’s doing is pretending to want to destroy ISIL when in fact, he’s trying to get out of office without having to commit American ground forces to do the job as part of a team in the region, because he made a campaign promise. His campaign promises, Hugh, are getting a lot of people killed.” [70019]

On *On the Record*, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton says, “This was a military style attack on innocent civilians in the capital city of a major Western country. This is a big, big event. If it can happen in Paris, it can happen in Washington or New York, you can count on it. ...Unless [Obama] understands that Western civilization is under attack here and responds accordingly, we will simply see this tragedy repeated endlessly.” [70005]

On *The Kelly File*, author Mark Steyn comments, “I see these candlelight vigils and everyone claiming suddenly to be for freedom of speech. I think one consequence of this is that a lot of people will retreat even further into self-censorship. The *New York Daily News* won’t even show [the *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons], dishonors the dead in Paris by not even showing properly the cartoons. They pixilated Mohammed out of it so it looks like Mohammed has entered the witness protection program but they left the hooked-nose Jew in and that exactly gets to the double standard here. You can say anything you like about Christianity, you can say anything you like about Judaism. But these guys, everyone understands the message that if you say anything about Islam, these guys will kill you. We will be retreating into a lot more self-censorship if the pansified Western media doesn’t man up and decide to disperse the risk so they can’t kill one small, little French satirical magazine. They’ve gotta kill all of us. The fact they [media outlets] didn’t even have the courage to show these cartoons after they became a news story is why these brave men like Charlie Hebdo had to bear the burden almost single-handed.” [69982]

Late in the evening, ABC reports that the youngest suspect in the Paris killings, 18-year-old Hamyd Mourad, has turned himself in to the police. Mourad allegedly drove the

getaway car. (Mourad claims he has an iron-clad alibi. Some suggest there are enough inconsistencies in reports of the Paris killings to indicate a “false flag” operation.) [69981, 70307, 70434, 70437, 70438]

Appearing on Jimmy Kimmel’s late-night television program, comedian Bill Maher says, “This [mass killing in Paris] was really big shit. ...And we have to not avoid who did this. ...No it’s not a ‘presume.’ No, no, it’s Muslim terrorists. ...This happens way too frequently. It’s like Groundhog Day except if the groundhog kept getting his head cut off. ...These guys [the *Charlie Hebdo* writers and cartoonists] had the balls of the Eiffel Tower. ...I’m the liberal in this debate, okay. I’m for free speech. To be a liberal, you have to stand up for liberal principles. It’s not my fault that the part of the world that is most against liberal principles is the Muslim part of the world. ...We have to stop saying, when something like this that happened in Paris today, we have to stop saying, ‘Well, we cannot insult a great religion.’ First of all, there are no great religions, they’re all stupid and dangerous. And we should insult them. You should be able to insult whatever you want. That is what free speech is like. ...Hundreds of millions of [Muslims] support an attack like this, they applaud an attack like this. What they say is, ‘We don’t approve of violence, but you know what? When you make fun of the Prophet, all bets are off.’” [70011, 70037]

On January 8 David Rothkopf, CEO and editor of The FP Group, which publishes *Foreign Policy* magazine, appears on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*. The Media Research Center reports, Rothkopf “warned against European authorities being too aggressive in fighting Islamic terrorism following the brutal attack in Paris: ‘I think we have to be just as worried about the reaction to the attack from nationalists, from right-wingers, from people who have sought to drive this wedge... between the Islamic communities and the mainstream communities in Europe... it’s very important that we recognize the value of restraint in response to these things.’ Moments later, [much to the delight of George Bush-hating media leftists everywhere] he cited the Abu Ghraib prison scandal as a cause for the massacre: ‘You know, one of the reports has it that one of these guys who led this attack was radicalized by reading about Abu Ghraib, that prior to that he was not an extremist, and after that he moved into this vein of thought.’” (Rothkopf is grossly mistaken. No one wants to “drive a wedge” between Muslims and the European communities. They merely want the Muslims in Europe to *assimilate* and become Europeans, rather than try to convert all of Europe to Islam. It is the Muslim terrorists who need to be “restrained,” not Europeans trying to save their homelands.) [70074, 70078]

At NYTimes.com David D. Kirkpatrick writes, “The rash of horrific attacks in the name of Islam is spurring an anguished debate among Muslims here in the heart of the Islamic world about why their religion appears cited so often as a cause for violence and bloodshed. The majority of scholars and the faithful say Islam is no more inherently violent than other religions. But some Muslims—most notably the president of Egypt—argue that the contemporary understanding of their religion is infected with justifications for violence, requiring the government and its official clerics to correct the teaching of Islam. ...Only a very small number of Muslims pin the blame directly on the religion

itself.” Kirkpatrick quotes M. Steven Fish, a political scientist at the University of California, Berkeley: “Is Islam violent? I would say absolutely not. There is very little empirical evidence that Islam is violent.” (We are supposed to believe that Islam is not violent because “scholars,” “the faithful,” and a Berkeley professor say so. Kirkpatrick should perhaps have interviewed some victims of Islamist terrorists a few moments before they were beheaded. The statement that few Muslims blame their own religion is tantamount to saying, “Few of the people incarcerated in U.S. prisons think they did anything to warrant their being there.”) [70258]

The House votes 252-172 to change ObamaCare to define the full-time work week as 40 hours, rather than 30, so that part-time workers will not be limited to fewer than 30 hours by employers who cannot afford to provide them with health insurance. The White House threatens an Obama veto. [69983, 70008, 70026, 70082]

At NYTimes.com, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel (one of the architects of ObamaCare and the brother of Obama’s former chief of staff Rahm Emanuel) writes, “Not having my annual physical is one small way I can help reduce health care costs—and save myself time, worry and a worthless exam. ...From a health perspective, the annual physical exam is basically worthless.” [70330]

At Spectator.org David Catron later responds to Emanuel’s *Times* article: “If annual physicals are worthless, why did Dr. Emanuel and his accomplices build them into [ObamaCare]? Their clinical limitations have long been known, and [Obama] was called out as early as 2008 on his claim that such preventive care would reduce health care expenditures. Nine months before he was elected, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported, ‘Barack Obama has argued that ‘too little is spent on prevention and public health.’ ...Our findings suggest that the broad generalizations [about preventive care] made by many presidential candidates can be misleading.’ There isn’t the slightest possibility that Dr. Emanuel was ignorant of this fact, yet he enthusiastically helped to create a ‘reform’ law that literally made it illegal to sell a health insurance policy which fails to cover all manner of preventive screenings, including the annual exam that he now tells us is worthless. And even as he was working with the White House to cobble Obamacare together, he was silent as the tomb while the very publication that ran his column last week claimed, ‘[B]y increasing just five preventive services, clinicians could save more than 100,000 lives per year.’ But, now that Obamacare has become law, the *Times* and Dr. Emanuel sing a different tune. ...If he is a genuine opponent of useless and expensive preventive care, shouldn’t he be a critic of the law rather than one of its highest profile supporters? Even if he lacked the power to stop the preventive care illusion from becoming an integral component of ‘reform,’ he doesn’t have to promote [ObamaCare] like a carnival barker.” [70330, 70331]

Michelle Obama names food fascist Debra Eschmeyer the Executive Director of her “Let’s Move” program. According to FreeBeacon.com, food czar Eschmeyer is a “‘food activist’ who believes that all aspects of food production and consumption should be ‘shared fairly.’” (Apparently that means that no person should be allowed a filet mignon dinner unless everyone in the nation can also have one.) In 2011 she said, “Food justice

seeks to ensure that the benefits and risks of where, what, and how food is grown, produced, transported, distributed, accessed, and eaten are shared fairly. It represents a transformation of the current food system, including but not limited to eliminating disparities and inequities.” [70092]

At USA Today.com, the vile, radical Muslim cleric Anjem Choudary writes, “Contrary to popular misconception, Islam does not mean peace but rather means submission to the commands of Allah alone. Therefore, Muslims do not believe in the concept of freedom of expression, as their speech and actions are determined by divine revelation and not based on people’s desires. Although Muslims may not agree about the idea of freedom of expression, even non-Muslims who espouse it say it comes with responsibilities. In an increasingly unstable and insecure world, the potential consequences of insulting the Messenger Muhammad are known to Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Muslims consider the honor of the Prophet Muhammad to be dearer to them than that of their parents or even themselves. To defend it is considered to be an obligation upon them. The strict punishment if found guilty of this crime under sharia (Islamic law) is capital punishment implementable by an Islamic State. This is because the Messenger Muhammad said, ‘Whoever insults a Prophet kill him.’” [69984, 69985, 70004, 70013, 70023]

“However, because the honor of the Prophet is something which all Muslims want to defend, many will take the law into their own hands, as we often see. Within liberal democracies, freedom of expression has curtailments, such as laws against incitement and hatred. The truth is that Western governments are content to sacrifice liberties and freedoms when being complicit to torture and rendition—or when restricting the freedom of movement of Muslims, under the guise of protecting national security. So why in this case did the French government allow the magazine *Charlie Hebdo* to continue to provoke Muslims, thereby placing the sanctity of its citizens at risk? It is time that the sanctity of a Prophet revered by up to one-quarter of the world’s population was protected.” (The mainstream media is afraid to publish the political cartoons of *Charlie Hebdo*, but is more than willing to give Choudary the opportunity to spew his hatred and propaganda.) [69984, 69985]

At WashingtonPost.com, CNN Muslim apologist Fareed Zakaria writes, “As they went on their rampage, the men who killed 12 people in Paris this week yelled that they had ‘avenged the prophet.’ ...But in fact, the Koran prescribes no punishment for blasphemy. Like so many of the most fanatical and violent aspects of Islamic terrorism today, the idea that Islam requires that insults against the prophet Muhammad be met with violence is a creation of politicians and clerics to serve a political agenda. One holy book is deeply concerned with blasphemy: the Bible. In the Old Testament, blasphemy and blasphemers are condemned and prescribed harsh punishment. The best-known passage on this is Leviticus 24:16 : ‘Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord is to be put to death. The entire assembly must stone them. Whether foreigner or native-born, when they blaspheme the Name they are to be put to death.’” Robert Spencer writes, “This is why you see so many Jews and Christians killing people for blasphemy these days. It is supremely disingenuous for Zakaria to bring this passage up without bothering to

mention that both Judaism and Christianity have mainstream interpretative traditions that reject the literal application of this penalty.” [70166, 70167]

In France, teachers report that a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris massacres is ignored by many Muslim students. According to WashingtonPost.com, at one high school in a Paris suburb, Muslim students protested by talking in loud voices throughout the moment of silence. At a school in Normandy, students yelled, “Allahu akbar!” At a middle school in Paris, pupils told their teacher, “You reap what you sow.” (Pamela Geller writes, “This is the future of France. Doomed. My source in France says that the overwhelming majority of Muslim children refused to participate in Thursday’s moment of silence for the victims. Their savage hatred comes from the home, the mosque, the community.”) [70154, 70155, 70281, 70376]

Senator Barbara “don’t call me ma’am” Boxer (D-CA)—who once declared that abortion should be considered legal until you “bring your baby home” from the hospital—announces she will not seek reelection in 2016. Townhall.com’s Guy Benson writes, “One thing is assured: Boxer’s formal announcement touches off a frenetic contest among ambitious California Democrats—including, perhaps, billionaire [global-warming leftist scaremonger] Tom Steyer, who is said to be eyeing the seat. Between ...Obama’s long-delayed veto threat on the Keystone Pipeline (an outcome for which Steyer has invested heavily) and Boxer’s decision, the deep-pocketed power player must be enjoying his week. Republicans should be under no illusions about the likelihood that this seat will be filled with someone less hostile to conservative values, let alone by a Republican. The California GOP has effectively been reduced to a regional party in the state; Republicans haven’t really sniffed either US Senate seat in decades. But wait, is there an unusual scenario that could pave the way to an upset GOP victory?” (California has a “jungle primary” system in which, regardless of political party, the top two vote-getters proceed to the general election in November. If, for example, 15 Democrats enter the primary and only two Republicans enter, it *could* be possible for the two Republicans to take first and second place in the primary, if the Democrat votes are split up by a large number of candidates. One of them would then be assured victory in November. In order for this to come about, of course, the GOP has to field two—and only two—strong candidates, while the Democrats have to field many popular candidates.) [69987, 70048, 70075]

Before the day is out, Politico.com mentions several possible successors for Boxer: former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, billionaire hedge-fund manager, environmental activist Tom Steyer, former San Francisco mayor and current Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, and Attorney General Kamala Harris. (In 2004, former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown hosted a fundraiser for Obama at the Waterfront restaurant. Obama told Brown he would appreciate it if he did not have to have his picture taken with then-mayor Newsom—presumably to avoid an association with Newsom’s support of gay marriages. Newsom was outraged by the insult and Obama’s cowardice. The far-left Harris has been called “the darling of the Obama activist base of the party.” As attorney general, Harris was believed to have ensured that there was no autopsy performed after the premature death of Democrat operative Kam Kuwata, who purportedly had witnessed a high-on-drugs Obama backstage at the Democrat National

Convention in Denver in 2008. Harris is the sister-in-law of Tony West, who Obama appointed as Assistant Attorney General, in charge of the Department of Justice's Civil Division. West, a major fundraiser for Obama in California, was a member of the "GITMO 9"—a group of attorneys who represented terrorists held at the detainee center at Guantanamo. West also represented John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban" captured in Afghanistan in 2001, and helped him avoid a death sentence. Harris and West certainly had the ability to call off an investigation into the mysterious death of Kam Kuwata. West has been the lead attorney in the Obama administration's lawsuit against Arizona's legislation against illegal immigrants.) On January 12 Harris announces she is in the running for Boxer's Senate seat. [842 p. 261; 851, 28420, 28424, 28425, 28426, 28428, 28429, 28481, 28482, 28483, 28484, 29249, 70027]

Obama delivers an address about housing and the economy at a high school in Phoenix. His motorcade drives past the Veterans Administration facility that was the focus of many 2014 complaints about as many as 40 patients being left to die on waiting lists. The Associated Press reports, "A small group of veterans were among an eclectic collection of Obama protesters and supporters across from Central High School. ... Vietnam-era veteran Jesus Miramon was wearing his old U.S. Army dress uniform and holding a sign saying 'do not hate vets today' as he waited for Obama to arrive. 'It is true that he should not be hating a vet today, he should be showing us a little love today,' Miramon said. 'His presence will be enough, even if he doesn't say anything, it would be enough. But he should show us some kind of respect.'" (Obama does not.) Senator John McCain (R-AZ) states, "Unfortunately, ... Obama missed another opportunity to do right by those who have served and sacrificed on our nation's behalf." (Pete Hegseth, CEO of Concerned Veterans for America, notes that Obama had no time to visit the Veterans hospital but found time for a photo-op at a new home with FHA funding. KSAZ and DailyCaller.com note that Obama also found the time to work out at the gym at the Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak resort before his speech at the high school.) [69988, 69989, 70025, 70051, 70052]

At the Phoenix event, Obama encourages people not to buy "gas guzzlers" "because gas prices are gonna [sic; going to] go back up." (He may as well have said, "If you like your low gas prices, you can't keep your low gas prices.") [69994]

About one hour into his speech, a heckler interrupts Obama. DailyCaller.com notes, "It's difficult to make out what the heckler was yelling about in the official White House video, but local media indicate that she was shouting something about Mexico, and possibly 'no arms to Mexico' in Spanish." [70028]

Not only is *The New York Times* afraid to publish any of the *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons that ridicule Islam and Mohammed, it also intentionally misquotes one of the newspaper's employees in an effort to "sanitize" the motives of the attackers. According to Radio France Internationale, "Moments after the tragedy, Sigolene Vinson was speaking to RFI. 'I am alive. I am alive. But this is horrible. There are dead...' If Sigolene Vinson is alive, it is because she is a woman. One of the attackers said, 'We do not kill women, but you have to convert you to Islam and conceal you [that is, cover yourself like a Muslim woman],' before shouting, 'Allah akbar.'" *The New York Times* reports that the killer told

her, “Don’t be afraid, calm down, I won’t kill you. You are a woman. But think about what you’re doing. It’s not right. We don’t shoot women! We don’t shoot women! We don’t shoot women!” (Other media outlets repeat the *Times* version. Reasonable people, of course, would be inclined to trust the report by the French media that was on the scene and spoke with Ms. Vinson.) [69990, 69991, 69992, 69993, 70035]

Writer Gavin McInnes writes, “I get why journalists are scared of offending Muslims. I just don’t get why they’re journalists.” [69995]

AFP reports, “French investigators found a dozen Molotov cocktails and two jihadist flags in the getaway car used in the massacre at a Paris magazine, a source close to the case told AFP Thursday. ...The jihadist flags and gas bombs were found in the abandoned black Citroen used by the attackers to speed away from the offices of the Charlie Hebdo weekly after they carried out the assault. ‘This shows their Islamist radicalization and that they had possibly planned other acts with the petrol bombs,’ the source said.” [70036]

DailyCaller.com comments on the story: “So, imagine yourself as an NYT editor for a moment, if you can withstand the nausea. Why would you specifically take out the part about the Islamic terrorist proselytizing for Islam in the middle of the terrorist attack? Why delete this woman’s account of being threatened at gunpoint and being told to convert to Islam? That’s easy. Because you’re one of America’s moral, ethical, and intellectual betters, and you don’t want it to be true. Your reporter hastily left that inconvenient truth in her story by accident, so you airbrushed it out, without any acknowledgment, to preserve the narrative. You turned it into, ‘Hey, maybe these guys aren’t so bad after all. They didn’t kill the women, right? Let’s not be too hasty.’ Because that’s your job. The New York Times is garbage.” [69990, 69991, 69992, 69993]

At Morning Jolt, NationalReviews.com’s Jim Geraghty asks, “Which of these represents incitement to violence?”

- A) Making a film depicting the violent death of the ruler of North Korea, Kim Jong-un.
- B) Telling an angry crowd the night of the Ferguson grand jury decision, ‘Burn this b\*tch down!’
- C) Chanting, ‘What do we want? Dead cops! When do we want it [sic]? Now!’
- D) Making cartoons that offend Muslims.

As you no doubt have observed, some Americans on the left would pick (A) and (D), but not (B) and (C). I can see the case for B and C, but I would be pretty wary about prosecuting individuals in either case. If our society is going to bring the force of the law against a person, and either fine them or put them in jail, there has to be a pretty direct connection between their words and the violence that ensued. A certain segment of Muslims in France—and in just about every Western country—is attempting to implement blasphemy laws through vigilantism. Sure, there’s no law on the books saying you can’t do it, but if anybody catches you doing it, some young man—with seemingly



nothing in this world he fears losing if he's caught or killed attempting to commit murder—will come and find you and attack you.”

While Islamists kill innocent people in Paris, Islamist terrorism continues in Nigeria. NBCNews.com reports, “More than 2,000 people are unaccounted for after radical Islamist sect Boko Haram torched more than 10 towns and villages in Nigeria, a local lawmaker told NBC News. Ahmed Zanna, a senator for Borno state where the attack happened, said the militants razed the town of Baga as well as ‘10-to-20’ other communities in the country’s rural northeast over the past five days. ‘These towns are just gone, burned down,’ he told NBC News via telephone. ‘The whole area is covered in bodies.’ ...Nigeria will hold general elections on February 14, a ballot many expect Boko Haram will attempt to disrupt. The group, whose name roughly translates to ‘Western education is sinful,’ has slaughtered and kidnapped thousands and wants to establish a state in northern Nigeria based on strict Islamic law.” [70038, 70903]

At the Columbus, Ohio airport, 41-year-old Hashim Hanif Ibn Abdul-Rasheed parks illegally, attempts to buy a ticket using a woman’s ID card, lunges at police officers with a knife and is then shot and killed by the officers. According to NYDailyNews.com, “When cops searched Abdul-Rasheed’s body, they discovered ‘additional knives.’ Police called in a bomb squad to investigate the car and a search turned up ‘suspicious items,’ officials said.” [70040]

In Montevideo, Uruguay, employees at the Israeli embassy are evacuated after a bomb-like device is found in the area. According to JPost.com, “Security forces later said the suspicious apparatus did not have explosive capabilities and could not have detonated. Explosives Brigade chief Alfredo Larramendi told local paper *El País* that the device was apparently planted in order to ‘measure’ police response times.” It is worth noting that in early December, six terrorists were released from the detainee center at Guantanamo and sent to... Uruguay. Uruguay’s president, Jose Mujica, is himself a former terrorist with a prison record (as is Brazil’s president, Dilma Rousseff). Mujica said he would place no restrictions on the movement of the six terrorists. [68986, 70104]

With a clarity and frankness clacking in Obama’s statements, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper says, “The international jihadist movement has declared war. They have declared war on anybody who does not think and act exactly as they wish they’d think and act. We may not like this and wish it would go away, but it’s not going to go away, and the reality is we are going to have to confront it.” [70043, 70044]

At JihadWatch.org Robert Spencer writes, “Now, as twelve people have been gunned down by Islamic jihadists in Paris, we will hear more... calls for restrictions on the freedom of speech. The likes of [Slate.com’s Eric] Posner, [the *Los Angeles Times*’ Sarah] Chayes, and [*The Washington Post*’s Nathan] Lean will blame Charlie Hebdo and call on Western media to adopt Sharia blasphemy laws, and refrain from saying or doing anything that Muslims would find offensive—including, of course, honest discussion about how Islamic jihadists use Islamic texts and teachings to justify things like the Charlie Hebdo massacre. This is the time to say, ‘Enough.’ This is the time to say, ‘We

are going to stand for the freedom of speech. No more people are going to die for saying things that offend Muslims.’ The capacity to be offended and not respond with violence is essential to a pluralistic society, and the freedom of speech itself is our foremost protection against tyranny that would do whatever it willed and crush all dissent. It is time to stand, or free speech will be lost, and when it is lost, all will be lost.” [70047]

At NYTimes.com David Brooks writes, “The journalists at Charlie Hebdo are now rightly being celebrated as martyrs on behalf of freedom of expression, but let’s face it: If they had tried to publish their satirical newspaper on any American university campus over the last two decades it wouldn’t have lasted 30 seconds. Student and faculty groups would have accused them of hate speech. The administration would have cut financing and shut them down. Public reaction to the attack in Paris has revealed that there are a lot of people who are quick to lionize those who offend the views of Islamist terrorists in France but who are a lot less tolerant toward those who offend their own views at home. ...Americans may laud Charlie Hebdo for being brave enough to publish cartoons ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad, but, if Ayaan Hirsi Ali is invited to campus, there are often calls to deny her a podium. ...The massacre at Charlie Hebdo should be an occasion to end speech codes. And it should remind us to be legally tolerant toward offensive voices, even as we are socially discriminating.” [70062]

Andrew Parker, head of Great Britain’s MI5 domestic intelligence agency, warns, “A group of core al-Qaeda terrorists in Syria is planning mass casualty attacks against the West,” intended to “cause large-scale loss of life, often by attacking transport systems or iconic targets. ...We face a very serious level of threat that is complex to combat and unlikely to abate significantly for some time.” (Parker rarely makes public statements. That he is now issuing a warning suggests it should be taken seriously.) [70058, 70059, 70101, 70119]

On MSNBC, Andrea Mitchell whines to Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN), who is a Muslim, “This is a challenge for France, which has had a lot of negative legal actions and restrictive laws and a large Muslim community... What is the challenge as they approach this manhunt to not begin racial or religious profiling? ...And there were reports in the French press today that three mosques may have been targeted in some way, three mosques in France... it’s really going to be incumbent upon French and world leaders and European leaders, where immigration and the Muslim population has been under fire.” Mitchell then moans to *Time* magazine’s Vivienne Walt, “What about anger and profiling? Because there’s a report of three mosques that have been—have come under attack and some sort of retaliatory aspects of this and profiling against Muslims.” She follows the same line with New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof: “Let’s talk about how Muslims in France and around western Europe have been under fire. There are reports of actions against mosques, three mosques around France today.” (To Mitchell, an investigation of three mosques which are suspected of fomenting radicalism and terrorist attacks is placing them “under attack.”) MRC.org reports even more absurd comments by Mitchell and other MSNBC “analysts”—which this *Timeline* will not bother to repeat here. [70191, 70192, 70193]

Democrats launch their first filibuster against the Republican-controlled Senate, objecting to a Keystone XL pipeline action. According to WashingtonTimes.com, “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell [R-KY] tried to schedule action early next week on the bill, and promised an open process, including allowing both sides to offer amendments to the bill—an attempt to break with the previous few years, when Democrats controlled the floor and kept a tight lid on amendments. But Democrats objected to Mr. McConnell’s request, forcing him to begin the procedure for breaking a filibuster. ... The proceedings represented a role-reversal from the last Congress, when Democrats tried to push bills to the floor only to face a GOP filibuster. In many of those cases, however, Republicans said they were filibustering because Democrats... blocked out all amendments. This time around, Mr. McConnell promised to allow amendments from all sides.” [70024, 70070]

Not satisfied with having alienated the entire New York City Police Department, Mayor Bill de Blasio goes after restaurants and food vendors by announcing a ban on Styrofoam food containers, effective July 1. Plastic “peanuts” for use in packing will also be included in the ban. He states, “These products cause real environmental harm and have no place in New York City. We have better options, better alternatives, and if more cities across the country follow our lead and institute similar bans, those alternatives will soon become more plentiful and will cost less.” [70066, 70067]

NYPost.com reports, “Hillary Clinton is ‘furious’ at husband Bill Clinton, according to Washington insiders, after his name came up in the latest sex scandal involving his disgraced former pal Jeffrey Epstein. Sources at the funeral of Mario Cuomo also said they saw a peevish-looking Hillary angrily ‘storm’ past the former president after he dutifully waited for her by the door of St. Ignatius Loyola Church. ‘Talk in Washington is that Hillary is furious with Bill about all this new information on Jeffrey Epstein,’ said a DC insider familiar with both Epstein and the Clintons.” [70079]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The National Education Association is heavily involved in supporting a militant group in Wisconsin that spends its time and energy organizing angry anti-police protests. ... Wisconsin Jobs Now has variously declared that the state’s police officers are racists, killers and animals, according to EAGnews. The NEA is a major financial donors for Wisconsin Jobs Now. The teachers union—the largest in the United States—gave \$125,000 to Wisconsin Jobs Now in 2014 alone. The other major contributor to the radical group is the Service Employees International Union.” [70084]

Several hundred people gather in Santa Barbara, California to protest the *Santa Barbara News-Press* headline, “Illegals line up for driver’s licenses.” Don Katich, *News-Press* director of news operations, tells Noozhawk.com, “it has been the practice for nearly 10 years at the Santa Barbara News-Press to describe people living in this country illegally as ‘illegals’ regardless of their country of origin.” Noozhawk reports that the newspaper was targeted by vandals who spray-painted the words, “The border is illegal not the people who cross it,” and “fight back.” (For the record, defacing private property is also illegal.) [70163, 70354]

On January 9 Dr. Qanta Ahmed, author (*In the Land of Invisible Women*) and women 's rights activist, appears on *Fox & Friends*. She says, "Really, I think that we are very behind the ball game with our war against Islamism. It's time for the United States, western democracies, Britain, France to admit that we are under siege by an ideology called Islamism. All Islamists are Muslim... that's very important. All Islamists are Muslim, I'm a Muslim to tell you that, so this ideology is emerging from Muslims but is a hijacking of our beliefs into a totalitarian political ideology. They seek to flout secular democracy. The scenes of the photographs of *Charlie Hebdo*, the offices, look exactly like the scenes of classrooms in Peshawar. The war is on education, the war is on freedom of speech, and by not naming it in our country or in France as Islamism, we're enabling these kinds of actions. ...I wouldn't call them radicals. I would call them Muslim Islamists. They are absolutely Hell-bent on committing as much destruction as they can... motivated by Islamism and their distorted interpretation of the Quran." [70053, 70143]

"...[I]f we don't name it, we are enabling Islamism, and that enabling is happening not just in dialogue, but right here in New York City where we have a powerful role in the United Nations. We have seen... criminalization of something called 'defamation of Islam' or 'Islamophobia.' That is a modern construct from 1970s' Iran; there are multiple resolutions now where criticizing something to do with Islam is criminalized. Charlie Hebdo's massacre occurred on that pretext. ...If we don't talk about it... this is becoming more powerful. ...Where is the [Winston] Churchill of our times? Churchill did not mince his words when confronting the darkest ideology that we know, in living memory, and we need that kind of speech and power coming from, not just from Western leaders, but also Muslim leaders. We need that desperately... Islamists thrive... if we're too careful to tread because we're afraid of Islamophobia. ...I do want to salute you as broadcasters for raising this issue. After *Charlie Hebdo* you realize you [at the Fox News Channel] are in the cross-hairs of Islamists. The bravest thing people can do at the moment is have networks and stations and dialogue like this. This is a very brave thing that you're all doing." [70053]

Terrorist brother Cherif Kouachi and Said Kouachi are killed at a printing plant northeast of Paris, where they were holding an employee hostage. The hostage is not injured, and the two assassins are shot and killed by police as they leave the building with guns blazing. Meanwhile, a Muslim in Paris takes hostages at a Kosher grocery store, demanding that the Kouachi brothers be set free. He kills at least four hostages, and is then killed by police. According to DailyCaller.com, "The attack at the grocery store, Hyper Cacher ('Super Kosher'), was linked to the fatal shooting of a policewoman Thursday morning. The store is in Porte de Vincennes, an east Paris suburb, while the Kouachi brothers fled to the town of Dammartin-en-Goële, about 20 miles from central Paris. ...The policewoman shooting and the grocery store siege are being gradually linked to one man, 32-year-old Ahmed [also reported as Amedy] Coulibaly, together with his 26-year-old girlfriend Hayat Boumedienne. (Boumedienne reportedly fled the site of the grocery store.) Coulibaly was friends with the Kouachi brothers, who have been described as lower-class 'slackers' before becoming radicalized, al-Qaida recruiters nearly a decade ago. The Kouachis' neighbors report having seen a 'cache of arms' in

their apartment just months before they carried out the attack. U.S. officials confirmed late Thursday that Said Kouachi had not only sent al-Qaida fighters to Iraq, but trained with the group in Yemen. Unconfirmed reports from the bloodbath in which the attackers called themselves ‘al-Qaida in Yemen,’ then, are becoming increasingly credible.” (Yemen is the nation Obama cited on September 10, 2012 as one of the places where he had “successfully” taken out “terrorists who threaten us.” [70029, 70030, 70031, 70032, 70033, 70039, 70042, 70057])

The *Daily Mail* reports, “As [grocery store] hostages broke free, an astonishing story emerged of how dozens had hidden in a walk-in freezer, cowering in minus three temperatures and praying they would not be found. ...Coulibaly had warned he would kill all of his hostages if police launched an assault on the Kouachis. It is unclear if he had carried out his threat before police moved in. Both Cherif Kouachi and Coulibaly had spoken to journalists by phone earlier today. Kouachi knew he was talking to a journalist and the conversation was recorded. He said: ‘I am a defender of the prophet. I was sent by Al Qaeda of Yemen. I’m financed by Imam Anwar al Awlaki...’ ...In a separate phone call, Coulibaly confirmed that he was in contact with the Kouachis and that the attacks had been ‘synchronised.’ He said that he had sworn allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and had targeted the shop because ‘it was Jewish.’” (Jews have been fleeing France for some time because of discrimination and attacks against them. French Journalist Stephen Pollard states, “Every single French Jew I know has either left or is actively working out how to leave. So, it’s a fluke that the latest target is a kosher grocer, is it? What’s going on in France—outrages that have been getting worse for years—put our antisemitism problems in perspective.”) At the printing company, “A young graphic designer hid in a cardboard box as the Charlie Hebdo gunmen held a father-of-two hostage for eight hours, it has emerged. The Kouachi brothers were apparently unaware that Lilian Lepere, 27, was concealed in the print works in Dammartin-en-Goele texting the police vital information. ...He directly communicated with police for at least three hours and emerged unharmed after the dramatic end to the siege, according to police.” [70031, 70035, 70130]

Pamela Geller reports, “During the reportage of jihad siege and slaughter in a Kosher supermarket, Muslim children can be seen cheering, giving the thumbs up and making machine gun-firing gestures behind an on scene reporter. The only thing missing is the passing out of candies. Perhaps Mahmoud Abbas will take care of that. When the cameraman realizes what is going on behind the reporter, he pulls the camera away. When in fact, that should have become the story. That was the lede at that point. Jews were being slaughtered in cold blood because they were Jewish and these Muslim kids are cheering. They get this from home. They get this from mosque. They get this from community. Islamic Jew-hatred—it’s in the Qur’an. It is reflective of the enemedia’s continued protection and whitewashing of the most savage and extreme ideology on the face of the earth.” [70114, 70115]

On CNN, Chris Cuomo refers to terrorist Ahmed Coulibaly, who is black, as an “African-American,” while Christiane Amanpour (who was raised in Iran) refers to the Islamist terrorists as mere “activists.” (Actor James Woods asks, “So the police who finally killed

these scum would be... ‘reactionaries?’”) Referring to the fact that terrorist Coulibaly stormed a Kosher supermarket, CNN’s Wolf Blitzer wonders if the location was “convenient, was it just coincidental, should we say, that it was Jewish owned?” (Mark Levin later comments on his radio program, “I’m speechless. ... This ‘Islam-Nazi’ sought out a Jewish delicatessen, Wolf, to slaughter people! Not only will you not identify the nature of the enemy, you won’t even identify the nature, in this case, of the victim, because you’re such an a-hole!”) [70063, 70103]

Muslims in Algeria rally in support of the terrorist attacks in Paris. [70118]

On MSNBC, *Washington Post* columnist Eugene Robinson tells Andrea Mitchell, “Just to keep it in perspective, I don’t think we should imagine that the conditions and the threat are exactly the same in the United States as they are in France. They are different. In fact, one thing that’s different here is weapons are universally available and so, I mean, it is actually a very good thing that, that the tensions are not exactly the same because we would expect to have a lot more of that sort of carnage.” (Robinson’s comment is preposterous. If the Islamists in Paris had instead attempted an attack on an office in Dallas, Texas, they first would have encountered armed police officers in cars, not unarmed officers on bicycles. Had they somehow managed to get into a guarded newspaper office, they would very well have faced employees carrying guns—in their desks and purses if not in their pockets. The two terrorists might have killed one or two people, but they would not have killed a dozen. Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reminds readers, “It was just a few months ago when Vaughan Foods CEO Mark Vaughan shot and killed Islamist Alton Nolen after he beheaded a female co-worker and was stabbing another in Oklahoma City.” She asks, “If two Islamic terrorists were on the loose in your neighborhood or city, would you want easy access to firearms in order to protect yourself? ... [I]f an attack like this happens in the United States, it will most likely be in a place like New York City or Washington D.C. where civilians are incapable of defending themselves [because of strict gun control laws].” [70054, 70055, 70056]

At Pellissippi State College in Tennessee, Obama proposes free attendance for two years at any community college if the student maintains a 2.5 grade-point average. The federal government would fund 75 percent of the cost of the program, with the states expected to fund the remaining 25 percent. According to WhiteHouse.gov, the plan would “Save a full-time community college student \$3,800 in tuition per year on average” and “Benefit roughly 9 million students each year.” (While the proposal would “save” the student an average of \$3,800 per year, it would cost the taxpayers an additional \$34.2 billion per year—9 million times \$3,800. In other words, Obama wants taxpayers without college-age children paying the tuition for those who do.) Obama states, “That’s right—free for everybody who’s willing to work for it.” (Of course the people “working for it” will be the taxpayers, not the students.) For the record, if Obama promised free groceries for everyone, that would save the average American family \$7,852 per year—but that does not make it a good idea. (Some estimate the cost of Obama’s proposal to be \$60 billion over 10 years.) [70049, 70050, 70072, 70073, 70077, 70090, 70091, 70168, 70244, 70249, 70288, 70520]

The proposal will clearly not pass Congress, and most of the cash-strapped states cannot afford to pay even one percent of the \$34.2 billion, let alone 25 percent of it. But Obama does not care that it will not pass. He cares that he will have “free stuff” to offer in his State of the Union address on January 20, after which he can spend two years criticizing the Republican-controlled Congress for not going along with his Santa Claus scheme. Obama does not address the fact that the federal government *does not have* 75 percent of \$34.2 billion lying around. Further, if community college were “free,” the number of students would quickly increase to much more than 9 million; those who currently cannot afford to go to college would start enrolling—knowing the taxpayers will be picking up the tab. *Obama is addressing a problem that does not exist.* Community college tuition is not expensive and is generally already subsidized by state or local communities. Students are not amassing monumental amounts of debt because of community college; it is the four-year universities and colleges that have outrageously high tuition. Those tuition levels have increased dramatically precisely because the government has interfered in the system by lending students money they cannot afford to pay back, but which the schools eagerly accept. Additionally, students already have access to Pell Grants. (If the government wants better-educated students, it should demand that elementary schools and high schools do a better job. The average incoming college freshman can read at only a seventh-grade level.) [70049, 70050, 70072, 70073, 70077, 70090, 70091, 70244, 70249, 70288, 70520]

Author Michelle Malkin tweets, “Swell. Obama wants Free Community College so Common Core-impaired American kids can have 2 more yrs of brainwashing.” (Malkin is, of course, correct. If community colleges receive 75 percent of their income from the federal government, it is a given that the Department of Education will impose strict “guidelines” they must all follow if they want the cash to continue. Obama is seeking to create a K-through-14 Marxist indoctrination system, funded by the taxpayers.) [70068]

According to a Rasmussen poll, “Voters tend to like ...Obama’s idea of free community college for millions of students—as long as it doesn’t cost them anything. ...47% of Likely U.S. Voters favor a new government program that would make community college tuition-free. Thirty-nine percent (39%) are opposed. Fourteen percent (14%) are undecided.” HotAir.com writes, “Sure, you’d take a free pony, but you also know that ponies are not, in fact, free. So somebody has to pay for it. The government only has one measurable source of revenue, and that’s your tax dollars. Where did you think the money was going to come from? ...A majority feel that one reason tuition is too high is the wide, easy availability of student loans. A staggering portion of the public in that same poll—nearly 90%—would rather see tuition lowered than an increase in the availability of loans. Clearly they are grasping the fundamental issues which affect their costs and see the need for a more efficient secondary education system which doesn’t just continue to pump up their bills. But at the same time, when you dangle a shiny object in front of them they are willing to toss their support behind it if you can make them believe that they won’t be stuck with the tab.” [70244]

Some of the motives behind Obama’s community college scheme are relatively obvious: make Americans even more dependent on government, impose federal rules on

community colleges in order to increase the leftist indoctrination of students, attract the votes of those who want “something for nothing,” give the federal government more control over the states, and create a campaign issue for use against “mean-spirited Republicans who would rather finance wars than education.” But Obama may have another motive: reduce the number of military recruits. Many high school graduates who cannot afford to attend college enlist in the military, either as a career option or to gain future financial assistance for college via the G.I. Bill program. By making community college “free” to all comers, Obama can make it even more difficult for the military to attract recruits—something that would appeal to a commander-in-chief who would rather command a jack-booted national police force than the U.S. military.

At the Tennessee event, Obama also says, “America’s resurgence is real. And now that we’ve seen calmer waters economically, if we all do our part, if we all pitch in, then we can start making sure that all boats are actually lifted again, and wages and incomes start rising again. And we can make sure that the middle class is the engine that powers America’s prosperity just as it always has. So that’s going to be the focus of my State of the Union address in a couple weeks.” (WhiteHouseDossier.com’s Keith Koffler writes, “Hmm. ‘Pitch in’ to make sure ‘all boats’ rise. I get it. INCOME REDISTRIBUTION. Are you successful? It’s not fair that you just sit there atop all your money lazing the days away. You need to give it to the federal government so that bureaucrats who are experts at these sorts of things can hand it to other people who didn’t earn it. Listen, don’t complain, you were warned.”) [70188]

Internet rumors suggest Fidel Castro is dead. (He has not made a public appearance since January 9, 2014.) [70064, 70065]

According to the Department of Labor, the economy created only 252,000 jobs in December, down from November’s 321,000. The unemployment rate falls from 5.8 to 5.6 percent—once again because hundreds of thousands of Americans (about 273,000) dropped out of the workforce entirely and are no longer counted in the calculations. There are 8.7 million Americans who are “officially” unemployed. There are 92,898,000 working age Americans who are not working, which drops the labor participation rate to 62.7 percent, a 36-year low. (That is, only 62.7 percent of working age Americans are actually working.) A record 55,807,000 work age women are not in the labor force. Shadowstats.com’s Paul Williams later notes, “Counting All Discouraged Workers, December 2014 Unemployment Was 23.0%. ... To be counted among the headline unemployed (U.3), an individual has to have looked for work actively within the four weeks prior to the unemployment survey. [The 5.6 percent unemployment rate represents only those individuals.] If the active search for work was in the last year, but not in the last four weeks, the individual is considered a ‘discouraged worker’ by the BLS [and not counted in the U.3 measure].” [70076, 70080, 70098, 70202]

By a vote of 266-153 the House votes to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline; 28 Democrats vote with the Republicans. [70083, 70085]



Mitt Romney tells a group of former donors, “Everybody in here can go tell your friends that I’m considering a run [for the presidency in 2016].” Fundraiser Bobbie Kilberg tells *The Washington Times*, “In my prior conversation with Mitt, what he had always said was, ‘I am preserving my options.’ What he is now saying, according to the people in the room, is that ‘I am seriously considering and weighing a run.’ That is a difference of degrees, and it is also different to say something publicly as opposed to privately. I am making the assumption that if you say something in a room with 30 people that it is public.” (Telling a close-knit group of rich donors he is running for president is yet another example of Romney’s limited political skills. He could have gathered a huge crowd, invited the media, and, after listing the greatest failures of Obama and the Democrat Party, announced his candidacy to a cheering audience. Instead, he reinforced the caricature of him as a wealthy, disconnected elitist. A 2006 YouTube video of Romney praising Jonathan Gruber will also not do him any favors. Nor will Romney’s belief in “man-caused global warming.”) [70093, 70217, 70494, 70503, 70504, 70615]

FoxNews.com reports, “A member of Al Qaeda’s branch in Yemen said Friday that the group directed the massacre earlier this week at a Paris magazine, as the U.S. State Department issued a travel warning to citizens, saying they faced an increased risk of reprisals. ...The Al Qaeda member on Friday provided a statement in English to The Associated Press saying ‘the leadership of AQAP [Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula] directed the operations and they have chosen their target carefully.’ There was no independent confirmation of the report, and U.S. intelligence and counterterrorism officials say it is too early to conclude who is responsible for the massacre on Wednesday that left 12 dead.” [70086]

The U.S. State Department issues a travel alert, warning about “the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. Recent terrorist attacks, whether by those affiliated with terrorist entities, copycats, or individual perpetrators, serve as a reminder that U.S. citizens need to maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. ...In response to... airstrikes, ISIL called on supporters to attack foreigners wherever they are. Authorities believe there is an increased likelihood of reprisal attacks against U.S., Western and coalition partner interests throughout the world, especially in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, and Asia. Kidnappings and hostage events involving U.S. citizens have become increasingly prevalent as ISIL, al Qaeda and its affiliates have increased attempts to finance their operations through kidnapping for ransom operations. ...Extremists may elect to use conventional or non-conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests. Examples of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas, shopping malls, and other tourist destinations both in the United States and abroad where U.S. citizens gather in large numbers, including during holidays.” [70089, 70095]

Author Steven Brill (*America’s Bitter Pill*), tells NPR’s Terry Gross, “In every respect, this whole saga of ObamaCare, the politics of it, the bitter partisan[ship] of it, the lobbying and, in this case, the challenge of governance all are emblematic of what’s

eating away at our country. The incompetence in the White House—there have [sic; has] never been a group of people who more incompetently launched something and it's principally because the people in the administration who knew it was going wrong went to [Obama] directly with memos in person, to his chief of staff and said 'we need to bring people in from the outside to launch this,' and [Obama] was protected, mostly by [close advisor] Valerie Jarrett from doing anything. And, I guess one of the really sadder aspects of this is that nobody who knew it was going wrong spoke out and still hasn't spoken out, even in the aftermath of the whole thing being a total bust, and for a whole year discrediting the notion that government can actually run a program. ...[Obama] was protected, but you know what, at the end of the day he's responsible. He kept getting all these reports, he kept getting all these green lights on his laptop on a grid, everything's going great. Literally the night before the launch on October 1st, his chief of staff called a friend of his and said 'we're going to knock your socks off.' Well, he was right about that. [Obama], whatever we can say about him on policy and on giving speeches, as a manager, he failed. He did not know what was going on in the single most important initiative of his administration." [70094]

London cleric Mizanur Rahman defends the Charlie Hebdo killers, saying, "...insulting Islam... they can't expect a different result." Jihad Watch's Robert Spencer notes that "Rahman 'was jailed for six years in 2007 after calling for British soldiers to be brought back from Iraq in body bags.' Now 'he manages the Siddeeq Academy in Tower Hamlets, an Islamic tuition centre in East London.' It seems clear what he is teaching there. The UK allows this man to run an Islamic tuition centre while banning counter-jihadists from entering the country. So what is Britain buying for its future? Many, many more Mizanur Rahmans." [70120, 70121]

Canada's *Point de Bascule* reports, "On January 9, 2015, two days after the Islamist slaughter perpetrated against Charlie Hebdo, a text justifying those who would resort to violence against the magazine was still available on the French-language website of the organization *Présence Musulmane / Muslim Presence*. The text was published on September 22, 2012. It establishes a moral equivalence between a non-violent criticism of Islam, such as Charlie Hebdo's, and the use of violence by those who are offended by it. The text also states that, in the hierarchy of values, freedom of expression comes second, behind freedom of conscience." One of the Web site's contributors is Tariq Ramadan. Pamela Geller writes, "Pseudo-moderate Tariq Ramadan is a silver-tongued stealth jihadist. His grandfather, Hassan al Banna, founded the Muslim Brotherhood, and Ramadan is the 21st century al Banna. ...Under President Bush, Tariq Ramadan was banned from entering the US. Under ...Obama, Tariq Ramadan was welcomed in the US with open arms and the jihad-aligned academia followed suit." [8203, 8204, 8205, 9275, 10273, 10335, 10349, 17195, 70112, 70113]

In 2004 the Bush administration revoked Ramadan's visa and in 2006 denied his request for another. In January 2010 then-Secretary of State signed orders allowing Ramadan (and Adam Habib, who had previously been denied entry into the United States because of terrorist ties) to have their travel visas approved—so that Ramadan could speak at Georgetown University. Ramadan has supported the brutal regime in Sudan, has links to

al-Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahiri and "blind sheikh" Omar Abdel Rahman, and referred to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States as an "intervention." He has been banned from entering France because of his terrorist ties, which include the indicted Ahmed Brahim. At a fundraiser for the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, Ramadan said, "It is quite clear [Obama administration officials] don't want to follow in the footsteps of the Bush administration, especially when it comes to freedom of expression and scholars coming. They want to open new channels for dialogue." [8203, 8204, 8205, 9275, 10273, 10335, 10349, 17195, 70112, 70113]

Pamela Geller notes, "The left loves [Ramadan]. They sure do love their killers. As of 2009, Tariq Ramadan was persona non grata in Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Syria. Great American thinkers, true scholars of Islam like Ibn Warraq and Robert Spencer, are banned from university campuses, but this annihilationist is welcome. Tariq Ramadan is revered in academic circles. He is Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford University. He also teaches at the Oxford Faculty of Theology. He is Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Islamic Studies (Qatar), and Director of the Research Centre of Islamic Legislation and Ethics (Qatar). This is what is teaching British students. Is it any wonder the UK is teetering on the brink?" [70113]

While free speech advocates mourn the loss of cartoonists in Paris, Obama's Department of Justice intervenes in a lawsuit against the Washington Redskins—siding against the NFL team (and therefore against free speech). Meanwhile, Pamela Geller's lawsuit against the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office heads to the Supreme Court. The Obama administration has denied a trademark for Geller's "Stop the Islamization of America" or "SIOA" organization, claiming it is offensive to American Muslims. (The federal government apparently has no problem with the "North American Man-Boy Love Association," perhaps believing it offends no Americans.) [10738, 10739, 10740, 10741, 70116, 70117]

Former Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Perle tells Newsmax TV's Steve Malzberg, "This act of terror will be followed by other acts of terror because we do not have in place now, and are unlikely anytime to put in place, policies up to the task of dealing with the scourge of terrorism, which appears in many countries, in many forms. Somehow the governments of the world don't seem to have a clue about how to deal with it. ... The reality is that within the community of people who believe in Islam, there is a group, a small group but nevertheless a group, whose numbers are in the thousands and maybe tens or hundreds of thousands. [They] have a vision of Islam that entails the use of violence to bring about the triumph of Islam over the rest of the world. Until we face that fact and design strategies built on that recognition, these things will continue to happen. ... [Obama] faces a problem, and the problem is he's not prepared to do anything. And so, if you're not prepared to do anything and you're Barack Obama, you want to manage your rhetoric very carefully." [70149]

On NBC's *Nightly News*, Brian Williams pushes Obama's free community college scheme, saying, "Still ahead on this Friday night: free college for millions of American students—an ambitious offer that could help so many families. ...In Tennessee today, ...Obama unveiled the goal of a nation where everyone has not only the chance, but also the means to go to college. He has a plan to put more careers on the launch pad with two years of community college tuition—courtesy of the government." (The plan would not be "courtesy of the government." It would be courtesy of the taxpayers, who would have to pay an additional \$34 billion or so per year in higher taxes. NBC's report falsely claims the cost would be only \$60 billion over 10 years.) [70189, 70190]

At PJMedia.com Robert Spencer lists four people "who gave the *Charlie Hebdo* jihadis exactly what they wanted." Number one on Spencer's list is White House press secretary Josh Earnest, for avoiding the reality of radical Islam and saying, "there are some individuals that [sic; who] are using a peaceful religion and grossly distorting it, and trying to use its tenets to inspire people around the globe to carry out acts of violence. ...And we have enjoyed significant success in enlisting leaders in the Muslim community, ...both in the United States and around the world to condemn that kind of messaging, to condemn those efforts to radicalize individuals, and to be clear about what the tenets of Islam actually are. And we're going to redouble those efforts in the days and weeks ahead." Spencer writes, "It might seem odd to say that this plays into the hands of the likes of the *Charlie Hebdo* jihadis, who obviously don't believe that Islam is a Religion of Peace. However, it is very likely that even though they don't believe that, they want you to—for then you will be ignorant and complacent in the face of the advancing jihad, instead of preparing defensive strategies. ...[I]n pushing the Obama Administration's rainbows-and-unicorns fantasy of a peaceful Islam, Earnest is protecting the religion from slander, which is just what the Kouachi brothers thought they were doing when they started killing people in the Charlie Hebdo offices." [70207]

Number two on Spencer's list is former Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), who is "fanatically attached to the idea that Islamic jihad is all a reaction to the West's foreign policy—so much so that they have frequently turned a blind eye to the jihadis' stated agenda, and see the depredations of Western foreign policy where it actually played no part. ...Paul gives the jihadis what they want by blaming the West for the actions of the jihadis, thereby feeding the jihadist narrative of grievance, and making future concessions from the West all the more likely." Number three is Germany's Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, who also excuses the jihadis: "The extremist Islamism, Islamist terrorism, is something quite different from the Islam. And this differentiation is urgently needed just on a day like today." [70207]

Lastly, Spencer notes MSNBC "terror analyst" Evan Kohlmann, who stated, "I think we need to understand here, there... has to be the ability for people to be critical of other religions, of other ideas and whatnot. There has to be that ability. At the same time, look, we have to also respect Islam and we should not deliberately go out and poke our fingers in other people's eyes, you know? There is—everyone should have the right to critique Islam, but at least we should do it with some sense of respect so that people don't get the idea that this is Islamophobia, that it's racism, that this is exactly the same kind of

critique or analysis that we would apply to Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, any other philosophy out there, that look, it's worthy of critique and debate." Spencer asks, "Why are there never any mainstream media calls to respect Christianity or Judaism or any other religion? No one is ever worried that "Piss Christ" or the dung-encrusted Virgin Mary painting is poking Christians in the eye. And does Kohlmann think that atheists should not be free to call all of them dangerous nonsense?" Spencer concludes, "This was, of course, exactly what the jihadis wanted: they wanted people to be too afraid to transgress against Islam's blasphemy laws. The future does indeed not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam, and that future is now." [70207]

At Brooklyn's Oulel-Albab Mosque, Imam Tareq Yousef Al-Masri says, "Let us admit, without lying to ourselves, that we, the Muslims, are time bombs. When I say 'we, the Muslims,' I do not mean every single Muslim, but Muslims of the religious sector are time bombs. When a sinner repents, the first thing he does is make a bomb. He blows it up and kills people. We must admit this. We cannot become immune if we do not admit this. If you have cancer, it won't help you if I tell you that you have the flu. I must tell you that you clearly have cancer. When someone has cancer, they run a series of tests, in order to identify the cause of this cancer. They don't just say that this cancer is an act of God. Everything comes from Allah, but this should not prevent us from studying the underlying reasons for this cancer. Let us admit something else. The majority of us Muslims hate the Christians—true or false? Yes, that is the truth. ...Who instilled so much hatred in these generations? It is the ideology present in the books—the ideology of Ibn Taymiyyah, of Ibn Al-Qayyim, of Al-Nawawi. These are the pillars of this ideology. In modern times, we have Ibn Baz, Ibn Al-Uthaymeen, Al-Huweini, Muhammad Hassan... These people are responsible for instilling hatred in human beings. ...They have made the Muslims hate everyone—the Christians, the Jews, the atheists, and all human beings. ...I am ashamed of the rotten and despicable conduct of the Muslims." (Jihad Watch's Robert Spencer asks if Al-Masri will "now be denounced as an 'Islamophobe' and a tool of the Zionists?") [70967, 70968, 70969]

On January 10 bomb threats result in the evacuation of movie theaters in Paris. [70099]

Sharyl Attkisson writes about a college student who was happy with her prescription for birth control pills, which helped control chronic headaches and her complexion. But she learned that under ObamaCare, her particular medication is not covered. The insurance company told the student she would "have to add a separate, new prescription for her headaches and another for her skin. In the end, that would expose her to potential side effects from three medicines instead of one. Three prescriptions would also presumably cost the insurance company more than one. It took more than three months for the insurance company to send word that it rejected [the] appeal. ...In the end, [the student] concluded that birth control is covered under Obamacare—just not the birth control her doctor prescribed. She had a choice: switch to a birth control pill her insurance company, not her doctor, wanted her to take—or forget about help from her insurer. She chose the latter, which means that she's paying for a prescription drug benefit that, in this case, is useless to her." [70100]

Dutch cartoonist Bernard Holtrop, who works at *Charlie Hebdo* under the pen name Willem, tells the newspaper *Volkskrant*, “We have a lot of new friends, like the Pope, Queen Elizabeth and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin. It really makes me laugh. ... We vomit on all these people who suddenly say they are our friends. They’ve never seen *Charlie Hebdo*. ... I never come to the editorial meetings because I don’t like them. I guess that saved my life.” [70106]

The Blazing Cat Fur blog reports that after the terrorist acts in Paris “Al Jazeera English editor and executive producer Salah-Aldeen Khadr sent out a staff-wide email” that included “a list of ‘suggestions’ for how anchors and correspondents at the Qatar-based news outlet should cover Wednesday’s slaughter at the Charlie Hebdo office. ... Khadr urged his employees to ask if this was ‘really an attack on ‘free speech,’ discuss whether ‘I am Charlie’ is an ‘alienating slogan,’ caution viewers against ‘making this a free speech aka ‘European Values’ under attack binary [sic],’ and portray the attack as ‘a clash of extremist fringes.’” [70107, 70108]

In Maiduguri, Nigeria, a bomb-wearing Muslim girl about 10 years old blows herself up in a busy market, killing 20 people and injuring 18. [70109, 70129]

*The Telegraph* reports, “It is now believed that [Hayat] Boumediene [common-law wife of Paris killer Ahmed Coulibaly] was never at the [Kosher supermarket] siege. According to France Info radio, the Turkish authorities informed France that she had travelled to Turkey on January 2 via Madrid. She is believed to have crossed over into Syria on January 8.” [70110]

Pamela Geller writes, “The idea that America has better assimilated its Muslims than the UK and Europe is ridiculous on its face. It’s a matter of numbers. The only difference between the US and France, the UK and the rest of that doomed continent is that they began importing Muslims decades earlier than the US. We are on the same path. The number of immigrants in the United States jumped 3 percent in three years—to a record 41.3 million in 2013—and... the nearly 300,000 who came from Muslim countries pose a major national security threat.” [70111]

According to the Associated Press, “The Al-Qaeda offshoot that claimed Friday to have masterminded the bloody rampage in France has been the most active of the terror network’s branches in trying to strike in the West. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula said it directed the attack against the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris ‘as revenge for the honor’ of Prophet Mohammad. The strike would be the Yemen-based branch’s first [known] successful strike outside its home territory—and a triumph for its trademark double-strategy of waging jihad in Yemen to build its strength to strike abroad. At least one of the two brothers involved in the attack on the weekly traveled to Yemen in 2011 and either received training from or fought alongside the group, authorities say. A U.S. intelligence assessment described to the Associated Press shows that 34-year-old Said Kouachi was trained in preparation to return home and carry out an attack.” [70122, 70123]

At CNN.com “religion editor” Daniel Burke asks, “Does Islam encourage violence?” and then defends it, writing, “...Muslims note that almost every faith, from Christianity to Judaism to Hinduism to Buddhism, has produced acts of terrorism. Think about it this way: If you were a Jew during the Inquisition in Spain, would you think that Christianity is inherently violent?” (That most Muslims are not violent is irrelevant to the question that Burke himself asked. Christians, Jews, Hindus, and Buddhists who might commit terrorist acts are *not* following the tenets of their religion, while Muslims who commit such atrocities *are* following Islam. Additionally, a long time has passed since the Spanish Inquisition began in 1478. Following Burke’s logic, every torturous and murderous deed ever committed by mankind can be excused based on past precedent. But Christians no longer follow practices of the 15th century, while far too many Muslims continue to follow the practices of the 7th century.) Burke continues, “Scholars say there is rarely a direct link between religious beliefs and violent behavior. Instead, terrorism is generally caused by a complex web of factors.” (That is total nonsense. Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer notes, “Islamic jihadists regularly cite Qur’anic texts and Muhammad’s example to justify violence and supremacism.” Further, according to ReligionofPeace.com, “Islamic terrorists have carried out more than 24,831 deadly terror attacks since 9/11.” While there may be a number of factors contributing to those attacks, they all have in common one thing: terrorists who follow Islam.) [70124, 70125, 70126]

Burke whines that many Muslims feel “frustrated,” and quotes a message “from a longtime, Muslim-American source [who] sums up the sentiment: ‘Muslims cannot get a break. Every (expletive) day there must be an event to suggest Islam is inherently violent. Such acts destroy years of goodwill and work about Islam.’” (Perhaps if there were not a violent event every day the suggestion that Islam is their cause might be less likely to be believed. At least 24,8331 people have been denied those acts of “goodwill.”) Burke ridicules Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi for his recent speech in which he “urged Muslim leaders to start a ‘religious revolution.’” Burke argues that many Muslims “simply shrugged off” al-Sisi’s address “Because of his brutal human rights record—rounding up dissidents, jailing journalists and cracking down on the Muslim Brotherhood.” (Perhaps Burke believes that violent dissidents, members of the radical Muslim Brotherhood, and the journalists who support them should be free to encourage terrorism. If members of the Ku Klux Klan terrorized blacks in the United States, would Burke *not* want the government “cracking down on them?”) [70124, 70125, 70126]

10News.dk posts comments from psychiatrist Henrik Day Poulsen: “Our laws are not geared to understand or cope with the fundamentalist mind. Their perception of reality is completely undistorted, which is opposite the insane person, whose mind is completely chaotic and would therefore never be able to plan a professional attack such as the one we witnessed in Paris Wednesday this week. ...And here we find a very important point where you have to understand how a fanatic thinks. They break all the social norms and rules that we take for granted. Norms like respect, fairness, consideration and trustworthiness become secondary to the fight for that which the fanatic wants to achieve. The goal justifies the means. Untrustworthiness, falsehood, deceit and manipulation is fully acceptable when acting in the name of God. Even though the scripture says that one is not allowed to lie. Understanding such standards is important when trying to

understand a fanatic. And if you understand the fanatical mind, you will know why constructive dialogue is impossible. Obviously, a fanatic will show up and discuss with politicians, as we see in the media, but when the camera is turned off and everyone has gone home, they laugh into their beard and prepare the next fanatical deed. In the name of God, of course.” [70127, 70128]

“It is well known that psychopaths lie, manipulate, steal and kill for personal gain. The thrill of committing crimes is often also a key motivation. Most people can understand the psychopathic mind, and we have great experience in handling them in a democratic society. We have laws, courts and police to lock them up. But if you think that the Muslims in Grimhøjmoskeen (Danish mosque famous for sending jihadis to Syria) or the terrorists in Paris are ‘just’ a bunch of psychopathic criminals, you make a serious mistake. The psychology of a fanatic is often quite different, although their tendency to speak with two tongues, lie and distort the truth may look like the usual psychopathic jailbird. A very good illustration of the difference between a psychopath and a fanatic is the fact that the two French brothers of North African descent ...almost in a provocative manner left their identity cards in the getaway car. A normal, experienced criminal would never be so stupid, since this obviously increases the risk of being discovered and caught. This action reads like a suicide bomber who knows that he or she will die with 100 percent certainty. A true psychopath will do anything to escape and will instead hire a ‘useful idiot’ to do the dangerous and dirty work.” [70127, 70128]

“The two brothers [Cherif Kouachi and Said Kouachi] did the dirty work themselves and are proud of it. They... are probably already hailed as heroes on various Muslim extremist websites. If they were caught and sentenced to life in prison, they would continue their dissemination of fundamentalist Islam inside the prison, because our prison system does not take into account the danger that such people represent. ...In my opinion we should have special departments for fundamentalist Muslims in prison, so they do not have the opportunity to indoctrinate the paltry jailbird Mohammed or Ismael sentenced for drug crime or violence, and who experience themselves marginalized in society and as treated unfairly. Our legislation is simply not geared to understand and cope with the fundamentalist mind.” [70127, 70128]

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls states, “We’re at war, but not at war against a religion, not against a civilization, but at war to defend our values, which are universal. It is a war against terrorism and radical Islam, against everything aimed at breaking solidarity, liberty and fraternity. ...Our compatriots and citizens who are Muslim by confession and culture are also the victims of terrorism. This is perhaps the most important message: the refusal of this confusion. Jihadism tries to create that confusion. We are not a collection of communities, we are one nation, a Republic with values: generosity, solidarity, fraternity, secularism. We must also be lucid: antisemitism, racism, hatred of the other, these things are intolerable... Journalists were killed for drawing, police were killed for protecting us, and Jews were killed because they were Jewish. This is what is intolerable. The indignation must be total and permanent.” [70144]



On *Justice with Judge Jeanine*, Jeanine Pirro excoriates political correctness and the Obama administration for not recognizing the threat of radical Islam. “We need to kill them,” says Pirro. “We need to *kill them*, the radical Muslims terrorists Hell-bent on killing *us*. You’re in danger, I’m in danger, and this is not going to stop. ... You can’t negotiate, you can’t mediate, and you can’t bargain—you can’t even reason with these people.” [70142]

On January 11 between one and three million Parisians peacefully march down Boulevard Voltaire in support of free speech and to protest the terrorist attacks of the preceding week. More than 40 world leaders are present, but no one from the United States government attends (other than the U.S. ambassador to France, Jane Hartley—who lives in Paris and has that job only because she raised a lot of money for the Obama campaign). Obama does not travel to Paris; nor does he send Vice President Joe Biden. Attorney General Eric Holder is in Paris, but spends his time doing interviews at television stations. According to the *Daily Mail*, the dignitaries include: Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, European Union President Donald Tusk, Jordan’s Queen Rania, Jordan’s King Abdullah II, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, and Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas. (The appearances by Davutoglu and Abbas are insulting; both Turkey and the Palestinian Authority support terrorism; in fact, the PA’s *cause* is terrorism.) A march in support of the French also took place in Washington, just a few blocks from the White House; Obama skipped that as well, Victoria Nuland, assistant secretary at the Department of State, attended. Biden stayed at home in Maryland. [70133, 70134, 70145, 70147, 70150, 70158]

TimesofIsrael.com reports, “French President Francois Hollande did not want [Israeli] Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to attend Sunday’s historic march in Paris, believing the Israeli leader’s presence at the rally would be ‘divisive,’ Israeli media reported Sunday. Netanyahu initially accepted Paris’s wishes and on Saturday cited security concerns to explain why he would not attend the event... However, the Prime Minister changed his mind later Saturday after Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman and Economy Minister Naftali Bennett announced they would join the march, Israel’s Channel 2 news reported. When Netanyahu’s office told the Elysee Palace that he would be coming after all, France responded by highlighting that it was extending an invitation to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, according to the report. The French government also announced a planned meeting between Hollande and Abbas Saturday night.” (Hollande reportedly did not want Abbas at the event either—until he learned Netanyahu would attend.) [70148, 70152, 70246]

Pamela Geller writes, “The press is calling it a rally, a unity rally, which points to what I said yesterday about the media and political manipulation of post-terror anger. This is a

rally against jihad, a rally against sharia. That is what people are up in arms about. Rebranding it into some kumbaya nonsense is a deliberate attempt to defuse an organized movement to respond, finally, to the jihad threat. This is what always happens. The elites work furiously to make sure that nothing changes. They want people be sad, defeated. When the appropriate and rational response is anger and resolve. The only natural and correct response to an Islamic attack in the West was America's after 9/11. But a decade later you could see how off the rails we had gone, just by judging what happened after the Boston jihad bombing. The motive and ideology behind the attack was scrubbed. It was not discussed. Everything was blamed except their religious ideology, which is why they did what they did. 'Boston Strong?' It was anything but. It was pathetic. Teddy bears replaced resolve and Rolling Stone deified the jihadi on their cover. The city refused my anti-jihad ads while running vicious anti-semitic ads (we are currently suing). Will this massive movement be managed as well? It remains to be seen. But terror leader Mahmoud Abbas's attendance is an indication that this is nothing more than political opportunism. Abbas is terror. He made his bones on what happened in that kosher supermarket. He leads a movement whose entire existence is based on Jewish annihilationism in the cause of Islam." [70158]

At WhiteHouse.gov, Obama's schedule shows no activities. (According to one unnamed official, Obama watched NFL playoff games. Author Jack Cashill comments, "As to the horrific events in Paris, what troubled Obama and his fellow travelers was not that Islamic terrorists attempted to suppress speech, but they got out a little bit far ahead of the moral curve in doing so. Their lack of subtlety was embarrassing. Better to stay home and cheer on the only kind of 'Patriots' Obama could actually root for.") [70139, 70207, 70304]

*Red Eye's* Greg Gutfeld quips that Obama "skipping Paris makes his cameo in the upcoming *Entourage* movie that much more anticipated." [70136]

Twitchy.com lists the top 10 reason Obama couldn't make it to Paris:

10. There were no fundraisers included.
9. He was trying to figure out how to tax it.
8. He sent a hashtag in his place.
7. Too hard to stand with no spine...
6. Couldn't leave Joe Biden home alone!
5. His Teleprompter is out being repaired.
4. His pen ran out of ink.
3. He was just so tired after the month long vacation in Hawaii!
2. France wont give him a discount on the golf course!
1. It's for 'world leaders' only."

This *Timeline* suggests: "Neither Reggie Love nor Kal Penn could make it, and a six-hour flight with Michelle just wouldn't be the same." Via Twitter, Keith McDonald writes, "Why Obama had to skip the Paris Unity March: Danish PM Helle Thorning." (Thorning,

who attended the march, earned the wrath of Michelle Obama after Barack Obama took a “selfie” with her at the funeral of Nelson Mandela.) [52293, 52294, 52295, 52296, 52303, 52307, 52349, 52354, 52358, 52402, 52405, 70140, 70164, 70186]

Although Obama could not find the time to travel to Paris, he does have a busy January 12 planned: he will host the 2014 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs at the White House. [70137, 70138]

Attorney General Eric Holder announces that Obama will hold a “security summit” on February 18 to address violent extremism. He says, “We will bring together all of our allies to discuss ways in which we can counteract this violent extremism that exists around the world.” (Holder does not say what *kind* of violent extremism will be discussed. Nor does he indicate whether Al Sharpton will be involved.) Holder also says he has no “credible evidence” suggesting which terrorist group was responsible for the attacks in Paris. (Apparently the fact that at least one of the terrorists spent time in Yemen with al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, one claimed he was with al-Qaeda in Yemen, and the group itself said it directed the attack is insufficient for Holder to link the terrorism with al-Qaeda.) [70146, 70156, 70157, 70161]

On *Meet the Press*, Holder is asked, “Would you say that the United States is at war with radical Islam?” Holder replies, “I would say that we are at war with terrorists who commit these heinous acts, and who use Islam—they use a corrupted version of Islam—to justify their actions.” On *This Week*, Holder says, “Well, I certainly think that we are at war with those who would commit terrorist attacks and who would corrupt the Islamic faith in the way that they do, to try to justify their terrorist actions, so that’s who we are at war with.” (Holder, like Obama and virtually everyone else in the administration, simply cannot say the words, “radical Islamists.” Why they fear the words is not clear, but few Americans can imagine U.S. leaders being afraid to use the word “Nazi” during World War II, even if it did “offend” some Germans.) [70186]

In Paris, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu states, “Our common enemy is extreme Islam—not Islam, not regular extremists, but extreme Islam. ...Radical Islam does not hate the West because of Israel. It hates Israel because it is an organic part of the West. It rightly views Israel as an island of Western democracy and tolerance in an ocean of fanaticism and violence that it wishes to impose on the Middle East, Europe and the entire world.” (Those who believe terrorism would “go away” if Israel and all Jews disappeared from the face of the earth are seriously mistaken.) [70203]

The *Morgenpost* newspaper in Hamburg, Germany is the target of two arsonists who throw an incendiary device into the building. [70141, 70162]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Amedy Coulibaly began his terror rampage a day earlier than previously thought by shooting a jogger and planting a car bomb, it emerged yesterday. The killer, who was shot dead by police after murdering four hostages in a Jewish shop on Friday, was thought to have struck first when he killed an unarmed policewoman last Thursday. But now Paris prosecutors think he was responsible for seriously injuring a

jogger in a suburb of the capital on January 7, the same day gunmen killed 12 during the Charlie Hebdo massacre. A ‘martyrdom video’ of the fanatic, apparently filmed midway through the wave of terror attacks, appeared online yesterday. In it he urges Western Muslims to wage war against ‘enemies of Islam.’ The footage claims Coulibaly planted a bomb under a car on a Paris street, seemingly referring to an explosion on Wednesday night that authorities had not linked to the terror attacks. Prosecutors said that tests on shell cases from the jogger shooting linked them to the weapon used at the kosher supermarket two days later. French security forces also released details of a cache of weapons, including automatic rifles and explosives, found at Coulibaly’s last address, an apartment in Gentilly, on the outskirts of Paris.” [70151]

A Frenchman named Joseph, a close friend of one of the Hyper Cacher supermarket victims, Yohan Cohen, speaks with Pamela Geller. She writes, “Joseph was not just grief-stricken; he was also angry, saying of the jihad attack: ‘I got a lot of information. I spoke to people from the inside of what happened. It was a catastrophe. This could’ve been avoided.’ Joseph explained this by pointing out that Mohammed Merah, who murdered four people, including three children, at a Jewish day school in France in March 2012, first killed three members of the French military. [Merah “proudly” filmed his savagery with a “GoPro” video camera, as did Ahmed Coulibaly.] Coulibaly, he said, worked the same way, first participating in the jihad massacre at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and then going to Hyper Cacher to kill Jews. ‘I talked to the owner of the supermarket,’ Joseph said, ‘and apparently, from what he told me, Amedy Coulibaly was there a week ago. The owner’s brother was inside the store during the siege and he recognized Coulibaly, because he saw him a week ago. The owner’s brother was shot in the arm, and he is alive to tell the story.’ The attack, Joseph said, was ‘planned ahead of time. Because they knew it was Shabbat [the Sabbath]. They knew that people would come shopping for Shabbat. It wasn’t like the media said, that he saw a kosher place, he stopped by and that was it. No. This was planned by Coulibaly, his wife and the Kouachi brothers. They all had a very specific plan. The Kouachi brothers were supposed to take care of Charlie Hebdo and Coulibaly had to take care of police officers and the Jews.’” [70152, 70153, 70197]

“...Inside [the supermarket], Coulibaly began conversing with the hostages. ‘It was very weird,’ said Joseph. ‘He came in and he asked everyone, what’s your name, what do you do for a living, what’s your religion. He had disgust for Jews. He insulted everyone and then he hit them. Women, too. One source told me that he took a Jewish woman by the hair and started moving her around with the hair, calling her a dog. He threw her on the ground. The four dead bodies were right there on the floor. One person inside the store left me a message crying, he said, ‘That poor, poor man dead on the floor with his challah [braided bread for the Sabbath]’ ...Coulibaly, according to Joseph, ‘wanted to blow the place up. He was ready to die. That was clear from what everybody told me. They told me about the fear they had when they saw him and starting to pray, to pray as Muslims do before they blow themselves up.’ He was heavily armed, with two 9 mm pistols, a grenade, dynamite sticks, and more. Says Joseph, ‘So he was ready to blow the place up. He told them they were all going to die. They were getting to a point where he was becoming more insane and was starting to scream and insult them, saying, ‘You dirty

Jews, you oppress us. I will go to heaven.’ He was starting to scream and insult everyone, saying, ‘We will take over France and we will put the flag of jihad over the Élysée Palace. And he was going more and more crazy.’” [70152, 70153]

“...In the aftermath of the massacre, Joseph pointed out that during a news report about the attack, Muslim children gathered behind the journalist, happily making the hand signal of firing a gun, making the V [victory] sign, and celebrating. ‘This is in their blood,’ Joseph said. ‘It’s not something that Americans understand. But I’ve been stabbed, I have had a lot problems with them. I know their hatred. These are people whom the Koran commands, very clearly, many times, to kill us. We are supposed to be murdered. Yet I see these people reports on TV saying, ‘Oh well, Jews and Muslims lived side by side for many years in Muslim Spain.’ But you can talk to my, to my grandparents. You can talk to those who lived under Muslim occupations. They were dhimmis, they had to pay more taxes, and the day that the Muslim king wasn’t happy, he’d come in and kill everyone.’ Now that the same kind of society is being created in France, Joseph said that he was doing everything he could to get Jews out of the country. ‘One source I have,’ he said, ‘told me that apparently this was just the beginning. Something else is coming that’ll be bigger. And all the synagogues were closed today’—for the first time since World War II. This, Joseph said, was because when Coulibaly ‘killed the cop Thursday, he wasn’t shooting for the cop, he was shooting for the Jewish school. There was a Jewish school in Montrouge and he was looking to shoot there. It’s very funny that he starts shooting and there’s a Jewish school right close by.’ ...Joseph concluded: ‘America has to do something for the French Jews. America has to do something for the French Jews because Israel cannot take in all the French Jews. Everybody’s trying to get to the U.S. You know how many people call me, asking, ‘how can I get to the U.S., it’s so difficult.’” [70152, 70153]

“Joseph noted that ‘in the past two months there have been shots fired at synagogues and kosher restaurants. Many Jews have been killed in the past ten years in France. But no one is doing anything about it, and the French government cannot do anything about it. They are powerless and they know they’re powerless. They know they have no options on the table, because there are thousands of young French Muslims going to Syria and Iraq. They’re fighting, going to Yemen, going to Afghanistan, going to Pakistan, coming back to France, thousands, thousands, thousands. They’re insane. They get back, the only thing they want is to kill Jews.’ And they will.” [70152, 70153]

CNN.com reports, “French law enforcement officers have been told to erase their social media presence and to carry their weapons at all times because terror sleeper cells have been activated over the last 24 hours in the country, a French police source who attended a briefing Saturday told CNN terror analyst Samuel Laurent.” [70159, 70160]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Millions of French citizens and nearly every leading figure in the country attended the ‘March against Hatred’ in Paris Sunday—with the notable exception of the popular nationalist leader Marine Le Pen. Le Pen was not invited to participate in the rally, despite her party—the National Front—winning 25% of vote in France’s last election, the highest total for any party. Le Pen also regularly tops polls for

who citizens would like to have as their next president and her approval rating is twice that of the current French president Francois Hollande. Le Pen blasted her exclusion from the march and considered it a ‘hypocrisy’ to label it a ‘national unity’ rally without including National Front leaders, The Independent reports. She instead attended a march in a small town known for supporting her party.” [70183]

On January 12 the cover of the *New York Daily News* reads, “Sunday, more than 40 leaders march with 3M people in Paris to defy terror. None of these men showed up.” The text is followed by photos of Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, and Attorney General Eric Holder. Underneath the photos are the words, “You let the world down.” [70135]

Obama is (almost) universally criticized for being a no-show at the Paris march. (Even former counsel to Bill Clinton Lanny Davis calls it “poor judgment.”) Aaron David Miller, a former State Department official whose duties, according to Politico.com, included “help[ing] deliberate over which officials to send to which events, states, “It’s stunning, truly stunning,” that no high-level U.S. official attended the march in Paris. “It’s a poster child for tone deafness.” (Obama sent three officials to the funeral of Michael Brown, but none to Paris.) [70150, 70171, 70184, 70194]

On CBS *This Morning*, correspondent Bill Plante excuses Obama’s absence, saying, “there were apparently no formal invitations.” [70229]

CNN’s Jake Tapper says, “The United States, which considers itself to be the most important nation in the world, was not represented in this march—arguably one of the most important public demonstrations in Europe in the last generation—except by U.S. Ambassador Jane Hartley, who may have been a few rows back. I didn’t see her. Even Russia sent Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. I say this as an American—not as a journalist, not as a representative of CNN—but as an American: I was ashamed.” (The Paris unity rally will not stop jihad, but Obama nevertheless should have attended. People attend funerals even though their presence won’t bring back the dead.) [70171]

Democrat political analyst Rick Ungar writes, “While I have often taken issue with the enemies of Obama who unreasonably and, in my judgment, unfairly criticize and condemn his every move, [his] decision to pass on the Paris Unity March puts significant tarnish on his Nobel Peace Prize, the awarding of which is now increasingly looking as satirical as the work done by the fallen cartoonists and writers at Charley Hebdo [sic; Charlie Hebdo]. So difficult is it to understand what led to [Obama’s] decision not to participate in Paris, the only rational cause I can conjure up would be a concern for Obama’s safety. Yet, when a more poignant terrorist target, in the person of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is willing to make the trip and join in the march, security just doesn’t seem like a viable excuse.” Of course, if any world leader was a target of assassins at the Paris event, it was Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. (It is worth noting that “a senior Obama administration official” once referred to Netanyahu as “a chickenshit.” Netanyahu served in the Israeli Defense Forces and was wounded.

Obama served in... the Illinois State Senate and often voted “present.”) [66970, 67067, 67120, 67131, 67132, 70172, 70240, 70273, 70274, 70277, 70805]

The Secret Service states it was not even asked to consider an Obama trip. Former agent Brad Blakeman tells Fox News the White House is using the Secret Service as a scapegoat, and that Obama “can go wherever he wants. There was no more important event than this and if they put their minds to it, the Secret Service and our military could have secured the area. The fact is, we let a friend down and used security as a convenient excuse.” Former agent Dan Bongino calls the excuse “crap” and says Obama “acts like a child and no one outside of conservative media holds him to account. These people are forfeiting their lives for you... This guy is just acting like a petulant child. ...My experience with [Obama’s White House] staff is they are just amateur hour. They don’t know what’s going on. There’s really only one channel to him: Valerie Jarrett. This doesn’t function like a regular White House... Instead of just doing what a responsible White House would do and say we blew it, they are completely incapable of acting like adults. It’s infuriating.” [66970, 67067, 67120, 67131, 67132, 70172, 70240, 70273, 70274, 70277]

The Senate votes 63-32 to advance debate over Keystone XL pipeline legislation. According to Politico.com, “Ten Democrats and one independent joined every Republican in advancing the Keystone bill, though some pipeline backers in Obama’s party could end up opposing the legislation in a final vote if Republicans attach amendments that pull it to the right during what could be a weeks-long open floor debate. The addition of efforts to restrict Obama’s pending climate rule for power plants, for example, could cut into Keystone’s Democratic support. A bipartisan amendment boosting energy efficiency, on the other hand, could help win more votes for the pipeline bill. Supporters of yanking Obama’s authority over Keystone, emboldened Friday by a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling that upheld the validity of the pipeline’s route, count about 63 votes as of now. Environmentalists and Democrats fighting the bill are confident that the four votes necessary to override [an Obama] veto will remain out of reach for the GOP, which is also well short of a veto-proof margin in the House.” [70215, 70241]

At the Heritage Foundation’s Conservative Policy Summit, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) calls for a prohibition on the imposition of federal regulations that cost the economy more than \$100 million to first be approved by Congress, rather than simply be dreamed up and imposed by unelected bureaucrats. (By one estimate, the Obama administration has averaged 65 new business regulations per day since January 2009. Complying with each of those regulations costs businesses money, and those costs are passed on to consumers via higher prices on goods and services.) [70670, 70701]

In an NPR interview, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio states he supports identification cards for illegal immigrants because, “We don’t want any of our fellow New Yorkers to feel like second-class citizens. We don’t want them to feel left out.” (De Blasio is apparently too stupid to realize that illegal immigrants are not even second-class citizens. *They are not citizens at all.*) [70290, 70291]

At Townhall.com Shawn Mitchell writes, “Did CNN really just call a black, French terrorist an ‘African-American?’ America, we are going to hell because too many of you are freaking morons.” “If you think a caricature of Mohammed is hate speech but a crucifix of Jesus bottled in urine is art that deserves a federal subsidy and Christian theocrats should shut up about it, you might be a liberal.” “The Council on American Islamic Relations has condemned the feared overreaction to next week’s subway bombing.” “Obama only wants his free community college scheme to apply to smart students. There’s a GPA border fence. Not so smart students? He hates you.” “How can the national media talk with a straight face about violence against people ‘who mocked the Prophet Mohammed?’ Can you imagine in a hundred lifetimes the media solicitously describing Christian violence against people ‘who mocked the Savior Jesus?’ Hang it up media. You are clueless pukes hopelessly biased against the people and culture you report to.” “National networks report Islamic terror is on the rise. No apparent embarrassment that two years ago they mocked and pilloried Romney for challenging Barack Hussein Obama’s claim to the contrary. America, we are occupied by a disloyal, dishonest media regardless of the administration in control.” [70169]

While Obama delivers a speech on “cybersecurity,” the U.S. military’s Central Command (CENTCOM) Twitter account is hacked by individuals claiming to be with ISIS. Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “A series of tweets were sent out with sensitive information about U.S. military strategy toward North Korea and China. The tweets also threatened military personnel and their families. ...The information that was posted on the account has been verified by intelligence sources as real information hacked directly from CENTCOM, meaning this wasn’t simply a hack of a Twitter account, but against CENTCOM itself. Since the breach, Twitter has suspended the CENTCOMM account. ...The CENTCOM YouTube page was also hacked and filled with ISIS propaganda videos.” (Why CENTCOMM even maintains Twitter and YouTube accounts is not clear.) USA Today.com reports, “A Twitter account from a group identifying itself as Anonymous said Monday it had tracked the source of the hack to Maryland, but that was not confirmed by official sources.” (On January 14 ForeignPolicy.com writes, “The main suspects: a group led by Junaid Hussain, a 20-year-old who moved from Britain to Syria—accompanied by his 45-year-old alt-rock girlfriend—to kick-start the Islamic State’s hacking campaign.”) [70170, 70200, 70238, 70239, 70282, 70380, 70381]

The next issue of *Charlie Hebdo* features the headline, “Tout est pardonne” (“All is Forgiven”) and the Islamic prophet Mohammed hold a sign that reads, “Je Suis Charlie” (“I am Charlie”). Radical Muslim cleric Anjem Choudary calls the new cover “an act of war” and says, “These things always have a history of coming back and biting them. People are not going to forget. Muslims will never forget what these people did. And I’m sure there’s someone somewhere who will take the law into his own hands. It’s inevitable. There will be repercussions. I think there will be someone somewhere who will retaliate.” (Americans can subscribe to *Charlie Hebdo* via Amazon.com. Actor and former governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger has done so.) [70173, 70174, 71098, 70225, 70226, 70227, 70228]



Democrat Party hack Donna Brazile tweets, “And let me say thank you to US Ambassador to France Jane Hartley for being part of the massive march in Paris? Thank you for representing.” (Why Brazile included the question mark is not clear, but the message is clearly intended to provide cover for Obama for not sending anyone to the event. Hartley, of course, was not “sent,” as she already lives in Paris. She was given the ambassadorship post as payback for raising more than \$500,000 for Obama’s 2012 campaign. Hartley is married to Evercore Partners CEO Ralph Schlosstein. In September 2012 they hosted a fundraiser for Obama at their Manhattan home on posh Park Avenue. The email invitation trolling for dollars read, “Hi there—fundraising this quarter has been a struggle (as you can imagine give all the negative stuff around [Obama])—they are offering a one off opportunity to attend this small dinner on Monday for \$25k instead of the full max out of \$38.5k, or a couple at \$38.5k instead of \$77k. Just wanted to offer that in case you’re interested! ...Evercore Chairman and former Assistant Treasury Secretary Roger Altman is also a co-host. Many other senior Wall Street individuals will be attending. ...This will be an intimate dinner with the opportunity to spend quality time with [Obama] in a private home. Given the current Republican field, it is more imperative than ever that we re-elect ...Obama and I hope you can join us on September 19th.”) [70175]

In Portland, Oregon, 19-year-old Abdalah Mohamed threatens the owner of a delicatessen, saying, “I will blow up your store!” “I’m going to send my guys to shoot up your store!” “You Israeli ...I’ll blow up your store in the name of Allah!” “We take care of people like you.” According to OregonLive.com, Mohamed “lived in Northeast Portland for about six years and is originally from Kenya. ...Mohamed is also accused of cocaine possession in an unrelated case, according to court records.” [70350, 70351, 70374]

CBS News’ Mark Knoller tweets, “WH issues veto threat today against DHS funding bill if House GOP ‘mucks around’ with ...Obama’s immigration exec actions.” (In other words, Obama is willing to threaten funding of the entire Department of Homeland Security and put more than 300 million Americans at risk if Congress blocks his unconstitutional illegal immigrant amnesty actions. Congress should call his bluff... and then impeach him for violating his oath of office.) [70176, 70177]

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) announces he will not be running for president in 2016. [70178]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “We should have sent someone with a higher profile” to the Paris unity march. (Obama did not even send someone with a low profile.) The White House also declares that “without question” Americans are free to draw cartoons depicting Mohammed. (Most Americans are probably not aware that the First Amendment required Obama’s permission.) The administration also says it would “leave it to media organizations” to determine whether they should publish offensive cartoons. [70179, 70180, 70231]

Earnest also says that although the publication of offensive cartoons by *Charlie Hebdo* “did not in anyway justify an act of violence... it would not be the first time that there has been a discussion in this country about the kinds of responsibilities that go along with exercising the right to freedom of speech. And in this scenario... there [is] a genuine concern that the publication of some of those materials could put Americans abroad at risk, including American soldiers. And that is something that the commander in chief takes very seriously. And [Obama] and his spokesman... will not now, be shy about expressing a view or taking the steps that are necessary to try to advocate for the safety and security of our men and women in uniform.” (In other words, “We pretend to believe in free speech but don’t actually want people to practice it if it offends Muslims, because the Obama administration is unable or unwilling to fight Islamic jihadists, and we’ll use ‘protecting the troops’ as our excuse for infringing on liberties.”) [70213, 70248]

Asked about the mass killings by Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria, Earnest replies, “Well, we certainly are aware of those reports and there are some other, frankly, disturbing reports of violence out of Nigeria over the weekend as well. We do continue to be concerned about that situation and we’re going to continue to work with the Nigerian government on our counterterrorism efforts. At the same time, we’re also going to continue to urge the Nigerian government to live up to some basic human rights and some basic principles of human rights that sometimes get overlooked out of an effort to try to fight this terrible terrorist scourge that they’re dealing with in their country right now. But the United States is going to continue to monitor these events and continue to work with Nigeria on this.” (“Monitoring” Islamist terrorists will be of little help to people they slaughter.) [70267]

Hopenchangecartoons.com posts a three-panel cartoon of Secretary of State John Kerry. In the first panel, he says, “Je suis Charlie.” In the second panel, someone comments, “Wow, you pronounced that beautifully!” In the third panel, Kerry says, “Well, I used to say it a lot in Vietnam.” (Kerry speaks French. “Charlie” was the name used by the U.S. military in Vietnam to refer to the Viet Cong soldiers.) [70181]

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power tweets, “Recent polls show isolationist sentiment at highest point in 50 yrs. But American leadership in the world critically important.” (She does not suggest who might be a good leader to take over Oval Office duties.) [70183]

Asked about the failure of U.S. leaders to show up in Paris for the unity march, Secretary of State John Kerry says, “I really think that this is sort of quibbling a little bit in the sense that our Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland was there and marched, our ambassador [to France Jane Hartley] was there and marched, many people from the embassy were there and marched.” (According to BizPacReview.com, Nuland was *not* in Paris; she attended a similar event in Washington, D.C.) Kerry adds, “I want to emphasize that the relationship with France is not about one day or one particular moment, it is an ongoing longtime relationship that is deeply, deeply based in the shared values, and particularly the commitment that we share to freedom of expression.” (BizPacReview again: “To the Obamaphiles, this probably sounds smart. To the rest of

the world, it sounds like a guy who forgot his anniversary explaining to his wife that their relationship means more than one day. It's a good bet Kerry doesn't 'quibble' with [his wife, ketchup heiress] Teresa [Heinz]. And nobody 'quibbles' with Michelle Obama.") [70187]

At FoxNews.com Democrat pollster and consultant Doug Schoen writes that on Sunday, "...Obama morally abdicated his place as the leader of the free world. His decision to stay home instead of standing side by side with French President Hollande as millions marched in Paris in solidarity with the slain journalists of Charlie Hebdo in opposition to radical Islam—an enemy fiercer than we have seen in decades—sent a clear message to the world: Obama just doesn't care. His words about the horrendous terrorist attack this week were not enough. They came off as inauthentic at best and offensive at worst. To speak about the most serious terrorist attack on Western soil since 9/11, London and Madrid, in between speeches about his free community college plan demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding for the gravity of the situation in Paris and, indeed, the world. To this end, it is not surprising that ...Obama is the only Western leader who has refused to call this attack Islamic terrorism, even though [French] President [Francois] Hollande has declared that France is at war with radical Islam. And to not even send Vice President Joe Biden or Secretary of State John Kerry in his place shows a level of disrespect that makes me ashamed of our nation. We are at war with radical Islam. And ...Obama needs to say it. ...I have been disappointed by ...Obama many times during his six years in office, but perhaps never more so than this weekend. He is redefining what it means to be a lame duck as well as giving the world a master class in what it means to let the world down." [70195]

Pamela Geller comments on Obama's absence from Paris: "This wasn't a misstep. This was deliberate. Biden could have gone. Eric Holder was in Paris and was prohibited from going. His job was to enforce sharia. He refused to link jihad terror with jihad or Islam. We are at war with 'lone wolf' attacks. This was a calculated move signaling his solidarity with jihad groups like the Muslim Brotherhood, 'moderate' al Qaeda (his administration's turn of a phrase, not mine), Hamas, etc. He attacked free speech when jihadists attacked America on September 11, 2012 (and it wasn't even an issue). And he stood with jihadists after the Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Cacher slaughters. He sent an entourage to Michael Brown's funeral. He sent a letter of commendation to the mosque that preached jihad and hatred of America to the Oklahoma beheader of Colleen Hufford. He stood with jihadists when he sanctioned the UK government's ban of my colleague Robert Spencer and me from entering the country. British documents to our banning specifically stated, '... initial feedback from Post to say that they do not expect that there would be any reaction from the US Administration to these exclusions.' President Quisling. [70199]

Politico.com writes, "White House aides were so caught off guard by the [Paris] march's massive size and attention that they hadn't even asked ...Obama if he wanted to go." (In other words, Obama *and* all of his staffers are tone deaf.) [70235]

CNN's Brianna Keilar says, "...Obama, while he obviously does things to deal with terrorism, this isn't the issue that he wants to be fully front and center out there, uh, with, I think it's fair to say." (In other words, "Obama doesn't give a damn about fighting radical Islamists and prefers domestic issues." When campaigning in 2008 and 2012, of course, Obama neglected to say he only cared about domestic issues.) [70243]

WND.com reports, "Macy's is closing 14 of its 790 stores across the country. JCPenney is closing 39 of its stores and laying off 2,250 workers. And that's just the beginning of the retail earthquake hitting America, say analysts. ...Sears has been around for 122 years, but it, too, is closing 235 under-performing stores. Sears and Kmart lost \$296 million in 2014. ...During 2014, Sears Holdings closed about 200 of the Sears and Kmart stores. Even chic newer retailers are closing their doors. C. Wonder, the preppy retailer, is going out of business, closing all 11 of its U.S. stores in the next few weeks. Wet Seal is closing 338 retail stores while dealing with bankruptcy proceedings. Nearly 3,700 full- and part-time workers will be unemployed. ...Aeropostale, suffering from declining sales, closed 75 stores during the holiday season, which runs from November through January. And in 2015, they expect to close an additional 50 to 75 stores. RadioShack, which is negotiating with lenders to gain approval to shutter 1,100 stores, said last month that it closed 175 locations in 2014." (On January 9 Obama said, "America's [economic] resurgence is real." He is wrong. The economy is limping along. All those store closings mean thousands of jobs that will be lost almost immediately. More jobs will later be lost because wholesale suppliers will have fewer stores buying merchandise, and trucking companies will have fewer deliveries to make.) [70188, 70196, 70308]

The Obama administration announces that Cuba has released 53 of its many political prisoners—as part of the December 17 Obama-Castro deal. [70418]

*The Washington Post* reports, "In a memoir due out in early February, [Reggie] Love recounts his years working for Barack Obama—in the Senate, on the 2008 campaign and in the White House. Fresh out of Duke University, where he'd been captain of the Blue Devils basketball squad, Love joined Team Obama in 2007 and soon became the senator's personal aide, a role he would keep through the primaries, general election and most of the first term." In the book, Love claims that during a 2007 campaign trip Obama walked in on him when he was in bed with an old college friend, gaining access via a "Secret Service master key." (Some will suggest that the story cannot be true—for reasons related to Love's and Obama's choice of partners.) [70233, 70234]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Muslim leaders from across America will gather in Texas this weekend to hold the annual Stand With the Prophet in Honor and Respect conference, a weekend forum that is being billed as a 'movement to defend Prophet Muhammad, his person, and his message,' according to event information. The Saturday [January 17] event, which seeks to combat 'Islamophobes in America' who have turned the Islamic Prophet Muhammad 'into an object of hate,' according to organizers, comes just a week after radicalized Islamists in France killed 17 people." According to Pamela Geller, speakers will include "John Esposito, a professor at Georgetown University and head of the Saudi-funded Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at

Georgetown; and Siraj Wahhaj, an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and close friend of the mastermind of that bombing, the ‘Blind Sheikh’ Omar Abdel Rahman. Wahhaj has said: ‘If only Muslims were clever politically, they could take over the United States and replace its constitutional government with a caliphate.’” (Whether Obama has been invited or will attend is not reported.) [70230, 70251]

Just days after laughably claiming it supports free speech, the terrorist-sympathizing Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) calls on Fox News to stop allowing critics of radical Islam to appear on its programs. Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer comments, “ Hamas-linked CAIR operatives have the ear of government, law enforcement, and media. [CAIR’s] Nihad Awad or Ibrahim ‘Honest Abe’ Hooper can pick up the phone and get a story into any major newspaper, spun just the way they want it, on demand. They’re the go-to people for every mainstream media reporter who wants a quote from a ‘moderate’ Muslim, and they’re regularly featured on TV shows on all the major networks. And yet they’re deathly afraid of six people [Steve Emerson, Pamela Geller, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Brigitte Gabriel, Zuhdi Jasser, and Spencer] appearing occasionally on one network. Now, why is that? The answer is obvious: Hamas-linked CAIR is dedicated to spreading a thick fog of disinformation about the jihad threat, so as to render Americans ignorant and complacent about that threat. The people they excoriate as ‘Islamophobes’ clear away that fog. Even though they have much more money and much greater access than we will ever have, they know we have one weapon they cannot defeat: the truth. And so they’re desperate to silence us.” [70205]

A YouGov poll shows that more Republicans than Democrats support free speech on the issue of whether media in the U.S. should publish Charlie Hebdo cartoons that some may find offensive. Fifty percent of Republicans, 44 percent of Independents, and 37 percent of Democrats say they should be published. Far more men than women support Charlie Hebdo’s action in publishing the photos (51 percent to 31 percent), and more whites (45 percent) show support than blacks (19 percent) or Hispanics (35 percent). (HotAir.com comments, “In case you’re wondering which party is the anti-blasphemy party. remember this the next time you stumble across a lefty thinkpiece on how Christian theocrats run the GOP.”) [70242]

FoxNews.com reports, “One of the brothers who carried out a massacre at the offices of the satirical French magazine Charlie Hebdo lived across the hall from the so-called ‘underwear bomber’ while the two attended an Arabic-language school in Yemen in 2009... The Wall Street Journal, citing neighbors of both men as well as Yemeni intelligence officials, reported that Said Kouachi and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab studied together and often visited the mosque in the Old City of Yemen’s capital, San’a.” [70208, 70209]

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, president of Turkey, says, “The duplicity of the west is obvious. As Muslims we have never sided with terror or massacres: racism, hate speech, Islamophobia are behind these massacres. The culprits are clear: French citizens undertook this [*Charlie Hebdo* and kosher supermarket] massacre and Muslims were

blamed for it. ...Games are being played throughout the Islamic world.” Melih Gokcek, mayor of Ankara, blames the Israeli intelligence service: “Mossad is definitely behind such incidents... it is boosting enmity towards Islam.” [70417]

On *The Kelly File*, Martha MacCallum grills State Department spokesperson Marie Harf about the Obama administration’s inability to use the term “radical Islamists.” “Why is it so hard to say?” asks MacCallum. Harf replies, “It’s not hard to say, but it’s not the only kind of extremist we face.” MacCallum: “What other forms of extremism are particularly troubling and compelling to you right now?” Harf: “[T]here are a number of people out there who want to kill other people in the name of a variety of causes.” Noting several recent terrorist attacks by radical Islamists, MacCallum asks, “Don’t you see a common thread?” Harf responds, “I think that’s a little bit overly simplistic, to be honest with you, Martha.” [70233]

On the *Daily Show*, anti-semitic former president Jimmy Carter says of the terrorist massacres in Paris, “Well, one of the origins for it is the Palestinian problem, and this aggravates people who are affiliated in any way with the Arab people who live in the West Bank and Gaza, what they are doing now... what’s being done to them. So I think that’s part of it.” (In other words, Carter blames Israel. Obama no doubt believes the same thing, but Carter is foolish enough to say it in public.) [70203]

Earlier in the day, Carter defended Obama’s absence at the Paris unity march, telling Katie Couric of Yahoo News, “I know that ...Obama’s just come back from vacation, and I know how it is when you’ve been gone for a week or two. Your desk is piled up, and he had other pressing problems to address. So I don’t think there’s any reflection on our country or no criticism is worthy.” (That is, “The poor baby was tired.”) [70204]

On January 13 MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell asks a French guest, “Why is it permissible, uh, to be as provocative as these anti-Muslim cartoons were? This is a debate we’re having journalistically here in the United States as well, you know.” (Mitchell has apparently never heard of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and most Americans are probably not aware of any “debate” being held “journalistically” about free speech. In fact, Americans believe they have that right. If Mitchell and her fellow journalists are advocating the curtailment of free speech rights, it is they who are being “provocative.”) [70210]

Patrice Walid, the owner of the Kosher supermarket who was wounded in the terrorist attack in Paris on January 9, announces he will move to Israel. (Jews in France are not safe, with more than five million Muslims in the city and the police unable to adequately protect them. On January 10 Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu offered an invitation: “To all the Jews of France and to all the Jews of Europe, I wish to say: the State of Israel is not only the place to which you pray, the State of Israel is also your home.” French Prime Minister Manuel Valls states, “If 100,000 French people of Spanish origin were to leave, I would never say that France is not France anymore. But if 100,000 Jews leave, France will no longer be France. The French Republic will be judged a

failure.” As many as 10,000 Jews may leave France in 2015; about 7,000 fled in 2014. Valls is apparently unaware of his own country’s anti-Semitism.) [70212, 70213, 70352]

Robert Spencer later comments on Valls’ statement: “It was an extraordinary breaking of ranks. For years now, since 9/11 and before, Western leaders from all points of the political spectrum have unanimously maintained that Islam was a Religion of Peace and that Islamic jihad terrorists were a tiny minority of extremists who were twisting and hijacking the peaceful teachings of their religion. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls hasn’t exactly abandoned this roseate, inaccurate, and self-defeating view, but he has come closer than any other Western leader to telling the truth about the threat—with Eric Holder harrumphing in dissent on the sidelines.” [70353]

Former president Jimmy Carter tells Huff Post Live, “I think this is gonna [sic; going to] give, uh, a lot of people an incentive to look into Islam and see what is here about this religion that makes it great, that makes it appeal, really, to billions of people, and, and, to understand that the Islamic leaders condemn this kind of terrorism, uh, just like the rest of the world condemns it.” (Carter does explain what it is that he thinks makes Islam great. He also declines to list the names of the Islamic leaders who have allegedly condemned terrorism.) Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s invitation to French Jews to relocate in Israel, a grinning Carter replies, “My guess is that the Jews who live in France, uh, will maybe not take this as a positive step, saying the only way you can be safe is to come to Israel. And I would guess that you may be, on the average, safer in France than you are in some places in Israel.” (Carter is viciously anti-Israel and always sides with Muslims over the Jews. He is not asked *why* he believes Jews are safer in France than in Israel—not that he would ever state that Hamas rockets can real Israel from Gaza but not France.) [70255, 70256, 70294]

At Townhall.com Wayne Allyn Root writes, “[T]he economy is not ‘recovering’ or ‘healthy’ for anyone but corporate elite, billionaires, bankers and Wall Street. Main Street and small business are dying. The American middle class is being murdered. For the first time in history our middle class is no longer number one in the world—Canada’s is. For the first time in history more businesses are failing each day than opening. For the first time in history there are more people on welfare, food stamps and other handouts than working in the private sector. We have the lowest workforce participation rate in history. Almost 100 million working-age Americans aren’t working. 107 million Americans are on some form of welfare. This is Obama’s definition of success? ...Obama’s supporters claim healthcare costs are down while GDP is up. Really? Here are the facts. Health insurance premiums have gone up more in the past year than in the 8 years prior to Obamacare *combined*. And that is precisely why GDP was up. Almost the entire increase in 3rd quarter GDP was fueled by the massive increase in healthcare costs due to Obamacare. So let me get this scam correctly. Obama’s voters get ‘free’ healthcare, while middle class America and small business gets bankrupted with the huge bill. Our health insurance premiums are skyrocketing, destroying our quality of life, and Obama calls that proof that GDP is up. That’s an achievement?” [70214]

“...If the GDP increase for one quarter was primarily produced by increased healthcare spending, then how can Obama’s defenders claim that healthcare spending is down? Where did they get that lie from? Jonathan Gruber? The left just makes up lies—and no one challenges them. My health insurance bill went from \$500 per month to \$1700 under Obama. ...Obama’s defenders claim unemployment is down. How could it be down if the workforce participation rate is the lowest in history? The answer is fraud. The government doesn’t count the people no longer looking for jobs... or who don’t want a job (who would rather sit home collecting welfare). True unemployment is at Great Depression levels. ...Democrats also crow about the stock market under Obama. Republicans go along with this narrative. Well a rising stock market based on good news and positive economic fundamentals would be great. But a rising stock market based on fake money printing by the Fed, misleading economic stats and massive debt is not so great. Actually it’s a tragedy. Our stock market under Obama resembles the sub-prime mortgage crisis. It’s a debt bubble about to pop.” [70214]

“The stock market is up because Obama has added \$8 trillion in debt. This is the world’s largest Ponzi scheme. We’ve printed trillions in fake dollars to make the stock market go up for the corporate elite (Obama’s biggest donors), to prop up union pension funds (to benefit Obama’s biggest union supporters), and to pay for 107 million Americans on welfare and food stamps (Obama’s most loyal voters). But the mountain of debt is like a credit card credit line that will soon explode, destroying our country and our children’s future. Every politician who supported it should be in jail. ...Debt is a cancer that kills every country it has ever touched. Study ancient Greece, or the Roman Empire. Or ask Venezuela. They are following the exact Obama game plan. They now have massive unrest, starving citizens, food and toilet paper shortages... and the highest stock market in history! ...The entire Obama economic ‘recovery’ is a lie. It’s all based on lies, misrepresentations, in some cases pure fraud, higher taxes, massive debt, and on the income redistribution of money from the middle class to the poor and the corporate elite. The rest of us are either drowning, or hanging on for dear life. Now it’s time for the GOP to go on the offensive. It’s time to debunk the narrative that Obama has produced a ‘recovery.’ If we don’t make that case, get ready for President Hillary Clinton.” [70214]

After Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduces a laughable amendment declaring that global warming” is caused by mankind, MIT climate scientist Richard Lindzen tells ClimateDepot.com, “Climate change is of course real; change being the normal state of affairs in climate. Climate change has caused catastrophic problems on occasion throughout the earth’s history. While man may have contributed somewhat to climate change in recent years, his contribution to the above is highly questionable, and continues to be debated. Moreover, the incidence of severe events shows no particular deviation from historical expectations. Attempts to claim otherwise represent an attempt to hijack science for political purposes. In the case of Bernie Sanders, a socialist, he is undoubtedly dreaming about nationalizing the energy industry. For the US Senate to accept guidance from Sanders’ bizarre dreams is ludicrous.” (Senate Republicans later call Sanders’ bluff, allowing a vote on an amendment to Keystone XL pipeline legislation that states “climate change is not a hoax.” The amendment passes 98-1, but it is laughably meaningless as it merely recognizes that the earth’s climate changes; it does not declare that man is causing



it. Americac2c.com notes, “[A] separate amendment purporting to find humans guilty of causing global warming failed miserably.”) [70362, 70363, 70662]

It is reported that Obama will meet with Cuba’s Raul Castro in Panama on April 11. [70216]

MSNBC pixilates the latest cover of Charlie Hebdo when program host Ronan Farrow shows it during an interview. [70218]

A soldier at Fort Hood, Texas is found dead outside his apartment—after returning from his Ebola-related mission in West Africa. NBCWashington.com reports, “The 24-year-old soldier had been under mandatory Ebola monitoring, but preliminary tests for Ebola came back negative Tuesday. ...The soldier, whose name has not yet been released, returned with his unit last week from Liberia, where he helped construct an Ebola treatment camp but wasn’t exposed to patients, Fort Hood spokesman Chris Haug said. Haug said the soldier was ordered to self-monitor his conditions twice per day and report the status to medical officials and was allowed off-post after his return.” [70219, 70220]

The Associated Press reports, “Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has accused ...Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, of double standards in parenting, saying in an interview published Tuesday that the first family shelters its daughters from some things but allows them to listen to the music of Beyonce [Knowles]. ...While promoting his new book, the former Baptist pastor told People magazine, ‘I don’t understand how on one hand they can be such doting parents and so careful about the intake of everything—how much broccoli they eat and where they go to school—and yet they don’t see anything that might not be suitable’ in Beyonce’s lyrics. He also said Beyonce’s choreography is ‘best left for the privacy of her bedroom.’ In his book, Huckabee describes the Grammy Award-winning Beyonce’s lyrics as ‘obnoxious and toxic mental poison.’ He also accuses Beyonce’s husband, rapper Jay-Z, of ‘exploiting his wife’ like a ‘pimp.’” (At a \$40,000-per-ticket fundraiser, Obama once said, “Beyonce could not be a better role model for my girls.” Whether Obama or his wife let their daughters listen to Beyonce’s *Drunk in Love* is not known. The song’s lyrics include: “I’m Ike, Turner, turn up / Baby no I don’t play / Now eat the cake, Anna Mae / I said eat the cake, Anna Mae.” “Eat the cake” is urban slang for cunnilingus; singer Ike Turner was infamous for beating his wife, Tina Turner; Anna Mae Bullock was a young girl with whom the cocaine-addicted Ike Turner had a relationship. In another song, Beyonce repeatedly sings, “Bow down, bitches.” Whether that is a favorite of the two Obama daughters is not known.) [70221, 70222, 70223, 70286, 70287]

*The Washington Post* writes, “Thousands of Israelis gathered Tuesday for the joint funeral of the four Jewish men killed in a shoot-out with Islamist gunmen at a kosher supermarket in Paris last week after the bodies arrived in Israel before dawn, accompanied by family.” (There were no “gunmen” at the supermarket; there was one lone gunman. Additionally, the massacre was not a “shoot-out” because only the jihadist had weapons; it was cold-blooded murder.) [70224]

According to TheHill.com, “Democrats are seizing on the fight for mandatory paid leave in the United States as their next big pocketbook issue. The Obama administration has for months called upon Congress to require employers to offer paid leave, with Labor Secretary Tom Perez relentlessly pressing the case to anyone who will listen.” Elizabeth Shuler, secretary treasurer of the AFL-CIO, says, “It’s a big issue in our economy—and if you’re not paying attention to it now, you will be. 2016 will be the year people start making it a pillar of their economic platform.” (Imposing such a burden on employers, of course, means that some will be forced out of business if they have to pay two employees to do the work of one. Other employers will be forced to raise prices to cover the added cost of duplicate workers. The proposal is a typical Democrat scheme: offer the voters something for nothing, and then call Republicans mean-spirited when they say it is a bad idea.) [70236]

At DailySignal.com, the Heritage Foundation’s James Sherk comments on the Democrats’ paid leave proposal: “...Obama just urged Congress to cut workers’ wages. Of course, the news headlines did not report it as such. However, make no mistake: [Obama’s] call for mandatory paid sick leave would simultaneously cut workers’ pay. ...The popularity of Obama’s paid sick leave proposal depends on workers not realizing it ultimately comes out of their paychecks. If [Obama’s] proposal becomes law, many workers will lose the equivalent of seven days of pay a year.” (Government rules forcing employers to provide certain levels of fringe benefits results in those employers paying for those benefits by giving workers smaller wage increases, or by reducing other benefits.) Not surprisingly, ABC, CBS, and NBC all gush over the proposal. [70364, 70390, 70391, 70425, 70677]

*International Business Times* reports, “The Muslim mayor of the Dutch city of Rotterdam has told Muslims who turn their back on freedom to ‘pack your bags’ and ‘f\*\*k off,’ live on television. [Moroccan-born] Ahmed Aboutaleb told NewsHour of his anger at the refusal of a number of Muslims to adapt to their new surroundings, which he said he has done after living in Holland since 1976. ‘It is incomprehensible that you can turn against freedom... But if you don’t like freedom, for heaven’s sake pack your bags and leave,’ he said. ‘There may be a place in the world where you can be yourself, be honest with yourself and do not go and kill innocent journalists. And if you do not like it here because humorists you do not like make a newspaper, may I then say you can f\*\*k off. This is stupid, this so incomprehensible. Vanish from the Netherlands if you cannot find your place here. All those well-meaning Muslims here will now be stared at.’” [70237, 70247, 70275, 70283]

Politico.com reports that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) “announced in a closed-door meeting Tuesday” that she would appoint Muslim Congressman Andre Carson (D-IN) to the House’s Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. On June 12, 2012 TheBlaze.com reported that in an address to the Islamic Circle of North America/Muslim American Society, Carson “empathized with fellow followers of Islam over how difficult life was for them after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11th, 2001. The congressman cited racism and Muslims losing their jobs as a direct result of how ‘tough’ life was after the terror attacks. ‘It is very true that all of us are under tremendous strain

right now—9/11 was tough on Muslims. Those of us who were in the workplace faced exacerbated prejudice, unrelenting bias, and in many cases, some of us were terminated from our jobs. It was tough to be a Muslim in the workplace.” Carson complained that Muslim in the United States were “under attack” and “must not retreat.” “Now,” said Carson, “it is unfortunate that there are those who are thinking that at this convention right now we’re having secret meetings, that we’re plotting to destroy this country, but I say to those who are here under cover, Allah will not allow you to stop us.” Pamela Geller notes, “Between January 2008 and June 2014, Carson received 55 separate political donations (totaling nearly \$34,000 altogether) from terror designated Muslim groups the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Islamic Society of North America, the Muslim American Society, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council.” (Carson has no business even being in Congress, let alone sitting on the House Intelligence Committee.) [70252, 70253, 70254, 70311, 70343]

In March 2010, when Tea Party protesters demonstrators protested against the expected passage of ObamaCare, Carson was one of several black congressmen who claimed they heard people in the crowd shout “nigger” at least “15 times.” As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Carson and his fellow Democrat legislators were accompanied the entire length of the walk to the Capitol Building by police officers and members of the news media. Video does not substantiate Carson’s claims. Congresswoman Michele Bachmann later told Fox News Channel’s Sean Hannity, “In three years I have never seen Nancy Pelosi cross the street, the way that you saw in that picture. They deliberately went through that crowd perhaps to try and incite something.” Carson has stated, “The Tea Party is stopping... change. And this is beyond symbolic change; this is the effort that we are seeing of Jim Crow. Some of these folks in Congress right now would love to see us [blacks] as second class citizens. Some of them in Congress right now of this Tea Party movement would love to see you and me ...hanging on a tree.” [9792, 9797, 9855, 9870, 9890, 9902, 9943, 9975, 9976, 10075, 10141, 10146, 10158, 10159, 10160, 10168, 10212, 10319, 10343, 23939, 23944, 23956, 23976, 23997]

ABC reports, “A Muslim convert arrested in Bulgaria while trying to slip into Turkey is linked to the massacre of 12 people at the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris, and is expected to be extradited back to France, according to a local prosecutor. Fritz-Joly Joachim, 29, was nabbed by Bulgarian authorities in the early morning on New Year’s Day on a European arrest warrant for allegedly kidnapping his three-year-old son and trying to take him eventually into Syria, said Darina Slavova, a prosecutor in the southern Bulgarian city of Haskovo. But Slavova told ABC News today that Bulgarian authorities received another European arrest warrant Monday alleging Joachim was part of a ‘terrorist criminal group’ and that he had been in contact with Cherif Kouachi, one of the Charlie Hebdo shooters, prior to his attempted escape to Syria. According to the original arrest warrant, Joachim, who is of Haitian origin, converted to Islam 15 years ago, but became radicalized two years ago. He lives in the Bobigny suburb of Paris. Slavova said she expects Joachim to be extradited to France to face charges.” [70257]

After stories circulate about a death threat from a psychotic Ohio bartender who wanted to poison and then shoot House Speaker John Boehner, the Boston Globe’s Victor Paul

Alvarez writes, “The question is: Would anyone have noticed?” HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman observes, “If John Boehner were a Democrat and this blurb had appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, we don’t need expend much energy in order to imagine what the reaction would have been.” [70284, 70285]

Senate Republicans introduce legislation to block the release of additional terrorists from the detainee facility at Guantanamo. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) states, “Now is not the time to be emptying Guantanamo. ...It’s clear that we need a time-out so we do not re-confront the terrorists we have captured and are currently in Guantanamo.” According to TheHill.com, “Ayotte’s bill would bar any detainee transfers to Yemen, suspend transfers of high and medium-risk detainees, and require the Defense Secretary to provide an unclassified report on detainees who have been deemed high or medium risk at any point. The bill also extends a bar on detainee transfers to the U.S., as well as the use of any government funds in the Defense budget—or the budget of any other agency—to construct or modify facilities to house detainees. ...Ayotte said that of detainees released during the Bush and Obama administrations, nearly 30 percent are suspected or confirmed to have returned to the fight.” [70313, 70314]

On January 14 al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) takes credit for the Paris massacres in a video statement by AQAP commander Nasr al-Ansi. According to FoxNews.com, “Al-Ansi also said in the video that France belongs to the ‘party of Satan’ and warned of more ‘tragedies and terror.’ He says Yemen’s Al Qaeda branch ‘chose the target, laid out the plan and financed the operation,’ though he produced no evidence to support the claim. Orders he said, came from Al Qaeda’s top leader Ayman al-Zawahri, Usama bin Laden’s successor. ...In the video, al-Ansi describes the Kouachi brothers as ‘heroes’ and congratulates them for ‘this revenge that has soothed our pain.’” [70259, 70260]

Author Ann Coulter writes, “I gather from Obama’s ‘free’ community college proposal that his plan for dealing with the Republican Congress over the next two years is to throw out ridiculously expensive ideas no one has ever heard of before, and then denounce Republicans for being naysayers. Community college is already incredibly inexpensive. The only thing that will jack up the price is making it ‘free.’ How about a big federal program to provide every American with free toilet paper? Coincidentally, that’s about all most college degrees are good for these days. ...The government is chasing its tail every time it increases student financial aid. If the government hiked college loans and subsidies by \$1 million per student, colleges would promptly raise tuition to: [current tuition] plus \$1 million. ...Right before our eyes, Democrats are colluding with colleges to create a market bubble for an increasingly worthless product, and they’re doing it by making the exact same promise that banks made about home mortgages before the housing market crash: *Sure it’s a lot, but it’s an investment in your future!*” [70261]

At a meeting to discuss a future Obama library, residents of Chicago’s south side argue for priority to be given instead to facilities for citizens. Veronica Morris-Moore, of the Trauma Care Coalition, states, “We are sending the message that the U of C [University of Chicago] does not deserve the honor of the Obama library until they recognize the

value of black lives by providing trauma care on the South Side. The U of C is proposing massive redevelopment of Woodlawn and Washington Park, but they are still failing to respond to basic community demands.” [70403]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “New emails obtained by Judicial Watch through a Freedom of Information Act Lawsuit show former IRS official Lois Lerner begged her supervisor not to visit the Cincinnati office or ask specific questions related to Congressional inquiries into whether the agency was improperly targeting conservative groups just ahead of the 2012 presidential election. As a reminder, it wasn’t until May 2013 when Lerner admitted inappropriate targeting had occurred and plead [sic; pled] the Fifth in front of the House Oversight Committee. ‘Please don’t ask them about closures, pipelines, wait time for full development cases, or the c4 application letter ...can we put this off please?’ Lerner sent on April 4, 2012 to her then supervisor Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division Deputy Director Joseph H. Grant shortly after he announced a planned visit to the Cincinnati office. ...Coincidentally, Grant retired just days after the IRS scandal became public in May 2013. ...Obama, White House officials and Lois Lerner herself repeatedly argued the IRS targeting scandal was a local, ‘low-level,’ Cincinnati issue, when in fact it was coming from headquarters in Washington D.C. ‘These new documents, withheld for years contrary to law, suggest that a top IRS official may have obstructed investigations into the IRS scandal. Even Lois Lerner objected to her boss’s travel to the infamous Cincinnati IRS office, falsely accused by Barack Obama as being solely responsible for the abuse of the First Amendment rights of his critics,’ Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said in a statement.” (Lerner wanted no one interviewing the IRS employees in Cincinnati because she knew that would disprove claims that IRS persecution of conservative groups was solely the fault of “rogue” employees in that office.) [70262]

The House of Representatives votes 236-191 to approve a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security that funds the agency for the remainder of the fiscal year (through September 30) but includes restrictions on Obama’s illegal immigrant amnesty schemes. Before the vote, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) says, “[Obama’s] overreach is an affront to the rule of law and the Constitution itself... We are dealing with a [White House occupant] who has ignored the people, ignored the Constitution, and even his own past statements. In fact, on at least 22 occasions, he said he did not have the authority to do what he has done.” One amendment prohibits the use of federal funds to implement Obama’s amnesty orders; it passes 237-190. (White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz tells reporters, “If this legislation were to reach [Obama’s] desk, he would veto it.”) [70263, 70266, 70289, 70315, 70334, 70335]

Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) also addresses the chamber prior to the vote. He says, “...Obama announced one of the largest extra-constitutional power-grabs ever by a chief executive. He declared unilaterally that almost five million undocumented aliens will receive deferred action under some new-fangled definition of prosecutorial discretion, Madam Speaker. Not only that, not only escaping consequences, he has decided to bestow benefits such as work authorization and immigration benefits. This, Madam Speaker, despite the fact that the very same [Obama], over twenty different times, said he

lacked the power to do what he just did. And he repeatedly said he is not a king. Now, Madam Speaker, his position may have changed, after the election I hasten to add, but the Constitution has not. That document is clear, time-tested, and true. And it says that this body passes laws and it is the responsibility of the chief executive, Madam Speaker, to make sure that those laws are faithfully enforced. If [Obama's] unilateral extra-constitutional acts are not stopped, Madam Speaker, future presidents will no doubt expand that power of the executive branch and threaten the constitutional equilibrium. But Madam Speaker, this is not a fight between Republicans and Democrats. It's not even a fight over immigration reform. This is a fight over whether this branch of government will ever find the courage to stand up for itself. The same document that this and all presidents swears to defend gives this body certain tools, tools like the power of the purse. And it's about damn time we used that tool." [70302, 70328]

Townhall.com's Guy Benson writes, "Congressional Democrats are predictably fear-mongering over the House's action, with [House Minority Leader] Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] invoking the Paris terror attacks to scold Republicans for threatening to shut off Homeland Security funding during dangerous times. Of course, Republicans have already voted to fund the entire federal government through the fall; this bill *increases* overall DHS funding by \$400 million, including more money for border security. Only a Democratic filibuster or [an Obama] veto would force a wider DHS shut down in February, and those actions would come exclusively in defense of an unpopular executive decree on immigration... The House-passed legislation now heads to the Senate, where several Republican moderates are balking at some of the specifics. ... If Democrats insist on playing chicken and allow DHS to enter partial shutdown, the GOP hopes its messaging position will be far stronger than it was in late 2013, when the public largely blamed them for the across-the-board partial shutdown. Their argument this time: *'The vast majority of the US government is funded for months into the future, and we've passed legislation to raise homeland security spending by hundreds of millions of dollars. The Democrats are forcing this partial shutdown for the sole purpose of protecting Obama's unlawful executive order granting a sweeping amnesty to millions of adults who entered the country illegally.'*" [70263]

On MSNBC, Luke Russert calls the funding bill "far to the right" and defends Obama: "It will be interesting to see what ... Obama says in regarding to how he wants to work with them. I mean, he's basically been saying to them, 'Look, I tried working with you guys for a few years, you didn't want to move at all, I don't know what we can do on this.'" Russert also tweets, "Rs [Republicans] will vote D[emocrat] motion down but they're in essence voting against funding DHS + increased money to anti-terrorism centers across USA." (Some might suspect that Russert gets his idiotic statements directly from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), the hapless head of the Democrat National Committee. The Republican legislation *increases* DHS funding. What it tries to block is Obama's amnesty scheme.) HotAir.com's Noah Rothman observes, "Politically, it is easy to see why Democrats would adopt this approach. 'Don't let the GOP shut down national security' is a more resonant message than 'Obama's unpopular executive order is going ahead, and there is nothing you can do about it.' One of these messages is defensible, however, while the other is not." [70278]

Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) introduces an amendment to the DHS funding bill that calls for illegal immigrants convicted of domestic violence, sexual abuse or child abuse to be a priority for deportation. TheBlaze.com reports, “In the end, the House approved the DeSantis amendment 278-149 vote. Thirty-five Democrats voted with Republicans on this measure, and one Republican voted against it. But that left 148 Democrats voting against it.” [70325]

*International Business Times* reports, “One of the biggest education publishers in the world has warned its authors not to mention pigs or sausages in their books to avoid causing offence. Oxford University Press (OUP) said all books must take into consideration other cultures if they hope to sell copies in countries across the world. As a result, the academic publisher has issued guidance advising writers to avoid mentioning pigs or ‘anything else which could be perceived as pork’ so as not to offend Muslim or Jewish people.” (Whether OUP will soon demand that Disney re-make *The Three Little Pigs* cartoon and call it *The Three Little Goats* remains to be seen.) [70264, 70265, 70312, 70377]

Pamela Geller comments on the Oxford ban: “This is how a conquered people behave. The West lacks the civilizational courage to stand up to adherents of a supremacist ideology who confidently and stridently mean to impose their extreme and brutal system by any savage means possible. The more savage the better. This is consistent with imposing Islamic law. This is consistent with banning me from the country for opposing jihad and sharia. Bear in mind, the Muslims who are ‘offended’ by pigs are not strapping one on or slaughtering journalists or cartoonists, but—clearly they are sympathetic, hence the threat is always there. I was widely derided when I said at the time of my banning that the UK was behaving like a de facto Islamic state. I was right. They were and they are. They mention Jews in this article. The mention of Jews here is a ruse. They are trying to deflect and shift blame onto the Jews. The fact is that Jews who keep kosher do not eat pork. It ends there. They don’t care if you eat pork. They don’t care if the whole world eats pork. They don’t care if little piggies go to market in children’s books and they don’t care if Porky Pig is ...a pig. Jews. Don’t. Care. As if the Brits would *anything* for the Jews. In a just-released poll, almost half of all Britons hold anti-Jewish views. [70377]

According to BusinessInsider.com, “The Saudis are building a 600-mile-long ‘Great Wall’—a combined fence and ditch—to separate the country from Iraq to the north” to prevent continuing cross-border attacks by ISIS. The barrier will consist of sand berms, chain-link fences with razor wire, a concertina fence, underground movement sensors, guard watchtowers, and helicopter landing pads.” [70389, 70728]

The State Department’s “response” to a Boko Haram massacre in Nigeria is a Twitter message: “Boko Haram’s deadliest attack: victims mostly elderly, children that [sic; who] couldn’t run fast enough” and a link to a *New York Post* story about the killings. [70267, 70268]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “An Ohio man plotted to attack the U.S. Capitol using pipe bombs and rifles, saying he wanted to conduct an attack in solidarity with the Islamic State terrorists the U.S. is fighting in the Middle East, the FBI charged in a criminal complaint Wednesday. Christopher Cornell [aka Raheel Mahrus Ubaydah] had saved money, researched government buildings in Washington, laid plans to travel to the capital to carry out his attack and on Wednesday bought two M-15 semiautomatic rifles and 600 rounds of ammunition, prompting police to move in and arrest him.” (Cornell’s father, John Cornell, claims his son “is one of the most peace-loving people I know,” was “at peace” as a practicing Muslim, and was entrapped by the FBI. Cornell’s mother, Angela Carmen, says, “‘He was a good kid, I mean, he would do anything in the world for you. He would not hurt nobody [sic].” Jihad Watch reports that Cornell “attended Masjid Abue Baker Siddikue mosque in South Fairmount.”) [70300, 70309, 70348, 70375, 70652]

The new edition of *Charlie Hebdo*, which usually sells about 50,000 copies, sells out after three million are printed. The cowardly mainstream media generally reports the story without showing the cover cartoon. (In Turkey—whose Jew-hating, terrorist-supporting president is Obama’s favorite world leader—government thugs stop trucks leaving printing plants to make sure *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons are not in any newspapers.) [70269, 70270, 70271, 70295, 70310, 70329]

Political analyst Dick Morris writes, “The minute that she heard about the march against terrorism in Paris, Hillary Clinton should have hopped on one of her Wall Street friends’ private jets and rushed to France. Think of the photo op and its political meaning. The former secretary of State and, perhaps, future president of the United States marching arm in arm with world leaders to protest the vicious attacks in the city of light. Not ...Obama. Not Secretary of State John Kerry. Not Vice President Biden. But Clinton—on her own. Her presence would have made her the star of the show, particularly once it became apparent she was there as a private citizen, not at the instruction—and without the approval—of [Obama]. It would have marked her debut in a new role on the world stage. The optics of her marching in solidarity with the victims of terror would have been a defining one for her candidacy. Without differing from Obama on hard issues of policy and without staking out hawkish ground in the third Iraq War, Clinton would have sent a clear message to the world, saying ‘I am tough on terror.’ ... Paris was a chance for Clinton to show toughness without alienating the left. A way to demonstrate that she would go the extra mile—literally—to fight terror that would not get her in trouble with her party’s liberal wing. And she blew it. The question is, why didn’t she go? The most likely explanation is that she didn’t really think it through. Political inertia may have set in. She needed to be acted on by an outside force. ...Without her husband, Hillary Clinton is a bureaucratic thinker. Surrounded only by her old State Department cronies, all wedded to the status quo of American diplomacy and unwilling to violate protocol by upstaging [Obama], there is no thinking outside the box. ...And then there was the Obama problem. Reluctant to break with [Obama] and used to the habit of obedience and playing with the team, Clinton didn’t dare strike out on her own. She acted like she was still subject to his discipline. If she is to run for president, she’d better get over it. What



an opportunity she missed! And what a flaw in her thinking and staffing it reveals!”  
[70272]

The Obama administration introduces new regulations for the gas and oil industry that target methane. Thomas Pyle, president of the Institute for Energy Research, states, “EPA’s proposed methane regulation is redundant, costly and unnecessary. Energy producers are already reducing methane emissions because methane is a valuable commodity. It would be like issuing regulations forcing ice cream makers to spill less ice cream. The Obama administration’s latest attack on American energy reaffirms that their agenda is not about the climate at all. It’s about driving up the cost of producing and using natural gas, oil, and coal in America.” (Methane emissions have been reduced by about 12 percent since 2011, without government regulations, mostly because of the hydraulic fracturing process used to extract natural gas.) [70276, 70383, 70718, 70810]

MRCTV.org writes, “Dish Network dropped Fox News and its sister network Fox Business Channel at the end of last year and the network still remains blacked out for Dish’s 14 million subscribers. Dish Network claims that they dropped the nation’s number one cable news network because of a contract dispute. However in recent days Fox News has begun to suggest that Dish Network is engaged in an effort to censor the network’s content. While it’s not entirely clear who’s in the right in this matter, digging into the background of Dish Network’s founder and chairman Charles Ergen may help to illuminate why animosity between Dish and FNC has reached such epic proportions. As it turns out, Charles Ergen is a big-time donor to the Democratic Party. According to Open Secrets, Ergen donated a total of \$64,000 to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee in 2014. ...Of course, Mr. Ergen’s generosity to the Democratic Party in the last cycle does not necessarily mean that he is targeting Fox News due to a disagreement with the network’s content. But, Ergen may have a history of abusing his position of power to promote his political preferences. In 2012, a federal complaint was filed against Ergen in which several company executives alleged that he had intimidated them into making contributions to specific candidates, the majority of which were Democrats. The claim was filed by an unnamed company insider who accused Ergen of ‘forcing’ Dish Network’s Chief Operating Officer Bernard Han to donate to a Democratic Party candidate in the 2009/2010 election cycle. The complaint also claimed that Han was ‘encouraged’ to attend Democratic functions and fundraisers and that other Dish employees were strong-armed by Ergen in a similar way. According to the insider, Ergen insinuated to Han that he would still have his job if he declined to make the contribution, but would suffer consequences if he refused. ...According to Tim Carry, Executive Vice President of Distribution for Fox News and Fox Business, Dish Network has lost 90,000 subscribers since the blackout began on December 21st.” (On January 15 Dish Network and Fox New Channel come to terms on a multi-year agreement.) [70280, 70365]

A report that Obama advisor John Podesta is leaving the White House to work for Hillary Clinton is a clear sign (as if any was needed) that she will be running for president in 2016. Podesta, who was Bill Clinton’s chief of staff at the end of his presidency, will likely be Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager. [70281]

House Democrats introduce legislation calling for a 3.8 percent pay raise for federal employees. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) says, “No other group in our country has been demonized, demoralized and asked to sacrifice more than our federal workforce. They have been disparaged and belittled. This bill is a down payment on trying to help restore some of the losses that have been incurred by federal employees. They have endured a three-year wage freeze, four years without locality pay, higher retirement contributions for certain employees, wage-reducing work furloughs, cuts from sequestration, and a government shutdown.” (The average federal employee receive a higher salary and better fringe benefits than the average private sector worker. TheBlaze.com notes, “A December report from the Cato Institute, which cited government data and press reports, said the average federal worker earns 74 percent more in wages and benefits than the average private-sector worker. ... ‘In 2013 federal civilian workers had an average wage of \$81,076, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis,’ Cato wrote. ‘By comparison, the average wage of the nation’s 107 million private-sector workers was \$55,424.’ When benefits like health care and pensions are included, average annual compensation for federal workers jumped to \$115,524, 74 percent more than the \$66,357 private sector average.”) [70292]

BirtherReport.com writes, “Last night veteran journalist Diana West appeared on Andrea Shea King’s radio show and revealed some stunning details about her time as a syndicated columnist. She noted how when she wrote for *The Washington Examiner* they refused to run news articles about any of the ongoing court cases challenging Obama’s constitutional eligibility. West also revealed she presented her newspaper editor with evidence related to Obama’s identification documents and he refused to publish it out of fear of it being true. She said the newspaper editor didn’t want to see the Obama administration fall apart over the birth certificate. Diana West says people are very afraid of the birther issue. Radio host Andrea Shea King recalls how when she wrote for *Breitbart News* she submitted a report on Obama’s birth certificate and was told it was policy of *Breitbart, Inc.* to not publish birther reports. King’s comment jives with what former *Breitbart News* writer Charles Johnson reported last year.” [70293]

Obama celebrates Tommy Caldwell’s and Kevin Jorgeson’s successful free-climb of El Capitan’s “Dawn Wall” in Yosemite National Park by tweeting a photograph of himself in front of a painting of the park. [70296, 70297, 70298]

Shoebat.com reports, “Analyzing the black box of the crashed AirAsia flight QZ8501 revealed the last words of the pilots was ‘Allahu Akbar.’ Sounds familiar? ‘It is as if we can feel them... Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar were the last words said before they died’ says Nurcahyo Utomo, who has been an aviation investigator for almost two decades as he listened to the black box recording.” (Flight QZ8501 crashed into the ocean on December 28, during bad weather.) [69664, 69790, 70202, 70299, 70326]

WND.com reports, “A federal appeals court has ordered an expedited schedule for a case brought by Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio against ...Obama over his amnesty program that is being implemented even as the case progresses. The order released Wednesday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit said the

brief for the appellants is due Jan. 29, and the government's brief in defense of amnesty will be due March 2. 'Due to the expedited nature of this case, the court will not entertain dispositive motions. The parties should therefore address in their briefs any arguments otherwise properly raised in such motions,' said the order. '[Obama] does not have the authority to rewrite immigration laws. Legislation and national policy are enacted by Congress, not the president,' said Larry Klayman of Freedom Watch, who is representing the famous Arizona sheriff." [70301]

WesternJournalism.com reports, "On behalf of former presidential candidates John Dummett [write-in candidate] and Ed Noonan [American Independent Party candidate], the U.S. Justice Foundation [USJF] recently submitted a petition for certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court to determine what safeguards are constitutionally mandated in ensuring a candidate is qualified to run. The action is in response to two previous court rulings suggesting California's secretary of state does not have a responsibility to verify a presidential candidate's status as a natural born citizen. The USJF petition cites the U.S. Constitution, specifically Article II, Section 2, which says state legislatures are tasked with determining eligibility. Given the nation's current electoral process, the court document holds these lawmakers must provide voters with a choice between candidates who meet constitutional requirements for the position they seek. The petition chronicles the court history of the issue, including appeals court decisions the petitioners conclude were based on faulty logic. The appeal provides three reasons that, through the role of California's chief elections officer, the secretary of state should be tasked with verifying a presidential candidate's eligibility." [70303]

On several occasions states have allowed on the ballot candidates for president who were ineligible because they were not natural born citizens or because they had not yet reached age 35. That sloppiness has usually been limited to "minor party" candidates who have no chance of winning, but Chester A. Arthur and Obama were both ineligible to serve as president because their fathers were not U.S. citizens. They were nevertheless allowed on the ballot. (The historical definition of "natural born citizen," *as understood by the Founding Fathers*, is birth on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents.) The problem with legal challenges has been that legislators and the courts have all been afraid to address the issue of Obama's ineligibility to serve as president. The legislators essentially tell their constituents, "There is nothing we can do. The issue belongs in the courts," while the judges essentially declare, "This court has no jurisdiction over the issue and the matter must be resolved by Congress." Before the election, some courts ruled that the eligibility lawsuits should wait until after the election, while after the election other courts ruled that the challenges should have been brought before the election.

That the courts are so unwilling to address the question of the definition of the term "natural born citizen" clearly suggests they know the answer works against Obama. Why, after all, have the courts been unwilling to rule that Obama is a natural born citizen *if he truly is*? Why should the question be a "hot potato" if Obama *does* meet the eligibility requirements? That the U.S. Supreme Court was afraid to hear *Kerchner v. Obama* reveals the truth: Obama does *not* meet the requirement of birth on U.S. soil to *two* U.S. citizen parents. The sad truth is that clearly ineligible candidates can run for office if the

mainstream media and the voters accept them. Contrary to what many believe, there is *no* official process for vetting presidential candidates. If Vladimir Putin decides to run for U.S. president he can do so if the media and the voters are willing to accept a forged birth certificate claiming he was born in Louisville, rather than Leningrad, and if they do not care that he did not have two U.S. citizen parents.

Examiner.com reports that Obama “is being quietly applauded by United Nations officials for his agreeing to secretly allow 70,000 Muslim refugees to ‘legally’ enter the U.S. as part of the an international resettlement program, according to the political action committee Combat Veterans for Congress. Besides providing these unscreened Muslim aliens with green cards, Obama and his minions are fast tracking them for U.S. citizenship. The Obama administration has already provided refuge for more Muslims than all the other nations in the world combined. In fact, it’s been proven repeatedly that Muslims who have been given citizenship have been arrested for terrorist plots, aiding and abetting terrorist acts, providing material support to terrorist groups, and some have even returned overseas to fight American armed forces.” [70305]

CNSNews.com reports, “Inflation-adjusted federal tax revenues hit a record \$739,482,000,000 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2015 [October 2014 through December 2014], but the federal government still ran a \$176,664,000,000 deficit during that time, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement.” (A deficit of \$176 billion per quarter, if it continues at the same pace, would mean an annual deficit of \$704 billion, or \$246 billion more than George W. Bush’s final deficit of \$458 billion.) [70333]

According to Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), “The IRS does not answer the phone at local offices and has even removed the option it once provided for taxpayers, including the elderly and disabled, to leave a message.” Instead, a recording advises callers, “If you are disabled or elderly and require special accommodations for service, please email us...” But, notes ATR, “Demographic research data show only 57 percent of adults over age 65 use the Internet compared with 87 percent of all adults. According to 2010 Census data, only 41 percent of those with a non-severe disability use the Internet and only 22 percent of those with a severe disability age 65 and older use the Internet. For those without Internet access, the only viable ways to reach the IRS are by phone, or in person.” [70337]

Breitbart.com reports, “A gun dealer in Hawkins, Wisconsin says the federal government forced the Heritage Credit Union to close his recently opened bank account because he’s in the business of legally selling guns. Mike Schuetz, the owner of Hawkins Guns LLC, a firearms store that sells both guns and ammunition, has audio tapes to support his claims. The United States Consumer Coalition calls this just the latest example of the extralegal overreach of Operation Choke Point, the Obama administration’s effort to put industries it doesn’t like—especially gun dealers and pay day lenders—out of business.” On one of the recordings, an official at Heritage Credit Union says, “Examiners from NCUA [National Credit Union Administration] came in and looked at our accounts... looked at our books. Here’s [sic; here are] some accounts that we feel that we’re going to regulate you on [sic]... and kinda [sic] put the screws to us as far as what we could and couldn’t

do. The regulatory and compliance issues that we said earlier are true. We never used to have to do that stuff... and our hands are tied by it.” [70339, 70369]

A 2011 list created by the FDIC identifies the “high risk” businesses targeted by Operation Choke Point: ammunition sales, cable box de-scramblers, coin dealers, credit card schemes, credit repair services, dating services, debt consolidation scams, drug paraphernalia, escort services, firearm sales, fireworks sales, get rich products, government grants (that is, businesses that help people take advantage of government grants), home-based charities, tobacco sales, lifetime guarantees, lifetime memberships, lottery sales, mailing lists/personal information, money transfer networks, on-line gambling, payday loans, pharmaceutical sales, Ponzi schemes (excluding Social Security), pornography, pyramid-type sales, racist materials, surveillance equipment, telemarketing, and travel clubs. [71100]

Watchdog.org reports, “Costly building renovations at the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are raising more congressional concerns that the agency is out of control. A government report pegs the price of the work at \$210 million—\$120 million more than initial estimates, with off-site leasing costs included. ‘That’s more per square foot than the Bellagio hotel-casino in Las Vegas,’ said John Berlau, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute. And, critics add, CFPB doesn’t even own the building. The Office of Inspector General for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board found that ‘approval of funding for the renovation was not in accordance with the CFPB’s current policies for major investment.’ ...Lawmakers have mocked the project, which includes a glass staircase, concession kiosk and a ‘water wall’ ending in a splash pool. ...The building battle is an ironic twist for the 4-year-old CFPB, whose website declares, ‘We want to help consumers make smarter decisions.’” [70340]

The December sales report shows what TheBurningPlatform.com calls an “unequivocal disaster” and writes, “This economy is in the tank and headed lower. The GDP numbers are a sham. The employment numbers are a sham. You know it. I know it. And now the sheep are waking up and realize they have been lied to. Stock market records are meaningless to people trying to get by on a daily basis. After perusing the data on the Census Bureau website, here are my observations: Year over year retail sales only rose 3.2% in December. That is before inflation, which the BLS says was 1.7% and I say is above 4%. Either way, real sales sucked. ...The MSM [mainstream media] said consumers had a windfall from the \$6.5 billion decrease in gasoline sales. We were all supposed to buy a new HDTV or iGadget with our newly found riches. Oops. Electronics and appliance sales FELL in December versus November. Retail sales simply don’t fall in December versus November unless you are in recession or headed into recession. It seems even the subprime auto loan scheme is petering out. Auto sales... declined in December. Maybe the fact that auto loan debt delinquencies are approaching 2008 levels is giving them pause in selling autos to people without the means or inclination to make the payments. Anyone looking for a JC Penney, Sears, Macy’s led department store revival is sad. Clothing store sales dropped. Department store sales dropped. Sporting goods store sales dropped. And drum roll please. On-line store sales DROPPED. The Amazon revolution is dead. It seems the markets don’t like it. The pain has just begun. A

global recession is underway. It's a deflationary unwinding of debt and mal-investment. There is no cure except for collapse. Central bankers have shot their load. Their credibility is shot. No one believes more debt will cure a debt problem—except for a few Ivy League educated economists. A shitstorm is a brewing. Get ready.” [70408 70434, 70435]

TheHill.com reports, “The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing strict new dietary guidelines for day cares that would prohibit them from frying food that is served to children. Child care providers would also be formally required to provide children with water upon request, though they would face restrictions on how much apple juice and orange juice they serve. The proposed nutrition standards are intended to promote the ‘health and wellness of children’ at day cares that participate in government-funded meal programs, the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service said Wednesday. ...The USDA’s meal standards also include other proposed changes, such as allowing tofu as a meat alternative.” (Reasonable people would assume, of course, that day care centers would not deny water to a thirsty child—and that a regulation would not be necessary. Why “juice police” are needed is not known. Also not known is whether the prohibition of fried foods is intended to keep Muslim parents safe from bacon-tainted children.) [70388]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that many of the leftist groups that sponsored demonstrations in or about Ferguson, Missouri are funded in part by Obama’s billionaire buddy, George Soros. “In all,” writes the *Times*, “Mr. Soros gave at least \$33 million in one year to support already-established groups that emboldened the grass-roots, on-the-ground activists in Ferguson, according to the most recent tax filings of his nonprofit Open Society Foundations. ...Soros-sponsored organizations helped mobilize protests in Ferguson, building grass-roots coalitions on the ground backed by a nationwide online and social media campaign. Other Soros-funded groups made it their job to remotely monitor and exploit anything related to the incident that they could portray as a conservative misstep, and to develop academic research and editorials to disseminate to the news media to keep the story alive. ...Buses of activists from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference in Chicago; from the Drug Policy Alliance, Make the Road New York and Equal Justice USA from New York; from Sojourners, the Advancement Project and Center for Community Change in Washington; and networks from the Gamaliel Foundation—all funded in part by Mr. Soros—descended on Ferguson starting in August and later organized protests and gatherings in the city until late last month.” [70366]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, for three years Obama was the director of the Developing Communities Project (DCP), part of the Gamaliel Foundation, another Alinsky-like group that uses “in your face” tactics and threats against banks to obtain more loans to people in poor neighborhoods. John McKnight, who served on the Gamaliel Foundation’s Board of Directors as well as the board of National People’s Action (NPA), wrote a letter of recommendation to help Obama get into Harvard Law School. During Obama’s tenure with the Woods Fund, and under his direction, the organization gave money to the Gamaliel Foundation and more than \$200,000 to ACORN. On December 1, 2007, Obama addressed a gathering held exclusively for

community organizers and members of the Gamaliel Foundation and ACORN. Obama told the group that even before he entered the Oval Office, “During the transition [period] we’re gonna [sic] be calling all of you in to help us shape the agenda,” and assured them that they would be actively involved in the first one hundred days of his administration. [227, 228, 230, 232, 267, 280, 297, 337, 835, 70366]

The Obama administration releases five more terrorists from the detainee center at Guantanamo. There are now only 122 left at the facility. According to TheHill.com, “Four of the men went to Oman—Al Khadr Abdallah, Muhammad Al Yafi, Fadel Hussein Saleh Hentif, Al-Rahman Abdullah Au Ahabati and Mohammed Ahmed Salam—while Akhmed Abdul Qadir was transferred to Estonia.” (Meanwhile, JudicialWatch.org reports that a terrorist released from Guantanamo in 2007, Mullah Abdul Rauf, “has established the first Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) base in Afghanistan.”) [70306, 70313, 70316, 70327, 70344, 70345, 70394, 70491]

It is worth noting that there is essentially nothing Congress can do to stop Obama from releasing terrorists from the facility at Guantanamo. As commander in chief of the armed forces, he has the authority to make such decisions—just as he could, if he so chose, issue a pardon to every single inmate in the U.S. prison system. The only way to stop Obama is for the House to vote to impeach him and the Senate to vote to convict. (Legislation to block funding for terrorist removals would be vetoed by Obama. Overriding a veto requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate—which would never happen unless the American people were so outraged by an Obama action that they frightened their legislators to death with hundreds of thousands of letters, emails, faxes, and telephone calls.)

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) tells *On the Record's* Greta Van Susteren that Obama “has concluded that the war on terror has reached a point that we can safely release people from Gitmo. The best I can say about him is, he’s unfocused. That’s delusional thinking. The war on terror has reached a lethal phase, and it is insane to be letting these people out of Gitmo to go back to the fight. Thirty percent of the people released already have gone back to the fight. I believe the war has hit a point where we need to keep these guys in jail, at least for a couple years, until we can get a grip on what’s going on throughout the world, particularly Iraq and Syria. Iraq and Syria are great platforms for radical Islamists to attack this county. And [Obama’s] going to send them some reinforcements by letting people out of Gitmo. That makes no sense.” [70332]

On January 15 anti-police and “black lives matter” protesters in Milton, Massachusetts block Interstate 93 by chaining themselves to barrels—forcing an ambulance carrying an 83-year-old car crash victim with life-threatening injuries to reroute to a different hospital. Six white protesters are arrested, released without bail charges, and ordered to appear in court on February 20. Anne Mostue, of WGBH News, reports that the six refuse to speak to reporters and ironically demand that the media “get away from our cars.” (One protester, Nelli Ruotsalainen, is a city of Boston government employee—and is fired. Mayor Marty Walsh states, “This is not a difficult decision.”) [70317, 70321, 70322, 70358, 70359, 70360, 70384, 70499, 70548]

Race hustler and extortionist Al Sharpton complains that there are not enough blacks among Academy Award nominees. He calls for an “emergency” meeting to “assess action” and states, “The movie industry is like the Rocky Mountains, the higher you get, the whiter it gets.” Sharpton apparently believes it is not enough for the (arguably undeserving) movie *Selma*, which is about a Martin Luther King, Jr. civil rights march, to have received only two Oscar nominations, and may have forgotten that *12 Years a Slave* won three Academy Awards at the 2014 ceremonies. (Obama has no comment. Whether Attorney General Eric Holder will send a team of Department of Labor attorneys to “monitor” the Oscar ceremony is not known.) [70323, 70324, 70396]

In Belgium, police conduct 10 separate raids on terror cells. At least two radical Islamists (who had recently returned from Syria) are killed and 13 suspects are detained. Federal prosecutors tell Reuters the group was ready to launch “terrorist attacks on a grand scale.” Raids are also conducted in France (at least 12 arrests) and Germany. [70318, 70319, 70320, 70346, 70347, 70349, 70367, 70379, 70387]

According to a January 7-11 Pew Research poll, “For the first time in five years, as many Americans cite defending the U.S. against terrorism (76%) as a top policy priority as say that about strengthening the nation’s economy (75%). Following those top two concerns are jobs (67 percent), education (67), Social Security (66), budget deficit (64), health care costs (64), Medicare (61), reducing crime (57), poor and needy (55), military (52), immigration (52), environment (51), race relations (49), moral breakdown (48), tax reform (48), energy (46), influence of lobbyists (43), transportation (42), money in politics (42), scientific research (41), global warming (38), global trade (30). [70492]

While Republican leaders meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Obama meets behind closed doors with Senate Democrats for a strategy session at a Hilton hotel in Baltimore. The Associated Press writes, “Obama is vowing to work with both parties to try to make progress in his final two years in office. But so far, the Republican-controlled Congress has been taking up legislation he opposes. He’s issued five veto threats just a week into the new session.” (The claim that Obama is willing to work with the GOP is laughable, and the AP must not have noticed that for six years Obama and Congressional Democrats introduced legislation that Republicans opposed.) At the Democrat event, Obama reportedly says, “I’m not going to spend the next two years on defense; I’m going to play offense.” (In other words, “I have no desire to engage in cooperation and compromise. I will issue veto after veto of Republican legislation, while issuing illegal executive orders to impose my statist agenda on the nation.”) [70336, 70372, 70373, 70382, 70450]

*The New York Times* reports that Obama had a heated exchange at the event with Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). Obama “vowed to veto legislation being drafted by Mr. Menendez, Democrat of New Jersey, and Senator Mark Kirk, Republican of Illinois, that would impose the sanctions [on Iran] before the multiparty talks are set to end this summer. ...According to one of the senators and another person who was present, [Obama] urged lawmakers to stop pursuing sanctions, saying such a move would undermine his authority and could derail the talks. ...Obama also said that such a



provocative action could lead international observers to blame the Americans, rather than the Iranians, if the talks collapsed before the June 30 deadline. [Obama] said he understood the pressures that senators face from donors and others, but he urged the lawmakers to take the long view rather than make a move for short-term political gain, according to the senator. Mr. Menendez, who was seated at a table in front of the podium, stood up and said he took ‘personal offense.’ Mr. Menendez told [Obama] that he had worked for more than 20 years to curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions and had always been focused on the long-term implications. Mr. Menendez also warned [Obama] that sanctions could not be imposed quickly if Congress waited to act and the talks failed, according to two people who were present. ‘It was a forceful exchange between two strong personalities,’ the senator, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations, said. ‘It was not an angry exchange. It was clear, forceful, vigorous.’” (Laughably, Obama believes that opposition to his Iran policies are driven by political donors. Obama is simply incapable of believing that anyone would oppose his policies because they are mistaken. In his mind, all opposition is driven by racism or some other contemptible reason; he can never be wrong.) [70393, 70611]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The White House confirmed Thursday that Canada has postponed the North American Leaders Summit scheduled for next month but would not say whether tension over the Keystone XL oil pipeline is the reason. Canada, this year’s summit host, announced Thursday that the summit will be held later in 2015, though no exact date has been set. Some Canadian media outlets, such as the Toronto Sun, reported that the meeting was rescheduled because of ...Obama’s continued indecision on Keystone, which the Canadian government strongly supports.” [70338]

For the first time since entering the White House, Obama may have his budget proposal submitted by the February deadline. Bloomberg.com reports that Obama “will ask Congress for as much as \$68 billion more than current budget limits in fiscal 2016, according to two people familiar with the administration’s proposal.” [70341, 70355]

SperoForum.com writes, “Last summer, more than 1,000 pages were released from a FOIA lawsuit. While Hillary Clinton was the Secretary, the State Department approved more than 200 speeches given by Bill Clinton to several countries including China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Turkey. Clinton’s speaking fees were an astonishing 48 million dollars. When then-President-elect Barack Obama was negotiating with Hillary over the Secretary of State post Clinton promised there wouldn’t be ‘even the appearance of a conflict of interest.’ 215 times ethics determinations were made on Bill Clinton speaking engagements that netted millions from countries while his wife was running foreign policy. Every single time the State Department found no potential conflict. Hillary’s chief of staff was routinely copied on these determinations.” [70342]

Although Obama has called Jonathan Gruber just “just some advisor who never worked on our staff,” DailyCaller.com reports that Stephanie Cutter, his 2012 deputy campaign manager, “cited Jonathan Gruber as an ‘architect’ of Obamacare in a memo the campaign released ahead of a presidential debate with Mitt Romney.” [70361]

The Web site PamelaGeller.com (formerly AtlasShrugs.com) is hit with a “distributed denial of service” hack for more than 24 hours by her ideological enemies. (As *Timeline* readers know, Geller supports liberty, opposes radical Islam, and has been an outspoken opponent of Obama’s foreign policy.) [70410, 70436]

Adam Kredo reports at FreeBeacon.com, “Iran is permitted to build new nuclear reactors under the existing conditions of an interim deal with the United States meant to curb Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, a State Department official told the *Washington Free Beacon* less than a day after Iran announced the construction of two new nuclear plants. The construction of these new nuclear plants is not prohibited under existing United Nations restrictions or under the terms of the current interim nuclear agreement inked in 2013 with the United States, according to the State Department official. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced on Wednesday that Iran has begun construction on two new light water reactor nuclear plants in the southern Bushehr region. The announcement came as senior U.S. officials meet with their Iranian counterparts in Geneva for another round of talks.” [70370]

HuffingtonPost.com reports, “Central Intelligence Agency Director John Brennan consulted the White House before directing agency personnel to sift through a walled-off computer drive being used by the Senate Intelligence Committee to construct its investigation of the agency’s torture program, according to a recently released report by the CIA’s Office of the Inspector General. The Inspector General’s report, which was completed in July but only released by the agency on Wednesday, reveals that Brennan spoke with White House chief of staff Denis McDonough before CIA employees were ordered to ‘use whatever means necessary’ to determine how certain sensitive internal documents had wound up in Senate investigators’ hands. The conversation with McDonough came after Brennan first issued the directive, but before he reiterated it to a CIA attorney leading the probe.” (In other words, the White House knew and approved of the CIA’s spying on the U.S. Senate and said nothing to Senators—including Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), who was incensed by the activities.) [70385, 70386]

On January 16 Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett appears on CNN and says, “...Certainly we would have liked to have participated in the parade [the Paris unity march]; I remind you that Attorney General [Eric] Holder was in Paris for a *very* important meeting, together with his colleagues from around Europe and around the world to take a look at, um, what we can do to make sure that we’re cooperating fully, and so, I certainly think we got the substance right, but it would have been, it would have been great to participate in the parade and we’re delighted that Secretary [of State John] Kerry is there [in Paris] now.” (Of course, whether Holder was at a meeting is irrelevant to the fact that Obama was watching NFL playoff games in the White House rather than showing support for other nations in the fight against Islamist terrorism. Interestingly, Jarrett refers to the march as a “parade,” as if there were clowns coming out of Volkswagen Beetles and beauty pageant winners waving from flower-covered floats. That is no doubt an intentional effort to ridicule the march as meaningless, and not important enough for Obama to have made any effort to join.) [70368]

In Paris, Kerry meets socialist French President Francois Hollande with a hug and kiss on the cheeks that many Americans will likely consider inappropriate. Kerry says, "I know you know that we share the pain and the horror of everything that you went through. Our hearts are with you." Also in Paris with Kerry is singer James Taylor, who performs *You've Got a Friend*. (Subtlety is apparently not one of the Obama administration's talents, but it may have mistaken Taylor for singer Cat Stevens, formerly Steven Demetre Georgiu, who converted to Islam and now calls himself Yusuf Islam.) At Spectator.org Aaron Goldstein writes, "It was far from Taylor's best rendition of the song and he knew it. By the end of it, he couldn't wait to get the hell out of there. But Kerry pulled him back to acknowledge the applause/humiliation. I feel sorry for James Taylor. I like his music and once saw him in concert. But neither he nor this song was right for this occasion. If Kerry wanted music for the occasion then bring along someone to sing 'La Marseillaise' [the French national anthem] or an Edith Piaf song." [70371, 70395, 70409, 70411, 70449, 70629]

WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler writes, "Republicans should wait to enact new sanctions on Iran, both because ... Obama is correct that it's not worth rocking the boat at this point and because to do so would alleviate Obama of blame should his negotiations fail. It's very simple: Enact sanctions now and the minute talks collapse, Obama will blame Congress for what will mostly be his screw-up—he's on his third deadline—saying everything was going great and they were just about get a deal until Evil Republicans got in the way." [70493]

British Prime Minister David Cameron visits the White House, where he and Obama urge legislators not to vote to impose sanctions on Iran. Obama says, "Congress should be aware that if this diplomatic solution fails, then the risks and likelihood that this ends up being at some point a military confrontation is heightened, and Congress will have to own that as well. The likelihood of the entire negotiations collapsing is very high. And if that happens, there is no constraint on Iran, at that point, going back and doing exactly what it had been doing before they came to the table: developing a heavy-water reactor that, once built, is extraordinarily difficult to dismantle and very difficult to hit militarily." (The "diplomatic solution" has already failed. Iran has been dragging out the negotiations and forcing the extension of deadlines, while it continues its nuclear program unimpeded. Sanctions brought Iran to the table, at which point Obama weakened them and released billions of dollars in Iranian assets that had been frozen. Iran has been playing chess while Obama plays checkers. Obama will never persuade Iran to give up its nuclear program, just as he will never persuade it to accept the existence of Israel. [70632]

*The Guardian* writes, "In an unusual breach of diplomatic protocol, Cameron said he had spoken to two senators on Friday morning to warn them of the consequences of passing the bill. 'I may speak to one or two more this afternoon,' he added. 'Not in any way as British prime minister to tell the American Senate what it should or shouldn't do. That wouldn't be right. But simply to make the point as a country that stands alongside America in these vital negotiations that it's the opinion of the United Kingdom that further sanctions or further threat of sanctions at this point won't actually help to bring

the talks to a successful conclusion, and they could fracture the international unity that there's been which has been so valuable in presenting a united front to Iran.”  
(Cameron's statement is as ludicrous as Obama's. The point of his calling Senators is to persuade them not to impose further sanctions on Iran. Otherwise he would not be making the calls.) [70632]

At Townhall.com David Limbaugh writes, “[D]espite all the faux euphoria projected by the administration and the media, this economy is not bouncing back. According to Gallup CEO Jim Clifton, for the first time in 35 years, the United States is no longer first but 12th (12th!) among developed nations in business startup activity. More businesses are closing than opening. Four hundred thousand businesses are being born each year in America, but some 470,000 are closing. That's because America, under [Obama], is a business-hostile zone. What is ...Obama planning on doing about this disturbing problem? Two things. First, he will deny the problem even exists as he continues to fraudulently proclaim that America's businesses are smoking-hot. Second, he will exacerbate the problem with yet new business-killing, energy-killing lawless executive regulations honoring earth goddess Gaia with an involuntary sacrificial offering from the American energy industry. ...Based on his record in office and his continuing with these new regulations, it's hard to tell whether he's more motivated by his allegiance to environmental cultism or a visceral aversion to business. Or perhaps those interests are so interlocked that we needn't quibble over which is dominant on Obama's priority list.”  
[70356]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “New video has surfaced showing ISIS throwing men off of a building in front of a crowd. Their crime? Being gay. Other propaganda shows a woman being stoned to death for adultery and men being crucified on crosses for theft. The Obama administration still refuses to say we're at war with radical Islam, despite extreme human rights abuses against the minorities they claim to stand up for.”  
[70357]

Marilyn Tavenner, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announces she will leave her position at the end of February. [70378, 70405]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest claims “only six percent or so” of the detainees released from Guantanamo have returned to active terrorism, refuting the estimates of about 30 percent. (Of course, no one can know with certainty how many have returned to the battlefield or jihadist plans because the released prisoners certainly are not keeping the U.S. military informed of their activities.) Asked by Fox News' Ed Henry whether even six percent is a problem, Earnest replies, “It is, and it's certainly why this administration continues to pursue a very aggressive counterterrorism strategy. At the same time... it would also be unwise to neglect the fact that our—the prison at Guantanamo Bay continues to inspire violent acts around the globe. So it's not as if we can avoid violence by just keeping the prison open and keeping them all locked up. We know that that continues to be an active source of inspiration and recruitment for terrorists.” (Earnest's claim is absurd. Relocating every terrorist from Guantanamo to a prison within the continental United States will not eliminate radical Islamists from

engaging in terrorist attacks; nor would setting every remaining detainee free. The facility did not exist on September 11, 2001 and terrorists nevertheless attacked the United States. Earnest is following the leftist argument that “the chickens came home to roost” and that terrorism is nothing more than the logical response to U.S. “imperialism.”) [70392, 70394]

During a White House news conference, Obama warns Congress against imposing new sanctions on Iran: “I’ve consistently said we leave all options on the table. But Congress should be aware that if this diplomatic solution fails, than the risks and likelihood this ends up at some point a military confrontation is heightened. And Congress will have to own that as well. And we may not be able to rebuild the kind of coalition we need in that context if the world believes we were not serious about negotiations. ... There is no good argument for us to try to undercut, undermine the negotiations until they’ve played themselves out. ... Congress needs to show patience. My main message to Congress is: ‘Just hold your fire.’” (In other words, “My administration is going to keep playing the negotiations game while Iran continues its nuclear program, and anyone who stands in my way is in favor of war with Iran.” Following Obama’s appeasement policy is arguably the more dangerous path to take.) [70397, 70415, 70416]

The U.S. Supreme Court announces it will hear a gay marriage case in April. [70402, 70406]

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA issue a report claiming that 2014 was the hottest year of the last 135 years. The discredited Pennsylvania State University professor Michael Mann states, “We are witnessing, before our eyes, the effect of human-caused climate change. It is exceptionally unlikely that we would be seeing a record year, during a record warming decade, during a multi-decadal period of warmth that appears to be unrivaled over at least the past millennium if it were not for the rising of planet-warming gases produced by fossil-fuel burning.” (Mann is responsible for the infamous “hockey stick” graph, that intentionally distorted data in order to claim “man-caused global warming.”) [70404, 70459, 70726, 70727]

WND.com reports, “A number of reputable scientists... immediately cast doubt on the federal government’s declaration Friday. ‘Using the normal rules of science, is 58.46 degrees then distinguishable from 58.45 degrees? In a word, ‘No,’ wrote Patrick J. Michaels on the Cato Institute website. His assessment was cited on Marc Morano’s Climate Depot website, which routinely debunks claims of global warming. Climatologist Roy Spencer is quoted there: ‘We are arguing over the significance of a hundredths of a degree.’ And physicist Lubos Motl: ‘Please laugh out loud when someone will be telling you that it was the warmest year.’ ... Morano explained: ‘There are dueling global datasets—surface temperature records and satellite records—and they disagree. The satellites show an 18 year plus global warming ‘standstill’ and the satellite was set up to be ‘more accurate’ than the surface records.’ He argued any temperature claim of ‘hottest year’ based on surface data is based on hundredths of a degree hotter than previous ‘hottest years.’ ‘This immeasurable difference is not even within the margin of error of temperature gauges. The claim of the ‘hottest year’ is simply a political statement not

based on temperature facts.’ ‘Hottest year’ claims are based on minute fractions of a degree while ignoring satellite data showing earth is continuing the 18 plus year ‘pause’ or ‘standstill,’” he wrote.” [70404, 70459, 70726, 70727, 70875, 71015]

CNSNews.com reports, “Even as gasoline prices plummeted and the overall energy price index calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics declined, electricity prices bucked the trend in the United States in 2014. Data released today by the BLS indicates that the electricity price indexes hit all-time highs for the month of December and for the year. 2014 was the most-expensive year ever for electricity in the United States.” [70526]

On January 17 WashingtonTimes.com reports that Obama will call for a whopping \$320 billion in tax increases in his January 20 State of the Union address. Obama “will propose raising the top tax rate on capital gains to 28 percent, from the current 23.8 percent (20 percent, plus a 3.8 percent tax on unearned income to fund Obamacare) for individual taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$200,000 or more. ... Mr. Obama will propose using that new tax revenue to fund about \$235 billion in new spending initiatives and expanded tax credits for the middle-class, setting up a renewed battle with congressional Republicans, who largely oppose a hike in capital-gains taxes.” (Increasing the capital gains tax is a good way to *prevent* job creation, because investors prefer to leave their assets untouched and unsold rather than liquidate them to get the cash necessary to invest in new businesses. Job creation was stifled when Obama and the Democrats increased the capital gains tax from 15 percent to 23.8 percent. Additionally, hikes in the capital gains tax almost never result in the increased tax revenue that the government anticipates. Apparently Obama is too stupid to comprehend that a 28 percent tax on nothing is not better than a 23.8 percent tax on something. That is, there are no gains to be taxed if investors choose not to not sell their assets. (The capital gains tax was 15 percent when Obama took office. He then jacked it up to 20 percent, and ObamaCare hiked it to 23.8 percent. Leaving it at 15 percent would have resulted in more job creation.) In a 2008 primary debate Obama told ABC’s Charlie Gibson, “I would look at raising the capital-gains tax for purposes of fairness”—even though raising that tax would ultimately result in shrinking federal revenues. Gibson correctly pointed out that a higher capital gains tax typically means less tax revenue for the federal government, but Obama declared that he would raise it anyway (simply to punish people who make money through the capitalist system).) [265, 295, 70398, 70719]

Obama also calls for a dramatic increase in the “death tax” by changing the manner in which it is calculated. Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) explains: “Under current law, when you inherit an asset your basis in the asset is the higher of the fair market value at the time of death or the decedent's original basis. Almost always, the fair market value is higher. Under the Obama proposal, when you inherit an asset your basis will simply be the decedent’s original basis. Example: Dad buys a house for \$10,000. He dies and leaves it to you. The fair market value on the date of death is \$100,000. You sell it for \$120,000. Under current law, you have a capital gain of \$20,000 (sales price of \$120,000 less step up in basis of \$100,000). Under the Obama plan, you have a capital gain of \$110,000 (sales price of \$120,000 less original basis of \$10,000). There are exemptions for most households, but this misses the larger point: the whole reason we have step up in basis is

because we have a death tax. If you are going to hold an estate liable for tax, you can't then hold the estate liable for tax again when the inheritor sells it. This adds yet another redundant layer of tax on savings and investment. It's a huge tax hike on family farms and small businesses." [70451, 70452, 70658]

It is worth noting that if Obama's proposed estate tax increase were to be passed by Congress, it would result in lower real estate prices. If heirs cannot afford to pay outrageous estate taxes out of their own pockets, they will have to sell the houses, farms, and small businesses they inherited. More properties on the market results in lower real estate prices. As an example, if a young married couple bought a house in California decades ago for \$50,000 and it is worth \$1 million when they die, their children will have to pay taxes on the \$950,000 profit. If the surviving children cannot afford to pay the taxes, they will be forced to sell the house. If the number of such desperation sales is significant, real estate prices will naturally fall. To make matters worse, the parents may have taken out home equity loans on the property to put their children through college or for other purposes. In many cases, Obama's tax proposal would leave heirs with monumentally less than they would receive under current estate tax and capital gains tax rules—and the families harmed will *not* be limited to those that earn less than \$250,000 per year. [70658]

According to ATR, Obama also wants a 0.07 percent "tax on the liabilities (not assets) of the 100 or so U.S. firms with assets over \$50 billion. This will obviously be passed along to these firms' customers and employees, since businesses don't pay taxes—people do." (At a time when the tax code should be simplified, Obama calls for even more complexity. Of course, he does not expect his proposals to pass. But he can spend two years criticizing the GOP for "protecting the rich" when his legislative proposals go nowhere.) [70452]

Absurdly, Obama wants to tax college savings plans ("Section 529 plans"), that are currently tax-free, by taxing earnings as ordinary income upon withdrawal. (The proposal violates Obama's 2008 pledge not to raise taxes on families earning less than \$250,000 per year.) On the one hand, Obama wants to make community college "free" so that more people can afford to attend. But on the other hand he wants to penalize the 12 million families with 529 plans that are saving for the college educations of their children. This would seem absolutely ridiculous to the average American—unless one sees the underlying motive: Obama wants no one independent; instead, he wants everyone dependent on government. (Penalizing college savings accounts will make families throw up their hands in despair and say, "I give up. I'll become a parasite, just like tens of millions of other Americans." The more people are dependent on government, the more people will vote to protect their hand-outs by reelecting socialists.) Obama's scheme would reportedly apply to future 529 college savings plans, but not those that have already been established. (That allows Obama to continue to accrue tax-free earnings on the \$240,000 account he set up in 2007 for his daughters' college educations.) [70452, 70457, 70523, 70688, 70738, 70781, 70798]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest later tries to defend Obama's proposal to tax 529 plans, telling reporters, "The reforms [Obama] has proposed for the 529 program are reforms that he would consider only in the context of the other education reforms that he put forward. And there are a variety of proposals [Obama] put forward, some related to the tax code, but some also related to [his] proposal to make community college free for hard working students that [sic; who] are getting good grades. That would have the benefit of essentially cutting the cost of a four year education in half. If you can do the first two years at a community college and have them paid for then the next two years are something you can pay for and essentially your tuition costs have been cut in half." (In other words, "To hell with your plans to send your son or daughter to an excellent four-year college or university. Instead, we want to tax your college savings account and force your child to attend a community college for two years. After all, the government knows best, not you parents.") [70688, 70696]

Obama's budget proposal also includes a "second-earner tax credit" of \$500, applicable to many families where both the husband and wife work. (Obama apparently believes families that struggle because the mother has chosen to stay home to raise their children are second-class citizens.) According to Washington Examiner.com, Obama also wants to "expand the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. The child and dependent care credit is different from the more widely used child tax credit. The child care credit is a 50-percent tax credit for a parent's first \$2,000 in babysitting or daycare costs, but this credit is available only for parents who use the child care to do paid work. If you hire child care to take your car to the shop, get the kids safely out of range while you paint your living room or just get some peace and quiet while your husband is in Iowa for three days covering the presidential caucuses, no tax credit. Hire a babysitter in order to earn your own paycheck, and you get a tax credit." [70490, 70505, 70523, 70860, 70861, 70862]

Obama's proposal, of course, works against single-breadwinner families. (He apparently does not like mothers who stay home to raise children and would rather the government raise—and indoctrinate—them.) At NYTimes.com Josh Barro whines, "The tax code is already hugely distorted in favor of stay-at-home parenting: Labor outside the home is taxed; household work, such as stay-at-home parenting, is not." (Barro is parroting the leftist complaint that the government "loses" revenue because it does not tax work Americans do themselves. For example, if a homeowner hires a contractor to paint his house, that contractor pays tax on the house-painting fee he collects. But if a homeowner paints his own house, the government "loses" that tax revenue. The leftists would rather force both parents into the workplace and dump their children into daycare centers so that everyone could be taxed.) [70490, 70505, 70523, 70860, 70861, 70862]

Terry Jeffrey later provides an example at Townhall.com: "Compare two families, each with two children under three. In the first family, both the mother and father work full-time and each earns \$55,000 per year. Their combined income of \$110,000 is under the \$120,000 threshold [of Obama's proposal], so Obama gives them his full child-care tax credit. They are happy to take it, dropping off their 1-year-old and 2-and-a-half-year-old at a for-profit daycare center where a relative stranger deals with them during the majority of their waking hours. In the second family, the mother—who has a college



degree and a solid work history prior to the arrival of her children—has decided she should nurture her own children rather than pay a daycare center to hold them. She has given up a \$60,000 per year job, and she and her husband now sacrifice and get by on his \$58,000 per year salary. What this mother gives her children for free is far more valuable than what the daycare center gives the children of the first family for a hefty fee. The first family has an income \$52,000 greater than the second. But Obama gives the first family, not the second, his tax credit. The mother in the second family gave up income and material comfort to raise her own children. For this, Obama punishes her with the tax code. The perversely logical corollary to Obama’s desire to structure the tax code to the disadvantage of stay-at-home mothers is his desire to use tax dollars to replace working fathers with the government itself.” [70523, 70572]

A bomb threat forces the evacuation of Delta Airlines flight 1803 after it lands in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. WRAL reports, “According to authorities the airport was given an all clear just before 3:15 p.m. The FBI is investigating the incident.” [70400, 70401]

Police in Greece detain four suspected terrorists. According to the Associated Press, they include one who may be Abdelhamid Abaaoud, “the man who Belgian authorities suspect was the mastermind behind a dismantled jihadi cell there.” Meanwhile, *International Business Times* reports, “Islamist terrorists are plotting to attack rallies held by Germany’s far-right Pegida [Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the Occident] movement, according to intelligence sources. Foreign intelligence services have intercepted communications by ‘known international jihadists’ planning strikes against those taking part in the rallies of the group, which aims to halt what it describes as the ‘Islamification’ of Europe, according to AFP and Der Spiegel reports. The intelligence was passed to German authorities, with an unnamed and high-ranking security official telling Der Spiegel ‘we take these leads very seriously.’” (To the mainstream media, Germans who want Germany to remain German are “far-right.”) [70412, 70413, 70414]

NYPost.com reports, “In a wild swing of the ax that has shocked many pundits, Wall Street’s biggest banks have slashed nearly 50,000 jobs, and bonuses and expense money are being cut as profit opportunities dry up. And there’s no easy way out, analysts say, because the Fed’s [Federal Reserve’s] quantitative easing [artificial expansion of the money supply] that once rescued the financial system with trillions of cheap dollars is—at least for now—history. ... The fourth quarter saw thousands more workers fired. Total reductions for 2014 were about 20,000 at Brian Moynihan’s Bank of America; 10,000 at Citigroup led by Michael Corbat; and 10,000 at Jaime Dimon’s JP Morgan. Morgan Stanley reports on Tuesday. ... ‘Look, I think head count in the banking industry is likely to decline,’ said CLSA investment group bank analyst Mike Mayo. ‘And if this environment remains, headcount would get significantly reduced.’ By Mayo’s calculations, bank revenues are the weakest in eight decades, a shocking throwback to the Great Depression.” [70466]

Muslims attend a “Stand with the Prophet” event in Garland, Texas. The keynote speaker is imam Siraj Wahhaj, who WND.com notes once said, “It is my duty and our duty as Muslims to replace the U.S. Constitution with the Quran.” Wahhaj was an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and is a friend of the bombing’s planner, Omar Abdel Rahman (the “blind sheikh”). Several thousand protesters gather outside for a “Free Speech Rally.” One demonstrator’s sign reads, “Don’t behead me, bro!!” Pamela Geller tells the crowd, “We’re living in an age where evil is good, and good is evil. ... This is theater, and the media is the director. They’re coming here to film a narrative. They’re coming here to make you look bad. ... Never give them what they’re looking for. They want you to say something wrong. They want you to have a bad sign [a placard with provocative wording]. Because that becomes the front page. ... You have a role here. Your role is an educator. Your message is beautiful. So please, be beautiful. Each of you are beautiful. Act beautiful and be righteous. Make the cause proud.” She tells Breitbart.com, “The media can smear us and [Obama] can stand with [the radical Muslims]. We the people are not having it. If there is any proof of that, it’s today. We dwarfed them [with our numbers].” (Earlier in the week, Geller wrote that the rally would “stand for the freedom of speech against all attempts, violent and stealthy, to impose Islamic blasphemy laws on Americans and stifle criticism of Muhammad and Islam.”) [70420, 70421, 70436, 70447, 70448, 70481]

Shots are fired near on a road a few hundred yards from the house of Vice President Joe Biden. (He and his wife are not at home during the incident.) [70419, 70427]

On January 18 NYPost.com reports, “In top-secret talks to settle federal lawsuits against the NYPD for monitoring mosques, the city is weighing a demand that it scrub from its Web site a report on Islamic terrorists... The groundbreaking, 92-page report, titled ‘Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat,’ angers critics who say it promotes ‘religious profiling’ and discrimination against Muslims. But law-enforcement sources say removing the report now would come at the worst time—after mounting terror attacks by Islamic extremists in Paris, Boston, Sydney and Ottawa. ... ‘The harm is that it sends the message that the NYPD is going to back down on its counterterrorism effort in the name of political correctness,’ said a former NYPD official. ‘Shame on the NYPD if they do.’” HotAir.com observes, “Are we to just pretend that nothing is going on? I’m sorry to be a naysayer here, but worrying about hurting someone’s feelings is not a rational excuse for the cops not doing their jobs. You don’t put all of your homicide investigators to work in midtown Manhattan (where the lowest murder rate in the city is found) just because you’re afraid of offending the people in the neighborhoods where kids are getting mowed down by gangs. If the city scrubs this report, we may as well establish ‘no go’ zones for the cops like they have in Paris. And once you’ve done that—as a friend of mine recently said on Twitter—you’re pretty well on your way to a failed state.” [70444, 70445, 70462, 70524, 70589]

Technically, there may not be strict “no-go zones” in Paris or other European cities where entry is prohibited, but there certainly *are* out-of-control Muslim neighborhoods that police officers, firefighters, and ambulance drivers are reluctant to enter because of their high levels of crime, and where non-Muslims would feel incredibly uncomfortable if not

in danger. France has a reported 751 such zones (*Zones Urbaines Sensibles*, or “sensitive urban zones”). In more than a few Muslim areas in European countries, officials “look the other way” as neighborhood Shari’ah law is enforced by the locals. According to JihadWatch.org, Fabrice Balanche, an Islam scholar at the University of Lyon, has stated, “You have territories in France such as Roubaix, such as northern Marseille, where police will not step foot, where the authority of state is completely absent, where mini Islamic states have been formed.” French writer and political journalist Eric Zemmour has said, “There are places in France today, especially in the suburbs, where it is not really in France. Salafi Islamists are Islamizing some neighborhoods and some suburbs. In these neighborhoods, it’s not France, it’s an Islamic republic.” An estimated 71 square miles of Marseille are under the control of Muslim gangs. (Meanwhile, *Times of Israel* reports that public schools in Belgium “are becoming ‘Jew-free’ zones because of harassment.”) [70444, 70445, 70462, 70524, 70589, 70625, 70646, 70648, 70524, 70748, 70749, 70771]

In *The New York Times*, Marie Le Pen, leader of France’s National Front, writes, “‘To misname things is to add to the world’s unhappiness.’ Whether or not Albert Camus really did utter these words, they are an astonishingly apt description of the situation in which the French government now finds itself. Indeed, the French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius no longer even dares pronounce the real name of things. ... Let us call things by their rightful names, since the French government seems reluctant to do so. France, land of human rights and freedoms, was attacked on its own soil by a totalitarian ideology: Islamic fundamentalism. It is only by refusing to be in denial, by looking the enemy in the eye, that one can avoid conflating issues. Muslims themselves need to hear this message. They need the distinction between Islamist terrorism and their faith to be made clearly. Yet this distinction can only be made if one is willing to identify the threat. It does our Muslim compatriots no favors to fuel suspicions and leave things unspoken. Islamist terrorism is a cancer on Islam, and Muslims themselves must fight it at our side. ... These mistakes must also be called by their names. I will mention only three, but they are of crucial importance. First, the dogma of the free movement of peoples and goods is so firmly entrenched among the leaders of the European Union that the very idea of border checks is deemed to be heretical. And yet, every year tons of weapons from the Balkans enter French territory unhindered and hundreds of jihadists move freely around Europe.” [70468]

“... Second, the massive waves of immigration, both legal and clandestine, our country has experienced for decades have prevented the implementation of a proper assimilation policy. ... Without a policy restricting immigration, it becomes difficult, if not impossible, to fight against communalism and the rise of ways of life at odds with laïcité [separation of church and state], France’s distinctive form of secularism, and other laws and values of the French Republic. An additional burden is mass unemployment, which is itself exacerbated by immigration. Third, French foreign policy has wandered between Scylla and Charybdis [to be caught between two unpleasant alternatives] in the last few years. Former President Nicolas Sarkozy’s intervention in Libya, President François Hollande’s support for some Syrian fundamentalists, alliances formed with rentier states that finance jihadist fighters, like Qatar and Saudi Arabia—all are mistakes that have plunged France

into serious geopolitical incoherence from which it is struggling to extricate itself. These mistakes are not inevitable. But to rectify them, we must act quickly. The Union Pour Un Mouvement Populaire and the Parti Socialiste have called for a committee to investigate the recent terrorist attacks. That will hardly solve matters. ‘If you want to bury a problem, set up a committee,’ the French statesman Georges Clémenceau once said.” [70468]

“For now, one emergency measure can readily be put into action: Stripping jihadists of their French citizenship is an absolute necessity. In the longer run, most important, national border checks must be reinstated, and there should be zero tolerance for any behavior that undermines laïcité and French law. Without such measures, no serious policy for combating fundamentalism is possible. France has just gone through 12 days it will never forget. After pausing to grieve its dead, it then rose up to defend its rights. Now the French people, as if a single person, must put pressure on their leaders so that these days in January will not have been in vain. From France’s tragedy must spring hope for real change. The petty logic of political parties cannot be allowed to stifle the French people’s legitimate aspirations to safety and liberty. We, the French, are viscerally attached to our laïcité, our sovereignty, our independence, our values. The world knows that when France is attacked it is liberty that is dealt a blow. I began by saying that we must call things by their names. I will end by saying that some names speak for themselves. The name of our country, France, still rings out like a call to freedom.” [70468]

The *Daily Mail* reports on a case of political correctness run amok: “A convicted Al-Qaeda terrorist with close links to the Paris massacre cannot be deported from Britain because it would breach his right to a family life... Baghdad Meziene was jailed for 11 years in 2003 for running a terror network recruiting jihadists and fund-raising for Al-Qaeda. But despite a judge saying he was a dangerous man and should serve his full sentence then be deported, he was released from prison five years early and allowed to return to his family home in Leicester. The 50-year-old is an associate of Djamel Beghal, a convicted terrorist whose wife and family live in Leicester and who is said to have mentored two of the Paris attackers while they were in jail together in France. ...Chris Grayling, the Justice Secretary, told The Sunday Telegraph that the Meziene case highlighted the need to scrap the Human Rights Act. ‘It’s a nonsense that people who are a threat to our society are able to use their human rights to avoid being sent back to their home country when it is clear they have no regard for the human rights of our citizens,’ he said.” [70471, 70472]

Obama advisor Dan Pfeiffer is interviewed by Bob Schieffer on *Face the Nation*. Schieffer says, “Let’s just start with what [Obama] said overnight. [Obama] is going to announce a plan in the State of the Union [address] to raise \$320 billion in new taxes on the wealthy, that’s over 10 years. Capital gains taxes are going up with this new revenue. He’s going to do such things as provide free community college and so forth for people. New tax breaks for working families. Increased child care credit. I would just ask you this Mr. Pfeiffer: do you in any way shape or form believe that a new Republican Congress is going to do what a Congress that had Democrats and Republicans in control would not do? Is this for real? Do you really think there’s a chance that something like

this could pass? Do you really think this Congress would really consider this?” Pfeiffer replies, “Now that the economy is in a stronger place than it’s been in a very long time, we need to double down on our efforts to deal with wage stagnation and declining economic mobility.” (Obama and Pfeiffer know full well that the proposals will not be taken seriously by Congress. The economy remains weak, and raising taxes by \$320 billion will do nothing but destroy jobs, Especially damaging would be an increase in the capital gains tax. Obama’s January 20 State of the Union address will be chockfull of “free stuff” that will appeal to non-thinking and uninformed Americans. He and his fellow Democrats will then spend the next two years castigating Republicans for not providing those goodies.) [70422]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) tells Schieffer, “The notion... that in order for some people to do better, someone has to do worse is just not true. Raising taxes on people that [sic; who] are successful is not going to make people that are struggling more successful. ...It would also be counter-productive.” [70426]

Also appearing on *Face the Nation* is British Prime Minister David Cameron, who says, “I think in a free society, there is a right to cause offence about someone’s religion. I’m a Christian—if someone says something offensive about Jesus, I might find that offensive, but in a free society I don’t have a right to, sort of, wreak my vengeance on them.” (This is the same David Cameron whose government has banned Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller from entering the country to speak about radical Islam because they might offend some Muslims.) [70446]

On *State of the Union*, Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) ridicules Obama’s tax increase proposal, saying, “We’re not just one good tax increase away from prosperity in this nation.” (Taxing the wealthy does nothing to help struggling middle-class families. In fact, it hurts them because higher taxes on anyone destroys jobs. When, in the early 1990s Democrats imposed a 10 percent “luxury tax” on boats costing more than \$100,000, the result was *not* misery for yacht owners; it was massive unemployment in the boat-building industry. Middle-class workers who built boats lost their jobs, while the wealthy simply postponed the purchase of expensive boats and yachts or spent their money on something else. Tens of thousands of Americans lost their jobs, and the government never got anywhere near the tax revenue they had anticipated—because 10 percent of a canceled boat order is zero. If raising taxes on a wealthy businessman prompts him to cancel plans for a room addition on his house, the people harmed are the contractors, carpenters, plumbers, and electricians who will not get the jobs they would otherwise have gotten. Suggesting higher taxes does not mean Obama “cares about the middle class.” It means Obama is either grossly ignorant of economics and reality, or that he is a shameless thug playing political games at the expense of the American people.) [70426, 70428]

On *Meet the Press*, *Charlie Hebdo* editor Gerard Biard says, “Listen, we cannot blame newspapers that already suffer much difficulty in getting published and distributed in totalitarian regimes for not publishing a cartoon that could cost them at best jail, at worst death. On the other hand, I’m quite critical of newspapers which are published in

democratic countries. This cartoon is not just a little figure, a little Mohammad. It's a symbol of freedom of religion, democracy, and secularism. It is a symbol that these newspapers refuse to publish. When they refuse to publish this cartoon, when they blur it out, when they decline to publish it, they blur out democracy, secularism, freedom of religion, and they insult the citizenship." [70424]

On CNN, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta says, "I don't think there's any question" that the United States is in danger of again being attacked by terrorists. "I think what we're seeing... is a much more aggressive chapter and a much more dangerous chapter in terms of the war on terrorism. ...They [the terrorists] are engaged in a much more aggressive effort to conduct violence, not only in Europe, but I think it's a matter of time before they direct it at the United States as well. This is a real threat, and we've got to be prepared to confront them." [70458]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) states, "These negotiations [with Iran] were lost right from the get-go when we lessened sanctions and we basically allowed Iran to continue to enrich uranium, contrary to all the U.N. resolutions. I do not see a good deal coming out of this administration, and a bad deal is worse than no deal at all. I think imposing additional sanctions is the only way to bring Iran to the negotiating table in good faith." Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) says, "The question is [not if but] when do we do it [impose sanctions], and that's the issue and discussions taking place on Capitol Hill." [70460]

*The Wall Street Journal* writes that Obama is now objecting to Congressional support for what had been his Iran policy: "'If Iran does not fully meet its commitments during this six-month phase, we will turn off the [sanctions] relief and ratchet up the pressure.' That was ...Obama in November 2013, pledging he would not allow an interim nuclear deal with Tehran to become an opportunity for the mullahs to play for time while wringing economic concessions from the West. [Obama's] interpretation of 'six months' turns out to be as elastic as his reading of U.S. immigration law. That became clear on Friday when Mr. Obama warned he would veto any Congressional attempt to impose sanctions on the Islamic Republic if the latest round of negotiations fail. 'My main message to Congress at this point is just hold your fire,' he said in a press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron, who seconded [Obama's] plea and admits to personally lobbying U.S. Senators against sanctions legislation as if he is White House legislative liaison. What seems to exercise Mr. Obama is a Congress that holds his Administration to its word. 'The United States and our partners will not consent to an extension merely to drag out negotiations,' wrote Secretary of State John Kerry in a Washington Post op-ed last summer. Yet two deadlines to finalize a deal have come and gone. The next one expires in June.' [70465]

"The Administration's latest argument is that a sanctions bill would be interpreted as a hostile act by Tehran, potentially provoking retaliation while spoiling the diplomatic mood. The Administration also frets that it would disrupt unity among the so-called P5+1, referring to the permanent five members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany, while the West would be blamed if negotiations fail. These are remarkable

claims about legislation that would penalize Iran only after the current deadline expires and if Iran does not come to terms. The bill that is likely to emerge after the Senate Banking Committee holds hearings Tuesday will be a revised version of last year's bipartisan Kirk-Menendez bill, named after [Senate] sponsors Republican Mark Kirk of Illinois and Democrat Robert Menendez of New Jersey. It would reimpose the sanctions Mr. Obama suspended when he signed the interim deal, impose visa bans and asset blocks on top Iranian officials, and further tighten oil and financial sanctions. Passing the bill now could help persuade Iranian negotiators that they cannot string the West along indefinitely without paying a price. Would that cause Iran to walk away from negotiations? That's a strange argument coming from an Administration that boasts that Iran agreed to the interim deal thanks to the bite of strong sanctions. Mr. Obama's real reason for opposing the bill may be that he knows it is also a message to him not to strike a bad deal. ...In any case this boils down to negotiating the terms of how easily Iran can violate the deal it is supposedly pledging not to violate. That is the measure of how much Iran has gained in these talks so far. ...The next two years will be full of foreign-policy dangers as adversaries seek to exploit Mr. Obama's weakness and desire for diplomatic agreements of any kind. Passing Kirk-Menendez would at least send a signal that the American people are not as pliable and that help is on the way after 2016." [70465]

Although Obama could not pull himself away from football playoff games to attend the Paris Unity March, DailyCaller.com reports that next week both Obama and his wife "will travel at taxpayer expense to beautiful, exotic India. The three-day jaunt will start Jan. 25. For the political part of his trip, Obama will speak with Prime Minister Narendra Modi about a host of bilateral issues including nuclear cooperation and military and defense relations. India and the United States have already agreed to renew a 10-year defense accord. There will also be a roundtable with Indian CEOs and a town hall-type event. [Obama] will also take part in India's Republic Day celebrations and he will be the guest of honor at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. Republic Day honors the date when the Constitution of India took effect (Jan. 26, 1950). Obama will also take the first lady to the Taj Mahal in Agra (about 140 miles south of New Delhi). ...As of July 2014, the Obama clan had already spend a whopping \$44,351,777.12 in taxpayer funds on vacations. That dollar amount is obviously substantially higher now. In 2008, then-candidate Obama promised gullible New York Times columnist Bob Herbert that he would not to take vacations if he were elected president." (Obama's "knowledge" of India was exposed in 2009 when, on the anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, he said, "Americans owe an enormous measure of gratitude to the Mahatma. His teachings and ideals, shared with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on his 1959 pilgrimage to India, transformed American society through our civil rights movement." King, of course, could not have met with Gandhi in 1959—because Gandhi was assassinated in 1948.) [5118, 70423, 70551]

Israeli Defense Forces kill five Hezbollah terrorists and six Iranian officers in an attack on the Syrian border town of Quneitra. At PJMedia.com Avner Zarmi reports, "The strike has elicited what should have been expected. Iranian National Security Advisor Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani... threatened, 'The resistance will respond by force at an appropriate time and place for the Zionist terror entity's aggression.' Similarly, the pro-

Hezbollah *al-Akhbar* in Lebanon announced, ‘Israel will not be able to prevent Hezbollah from sending its forces into Galilee. ... We shall hit back for the Quneitra strike very soon.’ This latter remark goes far to fuel Israeli fears that Hezbollah has secretly been digging tunnels under the border similar to those discovered last summer during Operation Protective Edge in Gaza. Though the IDF has never publicly confirmed the existence of such tunnels, rumors of their existence are widespread in Israel. Iron Dome missile batteries have been deployed, and a meeting of the Israeli Security Council was called as the country braces for the threatened response.” [70497]

At a Tea Party convention in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, “Every one of those Washington graybeards who goes on TV and talks about how the way to win is to run to the mushy middle—have you noticed these consultants keep losing over and over and over again? Who in their right mind would listen to someone who keeps getting whapped and giving us advice on how not to get whapped? ... Enough is enough with the career politicians in both parties.” [70432]

Jerome Corsi writes that retired Major General Paul Vallely told WND.com “that he believes [Congressman Trey] Gowdy [R-SC] ‘has received much pressure not to get to the truth, and we are now coming to the conclusion that there is no longer any intention in Washington, by the leadership of both the Democratic and Republican Parties, to get to the truth.’ ‘An honest investigation into Benghazi would prove treasonous acts at the very top of the White House and the State Department, and a continuing cover-up in Congress that now involves the Republican leadership and especially House Speaker John Boehner [R-OH],’ Vallely said.” Retired U.S. Navy Admiral James Lyon states, “Trey Gowdy’s Select Committee is proceeding at glacial speed. It is unclear where Gowdy is going, and the signs are not good.” Retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Charles Jones tells WND.com, “I think Gowdy is serious, and I think he is a real patriot, but I think he has been warned away from the final conclusion or he’s been threatened. ... I think Gowdy, if he doesn’t go any further than he has, has either been warned within the Republican Party or threatened externally. ... The truth is Boehner only agreed to appoint the Select Committee after a lot of pressure from a lot of people and to put Gowdy in to head it, which is something we all recommended. But I think Boehner has either given Gowdy the word that enough is enough, or it’s gone above Boehner, and Gowdy’s been threatened.” [70429]

At GoFundMe.com Tracy Fair solicits donations to help her proceed with her eligibility lawsuit against Obama. (Information supporting her claim that Obama is not a natural born citizen of the United States can be found at UnslaveAmerica.com.) [70430, 70431]

At JihadWatch.org Pamela Geller writes, “Anti-free speech thugs are at it again. My website, Atlas Shrugs (PamelaGeller.com), was taken down by a massive DDoS [distributed denial of service] attack last Thursday, and as of this writing on Sunday afternoon, the attack is still metastasizing. This attack is unprecedented in its size and scope. Jihadis and their leftist errand boys are so desperate to silence me and my message that they have devoted tremendous resources to taking down my site, which is devoted to honest news reporting about jihad activity. ... My site host, Media Temple, said they



couldn't cope with the attack against my site. They had never in their history seen anything like it. The DDoS attack didn't just take down my site. It also took down Media Temple and threatened all of their clients, and even attacked the servers that Media Temple uses at Net Data Center, a service provider that promises 'uninterrupted operations.' Net Data Center could not handle the massive traffic that the attackers were sending to my site to take it down, and finally had to pull the plug on Atlas Shrugs." [70436]

"The timing was noteworthy. Our ads calling attention to Islamic Jew-hatred in San Francisco have gotten an immense amount of national and international press. And above all, our free speech rally last Saturday to counter the 'Stand with the Prophet' anti-free speech conference in Garland, Texas, got the foes of freedom riled. ...The media coverage of our rally was vicious, ugly and dishonest. ...One headline blared, 'Muslims group gathers for peace, faces threats, protest.' And the news story features only smiling young women wearing hijabs. This coverage, the 'Stand with the Prophet' conference and the attack on my site are all part of the same anti-free speech initiative. The Islamic supremacists are out for blood, determined to criminalize criticism of Islam (and opposition to jihad terror) under the guise of fighting against 'Islamophobia' and 'hate speech.' The media cover for them. And on the eve of their 'Stand with the Prophet' event, their fellow foes of free speech took my site down." [70436]

"My website reaches close to 100,000 readers a day. No wonder they want so very much to take it down and keep it down. Our rally, like my website, stood for the freedom of speech against all attempts, violent and stealthy, to impose Islamic blasphemy laws on Americans and stifle criticism of Muhammad and Islam. As Muhammad's followers kill more and more people, we need critics of him more than ever—and free people need to stand up against these underhanded attempts to stifle all criticism of Islam, including honest investigations of how jihadists use Islamic texts and teachings to justify Jew-hatred, violence, supremacism and oppression. The foes of free speech never give up. And neither should its defenders. As of this writing, the DDoS attack against my website continues, and there is no end in sight. I am working furiously to move the site and get back online. The costs associated with the move, the server, and the IT expertise are staggering. You can rest assured that I'll be back online—with a righteous vengeance. We need to get the message out and cover the news the media won't cover—especially now when the jihad is raging. I need your help." [70436]

British Home Secretary Theresa May says, "I never thought I would see the day when members of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom would say they were fearful of remaining here in the United Kingdom. ...Without its Jews, Britain would not be Britain, just as without its Muslims, Britain would not be Britain—without its Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and people of other faiths, Britain would not be Britain." (Someone should explain to May that the reason Jews are fearful of remaining in Great Britain has a lot to do with how the nation—and her office—accommodate Muslim immigrants who have no desire to assimilate. Many of them do not want to become British; they want Britain to be fully Muslim and under Shari'ah law. Reuters reports that after a January 16 letter from the minister for local government and communities Eric Pickles to more than one

thousand imams in Great Britain asking them to explain to their followers how they and Islam can be “part of [the] British identity,” the imams responded by claiming, “The letter has all the hallmarks of very poor judgment which feeds into an Islamophobic narrative, which feeds into a narrative of us and them.” It bears repeating that Mohammed (or one of its varied spellings) has become the number one name given to males born in England.) [70441, 70442, 70443, 70473]

Meanwhile, according to ArabNews.com, “The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) intends to take legal measures against the French magazine, Charlie Hebdo, for publishing blasphemous cartoons.” (That is, rather than condemn terrorists, the OIC prefers to sue a satire magazine for exercising its free speech rights.) [70474]

Robert Spencer writes, “If anything shows the falsity of the mainstream narrative about Islam and jihad, it’s this. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation is the world’s largest Islamic world body, and the largest voting bloc at the United Nations. If the Barack Obama/David Cameron/John Kerry/Theresa May narrative about Islam were true, the OIC would be denouncing the murders of the cartoonists and developing programs to teach Muslims why the freedom of speech is so important and why the death penalty for blasphemy must be discarded. Instead, this. The OIC and the Charlie Hebdo jihad murderers are playing a game of Good Cop/Bad Cop that we have seen Islamic supremacists play before: on the one hand there are the murders, and on the other hand there are calls for legal restrictions on criticism of Islam, presented as a means to foster community cohesion and harmony. And behind those calls, there is always the subtle threat of more violence if the restrictions are not implemented. And the goal of the Charlie Hebdo murderers and the OIC is the same: to force the free world to submit to Sharia blasphemy laws, which would foreclose on any honest investigation of the motives and goals of the jihadis (we are pretty much there now)—and that would allow the jihad to advance unopposed.” [70475]

On January 19 Obama commemorates Martin Luther King Day by tweeting a photograph of himself—with a statue of the slain civil rights leader in the background. [70476, 70477]

Thousands of Pakistanis begin a third day of protests against *Charlie Hebdo* political cartoons they consider offensive. Hafiz Saeed, former head of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa group that masterminded a 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, says, “All the Muslims of the world should get united in the face of blasphemous cartoons published in a French magazine and start boycotting the French products. In Pakistan traders should stop buying the stock of French products. ... The Muslim countries should press the United Nations to declare blasphemy an act of terrorism. If it does not do so the Muslim countries should quit this body and form their own... ‘United Muslim Nations.’” [70439, 70440]

In a Washington Post/NBC poll, Obama’s approval rating goes back up to 50 percent (for the first time since May 2013 in that particular poll). The increase is largely driven by a slightly-improved economy and lower gasoline prices (even though Obama had nothing to do with either, unless he wants to take credit for the economic disaster in Europe or the

development of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling), and Hispanic and Democrat approval for his illegal immigrant amnesty schemes. Fifty-six percent of those polled still believe the nation is on the “wrong track,” and the same percentage believe Obama’s illegal immigrant amnesty orders should be blocked by Congress. (Obama’s approval rating is 46 percent in a CBS poll, and 42 percent in a Fox News poll.) [70453, 70454, 70478, 70563, 70573]

Sylvia Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services, attends a breakfast gathering at Al Sharpton’s National Action Network. She says, “I’ve had the pleasure of knowing the Reverend [Sharpton] for many years, and have worked with him from my time in the Clinton administration to my time at Walmart to now. ...Reverend Sharpton has spent his life fighting for what’s right, no matter how challenging. I want to thank you for your courage, tenacity and persistence.” (Burwell is either grossly ignorant of the race-inciting, extortionist Sharpton’s past or chose to ignore it.) New York City mayor Bill de Blasio also addresses the group. Burwell also pushes ObamaCare, saying, “In the spirit of Dr. King, we are asking you to help us again, in big ways and small. Host an [ObamaCare] enrollment event at your church or community center. Reach out to your partners and ask for their help. Use Twitter and social media to spread the word about the February 15 deadline. Tell your neighbors and friends.” [70455, 70456, 70463]

HotAir.com comments on Obama’s tax increase proposals: “Let’s just get one thing out of the way up front. This dog and pony show has zero to do with policy and everything to do with politics. Obama already knows that not one of these proposals will ever make it within smelling distance of the floor for a vote in either chamber. What’s being done here is essentially a hand-off of the baton to Hillary Clinton and all of the Democrat hopefuls with an eye toward the next election. This doesn’t make it a stupid idea for [Obama]. He doesn’t need to jack up the tax rates to be successful. He just needs to make the Republicans refuse to jack up the tax rates. This populist message is referred to as ‘populist’ for a reason. People with less wealth are often hard pressed to resist feeling a bit of jealousy toward those who are more successful. Even if draining all the wealth from the wealthy won’t make any significant difference in their own lives, there is a nasty siren call associated with the idea of taking the fat cats down a peg or two.” (This *Timeline* believes that Obama’s tax hike and free community college schemes are more of a boost to a presidential run by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) than Hillary Clinton.) [70461]

DailyCaller.com reports, “H&R Block, the nation’s largest retail tax preparation company warns that the newly released Obamacare tax code, officially called the Affordable Care Act, is likely to confuse millions of taxpayers who try to tackle their tax returns for 2014. ‘Now that the Affordable Care Act has made health care a tax issue, no one can understand it,’ H&R Block flatly tells taxpayers in a video that resides on its dedicated Obamacare web site. A former IRS Commissioner agrees, and cautions that the new tax requirements will be a ‘shock to the system,’ especially afflicting low-income earners who have never itemized on their tax return. The tax preparation giant—with 24 million tax clients worldwide—reports that the Obamacare tax rules now constitute ‘the biggest tax code change in the last 20 years.’ ...Illustrating H&R Block’s point is IRS

Publication 5187, which attempts to explain to taxpayers how to comply with the new Obamacare tax requirements. That publication runs for a total of 21 single-spaced pages. ...Some Obamacare users may discover that they need to repay the government for the subsidies they received to cover their health insurance premiums. A few will discover they were not entitled to insurance at all. ...Former IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson, now vice chairman of Alliantgroup, warns the new Obamacare requirements will deliver a 'shock to the system.' 'Low income filers are not used to itemizing and it will be a big challenge for them,' he noted in an interview with TheDC. 'You're introducing a whole new level of complexity.'" [70467]

ZeeNewsIndia.com reports, "Forty-five churches were torched over the weekend in Niger's capital during deadly protests over the publication of a Prophet Mohammed cartoon by the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, police said on Monday. The protests, which left five people dead and 128 people injured, also saw a Christian school and orphanage set alight, Adily Toro, a spokesman for the national police, told a press conference. Similar protests on Friday in the second city of Zinder also saw five people killed and 45 wounded." ("Moderate" Muslims do not condemn the attacks, and Obama has no comment.) [70469, 70470]

On *On the Record*, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) says, "We do not have a revenue problem. You know, we brought in the most money ever—*the most money ever*—in 2014, \$3 trillion in [tax] revenue. And what [Obama] does not understand is that you have to make certain you're lowering all of the rates, getting more people into the process, paying taxes, so you increase those revenues. And he still doesn't understand the best economic stimulus is a job. And that is what people want the focus to be. ...The American dream is *not* being dependent on the federal government for your health care, for your automobile, for your college education, for your student loan, on and on and on. The American dream is independence and being able to create that dream for yourself. And they [the American people] don't want government taking more of their freedom and then having to live the way government prescribed. And all of this college education and these other programs, I tell you, it is not selling well out here with my constituents. ...You know, look at what this does to seniors when you talk about raising cap[ital] gains [taxes], taxing investments that seniors have made building their nest egg so that they can retire. [Obama] does not understand. The federal government cannot get in here and control all of this. It makes things worse. It doesn't make things better. And what he's going to find is a Congress that is going to say, look, we are for reducing the size of the federal government, taxing people less, having government spend less." [70502]

On January 20 the Associated Press reports, "The government's health insurance website is quietly sending consumers' personal data to private companies that specialize in advertising and analyzing Internet data for performance and marketing... The scope of what is disclosed or how it might be used was not immediately clear, but it can include age, income, ZIP code, whether a person smokes, and if a person is pregnant. It can include a computer's Internet address, which can identify a person's name or address when combined with other information collected by sophisticated online marketing or

advertising firms. The Obama administration says HealthCare.gov's connections to data firms were intended to help improve the consumer experience." [70480]

On NBC's *Today* program, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough states, "We've said we regret we didn't send someone more senior than our ambassador [to the Paris unity march]. That rests on me, that's my job." (That is, of course, nonsense. If Obama had wanted to attend, he would have attended. He does not take orders from McDonough.) [70487, 70507, 70564]

Former deputy White House press secretary Bill Burton whines to United Airlines about its airing of Newsmax TV on its airplanes. Burton sends United a Twitter message: "Hey there, United. Why on earth is newsmax tv the default channel running on all of your screens when boarding your planes?" United caves in to the Obama sycophant, responding, "In the coming months we will be removing that as our default channel." (Newsmax TV has a conservative slant. Meanwhile, many airports continue to air the leftist CNN on their waiting areas televisions.) [70546]

According to Gallup polls, Obama's average approval rating from January 20, 2014 to January 19, 2015 was a mere 42.6 percent. In his sixth year in office, Ronald Reagan's approval rating averaged 59.9 percent. [70547]

According to a January 7-11 Pew Research Center poll, "the words *good...* and *incompetent...* are used most frequently to describe Obama." Following in order of frequency are intelligent, dictator, honest, idiot/stupid, awesome, great, liar, arrogant, smart, trying/tries, disappointing, failure, and impressive. [70642, 70643]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports that if Obama "has his way, it will soon become more expensive, by more than \$5 an hour, to hire minimum wage workers. That's the combined cost of adding [Obama's] proposals for a higher minimum wage, more paid sick leave and the health coverage mandate of the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, to the bottom line for employers. Free-market economists say spiking labor costs that much will push businesses to hire fewer workers. Obama has called for raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, an increase of \$2.85 cents from its current rate of \$7.25. That increase that would also result in employers paying more 22 cents more an hour in payroll taxes. Most minimum wage workers do not have health coverage, and Obamacare will also hit employers who don't provide coverage with a \$2,080 per worker penalty. An analysis by Investor's Business Daily on Friday calculated that will equate to 'about \$3,420 in wages for a profit-making employer paying a combined 39.2 percent state and federal tax rate.' That works out to \$1.69 per hour, assuming a 40-hour work week. The 39.2 percent figure is the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center's estimate of the average corporate tax rate in America, which is the highest in the world. Finally, the administration has called for adding up to seven days of paid sick leave annually, which IBD estimates would cost employers another 30 cents per hour. Along with the other proposals, that works out to an additional labor cost of \$5.06 an hour." (If the minimum wage were boosted to \$10.10 per hour, any new minimum wage employee would actually cost the employer about \$15.00 per hour. The result would be

fewer unskilled Americans getting hired, because employers simply do not think their labor is worth \$15 per hour.) [70488]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A government watchdog group has obtained documents detailing how EPA-backed research exposed children as young as 10 to deadly air pollutants without disclosing the full risks of the substances. Government watchdogs say these EPA-backed studies could violate California state and federal law, because children were exposed to diesel exhaust in experiments with no health benefits to the subjects.” [70525]

The State Department issues a travel warning for Libya: “Extremist groups in Libya have made several specific threats against U.S. government officials, citizens, and interests in Libya. Because of the presumption that foreigners, especially U.S. citizens, in Libya may be associated with the U.S. government or U.S. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), travelers should be aware that they may be targeted for kidnapping, violent attacks, or death. U.S. citizens currently in Libya should exercise extreme caution and depart immediately.” [70539]

BizPacReview.com reports, “In the last two weeks of 2014, the Obama administration churned out so many new final rules, proposed rules, notices documents and presidential directives that the Federal Register was struggling to get them all published. All told, the Competitive Enterprise Institute tabulated 3,541 new rules and regulations issued by Obama during 2014. Congress only passed 129 new laws last year, meaning but Obama’s administration created about 27 new regulations and rules for each law Congress passed. Yep, The Boy Who Would be King trumped Congress in the bureaucratic race to write new regulations. It’s so unbelievable, you may want to go to the Regulations.gov source to see for yourself ...Obama’s latest abomination. The American Action Forum estimated that the regulatory cost for the new edicts would exceed \$200 billion, if the Environmental Protection Agency’s coal ash rule and its \$20 billion price tag are included.” [70482]

Not satisfied with ObamaCare, the leftist group Families USA issues “Health Reform 2.0,” an outline for even more government interference in one-sixth of the economy. According to CNSNews.com, the group is demanding universal dental coverage, lower health insurance deductibles, the expansion of Medicaid, eliminating fee-for-service care, federal setting of drug prices, and health care for illegal immigrants. [70501]

At a State of the Union luncheon hosted by the Obama administration, place cards read, “Brian Williams, NBC News,” “David Muir, ABC News,” etc. But the childish and petty Obama staffers leave the word “News” off the place cards for Fox News guests. [70483,70525]

Grabien.com lists 112 broken promises from Obama’s previous State of the Union addresses. Among them: “Reduce Americans’ energy bills by ‘billions of dollars.’” “Cure cancer ‘in our time.’” “Use stimulus funds to spend on preventive health care, which will get federal health spending ‘under control.’” “Go ‘line by line’ through the federal budget

to eliminate wasteful and ineffective programs—saving \$2 trillion over the next 10 years.” “Make Social Security sustainable.” “Passing health-reform that lets Americans keep their doctors and their plans.” “The health-reform law will bring down the deficit \$1 trillion over the next 20 years.” “Secure America’s borders.” “Lower the corporate tax rate and eliminate loopholes.” “Starting this year [2011], freeze domestic spending for the next five years.” “Enact medical malpractice tort reform.” “Open more than 75 percent of off-shore U.S. territory to drilling.” “Ordering ‘every federal agency to eliminate rules that don’t make sense.’” “Enact comprehensive tax reform that brings down the deficit and encourages job growth.” “Never make promises the government can’t actually keep.” “Reform the tax code to help lower-class Americans save.” “Ensuring the Iran will stop installing advanced centrifuges.” “Be the “first” to call for more sanctions if Iran doesn’t abandon [its] nuclear program.” [70520]

The White House threatens a veto of the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prohibit most abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy—the point at which research shows unborn babies pain. Townhall.com notes, “Very few countries permit abortions when a child is more than five months old. The few that do, e.g. North Korea and China, are not countries known for their human rights. The measure is also broadly popular. More than 60 percent of voters, including more than 60 percent of young voters, support the prohibition.” (House leaders later pull the bill, even though polls show most Americans favor restrictions on late-term abortions. In fact, a Gallup poll shows that 64 percent believe abortion should be illegal after the first three months of pregnancy; 80 percent oppose abortion in the final three months of pregnancy. The pro-abortion Obama would most certainly veto the bill if it were to come to his desk. While in the Illinois State Senate, Obama supported Medicaid funding of abortions, opposed parental notification rules, opposed legislation that defined as a person a fully born baby who survives an abortion, voted against a bill banning state funding of late-term abortions, and chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee shelved the Born Alive Infant Protection Act—which would protect the lives of babies that “inadvertently” survive an abortion. Obama even opposed “Choose Life” license plates for Illinois drivers willing to pay extra for them.) [91, 95, 96, 272, 328, 346, 412, 413, 414, 2262, 2627, 2628, 70528, 70529, 70530, 70531, 70579, 70594, 70604, 70605]

On MSNBC, Obama donor and member of the Council on American Islamic Relations Arsalan Iftikhar criticizes Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal for his frank speech on the threat of radical Islam. Iftikhar says, “Yeah, you know, I think, uh, Governor Jindal is, uh, protesting a bit too much, he might be, uh, trying to, you know, scrub some of the brown off of his skin as he runs to the right, you know, in a, the Republican presidential, uh, exploratory bid.” (Breitbart.com notes that host Alex Wagner “did not challenge the racist comments.” *know be* ) [70566]

LongWarJournal.org reports, “Ali Saleh Kahlah al Marri, an admitted former al Qaeda operative, has been released from a American jail and permitted to return home to Qatar. No formal statement has been released yet by either government, but it is being reported that al Marri’s release was the result of a bilateral agreement between the Qatari and

American governments.” Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy writes, “Al-Marri is an al-Qaeda operative who was planted as a ‘sleeper’ in the United States by Khalid Sheikh Mohamed to await instructions on carrying out a second wave of attacks after the 9/11 atrocities—against water reservoirs, the New York Stock Exchange, U.S. military academies, and other targets. The Justice Department quietly sprung him on Friday so he could return to his native Qatar, a country the administration regards as a crucial counterterrorism ally ...and a country that is notorious for providing material support to jihadists. While appalling, this news was inevitable. The al-Marri case was a cause célèbre for the Bush-deranged Left because he was detained as an enemy combatant, rather than arrested and charged in court as a criminal defendant, despite being apprehended in the United States. Upon taking office, Obama ordered him transferred from military detention under the law of war to the civilian criminal-justice system. Once there, he was given a bargain-basement plea deal by Attorney General Eric Holder and his minions.” In December, Qatar released two imprisoned Americans, Matthew Huang and Grace Huang. Al-Marri was released a few weeks later. TheDailyBeast.com suggests that the Obama administration traded al-Marri for the Huangs, although U.S. officials deny there was any link. [70509, 70510, 70511, 70846, 70847]

GOP pollster David Winston tells WashingtonExaminer.com, “I’ll be looking at the State of the Union address to see if [Obama] understood what happened in the last election or whether he just ignores it. When a party ignores when the American people have spoken, it’s usually a dangerous moment for that party.” [70489]

On ABC, White House correspondent Jonathan Karl is thrilled by the tax-and-spend proposals in Obama’s upcoming budget and State of the Union address. He says Obama “is going to play a little Robin Hood” and is “going to propose tax hikes on the rich” to “help... the poor and middle class.” [70495]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, “it doesn’t really matter what ...Obama says in Tuesday’s State of the Union address—Congress is going to ignore him anyway. Mr. Obama has the second-worst record of getting his State of the Union policy requests enacted into law of any [Oval Office occupant] in the last five decades, according to an analysis by two scholars that puts him only above the unelected two-year presidency of Gerald Ford. From 2009 through 2014, Mr. Obama issued 209 different calls for action from Congress in his speeches, but only saw lawmakers follow through on 64 of them—good for just 30 percent. That’s only slightly better than Mr. Ford’s 28 percent success rate, and is well below the likes of President Clinton... who won 44 percent of his policies...” even though he faced a Congress more Republican than Mr. Obama has. Indeed, Mr. Obama set a single-year record for futility in 2013, just after his re-election, getting Congress to pass just two of the 41 policies he asked them to consider. That’s the worst in the last 50 years, according to the data from Professors Donna R. Hoffman and Alison D. Howard, two political scientists who have tracked State of the Unions going back to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s 1965 speech.” [70496]



Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) addresses the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, saying, “This [Obama] plan that we’ll hear about tonight appears to be more about redistribution, with added complexity, and class warfare, directed at job-creating small businesses, than about tax reform.” [70506]

CNN.com reports, “Shiite Houthi rebels overtook the presidential palace in Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, on Tuesday, marking what a government minister called ‘the completion of a coup.’ ‘The President has no control,’ Minister of Information Nadia Sakkaf told CNN as clashes raged. President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi was thought to be in his private residence at the time—not in the palace. There were reports of clashes near the residence. And the Prime Minister’s residence was under attack from the street, Sakkaf said. The regime still controlled the city of Aden, and it closed the port of Aden as well as roads leading into and out of Sanaa, according to Yemeni state TV, which is controlled by the government. ...Unknown assailants fired shots Monday night at a U.S. Embassy vehicle in Sanaa, the U.S. Embassy said Tuesday. The shooters fired first into the air and then turned the guns on the vehicle, the embassy said. The vehicle carried U.S. diplomatic personnel and was at a checkpoint near the embassy at the time. No injuries were reported. ...Two U.S. Navy warships moved into new positions in the Red Sea late Monday to be ready to evacuate Americans from the embassy if needed, a U.S. official with direct knowledge of the planning told CNN...” [70526, 70527]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer observes, “For Obama this [his budget proposal] is not at all an opening bid on a negotiation with the Republicans on tax reform because it’s not about tax reform. The fact that Obama is calling it that is extremely clever but it’s a corruption of a language. We know what tax reform is. We had it in 1986 where Democrats and Republicans agreed to three things: simplify the code, lower rates, eliminate loopholes. If you look at Obama’s proposal it is tax and spend which of course today is [called] revenue enhancements and investing, no one uses that. But it’s not at all tax reform. In fact, it is the exact opposite. It complicates the code with all kinds of little curlicues and handouts under certain conditions. If you are a family who earns under \$200,000 it raises rates and it added all kinds of loopholes, which is exactly the opposite of what we did in ’86. And let’s remember, ’86 was the most successful piece of fiscal legislation probably in a generation and it was followed by 25 years of almost uninterrupted economic growth. In the interim 25 years we have had the barnacles of loopholes, exclusions, handouts, political favors handed out for a quarter of a century that had corrupted the code and made it inefficient and this would simply add to that instead of simplifying it. That’s what’s wrong with it. ...Obama was asked about whether raising the capital gains tax is something he would support even—this is a famous question asked by [ABC’s] Charlie Gibson in the run up to the ’08 campaign—even if it lowered revenues which it does, which of course is totally illogical. [The point of] taxes are to bring in revenue. Obama’s answer, a famous answer, was, ‘Yes in the name of fairness.’ This is a man who wants to punish the rich regardless of its effect on the economy. If it were to help the economy I would be in favor of it. [But] It would have the exact opposite effect.” (Raising the capital gains tax actually reduces tax revenue because investors simply hold on to their assets. If their assets are not sold, there is no

capital gains to tax. Obama does not understand that 30 percent of nothing is not better than 15 percent of something.) [70485]

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of ISIS, is reportedly injured in an Iraqi airstrike on the town of Al-Qa'im. [70498]

Obama delivers his sixth State of the Union address (which talk show host and author Mark Levin calls Obama's "State of Delusion" speech), offering the usual laundry list of tax-and-spend Democrat proposals of tax increases for the wealthiest Americans and "free stuff" for select voting blocs. (Among Obama's guests in the House chamber, sitting with Michelle Obama, is illegal immigrant Ana Zamora. Her presence is clearly intended by Obama to be a poke in the eye of Republicans.) Obama begins by bragging, "Tonight, after a breakthrough year for America, our economy is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999. Our unemployment rate is now lower than it was before the financial crisis. More of our kids are graduating than ever before; more of our people are insured than ever before; we are as free from the grip of foreign oil as we've been in almost 30 years. Tonight, for the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over." (The mission is merely "over." Obama cannot say the United States won the war.) "Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain. And we salute the courage and sacrifice of every man and woman in this 9/11 Generation who has served to keep us safe. We are humbled and grateful for your service. America, for all that we've endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong." (Obama does not mention the decades-low labor participation rate, the \$18+ trillion national debt, or the \$200+ trillion in unfunded Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other liabilities; those are apparently not crises.) [70479, 70484, 70500, 70521, 70522, 70543, 70545, 70549, 70550, 70565, 70567, 70574, 70580, 70586]

"At this moment—with a growing economy, shrinking deficits, bustling industry, and booming energy production—we have risen from recession freer to write our own future than any other nation on Earth. It's now up to us to choose who we want to be over the next fifteen years, and for decades to come. Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort? Will we approach the world fearful and reactive, dragged into costly conflicts that strain our military and set back our standing? Or will we lead wisely, using all elements of our power to defeat new threats and protect our planet? Will we allow ourselves to be sorted into factions and turned against one another—or will we recapture the sense of common purpose that has always propelled America forward? In two weeks, I will send this Congress a budget filled with ideas that are practical, not partisan. And in the months ahead, I'll crisscross the country making a case for those ideas." (DailySignal.com notes, "The average annual deficit over the next decade is projected at \$950 billion, just shy of a trillion. Starting this year and looking out as far as projections go, the deficit—absent further policy changes—is only heading in one direction: Up." Those projections come from the Congressional Budget Office.) [70479, 70541]

“...So the verdict is clear. Middle-class economics works.” (According to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, median household income in 2007 was \$56,436. By 2013 it had fallen to \$51,939. On average, middle-class Americans are worse off than they were when Obama took office in January 2009.) “Expanding opportunity works. And these policies will continue to work, as long as politics don’t get in the way. We can’t slow down businesses or put our economy at risk with government shutdowns or fiscal showdowns. We can’t put the security of families at risk by taking away their health insurance, or unraveling the new rules on Wall Street, or refighting past battles on immigration when we’ve got a system to fix. And if a bill comes to my desk that tries to do any of these things, it will earn my veto. Today, thanks to a growing economy, the recovery is touching more and more lives. Wages are finally starting to rise again. We know that more small business owners plan to raise their employees’ pay than at any time since 2007. [*Planning* to raise wages is certainly not the same thing as actually *raising* wages.] But here’s the thing—those of us here tonight, we need to set our sights higher than just making sure government doesn’t halt the progress we’re making. We need to do more than just do no harm. Tonight, together, let’s do more to restore the link between hard work and growing opportunity for every American. ...[A]t every moment of economic change throughout our history, this country has taken bold action to adapt to new circumstances, and to make sure everyone gets a fair shot. We set up worker protections, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to protect ourselves from the harshest adversity. We gave our citizens schools and colleges, infrastructure and the internet—tools they needed to go as far as their effort will take them. That’s what middle-class economics is—the idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. We don’t just want everyone to share in America’s success—we want everyone to contribute to our success.” [70479, 70702, 70703]

“[M]iddle-class economics means helping working families feel more secure in a world of constant change. That means helping folks afford childcare, college, health care, a home, retirement—and my budget will address each of these issues, lowering the taxes of working families and putting thousands of dollars back into their pockets each year. ...In today’s economy, when having both parents in the workforce is an economic necessity for many families, we need affordable, high-quality childcare more than ever. It’s not a nice-to-have—it’s a must-have. It’s time we stop treating childcare as a side issue, or a women’s issue, and treat it like the national economic priority that it is for all of us. And that’s why my plan will make quality childcare more available, and more affordable, for every middle-class and low-income family with young children in America—by creating more slots and a new tax cut of up to \$3,000 per child, per year. ...I’ll be taking new action to help states adopt paid leave laws of their own. And since paid sick leave won where it was on the ballot last November, let’s put it to a vote right here in Washington. Send me a bill that gives every worker in America the opportunity to earn seven days of paid sick leave. It’s the right thing to do.” [70479]

“Of course, nothing helps families make ends meet like higher wages. That’s why this Congress still needs to pass a law that makes sure a woman is paid the same as a man for

doing the same work. Really. It's 2015. It's time. We still need to make sure employees get the overtime they've earned. And to everyone in this Congress who still refuses to raise the minimum wage, I say this: If you truly believe you could work full-time and support a family on less than \$15,000 a year, go try it. If not, vote to give millions of the hardest-working people in America a raise. These ideas won't make everybody rich, or relieve every hardship. That's not the job of government. To give working families a fair shot, we'll still need more employers to see beyond next quarter's earnings and recognize that investing in their workforce is in their company's long-term interest. We still need laws that strengthen rather than weaken unions, and give American workers a voice. But things like child care and sick leave and equal pay; things like lower mortgage premiums and a higher minimum wage—these ideas will make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions of families. That is a fact. And that's what all of us—Republicans and Democrats alike—were sent here to do.” (Obama refuses to acknowledge that the Equal Pay Act was signed into law by President Kennedy in 1963. For 50 years it has been against federal law to pay an employee less because of gender. Female workers do not need new laws; they need Obama's Department of Justice and Department of Labor to enforce existing laws.) [70479, 70542]

“...By the end of this decade, two in three job openings will require some higher education. Two in three. And yet, we still live in a country where too many bright, striving Americans are priced out of the education they need. It's not fair to them, and it's not smart for our future. That's why I am sending this Congress a bold new plan to lower the cost of community college—to zero. ...I want to spread that idea all across America, so that two years of college becomes as free and universal in America as high school is today. And I want to work with this Congress, to make sure Americans already burdened with student loans can reduce their monthly payments, so that student debt doesn't derail anyone's dreams. ... 21st century businesses need 21st century infrastructure—modern ports, stronger bridges, faster trains and the fastest internet. Democrats and Republicans used to agree on this. So let's set our sights higher than a single oil pipeline. Let's pass a bipartisan infrastructure plan that could create more than thirty times as many jobs per year, and make this country stronger for decades to come.” [70479]

“...Now, the truth is, when it comes to issues like infrastructure and basic research, I know there's bipartisan support in this chamber. Members of both parties have told me so. Where we too often run onto the rocks is how to pay for these investments. As Americans, we don't mind paying our fair share of taxes, as long as everybody else does, too. But for far too long, lobbyists have rigged the tax code with loopholes that let some corporations pay nothing while others pay full freight. They've riddled it with giveaways the superrich don't need, denying a break to middle class families who do. This year, we have an opportunity to change that. Let's close loopholes so we stop rewarding companies that keep profits abroad, and reward those that invest in America. Let's use those savings to rebuild our infrastructure and make it more attractive for companies to bring jobs home. Let's simplify the system and let a small business owner file based on her actual bank statement, instead of the number of accountants she can afford. And let's close the loopholes that lead to inequality by allowing the top one percent to avoid paying taxes on their accumulated wealth. We can use that money to help more families pay for

childcare and send their kids to college. We need a tax code that truly helps working Americans trying to get a leg up in the new economy, and we can achieve that together.” [70479]

“...My first duty as Commander-in-Chief is to defend the United States of America. In doing so, the question is not whether America leads in the world, but how. When we make rash decisions, reacting to the headlines instead of using our heads; when the first response to a challenge is to send in our military—then we risk getting drawn into unnecessary conflicts, and neglect the broader strategy we need for a safer, more prosperous world. That’s what our enemies want us to do. I believe in a smarter kind of American leadership. We lead best when we combine military power with strong diplomacy; when we leverage our power with coalition building; when we don’t let our fears blind us to the opportunities that this new century presents. That’s exactly what we’re doing right now—and around the globe, it is making a difference. ...In Cuba, we are ending a policy that was long past its expiration date. When what you’re doing doesn’t work for fifty years, it’s time to try something new. Our shift in Cuba policy has the potential to end a legacy of mistrust in our hemisphere; removes a phony excuse for restrictions in Cuba; stands up for democratic values; and extends the hand of friendship to the Cuban people. And this year, Congress should begin the work of ending the embargo.” [70479]

“...Our diplomacy is at work with respect to Iran, where, for the first time in a decade, we’ve halted the progress of its nuclear program and reduced its stockpile of nuclear material. Between now and this spring, we have a chance to negotiate a comprehensive agreement that prevents a nuclear-armed Iran; secures America and our allies—including Israel; while avoiding yet another Middle East conflict. There are no guarantees that negotiations will succeed, and I keep all options on the table to prevent a nuclear Iran. But new sanctions passed by this Congress, at this moment in time, will all but guarantee that diplomacy fails—alienating America from its allies; and ensuring that Iran starts up its nuclear program again. It doesn’t make sense. That is why I will veto any new sanctions bill that threatens to undo this progress. The American people expect us to only go to war as a last resort, and I intend to stay true to that wisdom.” [70479]

Obama says, “No challenge—no challenge—poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change,” and claims “2014 was the planet’s warmest year on record. Now, one year doesn’t make a trend, but this does—14 of the 15 warmest years on record have all fallen in the first 15 years of this century. I’ve heard some folks try to dodge the evidence by saying they’re not scientists; that we don’t have enough information to act. Well, I’m not a scientist, either. But you know what—I know a lot of really good scientists at NASA, and NOAA, and at our major universities. The best scientists in the world are all telling us that our activities are changing the climate, and if we do not act forcefully, we’ll continue to see rising oceans, longer, hotter heat waves, dangerous droughts and floods, and massive disruptions that can trigger greater migration, conflict, and hunger around the globe. The Pentagon says that climate change poses immediate risks to our national security. We should act like it.” (Obama does not mention that the margin of error in the NASA study is greater than the actual temperature increase that

allegedly made 2014 the hottest year on record since 1880. Nor does Obama explain that temperatures have not been uniformly recorded in the same locations since 1880. Additionally, more than a few of “the best scientists in the world” disagree with Obama.) [70479, 70508, 70571]

“As Americans, we respect human dignity, even when we’re threatened, which is why I’ve prohibited torture, and worked to make sure our use of new technology like drones is properly constrained. It’s why we speak out against the deplorable anti-Semitism that has resurfaced in certain parts of the world. It’s why we continue to reject offensive stereotypes of Muslims – the vast majority of whom share our commitment to peace. That’s why we defend free speech, and advocate for political prisoners, and condemn the persecution of women, or religious minorities, or people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. We do these things not only because they’re right, but because they make us safer.” (For the record, the words, “lesbian,” “bisexual,” and “transgender” have never before been uttered in a State of the Union address.) “As Americans, we have a profound commitment to justice—so it makes no sense to spend three million dollars per prisoner to keep open a prison that the world condemns and terrorists use to recruit. Since I’ve been [in the Oval Office], we’ve worked responsibly to cut the population of GTMO in half. Now it’s time to finish the job. And I will not relent in my determination to shut it down. It’s not who we are.” (The taxpayers can save a fortune by emptying every prison in the country as well, but that doesn’t make doing so a good idea.) [70479]

“...You know, just over a decade ago, I gave a speech in Boston where I said there wasn’t a liberal America, or a conservative America; a black America or a white America—but a United States of America. I said this because I had seen it in my own life, in a nation that gave someone like me a chance; because I grew up in Hawaii, a melting pot of races and customs; because I made Illinois my home—a state of small towns, rich farmland, and one of the world’s great cities; a microcosm of the country where Democrats and Republicans and Independents, good people of every ethnicity and every faith, share certain bedrock values. Over the past six years, the pundits have pointed out more than once that my [administration] hasn’t delivered on this vision. How ironic, they say, that our politics seems more divided than ever. It’s held up as proof not just of my own flaws—of which there are many—but also as proof that the vision itself is misguided, and naïve, and that there are too many people in this town who actually benefit from partisanship and gridlock for us to ever do anything about it. I know how tempting such cynicism may be. But I still think the cynics are wrong. I still believe that we are one people. I still believe that together, we can do great things, even when the odds are long.” [70479]

“...So the question for those of us here tonight is how we, all of us, can better reflect America’s hopes. I’ve served in Congress with many of you. I know many of you well. There are a lot of good people here, on both sides of the aisle. And many of you have told me that this isn’t what you signed up for—arguing past each other on cable shows, the constant fundraising, always looking over your shoulder at how the base will react to every decision. [Immediately after Obama’s speech, he sends a fundraising email to his supporters—as do the Democrat National Committee and the Democrat Congressional

Campaign Committee.] Imagine if we broke out of these tired old patterns. Imagine if we did something different. Understand—a better politics isn't one where Democrats abandon their agenda or Republicans simply embrace mine. A better politics is one where we appeal to each other's basic decency instead of our basest fears. A better politics is one where we debate without demonizing each other; where we talk issues, and values, and principles, and facts, rather than "gotcha" moments, or trivial gaffes, or fake controversies that have nothing to do with people's daily lives. A better politics is one where we spend less time drowning in dark money for ads that pull us into the gutter, and spend more time lifting young people up, with a sense of purpose and possibility, and asking them to join in the great mission of building America. If we're going to have arguments, let's have arguments—but let's make them debates worthy of this body and worthy of this country." [70479, 70516]

"We still may not agree on a woman's right to choose, but surely we can agree it's a good thing that teen pregnancies and abortions are nearing all-time lows, and that every woman should have access to the health care she needs. Yes, passions still fly on immigration, but surely we can all see something of ourselves in the striving young student, and agree that no one benefits when a hardworking mom is taken from her child, and that it's possible to shape a law that upholds our tradition as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. We may go at it in campaign season, but surely we can agree that the right to vote is sacred; that it's being denied to too many; and that, on this 50th anniversary of the great march from Selma to Montgomery and the passage of the Voting Rights Act, we can come together, Democrats and Republicans, to make voting easier for every single American. We may have different takes on the events of Ferguson and New York. But surely we can understand a father who fears his son can't walk home without being harassed. Surely we can understand the wife who won't rest until the police officer she married walks through the front door at the end of his shift. Surely we can agree it's a good thing that for the first time in 40 years, the crime rate and the incarceration rate have come down together, and use that as a starting point for Democrats and Republicans, community leaders and law enforcement, to reform America's criminal justice system so that it protects and serves us all." [70479]

"That's a better politics. That's how we start rebuilding trust. That's how we move this country forward. That's what the American people want. That's what they deserve. I have no more campaigns to run." (After applause from the Republican side of the chamber, Obama adds, in an obviously well-planned "ad lib," "I know, 'cause I won both of them"—which elicits applause, cheers, and jeering from the Democrats.) My only agenda for the next two years is the same as the one I've had since the day I swore an oath on the steps of this Capitol—to do what I believe is best for America. If you share the broad vision I outlined tonight, join me in the work at hand. If you disagree with parts of it, I hope you'll at least work with me where you do agree. And I commit to every Republican here tonight that I will not only seek out your ideas, I will seek to work with you to make this country stronger. Because I want this chamber, this city, to reflect the truth—that for all our blind spots and shortcomings, we are a people with the strength and generosity of spirit to bridge divides, to unite in common effort, and help our neighbors, whether down the street or on the other side of the world. I want our actions to tell every child, in every

neighborhood: your life matters, and we are as committed to improving your life chances as we are for our own kids. I want future generations to know that we are a people who see our differences as a great gift, that we are a people who value the dignity and worth of every citizen—man and woman, young and old, black and white, Latino and Asian, immigrant and Native American, gay and straight, Americans with mental illness or physical disability.” [70479, 70533, 70553, 70665]

“I want them to grow up in a country that shows the world what we still know to be true: that we are still more than a collection of red states and blue states; that we are the United States of America. ...My fellow Americans, we too are a strong, tight-knit family. We, too, have made it through some hard times. Fifteen years into this new century, we have picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves off, and begun again the work of remaking America. We’ve laid a new foundation. A brighter future is ours to write. Let’s begin this new chapter—together—and let’s start the work right now. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless this country we love.” [70479]

Obama does not mention al-Qaeda once during his speech. Nor does he mention the collapse of the government in Yemen, the atrocities of Boko Haram in Nigeria, or the ongoing disaster in Libya. [70575]

During his speech, Obama refers to a guest in the audience, Rebekah Erler, who wrote him a letter about her economic hardships and whose life has been turned around by his “middle-class policies.” (Obama neglects to mention that Erler is a former Democrat operative and campaign staffer who has been used in the past for propaganda photo-ops.) [70622, 70624, 70626]

During Obama’s speech, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg falls asleep. (She later tells an audience at George Washington University, “The audience, for the most part, is awake because they’re bobbing up and down all the time and we sit there stone-faced, sober judges. At least I wasn’t 100 percent sober because before we went to the State of the Union we had dinner. ...Justice Kennedy brought in ...it was an Opus something or other, very fine California wine that Justice Kennedy brought and I vowed this year just sparkling water, stay away from the wine. But in the end, the dinner was so delicious, it needed wine to accompany it. So I got a call when I came home from one of my granddaughters and she said, ‘Bubbe, you were sleeping at the State of the Union.’” [70557, 70558, 70568, 71560, 71561]

On Fox News, a focus group of Republicans and Democrats dial positive or negative reactions into an electronic device during Obama’s speech. As he says, “America, for all that we’ve endured; for all the grit and hard work required to come back; for all the tasks that lie ahead, know this: The shadow of crisis has passed, and the State of the Union is strong,” the group’s members all enter dramatic, negative responses. Even if Obama believes the state of the union is strong, the average American does not. [70576, 70577]

Will Antonin tweets, “Crumbling infrastructure, poor education, high energy costs: man, I hope Obama can save us from whoever’s been in charge these last 6 years.” [70558]



According to Nielsen ratings, an estimated 33.3 million viewers watch Obama's speech, down from 37.8 million in January 2014 and the smallest audience since 2000. Variety.com reports, "Fox News Channel averaged 4,718,853 viewers—more than double MSNBC (2,292,169) and CNN (2,081,431). FNC held a sizable advantage in the key news demo of adults 25-54 as well (1,197,554), with CNN ranking second by this measure (762,450) and MSNBC third (752,054). ...On the broadcast side, CBS led in average audience for the SOTU address, while NBC was tops in key demos. For the post-address analysis, NBC led with 6.702 million viewers... while CBS drew 6.558 million... and ABC bagged 5.565 million..." [70578, 70617]

Newly-elected Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) delivers the Republican response to Obama's address. [70486, 70544, 70562]

MSNBC's Ronan "Sinatra" Farrow tweets, "Joni Ernst delivering response in the style of an in-flight safety video." (Mary Katharine Hamm writes, "It's not the end of the world, but how fast would this have become, 'My, that strong, woman veteran who is a United States Senator sure does remind me of a sweet stewardess I once met in Milwaukee,' in the hands of the media had roles [political parties] been reversed. Anyway, I'm not outraged, but I do like to point out the double standard.") [70562]

On MSNBC, Andrea Mitchell says Obama's "economic message... is so politically in tune with where the broad specter of the American people are. He's laying out themes that are equidistant between the [Senator] Elizabeth Warren [D-MA] and Hillary Clinton branches of the Democratic Party, and I think that he's setting up a legacy campaign. He wants to take ownership of 2016, and... he's not going to be the main Democratic figure this time next year, but he still has a lot of influence over how the Democratic Party evolves..." (Inasmuch as Obama's economic message is essentially, "The government will give you free stuff paid for by others," it is not surprising that it is "in tune" with many Americans.) [70554]

Chris Matthews says to Mitchell, "...I kept thinking tonight that there's a real world out there [Obama] didn't really talk about, and [he] had perhaps overambitious notions about where we stood in the war against ISIL, the Islamic State. He doesn't want to call it the Islamic State, but that's what they call themselves. Those two Japanese people [being held captive by ISIS] with no guilt on their shoulders, just staring there out of the desert who are going to be apparently decapitated—that reality, what's going on in Nigeria [with Boko Haram terrorism] is reality. How close was [Obama] to reality overall, globally, tonight?" Mitchell responds, "I think that on foreign policy, his projection of success against terrorism and against ISIS, in particular, ...is not close to reality. They have not come up with a strategy, and they've built a global coalition, but again, he's talked about Ukraine, he's talked about Putin being isolated. Yes, Putin is isolated economically and the falling oil prices have hammered his economy. But at the same time, there's renewed fighting in Donetsk, and we haven't figured out Ukraine, we haven't figured out how the NATO alliance can push back. Sanctions have not really

worked, and Ukraine is going to need more weaponry, and they have not reached that point. So you're right, Chris, it doesn't match the reality." [70561]

On CBS, Bob Schieffer says, "I think it's the best speech he's made in awhile. ...[T]onight, going into a House there where you had a majority of Republicans for the first time, he seemed more relaxed and more at ease than I can recall in a long time. It was a speech aimed directly at the middle class. It was a speech aimed at putting Republicans on the defensive. ...One of the things... we [journalists] talked about [was] how he rolled out so much of this before this speech tonight. Tonight, he could use the soaring rhetoric. He didn't have to go into details about, hey, you're the one whose taxes are going to be raised, and so forth, to pay for all of this. So probably, there was—that was maybe a smart thing to do, because tonight, this was a—this was a State of the Union speech that had more soaring rhetoric in it. It was uplifting at the end. Too many times, these are laundry lists of things and programs and get into a lot of details that just kind of bog him down. This was not that kind of a speech tonight, and I think that's why it went over well." (Giving your spouse ticket to an around-the-world cruise might "go over well" too—if you do not have to explain that you went deep into debt to pay for it.) [70555]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) responds to Obama's address, saying he "missed a real opportunity to put forward a bold economic vision that meets the demands of the American people and puts an aggressive jobs agenda center stage. From overreaching regulations to higher taxes that fuel more government spending to premature veto threats and a refusal to enforce laws he doesn't agree with, ...Obama's unilateralism and refusal to set politics aside further demonstrates his unwillingness to work together and reach lasting solutions for the American people. Our country deserves something other and better than [Obama's] politics of division. It's time for all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike, to come together and unite behind an agenda that will move America forward." [70535]

Kevin Martin, a member of the Project 21 black leadership network, comments that Obama "really did not offer anything new in his address to Congress. All he did was present the American people with the same old clunker policies sprayed with a new car scent. ...Obama wants more new taxes and more new spending, but he seems unwilling to do anything substantial to reduce our national debt, curtail unfunded liabilities, shrink the bureaucracy or really fight fraud and waste in our government. Conservatives, on the other hand, have preached that it's the spirit of the individual—and not government—that has made America successful, and it's that spirit that can once again return us to greatness. Massive, unrestricted government spending will not breed success." [70535]

Project 21 member Derryck Green states, "Mr. [Obama], your economic plans for middle class aren't working. If they were, more than 92 million Americans wouldn't be out of the workforce—more than 8 million who left since you [entered the White House]. The labor force participation is at a 37-year low. Job creation and wages are stagnant. In the last six years, more businesses died than were created. As a result, the middle class is

shrinking. If your policies worked, you wouldn't be relying on divisive political rhetoric about income inequality... to perpetuate class warfare." [70535]

The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza comments, "Obama tone and demeanor tonight to me is the story: Confident, confident, confident. And not keen on reaching out to GOP. At all." [70593]

TruthRevolt.org's Ben Shapiro: "The good news is that we know Obama eats his fiber, since he just dropped an epic load of crap in Congress." [70593]

On NBC, Brian Williams addresses chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel: "Richard, we woke up here in the States this morning—[to a] new ISIS video, two Japanese hostages, they're asking for 200 hundred thousand dollars [sic; \$200 million], or they're going to assassinate both of them, video of a Russian intelligence ship cruising into the harbor in Havana—[it] might as well have been 1962. And then this on-again, off-again possible coup in Yemen, a U.S. ally... What did you make of that portion of [Obama's] speech?" Engel replies, "Well, it sounded like [Obama] was outlining a world that he wishes we were all living in, but which is very different than the world that you just described, with terror raids taking place across Europe, ISIS very much on the move. One thing [Obama] said is that American leadership... 'is stopping ISIL's advance.' That just isn't the case, according to military officials I've been speaking to. They [ISIS] are taking new territory, the U.S. is removing, by that I mean killing, about a thousand ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria every month, but they are replacing those with new recruits, with 1,500 fighters. ...[Obama] talked about building the moderate Syrian opposition. That effectively isn't happening. There is no real support for the moderate Syrian opposition. In fact, one military official told me that they are calling the moderate Syrian opposition the 'unicorn' because they have not been able to find it." [70559]

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations states, "I think the ISIS threat is growing. They have consolidated control over the territory. They have seized, going back a year now, a year since they took Fallujah, seven months since they took Mosul. And they see weakness on the American side. They think it's winning support among colleagues in the region. ...[Obama] is living in a dream world [when he says he is stopping the advance of ISIS]. The fact is, we have no effective way of containing ISIS. I think moderate Arab regimes in the region, the king of Jordan, the oil-producing monarchies of the Iranian Peninsula, are in fear of what ISIS will do. [Obama's] notion that we have got opportunities is belied by the continued Iranian progress towards a deliverable nuclear weapons capability. The Middle East is descending into chaos and we are watching." [70570]

Some will argue that Obama used his speech to challenge Republicans by outlining proposals they will likely never pass. But he may also have been challenging Hillary Clinton with policies that she is less likely to support than her possible 2016 primary challenger, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Warren is more than comfortable with soak-the-rich schemes, denunciations of Wall Street (even though she herself is a millionaire), and plans for grandiose expansions of government. Clinton, on the other

hand, is far less likely to go along with Obama proposals to tax college savings accounts and again increase the capital gains tax. That is, Obama is not just pushing his leftist vision to poke a finger in the eye of Republican legislators, he is lining up the 2016 goalposts for the Democrat candidate who most believes in that collectivist, socialist vision.

On January 21 Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett appears on *Fox & Friends* and is asked by Elizabeth Hasselbeck, “For the first time since 9/11, the words al-Qaeda were not used in a State of the Union address. Why is it, in fact, because I think the American people deserve accurate terminology here, why won’t [Obama] say Islamic extremism or radical Islam? Why?” Jarrett replies, “Well, first of all, there is nothing more important to [Obama] than the safety and the security of the American people. That’s his focus. That’s his first priority. That’s what he’s dedicated to doing. And many of the countries who are helping us fight terrorism are Islamic majority countries. And let’s look right here at home, where there is a Sikh temple in Wisconsin or a, uh, the Holocaust Museum right here in Washington, D.C. Those were terrorists. Those were extremists, but they weren’t of any particular faith. And so before we start throwing around labels, let’s look more broadly at terrorism. Let’s not limit it. Let’s look broadly at it and let’s attack it together, and that’s what [Obama] is absolutely—” Hasselbeck: “Miss Jarrett, there are other nations, leaders that have come out with specifics in terms of saying radical Islam. Does [Obama] find it more offensive that radical Islam exists or the term radical Islam? Which is more offensive to [Obama]?” Jarrett: “You know what, I think his philosophy is let’s keep America safe and let’s focus on that. Let’s put the American people’s safety first. Let’s use both our diplomatic and our military power. We’re the strongest military power in the world. But he also believes in diplomacy. Let’s focus on that and let’s keep our perspective and let’s look wherever we can across the world, working with our allies and partners on seeing what we can do to end terrorism of all forms.” [70590]

Meanwhile, Nasr Al-Ansi, a spokesman for al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), advises jihadists in the West not to travel to the Middle East to fight but should instead commit acts of terror at home. [70991]

On the *Today* show, Vice President Joe Biden defends Obama’s call for increases in the capital gains tax and the estate (“death”) tax: “There’s nothing partisan about saying that this really unique group of people gets an extra \$210 billion, the so-called ‘trust fund babies’ ... Nobody thinks there’s any productive value to that and no one thinks it’s going to damage the wealth or the capability of people who have that kind of—that kind of money.” (Obama’s tax increases would impact *millions* of Americans—not just the “trust fund babies” who might inherit fortunes from people like Donald Trump, Oprah Winfrey, Warren Buffett, or Tom Steyer. Increases in the estate tax will force many middle-class Americans to sell family farms and businesses when the owner dies.) [70619]

CNN’s Alexandra Jaffe comments, “Gotta [sic; you have to] wonder what Team Hillary thought of Obama’s speech last night. He was 2008 Obama—liberal, charismatic—everything she struggles with.” [70593]

At Spectator.org Ben Stein writes, “I watched Mr. Obama’s SOTU speech. It was great. Give everyone free day care. Who pays for it? Where do they find enough qualified day-care workers? Where do they train them? Everyone gets free education. Wait. Isn’t public education up through high school already free? And the ones who need it most, the blacks and Hispanics, drop out at terrifying rates. Who will make them stay in school and do their homework? Who pays for this? And where do the teachers come from? He promises free goodies to the non-rich, and that’s fine, but who will pay for it? Or does he just add to the deficit? I guess he does. I keep thinking, ‘Panem et circenses’—and free day care. Endless gifts from Uncle Sam’s endless bounty! That’s his program for all of his voters. ...He is just so incredibly sorry as a leader. Bragging about LGBT triumphs as all of Europe trembles at Islamic terror and the whole Middle East except for Israel and Egypt (which he dislikes) falls into chaos. What is wrong with him? He has lost sight of what’s real and what is important. He looks extremely tired. Maybe he isn’t well. Still, I sure would not want to be him, and have to answer to his constituency. Hard to please, aren’t they...? To think that civilization rests on a reed such as Barack Obama: terrifying.” [70628]

eBay announces it will cut 2,400 jobs in the first quarter—less than 24 hours after Obama said, “[T]here are also millions of Americans who work in jobs that didn’t even exist 10 or 20 years ago—jobs at companies like Google, and eBay, and Tesla.” [70654, 70655, 70656]

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, states, “I have to be honest with you, the more I hear from the administration and its quotes, the more it sounds like talking points that come straight out of Tehran. And it feeds to the Iranian narrative of victimization when they are the ones with original sin—an illicit nuclear weapons program, going back over the course of 20 years, that they are unwilling to come clean on.” Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson comments, “The Senate may have the votes to override an Obama veto, as Menendez isn’t alone among alarmed Democrats. The [Senator Mark] Kirk-Menendez sanctions would only apply if Iran walked away from the negotiating table without agreeing to a deal. Obama argues that this pressure would anger the Iranians and scuttle talks; as the *Wall Street Journal* put it, he’s insisting that Congress *not* strengthen America’s hand. He prefers to continue to afford Tehran as much time as the regime likes, without ratcheting up the sense of urgency over talks that have dragged on since 2013. ...Congress is trying install a backbone into America’s Iran policy, and the Obama administration is loudly resisting.” [70512, 70513, 70519, 70596, 70623]

Benson also writes, “White House aides promised a ‘defiant’ 2015 State of the Union Address, and [Obama] delivered. He spoke with the swagger of a man who possessed no inkling that his party had just been decimated at the polls by voters, after having personally framed the election as a referendum on his agenda. It was a sharply ideological, base-pleasing speech, predictably and tiresomely peppered with assurances of the speaker’s nonpartisan pragmatism. [Obama] vowed not to offer a ‘laundry list’ of initiatives, but he couldn’t quite resist, ticking off one magical wish after another—from

‘free’ community college, to hiking the minimum wage, to raising taxes, to legislating ‘equal pay for women’ [which has been the law since 1964]. Obama is well aware that many of these reheated policies stand zero chance of passage in the new Republican Congress, which is why they were not presented as serious or viable proposals. Rather, they were served up as political grenades to be lobbed at the opposition during an extended infomercial for low-information voters, and to delight the (surviving) Congressional Democrats in attendance. Republicans would be best served to politely ignore most of these bad ideas and cheap provocations, rather than taking the bait and charging down various rabbit holes to debate each item on the merits.” [70515]

Paul Greenberg writes at Townhall.com, “The state of the Union may vary from time to time—good, bad, fair to middlin’, even perilous—but on this, his sixth State of the Union address, the chief executive’s view of it remains remarkably the same as it was on his first: detached. Mainly from reality. ...No matter what the state of the economy, [Obama] has one course to recommend: Spend more. And add ever more beneficiaries to the ever growing list of those dependent on his (and the American taxpayers’) largesse. The more dependents the better. If not better for them, then for him. Tuesday night, it was ‘free’ college tuition, daycare, paid leave ...the whole, always expanding list. ...[Obama] lives in a great dream palace, his innocence never corrupted by workaday considerations like reality, or even Economics 101. That sort of thing is for those of us who have to live in the real world rather than his. But never fear. The ‘shadow of crisis’ has safely passed and all is coming up roses, or at least more government programs. Which will certainly mean full employment, at least for government bureaucrats.” [70597]

With Obama lacking a backbone to even identify radical Islam as a problem, let alone commit to its destruction, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) invites Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to address the U.S. House of Representatives. According to the Associated Press, Boehner “released a letter extending the invitation to Benjamin Netanyahu for Feb. 11. Boehner also told a private meeting of GOP lawmakers that Congress would proceed on new penalties against Iran despite Obama’s warning that any legislation would scuttle diplomatic negotiations over the country’s nuclear program. ‘You may have seen that on Friday, [Obama] warned us not to move ahead with sanctions on Iran, a state sponsor of terror,’ Boehner told colleagues, according to his office. ‘His exact message to us was: ‘Hold your fire.’ He expects us to stand idly by and do nothing while he cuts a bad deal with Iran. ‘Two words: ‘Hell no!’ ...We’re going to do no such thing,’ the speaker said. ...The high-stakes invitation came just hours after Obama, in his State of the Union address, told Congress that he would veto any sanctions legislation and he urged Congress to delay further penalties against Iran. ...Boehner said in a statement that Netanyahu ‘is a great friend of our country, and this invitation carries with it our unwavering commitment to the security and well-being of his people. In this time of challenge, I am asking the prime minister to address Congress on the grave threats radical Islam and Iran pose to our security and way of life. Americans and Israelis have always stood together in shared cause and common ideals, and now we must rise to the moment again.’”

The White House, which has called Netanyahu a “coward” and a “chickenshit” leader, whines that Boehner is not following “protocol.” But when Boehner did follow protocol when previously seeking to invite Netanyahu to address Congress, the White House reaction was different. Bruce Bialoski writes at Townhall.com, “Soon after becoming Speaker in 2011, Boehner had gone through ‘proper channels’ to invite Prime Minister Netanyahu to speak to Congress. Boehner’s chief of staff, Barry Jackson, checked with Obama’s chief advisers. Jackson stated he was left hanging for a month with no response from Obama. ...As confirmed in Politico, Thomas Donilon, who was Obama’s national security advisor in 2011, recalls Jackson’s call to him. Donilon stated ‘The Speaker’s office did notify us. I indicated it was their decision. I appreciated them checking with us, but it was our view it was their decision. I don’t think we gave them a judgment one way or the other.’ Then what is in question? ...And why is there all this hand-wringing about whether Netanyahu should have accepted the invite or the protocol surrounding it? ...[A]fter being dissed by the Administration the first time he invited Netanyahu, it appears that Boehner might have been acting like a gentleman by not calling ...Obama on how he handled the first invite. Think about it. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the person third in line to the Presidency, politely asks to invite the leader of one of our closest allies to speak to Congress and Obama and his staff cannot give them an answer. What hubris.” [70514, 70556, 70569, 70607, 70788, 70995]

HotAir.com notes the hypocrisy of Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) on legislation to approve construction of the Keystone XL pipeline: Schumer states, “We have some suggestions on how to make the bill better and actually make it an American jobs bill. If Republicans oppose us they will be making it crystal clear to Americans that they are on the side of narrow special interests rather than on the side of America’s middle class. If Republicans vote against these amendments none of them can say it’s an American jobs bill.” But, says Schumer, the amendments will not be enough for him to vote for the legislation. HotAir.com: “So essentially Chuck Schumer wants to tack on a bunch of poison pills to the bill, but even if [Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell goes along with it and the measures pass, he’ll still *vote against the bill*? Well done, gentlemen. We can tell that you’re truly serious about working together and getting the work of the people done.” [70560]

Lynn Liddle, executive vice president of Domino’s Pizza, tells the *Washington Free Beacon* that ObamaCare’s calorie display requirements are “impossible” to comply with: “Essentially we think this rule is a kind of disaster for everybody. Not just pizza but restaurants, and anybody that’s going to fall within this law. It’s still not workable.” ObamaCare requires that calorie information be posted on all menus, but Liddle states, “We no longer know what a menu is. It’s really hard to interpret. Essentially they’re saying anything that a consumer can look at and make a potential ordering decision from is a menu. ...If you take it to the broadest thing it could be an ad on the television. That makes it literally impossible to comply.” *Free Beacon* notes, “A problem specific to pizza chains is the challenge of displaying a vast number of possible calorie totals across all of the materials that the rule potentially counts as a ‘menu.’ Considering that Domino’s customers can customize their own pizzas, there is an endless number of possible combinations of toppings, each of which has a different calorie count. Liddle

said a low-ball estimate of combinations Domino's offers is 34 million. Pizza Hut has 2 billion possible combinations. ...Despite the fact that the [ObamaCare] rule runs 391 pages and addresses details such as whether a limited-time 'pumpkin spice muffin' should be covered, it still does not give clear guidance about how restaurants are supposed to comply, according to critics. The rule, finalized in November, will affect chains with 20 or more stores." Liddle points out, "They say there could be civil and criminal penalties for having incorrect calorie information. And not only is that frightening, that is also very unclear and invites a whole host of potential problems not just for pizza, but for anybody that [sic; who] I can think of who is preparing food and selling it to the public. You can go to jail, according to the way this is written, if somehow you did it wrong." (Violations call for a maximum \$1,000 fine, one year in prison, or both. Repeat violations carry a \$10,000 fine and up to three years in prison.) [70616]

On MSNBC, tax-cheat Al Sharpton (who should be in jail) defends Obama's call for increased taxes. (WashingtonExaminer.com notes, "Sharpton, who is also a frequent visitor to the White House, has admitted to owing the federal government roughly \$5 million in back taxes, individually and through his National Action Network nonprofit. He has maintained that he is working with federal agents to make payments and lower his tax penalty." [70455, 70517, 70518])

In Canada, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton receives hefty speaking fees for two speeches—while reportedly accompanied by about 65 taxpayer-paid Secret Service agents. (The count is according to News Talk 980 CJME in Saskatchewan. A Secret Service source responds, "Although it's our policy not to discuss specific security measures, in this instance we can say this number is grossly inaccurate and exaggerated.") [70581, 70582, 70583]

NYTimes.com reports, "Justice Department lawyers will recommend that no civil rights charges be brought against the police officer who fatally shot an unarmed teenager in Ferguson, Mo., after an F.B.I. investigation found no evidence to support charges, law enforcement officials said Wednesday. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and his civil rights chief, Vanita Gupta, will have the final say on whether the Justice Department will close the case against the officer, Darren Wilson. But it would be unusual for them to overrule the prosecutors on the case, who are still working on a legal memo explaining their recommendation. ...But a broader Justice Department civil rights investigation into allegations of discriminatory traffic stops and excessive force by the Ferguson Police Department remains open. That investigation could lead to significant changes at the department, which is overwhelmingly white despite serving a city that is mostly black." (Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke later comments, "The grand jury in Ferguson, Missouri, got it right. Officer Wilson has been exonerated. The thing I want to know is how does he get his reputation back? ...I don't expect anything intelligent to come out of the mouth of Al Sharpton. We know he is a charlatan. Al Sharpton ought to go back into the gutter he came from. The police officer is owed a lot from him, Eric Holder and [Obama].") [70584, 70585, 70608, 70644, 70684]



WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Yemen President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi is being held captive by rebels who have attacked his compound, just as the U.S. military has moved the USS Iwo Jima and the USS Fort McHenry into the Red Sea, in position to take aboard evacuees from the U.S. Embassy in Yemen if tensions and violence continue to escalate. Various media have also reported that the presidential compound is under attack and Shiite Houthi rebels, backed by Iran, are holding the Yemeni president captive.” [70540]

Obama releases \$490 million in previously frozen assets to Iran. FreeBeacon.com reports, the administration “will have released a total of \$11.9 billion to the Islamic Republic by the time nuclear talks are scheduled to end in June, according to figures provided by the State Department. ...The release of this money has drawn outrage from some Republican lawmakers who filed legislation last year to prevent the release of cash due to a lack of restrictions on how Iran can spend the money. These cash payments by the United States have been made with no strings attached, prompting concerns that Iran could use the funds to finance its worldwide terror operations, which include the financial backing of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other rogue entities.” Pamela Geller comments, “Iran now controls four capitals in the region: Sana, Baghdad, Damascus, and Beirut. None of Iran’s jaw dropping success in the region would have been possible without Obama’s tacit support and sanction. They have postponed ‘nuke talks’ to the point where deadlines mean nothing. Every time Iran misses a deadline, Obama just moves it. And Iranians arm, build and enrich uranium. Whatever the US asks (begs, cajoles, suggests) is laughed off. Iran is the world’s number one state sponsor of terror.” [70552, 70647]

TheHill.com reports, “Major donors are ready to announce huge financial commitments to Hillary Clinton as soon as she announces a second run for the White House, according to Clinton allies and Democratic fundraisers. The Clinton team wants to build excitement about her campaign launch, which is expected in March or April. The money blitz would be a show of Clinton’s strength meant to scare away potential primary rivals. ‘The floodgates are going to open immediately, and there’s going to be a rush to get on the team,’ said Don Peebles, the real estate mogul who served on ...Obama’s national finance committee. ‘There’s nobody in the Democratic Party who can match her. Not even close.’ ‘It’s going to be like nothing you’ve seen,’ added one top Democratic donor, who supported both of Obama’s presidential campaigns and plans to throw big support behind Clinton. ‘The numbers will be astounding.’” [70588]

CGI, the Canadian company that was paid a fortune by the Obama administration to produce the disastrous Healthcare.gov Web site, is awarded a \$4.46 million contract to produce ObamaCare-compliance software for the IRS. DailyCaller.com notes, “About 7 million Obamacare policyholders and about 20 million Americans who don’t have healthcare coverage will depend this year on the proper IRS processing of their 2014 income tax returns. Improper processing of health information could cause some Americans to receive smaller tax refunds, or even pay more out-of-pocket for their government-issued healthcare policies. ...The IRS did not reply to numerous inquiries to the agency about the CGI contract.” [70591]

According to Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Obama does not need Senate approval for a nuclear agreement with Iran because it is a matter of “executive prerogative.” (Blinken may not be aware of the U.S. Constitution, which requires Senate approval of all treaties. Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 states that a president “shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur...”) [70609, 70610]

Blinken, appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is asked by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), “Let me ask you this, isn’t it true that even the deal that you are striving towards is not to eliminate any Iranian [nuclear] breakout capability, but to constrain the time in which you’ll get the notice of such breakout capability? Is that a fair statement, yes or no?” Blinken replies, “Yes, it is.” Menendez: “We’re not eliminating Iran’s ability to break out. We’re just getting alarm bells, and the question is how long are we going to get those alarm bells for?” Blinken: “We might want a little more time. That’s possible. I wouldn’t want to rule it out.” Menendez: “The bottom line is, they get to cheat in a series of ways—and I’ll call it ‘cheat,’ you won’t—but they get to cheat in a series of ways and we get to worry about their perceptions.” Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) asks, “Why would you oppose Congress weighing in on an issue of this importance?” Blinken responds, “In terms of the negotiations themselves, the knowledge that there would be very early on this kind of vote, in our judgment, could actually undermine the credibility of the commitments we would make [to Iran] in the context of negotiations. There’s a concern that if a judgment is reached immediately [by Congress], yea or nay on this, it may be too soon to see if Iran has complied with its agreements.” Corker: “I’m very disappointed that in essence what the administration is saying is, ‘We really don’t want, even though Congress put us in this place, we really don’t want Congress to play a role in one of the most important geopolitical agreements that may take place during this administration.’” [70618]

It is worth noting that on May 2008 Obama said, “I mean, think about it. Iran, Cuba, Venezuela—these countries are tiny, compared to the Soviet Union. They don’t pose a serious threat to us the way the Soviet Union posed a threat to us. And yet, we were willing to talk to the Soviet Union at the time when they were saying, ‘We’re going to wipe you off the planet.’” In July 2008 Obama said, “Just this past week, we passed out of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee—which is my committee—a bill to call for divestment from Iran as a way of ratcheting up the pressure to ensure that they don’t obtain a nuclear weapon.” (Then-Senator Christopher Dodd was chairman of that committee; it was not Obama’s committee.) Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy called Obama’s position on Iran “utterly immature” and consisting of “formulations empty of all content.” A few days after winning the November 2008 election, Obama said, “Iran’s development of a nuclear weapon is I believe unacceptable. And we have to mount an international effort to prevent that from happening.” (Obama has gone from claiming Iran does not pose a threat, to saying a nuclear Iran is “unacceptable,” to allowing Iran to continue its nuclear program. Some might suggest that Obama is eager to see Iran destroy Tel Aviv.) [415, 1608, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674]

On *The Five*, Greg Gutfeld observes, “The Left makes bad ideas sound great, and the Right makes great ideas sound old and wooden. Case in point, you had [Senator] Joni Ernst last night... she came off, in a way, like a toll-free recording from your bank, because they [Republican handlers] took the life out of her. ...Conservative values are like the car you don’t have to sell because it all works. Liberalism requires your best salesman because it’s a lemon. But it’s a new world now. Conservatism is competing against amazing salesmen on the other side, and they have to find their Obama.” [70595]

On NBC’s *Nightly News*, Chris Jansing praises Obama’s State of the Union address, calling him “energized” and “combative,” and with a “carefully choreographed, populist message with the details generally panned by Republicans.” Jansing also criticizes House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) for inviting Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to address the House of Representatives in March. [70620]

Reporting from Cuba, Brian Williams asks a woman in Havana, “When Americans are here and planes and hotels and the cars are 2015 cars and not 1958 cars, what happens to the revolution?” (In other words, “What a shame it would be if Cubans became prosperous capitalists, rather than remain destitute communists.”) [70621]

On January 22, as about 200,000 abortion opponents attend a “March for Life” pro-life rally in Washington, D.C., Obama issues a statement celebrating abortion and the 42nd anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Obama states, “I am deeply committed to protecting this core constitutional right... The federal government should not be injecting itself into decisions best made between women, their families, and their doctors. ...Today, as we reflect on this critical moment in our history, may we all rededicate ourselves to ensuring that our daughters have the same rights, freedoms, and opportunities as our sons.” (Of course, the federal government *does* inject itself into abortion decisions by partially funding Planned Parenthood, the nation’s number one abortion mill, and by forcing health insurance companies to cover abortion.) According to Newsbusters.org, “Of the three broadcast networks, only CBS mentioned the 2015 March for Life, allotting it just 15 seconds. That’s one second for every 13,000 people who put work and school aside and traveled from as far away as the West Coast. It’s one second for every 3.8 million babies aborted in the last 42 years.” [70542, 70825, 70826]

Meanwhile, as the Pope tweets, “Every Life is a Gift,” the White House threatens to veto the proposed House Resolution 7, which would prohibit federal funding of abortions. [70543]

At the University of Kansas, Obama says, “We believed we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect our planet at the same time, and today, America is number one in oil and gas, but we’re also number one in wind power. And every three weeks, we bring as much solar power online as we did in all of 2008. We have doubled wind power production, and thanks not just to lower gas prices, but also higher fuel standards, the typical family this year should save about 750 bucks at the pump.” (CNSNews.com notes, “According to the Department of Energy, wind now accounts for about 4 percent of U.S. electricity production, and the increase in wind-generated electricity over the past

seven full years on record does not come close to making up for the loss of coal-generated electricity during that time. 2014, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, was the most expensive year ever for electricity in the United States.” Additionally, of course, oil and gas production are up *despite* Obama’s policies, not because of them.) [70791]

The government of Yemen falls, and President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi is forced to resign by Iranian-backed terrorists. According to Examiner.com, “Yemen’s Prime Minister Khaled Bahah had already resigned, claiming it would be counter-productive to remain in office while the remnants of the Yemeni military and police resist the onslaught of the terrorists with the Houthi network. With the Iranian-allied Shiite radicals in control of the capital city of Sanaa, it’s expected their fighting will now target the Sunni Muslims who are members of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) a group affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).” [70645]

The State Department pulls some of its employees out of the U.S. embassy in Sanaa, Yemen. Reuters writes, “The scaling down of its presence in Yemen is the first sign that the latest turmoil there will affect U.S operations in a country that ...Obama hailed just four months ago as a model for ‘successful’ counter-terrorism partnerships.” [70675, 70676]

JPost.com reports, “Iran has apparently produced an intercontinental ballistic missile whose range far exceeds the distance between Iran and Israel, and between Iran and Europe. On Wednesday night [January 21], [Israel’s] Channel 2 showed satellite imagery taken by Israel’s Eros-B satellite that was launched last April. The imagery showed new missile-related sites that Iran recently constructed just outside Tehran. One facility is a missile launch site, capable of sending a rocket into space or of firing an ICBM. On the launch pad was a new 27-meter long missile, never seen before. The missile and the launch pad indicate that Iran’s ballistic missile program, which is an integral part of its nuclear weapons program, is moving forward at full throttle. The expanded range of Iran’s ballistic missile program as indicated by the satellite imagery makes clear that its nuclear weapons program is not merely a threat to Israel, or to Israel and Europe. It is a direct threat to the United States as well.” [70666]

At NationalJournal.com Ron Fournier writes, “[Hillary] Clinton is not worried about being associated with Obama’s policies, associates say. Her challenge is to convince voters that, unlike Obama, she can deliver on her promises. ‘He can blame Republicans and all sort of structural problems—and get sympathy from a lot of us,’ said one associate who spoke on condition of anonymity so that she could channel Clinton’s thinking. ‘But voters don’t want to hear that. They want shit done. He hasn’t gotten shit done.’ The Clinton team is discussing how to draw a contrast between Obama’s leadership skills and hers—without overtly insulting [Obama]. ...Yet another Clinton associate, a longtime friend, said the former secretary of State doesn’t want to be the ‘third president of polarization.’” [70680, 70681]

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia dies at age 90. The Associated Press reports, “His successor was announced as 79-year-old half-brother, Prince Salman, according to a Royal Court statement carried on the Saudi Press Agency. Salman [who is not in good health] was Abdullah’s crown prince and had recently taken on some of the ailing king’s responsibilities.” Obama states, “As our countries worked together to confront many challenges, I always valued King Abdullah’s perspective and appreciated our genuine and warm friendship. As a leader, he was always candid and had the courage of his convictions. One of those convictions was his steadfast and passionate belief in the importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship as a force for stability and security in the Middle East and beyond. The closeness and strength of the partnership between our two countries is part of King Abdullah’s legacy. King Abdullah’s life spanned from before the birth of modern Saudi Arabia through its emergence as a critical force within the global economy and a leader among Arab and Islamic nations. He took bold steps in advancing the Arab Peace Initiative, an endeavor that will outlive him as an enduring contribution to the search for peace in the region. ...May God grant him peace.” [70537, 70538, 70534, 70669, 70672, 70673]

NYTimes.com writes that King Abdullah “did make changes that were seen as important in the Saudi context. He allowed women to work as supermarket cashiers and appointed a woman as a deputy minister.” One Twitter user writes, “‘We’re gonna miss King Abdullah.’—people who aren’t women living in Saudi Arabia.” International Monetary Fund head Christine Lagarde calls Abdullah “a strong advocate of women.” (This would be the same Abdullah who placed four of his daughters under house arrest for demanding women’s rights.) [70637, 70638, 70639]

Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “King Abdullah is dead. This is not an optimum time for a transition. The Saudis’ massive expenditures to export the jihad doctrine have come back to bite them in the form of the Islamic State, a self-proclaimed caliphate that denies the legitimacy of the House of Saud (and every other government other than its own) and has vowed to conquer it (and every other country, but it is right on the Saudis’ doorstep). The Iranians, meanwhile, are always jockeying to become the leader of the Islamic world, and in that Saudi Arabia is one of their chief rivals. But Iranian-backed Shi’ite Houthi rebels have just won a major victory in Yemen, and Iran has just concluded a military pact with Russia. Could the death of Abdullah be the Iranians’ moment? Or the Islamic State’s?” [70653]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Missouri Democratic Governor Jay Nixon ordered the Missouri National Guard not to patrol Ferguson during the first night of destructive riots after police officer Darren Wilson’s grand jury exoneration in the Michael Brown shooting case.” [70539]

With political upheaval and a coup taking place in Yemen, the Obama administration temporarily (and unofficially) suspends the release of additional Guantanamo terrorist detainees to the country. The Associated Press notes, “Obama authorized detainee transfers to Yemen nearly two years ago amid high hopes that President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi’s new leadership would help the U.S. fight terrorists operating from within

his country's borders. But the transfer authority was never used, as a violent al-Qaida branch has thrived amid government instability that forced Hadi from office Thursday. Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record, said they are not considering sending any of the Yemenis at Guantanamo home for the foreseeable future amid the threat. They said that could change if conditions improve, but meanwhile, they are working aggressively to find third countries willing to take them.” [70540, 70541]

Former Florida governor Jeb Bush and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney will meet privately in Utah—possibly to discuss how to make sure a GOP “establishment” candidate wins the Republican nomination in 2016, rather than a conservative. (HotAir.com quips, “It’s like a RINO Yalta. ...I don’t know why the donor class even bothers putting forth candidates anymore. They should nominate the Chamber of Commerce as an entity for the presidency and let it rule by committee if elected.”) At Townhall.com Matt Vespa observes, “Both men are ranked at the top of the 2016 GOP field. Romney and Bush share some of the same strengths... They can both raise enormous amounts of money—and they enjoy name recognition amongst the Republican base. Yet, Romney is a two-time loser, who cannot talk about health care. And Bush hasn’t really been in the game since 2002. Both men also have to deal with the stigmas to their respective names. While George W. Bush has somewhat rehabilitated his image since leaving the White House, the Bush name isn’t exactly the one Americans have in mind to replace Mr. Obama after 2016. Also, if Hillary [Clinton] does run, many pundits have noted that the ability to cast her as out-of-touch with the average voter goes out the window if Republicans nominate a member of a political dynasty in 2016. Additionally, we might see a narrative comparing the Clinton and Bush White Houses—and what they yielded for the American people.” [70633, 70683]

Obama is interviewed by three YouTube “personalities,” who are probably known by many young Americans but almost no one else. Mediaite.com identifies them as, “Bethany Mota, a California teenager who makes videos about fashion and make-up, GloZell Green, who calls herself the ‘Queen of YouTube,’ and Hank Green (no relation), also known as the vlogbrother [video log brother] who did not write *The Fault in Our Stars*.” GloZell Green is reportedly known for wearing green lipstick and taking a bath in milk and Froot Loops cereal, and Mota has appeared on *Dancing With the Stars* (despite not being a star). Mediaite notes that Green “had the line of the afternoon when she pressed Obama on his new Cuba policy, saying she didn’t understand how the U.S. could normalize relations with the Castros, who ‘put the dick in dictatorship.’” Green also refers to Michelle Obama as the “First Wife,” and “poignantly recounted cutting the hoods off her husband’s hoodies to protect him from potential police violence. ‘How can we bridge the gap between black, African-American males and white cops?’ she asked, presenting [Obama] with a question that actually hit harder because of her personal experience with the issue [she is black].” Obama responds, “There’s [sic; there are] still biases in our society that, in split-second situations, where people have to make quick decisions... studies have shown that African-American males are seen as more threatening, which puts them in more vulnerable positions. ...[A] lot of the way to solve this is to improve training so people can be aware of their biases ahead of time.” (In other

words, “The problem is white cops, not black lawbreakers.”) [70535, 70536, 70538, 70664]

Most, but not all of the questions posed to Obama are frivolous (“What TV shows do you watch?” “What superpower would you like?”), but “...Mota posed one of the only questions [Obama] has ever received about Boko Haram. Asked what more the U.S. could be doing to help prevent more death and destruction in Nigeria at the terrorist group’s hands, Obama said we have tried to help the government there but that it ‘has not been as effective as it needs to be’ when it comes to finding the missing schoolgirls and protecting its citizens.” [70535, 70536, 70538, 70664]

During the GloZell Green interview, Obama says of gay marriage, “Even if you disagree with their lifestyle choice, the fact of the matter is they aren’t bothering you.” (If that same comment were made by a Republican, the mainstream media, the gay lobby, and Hollywood would be up in arms. Many believe people are “born gay” and it is not a “lifestyle choice.”) [70603, 71017]

Pamela Geller writes, “This evil man will meet with youtube ‘stars’ and other assorted morons but the leader of our closest ally in the hottest region in the world? No. It speaks volumes. Obama unmasked, or should I say, unmosqued. ...Obama was raised in the largest Muslim country in the world [Indonesia]—his father(s) were Muslim and he [reportedly] excelled in his Qur’an classes. Islamic Jew-hatred is in the Quran. He has been entirely too close with some of the world’s most vicious Jew-haters: Jeremiah Wright, Rashid Khalidi, Bill Ayers, et al. Israel prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be in Washington in March to address a joint session of Congress. But President Obama will not be meeting with the leader of America’s ally.” [70651]

In Utah, Obama meets with Naghmeh Abedini, whose husband Saeed Abedini has been held captive in Iran since 2012. According to TheBlaze.com, “Obama, who spoke with the family during a trip to Boise, Idaho, told Abedini during the closed-door, 10-minute meeting that securing her husband’s release is ‘a top priority’ and that he will do everything possible to bring Saeed home.” (Abedini, a Christian minister from Idaho, was imprisoned on reportedly bogus charges while building an orphanage in Tehran. At a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2013, the Obama administration said nothing about Abedini. Members of Congress, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan’s Purse, and others, have attempted to bring attention to Abedini’s plight and secure his release. The Obama administration appears to have done nothing—not even a State Department “hashtag.” Obama could have demanded the release of Abedini as a condition of lessening sanctions on Iran; he did not do so. According to the State Department, the issue of Abedini was not even raised in the negotiations. At the Values Voter Summit in September 2014, Naghmeh Abedini said, “I feel like [my husband has] been abandoned by my government. I hope to meet Secretary of State John Kerry and ...Obama but I haven’t even received a call to say ‘We’re with you, this is an important issue to us.’ And that breaks my heart.” (Obama found the time to meet in person with the parents of U.S. Army deserter Bowe Bergdahl, but could not find the time to telephone Abedini.) [43949, 46736, 50909, 50928, 51602, 51603, 51604,

51607, 51608, 51617, 51619, 51620, 51621, 51632, 51639, 51641, 51642, 51647, 51651, 51654, 51682, 51708, 51709, 51773, 51854, 51880, 52413, 58482, 58501, 58502, 58512, 59880, [65074, 65222, 65289, 65324, 65411, 70606]

EagleRising.com reports on an investigation by Walid and Theodore Shoebat into the sale of human organs: “Muslim Albanians in Kosovo are apparently kidnapping Christians in an effort to harvest and sell their organs before killing them. A Serbian Christian and former Special Forces officer tipped them off to the insidious story. ‘They abduct people in Kosovo, Serbian people—in some cases Albanian people—and they take their organs... they torture the people and take their organs while they are still [a]live.’ He also said that the victims are usually, ‘Christians serbs [sic; Serbs], young women, and men, and also children.’ ...The Shoebat’s [sic; Shoebats] have worked hard to uncover the hidden violence of Islamic terrorism—the evil that even the terrorists don’t yet want the world to see—and for their efforts they are scorned by the mainstream media. While the violence and depravity that they have reported on may seem... impossibly evil... it is of vital importance that we understand, it is REALLY HAPPENING.” (The story includes *graphic* video.) [70613, 70614]

IsraelNationalNews.com reports, “A senior Israeli official delivered an uncommonly harsh attack on ...Obama’s administration Thursday evening, following the American report that alleged that Mossad [the Israeli intelligence agency] head Tamir Pardo had warned US senators against further Iran sanctions, in contradiction of Israel’s official stance. ‘The fraudulent claims against the Mossad Head were raised by the Americans yesterday, despite a message that had been transmitted to them on Tuesday by Intelligence Minister [Yuval] Steintz,’ the senior Israeli source told Channel 2 news. He added that Israel had gone over the minutes of the meeting between Pardo and the delegation of senators, and that Pardo had not said what was attributed to him. ‘Leaking the Mossad head’s statements, even if they had not been falsified, is a serious breach of all the rules,’ the senior source added. ‘Friends do not behave like this. Information from a secret meeting must not leak out.’” On January 19 Pardo met with several U.S. Senators who were visiting Israel and told them the sanctions were effective in bringing Iran to the negotiating table, but a policy of “carrots and sticks” must be adopted and there are currently not enough “sticks.” Mossad states, “The Head of Mossad did not say that he opposes additional sanctions on Iran.” PJMedia.com reports, “Unnamed sources in Jerusalem told Army Radio today that the [false] statement was issued was ‘revenge’ by the Obama administration for Netanyahu’s acceptance of the invitation extended by John Boehner (R-OH) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to address a joint session of Congress without going through the executive branch.” (Obama’s action is not only childish, it may be dangerous. That he may hate Israel, Jews, and Netanyahu is no excuse for placing lives at risk with lies.) [70649, 70671, 70682, 70733]

Pamela Geller writes, “Channeling his inner mullah, Obama crossed a line in his jihad against Israel today. So furious is Hussein Obama at Prime Minister Netanyahu’s scheduled address to the Congress... that Obama ‘leaked’ a fictional bombshell. Netanyahu is speaking at the invitation of Speaker John Boehner. His administration said ‘officials from Mossad have lobbied Congressional and administration officials to refrain



from imposing new sanctions against Iran for fear that it would lead to a collapse of the Western powers.’ Obama’s hatred of the Jews is so out of control he doesn’t even try to make his bald-faced lies believable.” [70650]

On the *Daily Show*, South African Trevor Noah comments, “In France, 1.6 million people marched for 12 cartoonists, which is great, but by that math, the whole world should’ve been marching in Nigeria [in response to the brutal massacres of innocent people by Boko Haram]. Sometimes it just feels like Africa is the Vegas of Islamic terror—what happens in Africa, stays in Africa.” [70537]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly and media commentator Howard Kurtz discuss Obama’s interview with GloZell Green. Kelly asks, “Here’s my question for you. Yemen was... collapsing today, and al-Qaeda is really big there, and he’s sitting down with Glozell. Doesn’t anybody say, ‘These might not be the best optics for us’?” Kurtz replies, “It just seemed beneath the dignity of the office to be hanging out with some of these YouTubers. It looked like Obama was going to the D-list of Hollywood after-partiers.” [70661]

On January 23 Michelle Malkin comments on Obama’s “Bloody Yemen Disaster,” writing, “Four months ago, America’s King Midas in Reverse crowed about the fruits of his triumphant foreign policy in jihad-infested Yemen. A ‘light footprint’ approach to counterterrorism operations, he claimed, was the most effective path to stability. In addition, Obama has shoveled nearly \$1 billion in American tax-subsidized foreign aid to Yemen. Four months later, Iran-backed Shia rebels seized a Yemeni presidential palace. The president and his entire cabinet tendered their resignations on Thursday [January 22], creating a vacuum that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is ready and eager to fill. ISIS is gaining its own Sunni foothold in the Muslim terror-breeding ground. And while the JV team at the State Department dithers with hashtag games and selfies, adults at the Pentagon want to evacuate U.S. embassy personnel and other Americans before it’s too late. ...[W]hat the kumbaya crowd refused to acknowledge is this: The Yemen-based jihadist network, like the worldwide Islamic terror movement, has been at war with us for years—long before the Iraq and Afghanistan invasions, long before 9/11, long before the global onset of Bush Derangement Syndrome. This coming October, America will mark the 15th anniversary of the U.S.S. Cole bombing in the Yemeni port of Aden, which took the lives of 17 American crewmembers. Fifteen years.” [70527]

“In February 2009, Obama met with Cole families and promised them justice. Then, he betrayed them by ordering the Justice Department to abandon the death penalty case assembled against al-Qaida mastermind and chief Cole bombing suspect Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri under the Bush administration. Only after a public uproar did Obama reinstate the charges. He’s dragged his feet on the trial ever since, but found the time to release five Yemeni Gitmo detainees just last week. Another half-dozen went home at the end of last year. And until this week, Obama had planned to fly another 47 back to their volatile homeland. All this despite five years of revolving-door Gitmo recidivist activities in Yemen—and with knowledge of Yemen’s terror training of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the jihadist who attempted to bomb Northwest Airlines Flight 253 on Christmas Day in

2009. The Yemen chaos didn't happen overnight. The White House has allowed jihad to fester there from Day One. ...By words and action, the Obama White House has demonstrated that its primary allegiance lies not with protecting Americans, but with coddling jihadists (with a drone killing tossed in here and there, of course, to ward off critics and maintain political viability). If the Obama administration exerted as much energy combating Yemeni jihadists as it did waging war on the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, the Yemen capital might still be standing. Conveniently, the political football-spiking White House left any mention of Yemen out of the State of the Union address." [70527]

NationalReview.com's Jonah Goldberg writes at Townhall.com, "Like many liberals today, Obama has a particular weakness for the logical fallacy known as the argument from authority, and you know he is about to invoke his favorite authority when he begins a sentence, 'As I said before.' As if there are large swaths of people who say, 'Oh, he said it before, so it must be true.' Indeed, in this week's State of the Union address, which drew the lowest TV ratings in 15 years, he dedicated the climax to quoting himself from 10 years ago. For those of us paying attention—and there aren't many of us left—it was a tedious trip down memory lane. Once more we got to hear how he believes there isn't 'a liberal America or a conservative America, a black America or a white America, but a United States of America.' Blah, blah, blah and, as I said before, blah. Once again, we heard how much he hates cynicism and partisanship, defining cynicism and partisanship in his own special way: disagreement with Barack Obama. ...His admirers see his speeches as ornate cathedrals of rhetoric when they are more like the kitsch from a TGI Friday's, recycling old license plates and 'gone fishin'' signs for that 'authentic' feel. ...Before the financial crisis, Obama ran on 'investing' in education, health care, renewable energy, infrastructure and so on. After the financial crisis hit, presumably our needs changed, but not Obama's agenda. Suddenly, what America needed to do to respond to the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression was to again 'invest' in education, health care, renewable energy and infrastructure. And now that the 'shadow of crisis has passed,' as he announced on Tuesday, the same investments are needed. Why? Because he said it before, of course." [70657]

In less than one month, the new GOP-controlled Senate has allowed more votes on amendments than the Democrats allowed in the entire previous year. Kevin Glass reports at Townhall.com, "The hallmark of the Harry Reid Senate was his totalitarian grip upon procedure—in all of 2014, for example, there were only 15 roll call votes on the Senate floor for legislative amendments. Reid simply did not want to allow debate and did not want to have his members take uncomfortable votes that would go on the record—especially in an election year. Yesterday, [new Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell's new Senate surpassed that number. There have been 19 votes on legislative amendments in the last three days alone—10 on amendments from Democrats, including Sen. Bernie Sanders' push to recognize climate change. ...McConnell has pledged to restore regular order and the traditional amendment process. He's already well on his way." (Amazingly, Reid has the gall to Tweet, "There is still plenty of time for Republicans to change course and work with Democrats. I hope they will seize that opportunity.") [70532, 70592]

The 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp will be attended by the heads of state of France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, the Netherlands, and Denmark. Obama will not attend. (He will be in India.) Nor will Vice President Joe Biden. In their place will be Jacob Lew, Secretary of the Treasury—who apparently either drew the short straw or is disliked by Valerie Jarrett. FreeBeacon.com notes, “Tuesday’s [January 27] ceremony will likely be the last major anniversary where a significant number of survivors of the Nazi camp are present. About 300 are expected to attend, and most of them are in their 90s or older than 100. Nazi authorities killed 1.1 million people at the camp, mostly Jews, which was liberated by the Soviet army in January 1945.” (Jew-haters disrupt the New York City Council meeting as it discusses a commemoration of the Auschwitz liberation. About 40 protesters are forced to leave. Councilman David Greenfield observes, “[W]e can stop pretending that this is about Israel. What we saw here was naked, blind antisemitism, good old fashioned antisemitism. That’s what you saw, and that’s what you watched, and that’s what you witnessed—people who were upset for one reason. Do you want to know why they’re upset, do you want to know why they’re angry...? Because Hitler did not finish the job. He only wiped out half of my family.”) [70598, 70599, 70600, 70707, 70715]

On his radio program, author Mark Levin says, “I’m going to tell you something and it’s going to be very uncomfortable. I don’t care how many wealthy Jews Obama surrounds himself with, I don’t care how many wealthy Jews contribute to his campaign. This man has all the signals of an anti-Semite, and I’m not going to take that word back. I believe this in my heart and my soul. It’s not about Israel, it’s about what’s in Israel. ...[Obama’s] anti-Semitism is what’s catching on. It’s catching on at the colleges and the universities. The Speaker of the House [John Boehner] had the temerity, the hubris—if you listen to the leader of the Democrats in the House—to invite the prime minister of Israel to speak to Congress and the American people about Iran and the Islamic terrorists. And Obama, for the last 48 hours, has spent day and night trashing him while making peace with the Islam-Nazi regime in Iran. Is this really a man who’s just confused or following the wrong path? I don’t think so. Where’s the speech... about the Christians? Where’s the speech... about the Jews? Where’s the speech... about the women and the babies? Where’s the speech? Why is it that you’re still flying around the United States, acting as if we’re not in the beginning of World War III? ...The enemy’s on the move. The enemy is slaughtering, destroying. Where are you [Obama]? What’s your problem? ...[Obama] will do an interview with some lunatic who sits in a bathtub with Cheerios and milk, or Froot Loops and milk, [Obama] will do an interview with this woman, take the time out of his busy work day watching ESPN in the morning, to be interviewed by this nut job, but he has no time to see Netanyahu.” [70853]

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Secretary of State John Kerry says, “We have to keep our heads... The biggest error we could make would be to blame Muslims for crimes... that their faith utterly rejects. ...We will certainly not defeat our foes by vilifying potential partners. We may very well fuel the very fires that we want to put out.” Billionaire Jeff Greene says, “America’s lifestyle expectations are far too high and need to be adjusted so we have less things and a smaller, better existence. We need to

reinvent our whole system of life.” (In other words, “Not everyone should expect to live the life of luxury *I* enjoy,” and “Although I don’t plan on tightening *my* belt, I expect the rest of the world to do so.” The Daily Bell’s Anthony Wile notes that Greene arrived in Davos with “his wife, children and two nannies on a private jet” and is “trying to sell an apartment for nearly US\$200 million.” It is assumed the proceeds of the eventual sale will not all go to charities.) According to Newsmax.com, “Some 1,700 pricey, fuel-guzzling private jets flew into Switzerland carrying billionaires and world leaders to a conference taking up issues including global warming and income inequality. ... So many private jets delivered passengers [including Al Gore] to the airport in Zurich and two other airports that the Swiss Armed Forces for the first time opened up its Dubendorf military airport to private jet passengers, according to CNN Money. [70711, 70722, 70744]

Amid the furor over charges that the New England Patriots violated NFL rules by deflating footballs in their 45-7 victory over the Indianapolis Colts on January 18, and the less-than-believable denials by the coach and the quarterback, Congressman Todd Young (R-IN) posts a quiz that reads, “For a little Friday fun, see if you can pass our ‘Who Said It: The Obama White House or New England Patriots?’ quiz. Below are eight statements that refer to either DeflateGate or one of the Obama administration scandals. Can you guess who said each of the following in response?” The statements: “I was shocked to learn of the news reports... I had no knowledge whatsoever of this situation until Monday morning.” “I first learned about it from the same news reports that I think most people learned about this.” “We learned about them through the reports... That is when we learned about them.” “Everyone is obviously trying to figure out what happened. I was as surprised as anybody when I heard Monday morning what was happening.” “I have no knowledge of anything, of any wrongdoing. I’m very comfortable saying that.” “I heard on the news about this story...” “I have questions too. There’s nobody I know that can answer the questions that I have.” “Other than press reports, we have no knowledge of [this].” (Like Obama, the Patriots have a reputation for violating the rules.) [70601, 70612]

Talk radio host Dana Loesch, author of *Hands Off My Gun: Defeating the Plot to Disarm America*, reports that TSA workers are “raising a FIT” because she tried to board a flight carrying a pen made from bullet casings. (Live ammunition is allowed in checked bags—yet a brass casing *with its gunpowder removed* and converted to a ballpoint pen is considered “dangerous” and confiscated.) It is worth noting that, although some 400 TSA workers have been fired for theft since 2003, the agency has yet to apprehend a terrorist. Congressman John Mica (R-FL), chairman of the House Transportation Committee, has stated, “TSA is probably the worst personnel manager that we have in the entire federal government. It is an outrage to the public and, actually, to our aviation security system.” [70640, 70641, 70735, 70736]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) files the Expatriate Terrorist Act, which would prohibit Americans from returning to the United States if they engage in fighting with ISIS or other designated terrorist groups. Cruz states, “...Obama’s approach to foreign policy refuses to acknowledge the threats our enemies pose to our national security—it is

detached from reality and making the world a more dangerous place. We've seen the grave consequence of the Obama-Clinton-Kerry foreign policy unravel with respect to Iran, Russia, and now Yemen. These consequences are not confined to faraway lands. They directly threaten America and our allies." (French courts have ruled that Ahmed Sahnouni, a Moroccan-born naturalized citizen of France, can be stripped of his citizenship as a result of his conviction on terrorism charges. Pamela Geller writes, "This is exactly what needs to be done with all Muslims from Western countries who go wage jihad for the Islamic State. If they are non-citizens, they should be deported. If they are citizens, they should be stripped of their citizenship. To join the Islamic State is treason and should be treated as such.") [70691, 70692, 70693, 70713, 70714]

U.S. District Judge Raymond Moore sentences 19-year-old Shannon Conley to four years in prison for conspiracy to provide material support to ISIS. Moore states, "That woman is in need of psychiatric help. To me, it doesn't seem like she gets it." JPost.com notes, "Conley was arrested last April at Denver International Airport as she was on her way to Syria to support ISIS. She pleaded guilty to the charge in September. 'Even though I supported a jihad, it was never to hurt anyone. It was always in the defense of Muslims,' ABC quoted Conley saying during the sentencing. 'I do not believe I am a threat to society and would appreciate an opportunity to prove it,' she said. According to the report, the teenager's lawyer argued during the sentencing that his client, a Muslim convert, 'was misled while exploring her faith,' and only deserved to spend one year in jail. The teenager planned to marry a Tunisian who was fighting for ISIS in Syria who she had met on line and communicated with on Skype, according to the facts of her plea agreement, ABC reported. The plan was for Conley to travel to Syria to join her fiancé after, 'refining and obtaining additional training and skills in order to provide support and assistance to any al-Qaida and/or ISIS fighter.'" [70719]

Although Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will be in Washington, D.C. in March to address the U.S. House of Representatives, the White House states that Obama will not meet with him. White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters the brush off is "to avoid the appearance of influencing a democratic election in a foreign country." (Netanyahu is running for reelection. Obama hopes he loses his reelection bid, and refusing to meet with him is intended to show Israeli voters that Netanyahu lacks influence.) [70602, 70607, 70627, 70674]

FoxNews.com reports, "The Obama administration reportedly is fuming over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plans to address Congress in March regarding the Iranian threat, with one unnamed official telling an Israeli newspaper he will pay 'a price' for the snub. ...In public, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest politely describes this as a 'departure' from protocol. ...But in private, Obama's team is livid with the Israeli leader, according to Haaretz. 'We thought we've seen everything,' a source identified as a senior American official was quoted as saying. 'But Bibi [Netanyahu] managed to surprise even us. There are things you simply don't do. He spat in our face publicly and that's no way to behave. Netanyahu ought to remember that ...Obama has a year and a half left [sic; two years left in the White House], and that there will be a price." (On more than one occasion Obama has humiliated Netanyahu, but the thin-

skinned temporary occupant of the Oval Office cannot handle the shoe being on the other foot. Additionally, it is hypocritical for Obama to complain about Netanyahu addressing Congress when just one week earlier he had British Prime Minister David Cameron telephone U.S. Senators in an attempt to persuade them not to vote to impose new sanctions on Iran. Lastly, the White House can hardly claim it does not interfere in the elections in other nations. It was Obama who pulled the rug out from under Egyptian ally Hosni Mubarak in order that the radical Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi could succeed him, and bombing Libya to help oust Moammar Gaddafi can hardly be considered staying out of another sovereign nation's business.) [70630, 70674, 70685, 70689, 70799, 70800, 70841]

HotAir.com's Noah Rothman quips, "They [Obama and White House advisors] will have their revenge against Netanyahu by completely yielding to him control of the national stage. That ought to show him." Rothman observes, "Someone in the White House has been watching far too many episodes of *House of Cards* and thought that the casual casting about of petty and impotent threats makes the issuer seem tough and appear in command. In fact, it just sounds juvenile. It's almost like the White House has no interest in reining in supposedly rogue elements within their ranks who are more than happy to provide the press with inflammatory quotes designed to sour [Obama's] bilateral relationship with Netanyahu's government. Who benefits from this quarrelsomeness? Surely, the administration, which has taken to governing for the left from the left, seems to think that it benefits from alienating America's Israeli allies. But if Obama really wanted to hurt Netanyahu's electoral prospects, he would embrace the Israeli leader. As of last year, 70 percent of Israelis said they had no confidence in Obama to safeguard their national interests. For most of [Obama's] first term, his approval rating in Israel was persistently stuck in the single digits. Netanyahu could only benefit domestically from being seen as a figure nobly standing opposed to the hostile administration temporarily occupying a historically friendly American government." [70674]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer says, "The question is whether Iran has influence over the Houthis in Yemen, and the administration pretending otherwise is simply the continuation of denying reality... The Saudis know the region and they are scared to death because Iran in their north, with a belt of states—Iraq, Syria and Lebanon—coming under Iranian control, and now an Iranian control through a proxy in Yemen, they are encircled. That's why they are scared to death. Our only allies in the region, the Gulf states and the Jordanians, are essentially encircled by now Iranian-dominated, or highly-influenced, states." [70631]

At WhiteHouseDossier.com Keith Koffler writes, "Somebody got the wrong idea about a friendship they were having. That would be ...Obama, who said, as part of an obsequious statement lamenting the passing of Saudi Arabian King Abdullah, 'As our countries worked together to confront many challenges, I always valued King Abdullah's perspective and appreciated our genuine and warm friendship.' According to Richard Engel of NBC News, Abdullah's feelings were not warm, and if they seemed that way to Obama, they were not genuine. ...Said Engel: 'The king could not stand ...Obama

because [he] was supportive of the Arab spring, because [he] did not support Hosni Mubarak in Egypt—in fact turned his back on Hosni Mubarak in Egypt.” [70636, 70687]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “The Obama administration may be falling behind in efforts to stop foreign fighters getting into the United States to commit terrorist acts, say Republicans leaders probing visa laws and the tracking of potential attackers. Concern is growing on Capitol Hill that the Obama administration has not laid out a concrete plan or kept Congress informed about whether loopholes are being closed in a visa waiver program and whether it is still too easy for jihadis to enter and leave the United States.” Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) asks, “What are they doing? I don’t think they’re doing enough.” [70663]

On January 24 19-year-old Zac Evans is hacked to death outside a pub in Gloucester, England. DailyEuropa.com reports, “Details are yet to emerge but suspicions are that Zac may have been beheaded by an Islamic extremist. This attack bares obvious similarities to the attack in Finland recently by a Somali immigrant who attacked three men outside a pub with a machete. British press have as usual not given any clue as to the perpetrators identity which usually means the attacker is an immigrant, possibly Muslim. ...Gloucester has a large Muslim population so it is reasonable to suspect that this attack was carried out by Muslims.” [70742, 70743]

Karen and Billy Vaughan, the parents of slain Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughan, write at Townhall.com, “After returning from a deployment in 2010, [Aaron] uttered hauntingly clear words to his father, ‘Dad, they hate us, but they fear us. Brute, lethal force is all they respect.’ In August 2011 Aaron drew his last breath showing the full weight of his brute, lethal force down the throats of those terrorists. He died a hero. In return for that courage, ultimate sacrifice, and willed determination to defeat evil at any cost, he was made a promise—that his actions would mean something. As they placed that folded flag in our arms, they promised us it would mean something; that our son’s death would be avenged and his enemies defeated. Instead, this administration promptly launched a gut-piercing era of retreat, shame, apologies, and betrayal. And the saga continues. ...[Obama] touted ending the 14-year war in Afghanistan. But ‘ending’ is different than ‘winning.’ Men and women didn’t offer their lives so that a war would ‘end.’ They offered themselves for victory, security, and American prosperity. Ending conflicts before they’re resolved creates power vacuums that leave America more vulnerable.” [70634]

“...The jihadists laughed as we elected [Obama] not once, but twice, while he assured us there were no real threats to our nation. Can you imagine how they mocked us as Vice President Joe Biden explained in a December 2011 Newsweek interview, ‘The Taliban, per se, is not our enemy?’ ...Our enemy has always understood—better than we—that our greatest weakness seems to be our lack of will to acknowledge evil—our desire to bury our heads in the sand and pretend we’re safe. We need to prove to this enemy, to this administration, and to ourselves, that America is awake. We must send a message that we are not only the land of the free, but the home of the brave. A message that we the people *will* honor the sacrifices made on our behalf, will live our lives with tenacity and

power, and will not be decimated by terror and fear. We need to make a promise to ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren that we *will* preserve for those who come after us the liberties handed to us by the generations which came before and those still fighting today. And last but not least, we must continue pounding out our anthem in the ballot box—as we did this past November—that those leaders asleep at the wheel *will* be replaced.” [70634]

The White House announces that Obama and his wife will cut short their trip to India to stop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to meet King Abdullah’s successor. (This would be the same Obama who could not find the time to attend the funeral of former British Prime Minister Margaret “Iron Lady” Thatcher.”) [70635]

F-16 fighter jets escort two airliners (Delta flight 1156 and Southwest flight 2492) to Atlanta after “credible” bomb threats. Both planes land safely. [70659, 70660, 70705]

In Madrid, police arrest two brothers suspected of planning an Islamist terrorist attack. [70710, 70716]

NYPost.com reports, “Former President Bill Clinton took a romantic jaunt in 2002 to convicted pedophile pal Jeffrey Epstein’s ‘orgy island’ with ‘two young girls’ from New York, according to a shocking new interview. Virginia Roberts, who’s accused Epstein of turning her into a ‘sex slave’ at age 17 and forcing her to sleep with his powerful friends, claimed Clinton stayed in one of the many villas on Epstein’s US Virgin Islands estate—where group sex was a ‘regular occurrence.’ ‘I remember asking Jeffrey, ‘What’s Bill Clinton doing here?’ kind of thing, and he laughed it off and said, ‘Well, he owes me a favor,’” Roberts told her lawyers in a 2011 interview obtained by RadarOnline.com. ‘He never told me what favors they were.’ Bubba [Clinton] was accompanied by two of Epstein’s regular girlfriends and ‘two young girls that I could identify,’ Roberts claimed. ...Roberts has claimed to have had sex with ‘powerful men, including politicians and business executives’—as well as with the British prince [Andrew] and powerhouse attorney Alan Dershowitz, which the two men vehemently deny.” [70796, 70797, 71095]

At the Iowa Freedom Summit, conservatives hear speeches by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, former Texas Governor Rick Perry, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, businesswoman Carly Fiorina, and neurosurgeon Ben Carson—all trying to make good impressions with voters a year ahead of the 2016 presidential primaries. Perry tells the audience, “If Washington refuses to secure the border, Texas will.” (The statement prompts heckling from illegal immigrants in the audience, who are quickly drowned out by Perry supporters.) Walker tells the enthusiastic crowd, “There’s a reason we take a day off to celebrate the 4th of July and not the 15th of April. Because in America we value our independence from the government, not our dependence on it.” [70667, 70690, 70698, 70723, 70762, 70772]

Fiorina says, “Like Hillary Clinton, I have traveled around the globe. Unlike her, I have accomplished something. You see, Mrs. Clinton, flying is not an accomplishment. It is an



activity. ...I have met Vladimir Putin. I know that it takes far more than a gimmick reset button to halt his ambition. ...I know what difference it makes, that our American ambassador and three other brave Americans were killed in a deliberate terrorist attack on the anniversary of 9/11 in Libya. Apparently, unlike Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, I know our response must be more forceful than the arrest of a single individual one year later. ...I have traveled and lived all over the world, and I know that it is still true in 2015 that it is only in the United States of America that a young woman can start as a secretary and become the chief executive officer of the largest technology company in the world. That is only possible in the United States of America, because our founders knew what my mother taught me. All of us have God-given gifts. Everyone has potential. And our founders believed that here, everyone has the right to fulfill their potential. Hey Iowa, can anyone stop Hillary? Yes we can. It starts here. It starts now.” Newsmax.com notes that “as a business executive, Fiorina has served as the chairman of an experimental advisory board for several years and knows ‘China and North Korea and Russia are state sponsors of cyber warfare. I know China has a strategy to steal our intellectual property. I know [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu. I know when he warns us that Iran is a threat to our nation and to his own, we must listen.’” [70783]

Another of the summit’s attendees is Donald Trump, who says, “The last thing we need is another Bush. He’s very, very weak on immigration. His brother gave us Obama—because Abraham Lincoln coming back from the dead could not have beaten Obama. And Mitt [Romney]? No.” Trump also says, “I’m looking at it very seriously ...I want to make this country great again. I am seriously thinking of running for president.” [70699]

At the annual meeting of the Arizona Republican Party, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) is subjected to boos and jeers. According to WND.com, McCain “paused after his introduction as many Republicans in the audience shouted at him to ‘go home’ and called McCain a ‘traitor,’ presumably because of his more centrist stances in the Senate and his office’s reported attempts to purge conservatives and tea-party types from the ranks of the Arizona GOP. It wasn’t the first time the party faithful have risen up against McCain in his home state. In 2014, the same annual meeting censured the senator in absentia for joining Democrats in the ‘Gang of Eight’ to draft an immigration bill conservatives opposed. McCain was already on thin ice for calling his tea-party critics ‘hobbits’ and ‘wacko birds’ in 2011 and 2013, respectively.” (Some argue that had McCain campaigned on conservative values and policies in 2008, rather than as a “Democrat-lite” candidate,” he could have defeated Obama.) [70730]

GodFatherPolitics.com writes, “When U.S. allies began an Obama-instigated bombing campaign in Libya in 2011, Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi offered to begin talks with Washington about his abdication, retired Rear Adm. Chuck Kubic has told WorldNet Daily. Instead, the Obama Administration chose to arm Libyan rebels with known al-Qaida ties, and members of the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood. The story behind the death of four Americans including an ambassador in Benghazi, Libya, has to do with the Obama Administration’s gun-running scheme in which it was shipping arms and al-Qaida-linked personnel from Libya into Turkey en route to Syria, where Obama hoped to oust the Assad government. That under-the-radar operation has led to some of those al-

Qaida mercenaries and their U.S.-provided equipment strengthening ISIS in Iraq and Syria as soon as Obama pulled out our troops and fled Iraq with his tail between his legs. ...What we didn't know until now was that Gadhafi had actually offered to abdicate and surrender his company peaceably. The basis for all the violence, seemingly missed opportunities and strange bedfellows in Obama's Middle East policy is connected directly to his oft-denied but well-established Muslim affinity and Islamic leanings. That he is a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood is well-known as it has led to America's falling from Egypt's good graces after the Obama-encouraged revolution by the Brotherhood and ensuing counterrevolution by Egyptians who don't like suffering under shariah law." [70686]

"...The Citizens Commission on Benghazi, which heard Kubic's testimony, revealed earlier this week that it believes the State Department under Hillary Clinton and the Obama Administration 'changed sides' in the war on terror when it began arming al-Qaida in Libya. 'The U.S. failure to even consider Gadhafi's request for talks, and its determination to enter and pursue this war in support of al-Qaida-linked rebels, presents the appearance of a policy intent upon empowering Islamic forces with no measurable benefit to U.S. national security,' the commission wrote in a report. The Citizens Commission consists of retired admirals and generals, intelligence officials and former members of Congress. Naturally, such a high-powered list of experts is being mostly ignored by the media. Among other things, ...Obama is a traitor to this country he is supposed to lead. By giving comfort and aid to a declared enemy, he may have hurdled the legal definition of treason. Don't hold your breath waiting for anyone to do something about it, though. The Obama Administration's refusal to talk to Gadhafi ended up killing tens of thousands of people you'll never hear about on the news. As [investigative journalist Sharyl] Attkisson has found out, the forces working for Obama are more than willing to try to ruin a person's life. How far are they willing to go to keep the remaining secrets hidden from the public? We can guess." [70686]

WorldTribune.com reports that the Obama administration "pressed Argentina to end its investigation of Iranian complicity in the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center in which nearly 100 people were killed [85 were killed and hundreds were injured]. Western diplomatic sources said the administration... urged Argentina on several occasions to either stop or limit the investigation into the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AIMA] in Buenos Aires. The sources said the U.S. appeals marked one of the demands by Iran for a reconciliation with Washington, Middle East Newsline reported. 'Argentina had hard evidence against at least one Iranian leader, which prevented him from traveling abroad,' a source said. A key Iranian suspect was identified as Ali Akhbar Velayati, foreign minister from 1981 until 1987, and deemed close to supreme leader Ali Khamenei. Velayati has been on the official wanted list of Interpol since 2007 and a subject of an international arrest warrant by Argentina. ...On Jan. 18, a leading Argentinian prosecutor assigned to investigate an alleged government cover-up on AMIA was found shot to death in his home. The prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, had been scheduled to appear in front of Congress and present evidence that [Hugo Chavez "wannabe"] President Cristina Kirchner and Foreign Minister Hector Timerman shielded Teheran in connection with the bombing." The Argentinian government has purportedly

been involved in the cover-up in exchange for favorable grain-for-oil trade deals with Iran.) Pamela Geller writes, “A prosecutor was assassinated in cold blood for pursuing the truth while the Obama administration sided with the jihadists and pressed for an end into the investigation of the truth behind the Islamic attack on the Jewish center in Argentina. Obama sided with the Iranian assassins.” (It is believed that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was involved in the decision to bomb the Jewish center.) On January 26 AFP reports, “President Kirchner dissolves Argentine intelligence service after prosecutor death.” (Some might assume that Kirchner ordered the killing of Nisman. Others might assume that she ordered people to “look the other way” while Iranian operatives killed him.) [70740, 70741, 70842]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Border Patrol agents’ labor union announced their opposition Friday to the House GOP’s new border security bill, calling it ‘window dressing’ that doesn’t add any new agents or updated their firepower to get the job done in sealing off the U.S.-Mexico border. The agents’ opposition could be a major problem for House GOP leaders who have scheduled a vote on their bill for Wednesday [January 28], but who are facing a revolt among some conservative lawmakers who say the bill needs to go much further. The legislation... would direct the Homeland Security Department to build about 50 miles of more fencing, to fly more drones and add more technology sector-by-sector along the border, and to come up with a strategy for catching 100 percent of illegal immigrants or smugglers trying to cross. But the National Border Patrol Council said the bill needs to be more specific in calling for an additional 5,000 agents on the southwest border—there are about 20,000 now—and for updating training to a 20-week course, and to acquire more M-4 rifles and other gear so they can operate out in the field.” National Border Patrol Council spokesman Shawn Moran states that the proposed legislation—which was drafted without input from front-line border agents—“will not be effective in helping to secure our borders. This legislation speaks about metrics but frankly does not provide either the strategy or the resources necessary to achieve them. ...Although there are some positive elements to H.R. 399, we believe in it’s entirety it will only serve as window dressing...” [70695, 70761]

According to Townhall.com, the Federation for American Immigration Reform [FAIR] calls the legislation “a band-aid on a broken arm” that “does nothing to stop ...Obama from simply releasing illegal aliens caught at the border and giving them work authorization. It does nothing to reduce the further incentives driving illegal immigration, such as sanctuary cities, the availability of driver’s licenses, in-state tuition and automatic birthright citizenship. Most importantly, the bill does not stop the Obama administration’s broad use of discretionary power to grant amnesty to millions of illegal aliens and his relaxing of enforcement standards to all others. We need fencing, manpower and technology but none of it will do any good unless the Obama administration is compelled to enforce the law. The [Congressman Mike] McCaul [R-TX] bill fails to do this.” [70761]

According to TheHill.com, “New tensions are emerging in the relationship between allies of ...Obama and Hillary Clinton. At issue is the fate of the political equivalent of gold dust—the enormous email list, comprised of many millions of supporters and donors, that

the Obama team has compiled over the course of his two presidential campaigns. The Clinton camp would dearly love to get its hands on the list, but there is no promise as yet that [Obama's] aides will comply. ... 'There's a lot of data—voter data, massive email lists—that Obama built and there are a lot of people who want to make sure that he spreads that wealth,' [a] Clinton ally said. 'They want to make sure he doesn't take it in a suitcase back to Chicago and move on. No one wants to see it disappear or have it used just to build a library.' But a senior Democratic strategist familiar with the Obama operation noted that, among the millions of names and emails on the famous lists, there were many people whose primary loyalty was to Barack Obama rather than to the Democratic Party." (This *Timeline* believes that Obama may simply be holding the data in the hopes that Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) enters the race. Obama and the Clintons dislike each other, and Warren is much closer to Obama ideologically than is Hillary Clinton.) [70697]

ISIS executes Haruna Yukawa, one of two Japanese men it has been holding captive, demanding \$200 million from Japan. An ISIS video shows hostage Kenjii Goto holding a photograph of Yukawa's headless body. Obama states, "The United States strongly condemns the brutal murder of Japanese citizen Haruna Yukawa by the terrorist group ISIL. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our ally Japan. ... We will work together to bring the perpetrators of these murders to justice and will continue to take decisive action to degrade and ultimately defeat [ISIS/ISIL]." Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, states, "Such an act of terrorism is outrageous and impermissible and causes me nothing but strong indignation. I resolutely condemn this act." (ISIS then changes its demand from \$200 million to a prisoner exchange, demanding the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, a female Iraqi terrorist in prison in Jordan for bombing hotels.) [70700, 70712, 70717, 70785, 70822]

At DCClothesline.com Dave Hodges writes, "The Obama administration has a new partner in crime and it is the American Psychiatric Association (APA). The APA created the new Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (5th Edition) which was recently adopted. DSM 5 is highly controversial and has sparked outrage from the mental health practitioners. As many of these practitioners point out, the new DSM-V makes a pathology out of simple and normal behaviors such as grieving for the loss of a loved one. This constitutes a new subjective approach in diagnosing of mental illness in that it promises to end free speech and any form of political dissent. The federal government has already declared anyone who opposes its unconstitutional policies as having 'political paranoia,' which is now diagnosed as a type of mental illness. Particularly disturbing is that the new manual targets internet users and conspiracy theorists. If someone is judged, by some vague set of criteria, to spend too much time on the internet, they could be judged to be mentally ill and ineligible to own a gun. ... Under Obama's new proposed gun regulations, anyone who has a diagnosable, or is potentially diagnosable (i.e. pre-crime) for being mentally ill, can have their gun confiscated. Vice President Biden even feels that they can violate HIPPA [sic; HIPAA] privacy regulations in requiring the states to report who has been treated for a mental illness. Therefore, in the name of confiscating your gun, this administration thinks it is acceptable to violate federal privacy laws." [70706]

While the mainstream media argues that there are no Muslim “no-go zones” in Europe, Pamela Geller posts a documentary showing the rampant anti-Semitism in Malmo, Sweden, and the dangers face by Jews who dare to enter Muslim neighborhoods. (There are about 500,000 Muslims in Sweden, and they make up about 20 percent of Malmo’s population.) Andrew C. McCarthy points out, “[N]o sensible person is saying that state authorities are *prohibited* from entering no-go zones *as a matter of law*. The point is that they are *severely discouraged* from entering *as a matter of fact*—and the degree of discouragement varies directly with the density of the Muslim population and its radical component. Ditto for non-Muslim lay people: It is not that they are *not permitted* to enter these enclaves; it is that they *avoid entering* because doing so is dangerous if they are flaunting Western modes of dress and conduct.” [70708, 70709, 70724]

On January 25 Obama heads to India.

Secretary of State John Kerry travels to Lagos, Nigeria to meet with presidential candidates ahead of the country’s February 14 election—just days after White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters it would be against protocol for the House of Representatives to hear an address from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu before elections in Israel. (Kerry apparently is excused from following protocol.) Nigeria’s current president, Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian, is being challenged by former president Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim. At PJMedia.com, Bridget Johnson writes, “Boko Haram was born many years after Buhari was overthrown in a coup following two years of Buharism checkered with human rights abuses. Jonathan inherited the scourge of Boko Haram and has been accused by the United States of violating human rights in sweeps aimed at stopping the terrorist group, which reached the self-proclaimed caliphate stage last year. A 2012 Pew survey showed Christianity edging out the country’s Muslim population, 49.3 percent to 48.8 percent.” (This *Timeline* believes violence will mar the elections. If Buhari wins, it may be open season on Christians in Nigeria, but if Buhari loses, his supporters may take out their anger on Christians.) [70769, 70770, 70903]

Tarik Kafala, head of BBC Arabic, the largest of the BBC’s non-English language news services, tells *The Independent*, “Terrorism is such a loaded word. The UN has been struggling for more than a decade to define the word and they can’t. It is very difficult to. We know what political violence is, we know what murder, bombings and shootings are and we describe them. That’s much more revealing, we believe, than using a word like terrorist which people will see as value-laden. ... We try to avoid describing anyone as a terrorist or an act as being terrorist. What we try to do is to say that ‘two men killed 12 people in an attack on the office of a satirical magazine’. That’s enough, we know what that means and what it is.” [70745, 70746, 70816]

Meanwhile, a poll of Palestinians shows that 84.4 percent believe “the operation [the terrorist attack at Charlie Hebdo in Paris] was suspicious, and that Israel may be behind it.” A mere 8.7 percent “believed that the murder of the French [citizens] in Paris was a natural result of the spread of Islamic extremism in Europe.” [70747, 70819]

TheHill.com reports that Obama “will ask Congress to enact further protection’s [sic; protection or protections] for the remote wilderness area in Alaska’s northern reaches in an effort to stop any potential oil or natural gas drilling there. The request, announced Sunday, would put the 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) off limits to drilling, closing off the last area of ANWR that Congress could consider for oil and gas development, since the rest of the refuge has been protected. Alaska’s all-Republican congressional delegation immediately lambasted the plan as a ‘war on Alaska’s future.’ ...Alaska’s lawmakers and Gov. Bill Walker (I) said [the Department of the] Interior is also gearing up this week to block offshore drilling in Alaska’s waters as part of a five-year drilling plan the department will release. Taken together, the actions set up a high-stakes fight with Senator Lisa Murkowski (R), Alaska’s senior senator and chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has authority over energy development in public land and water. Alaska lawmakers have pushed for decades to allow the state to lease more land for drilling, including ANWR, which is believed to be the most promising oil prospect in the state. ‘What’s coming is a stunning attack on our sovereignty and our ability to develop a strong economy that allows us, our children and our grandchildren to thrive,’ Murkowski said in a statement. ‘It’s clear this administration does not care about us, and sees us as nothing but a territory.’” (Ironically, Obama’s statement announcing his policy proposal is filmed as he heads to India aboard Air Force One—which does not operate on solar, wind, or electric power. Breitbart.com notes that the plane’s fuel tanks hold 53,611 gallons.) DailyCaller.com points out that Obama has visited Alaska (briefly) only three times: to refuel Air Force One. DailyCaller.com also notes that Obama advisor John Podesta, “one of the architects” of Obama’s plan “to end any future drilling for oil on Alaska’s coastal plain,” received an \$87,000 consulting paycheck in 2013 from “a shadowy foreign billionaire [Hansjorg Wyss] whose passion is preventing energy exploration on American land.” [70720, 70721, 70725, 70739, 70758, 70787, 70891, 70930]

Governor Walker states that the Obama restrictions on federal land may prompt him to accelerate the approval of gas and oil permits for exploration and drilling on state land. (In other words, if Obama believes he is curtailing drilling, he is wrong. He will only be moving it from one area of Alaska to another.) HotAir.com’s Noah Rothman writes, “Of course, Alaska’s wilderness is not the administration’s primary concern. ...Any issue that can be used to spark a fight with Republicans in order to create contrasts with Democrats ahead of the 2016 election cycle seems to be on the table for this White House. The 114th Congress will not be restricting future oil exploitation in this massive and virtually uninhabited area of the country anytime soon. This is just another opportunity to mobilize the dispirited liberal base amid a contrived policy fight.” [70720, 70721, 70725, 70739]

Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Rand Paul (R-KY) participate in an American Recovery Policy Forum panel discussion hosted by the non-profit Freedom Partners. ABC’s Jonathan Karl is the moderator. Karl asks if billionaires have too much influence in politics. To much applause, Rubio responds, “As opposed to Hollywood or the mainstream media?” [70678, 70679, 70663]

On *Face the Nation*, Obama's foreign policy (or lack thereof) is criticized in a panel discussion. One guest says, "I think it [the rebel coup in Yemen] just came faster and harder than we expected, the government was more fragile than we expected, and now those [U.S.] counter-terrorism operations [in Yemen] against al-Qaeda as a result of the government basically collapsing appear to be on hold or close to it, and that... has real consequences for American security." Moderator Bob Schieffer: "...But that's the way it always seems to be lately, it always happens and then we're surprised." *The Atlantic's* Jeffrey Goldberg: "I mean, Mosul fell, in Iraq, to ISIS, and we were... shocked, [even though] people said it was coming for a year before that. ...The broader question here is that what we see over and over again in the greater Middle East is more and more countries are becoming ungoverned spaces. Yemen has always had al-Qaeda problem, but now the entire country could fall under control of a group that could use that territory to plot attacks against America. We have that across a broad swath of Iraq and Syria right now, obviously Pakistan and Afghanistan are problematic, and so, Libya of course is collapsing on itself, so we have a situation in which [Obama] could be leaving office in January 2017 with hundreds of thousands of square miles of the greater Middle East... under the control of terrorists plotting against the West, a terrible problem." [70731]

Schieffer asks *USA Today's* Susan Page, "Is this an example of what [Obama's] critics are calling leading from behind?" Page replies, "Well, it could be, and [Obama], you know, would very much like to talk about how the economy's gettin' [sic] better, and how the Affordable Care Act is working for some Americans, but he is forced to deal, over and over again, with these foreign policy crises, and we heard not only criticism from Senator [John] McCain [R-AZ], ...but from Senator [Dianne] Feinstein [D-CA] and other Democrats, ...expressing concern about the fact that [there have been] intelligence failures here, in Ukraine, and elsewhere." *The Washington Post's* Dana Milbank comments, "Think about the extraordinary disconnect we saw this week... we began with a State of the Union address that was about broadband [service] and community colleges, you know he didn't mention the word al-Qaeda, he certainly didn't mention Saudi Arabia or Yemen, he gave all of, I think, 65 words to counter-terrorism at all [sic], and then you see, it's been completely overtaken, so I think, as [Obama] said Tuesday night, he wants to 'turn the page,' he's saying, 'the shadow of crisis has passed,' but you can't just make it so by saying it..." [70731]

John Dickerson, CBS News political director, says, "And also, in the State of the Union, [Obama] talked about his foreign policy as being 'deliberate, measured,' a little bit 'smarter' than maybe his critics had suggested. But what those critics are now saying is this deliberation that [Obama] boasted about... there is a kind of 'asleep at the switch' quality. He had mentioned Yemen when he was talking about U.S. operations in Iraq and Syria, he held Yemen up as the model. And so... critics are now saying, 'You're holding up a country as a model that's now fallen. You just are not aware of what's going on.' ...And that's where this is particularly damaging, because it's a question of really whether the administration knows what's going on." [70731]

On ABC's *This Week*, former "Gitmo czar" Cliff Sloan says 54 of the terrorist detainees have been approved for transfer, and "Of the 54 who are approved for transfer, 47 of

them are from Yemen. They need to be resettled to other countries; we've been doing that—[and have] recently resettled 12 Yemenis in other countries.” (“Resettled” arguably means “released” to possibly again commit acts of terrorism.) Sloan also complains about an “irrational bent” to keep Gitmo open. [70789]

Also on *This Week*, Obama's chief of staff Denis McDonough inadvertently provides the name of an American woman held hostage by ISIS. McDonough says, “And as it relates to our hostages, we are obviously continuing to work those matters very, very aggressively. We are sparing no expense and sparing no effort, both in trying to make sure that we know where they are and make sure that we're prepared to do anything we must to try to get them home. But [redacted]'s family knows how strongly [Obama] feels about this and we will continue to work this.” TheGatewayPundit.com notes, “ISIS is demanding \$6.6 million and several prisoners for the release of one young female hostage from California. Her family asked that she not be identified out of fear for her safety.” (The woman was kidnapped in Aleppo, Syria while doing humanitarian work at a hospital. The next day, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes says, “It's fair to say that we do not believe it helps for the names of individual hostages to be released in public. We're being very forthright in saying we don't believe it's constructive in securing their release.”) [70751, 70752, 70753, 70754, 70776, 70782]

On *Face the Nation*, McDonough says, “We say we're in a war against al-Qaeda. We have just never said we have been in a war against terrorism, which is a tactic... We are, however, at war against al-Qaeda, its manifestations in Yemen, its manifestations in South Asia, its manifestations in East Africa, North Africa.” (Like everyone else in the Obama administration, McDonough refuses to name radical Islamists as the enemy. Western civilization is only fighting “manifestations” of al-Qaeda. Americans certainly realize that terrorism is a tactic and not the name of the enemy, but a “war on manifestations” is a phrase the Obama administration is unlikely to make popular. If McDonough wants to be more precise, perhaps he can call it a “war on terrorists.”) [70789, 70893]

On *Fox News Sunday*, McDonough brags about the nation's increased oil production. CNSNews.com relates the conversation with host Chris Wallace. McDonough: “It's decades now that wages have stagnated, for hard-working middle-class families. [Obama's] saying enough is enough, we're out of the crisis of the last several years. Unemployment is down under 5.6 percent. More oil [has been] produced in this country than in any time in the last several decades.” “‘No thanks to the Obama administration,’ Wallace said, referring to the increased oil production. McDonough complained that Obama is blamed for bad things that happen, but gets no credit for the good things, such as increased oil production. Wallace noted that the increased oil and gas production has happened on private and state-owned lands, not on land owned by the federal government. ‘More clean energy than ever in this country,’ McDonough responded. ‘More oil and gas—’ ‘Again, no thanks to this administration,’ Wallace said. ‘More oil and gas produced in this country than ever before,’ McDonough insisted. ‘Again, no thanks to this administration,’ Wallace repeated. ‘We're producing more than we import for the first time in two decades. That means lower energy prices, that means more jobs,



and it's time for us to focus on the middle class,' McDonough said. Wallace did not challenge him again." (McDonough does not explain why Obama chose not to focus on middle-class miseries during his first six years in the Oval Office.) [70790, 70848]

At Hillsdale College, former CBS reports journalist Sharyl Attkisson (author of *Stonewalled: My Fight for Truth Against the Forces of Obstruction, Intimidation, and Harassment in Obama's Washington*) discusses "investigative journalism and the Obama administration." She tells the audience the Obama administration's lack of transparency and treatment of journalists is "so bad that in 2013 the free press advocacy group 'Reporters Without Borders' gave a serious downgrade to America's standing in the global free press rankings, rating the Obama administration as worse than Bush's. ... In March of 2014 *New York Times* reporter James Risen... called the Obama administration 'the greatest enemy of press freedom in at least a generation.'" [70734]

Attkisson also tells the students, "White House officials have exploited non-news media to spoon-feed unfiltered messaging, at times pure propaganda, into the public's mouth. The Google-sponsored chat I mentioned—that came with a pre-selected audience and questions submitted in advance by the White House's own YouTube channel—that's the way they like it. They generate their own content, rely on surrogates to help spread partisan blogs, Twitter and Facebook, give lots of interviews to entertainment programs, digital media and feature press. ... One way they do it is by self-producing videos and building their very own television production facilities where the upper echelon give interviews and speeches, controlling everything from content to lighting. When top officials from those federal agencies appear on camera, naturally they have to look good. So your tax dollars may kick in for the cost of their hairstylists, makeup artists and wardrobe consultants. One insider told me that the head of a federal agency even had her fashion colors analyzed at taxpayer expense. ... Both the Defense Department and the Centers for Disease Control provide taxpayer-funded advisers to television and Hollywood entertainment producers to promote accuracy or propaganda, depending on your viewpoint." Attkisson says that the Department of Agriculture alone has more than 1,200 "media relations employees." [71062]

Examiner.com reports, "Commenting on revelations about Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Department of Justice (DOJ) actions in the case of retired agent Jay Dobyns against his former employer, attorney David Hardy equated them with 'a BATF and DOJ Watergate... or worse,' Friday. Noting that [government] actions taken over a civil lawsuit evidently have included concealing evidence, secret threats against witnesses, and surveillance of attorneys and witnesses, the new information lends further credence to Dobyns' allegations and appears to show government lawyers engaged in a criminal conspiracy. ... Dobyns gained fame after infiltrating the Hells Angels and writing about his experiences in the *New York Times* bestseller, 'No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey to the Inner-Circle of the Hells Angels.' He has since been the subject of numerous reports focused on retaliation he has been subjected to for coming forward with information exposing official wrongdoing. He was also instrumental in providing background information on management personalities and practices involved in the Operation Fast and Furious 'gunwalking' scandal." (In other

words, Obama's Department of Justice does not take kindly to whistleblowers—and is more than willing to intimidate witnesses.) [70737, 70760]

At PowerLineBlog.com John Hinderaker writes, “The New York Times features one of the most misleading headlines ever: ‘2014 Was the Warmest Year Ever Recorded on Earth.’ The first paragraph drives the hysteria home: ‘Last year was the hottest in earth’s recorded history, scientists reported on Friday, underscoring scientific warnings about the risks of runaway emissions and undermining claims by climate-change contrarians that global warming had somehow stopped.’ It would be hard to pack more misinformation into a single sentence. First, the Times headline, and countless others like it, convey the impression that 2014 was the hottest year ever! But note the paper’s reference to ‘recorded history.’ If you keep reading, you see that ‘recorded history’ goes back only to 1880. But in 1880, the Little Ice Age had just ended, and the Earth was beginning to warm after several hundred years in the deep freeze. So, yes, temperatures are a little warmer now than they were then—happily. Indeed, the Earth may still be recovering to more average temperature levels after the Little Ice Age. The Times and other news outlets deliberately try to create the impression that today’s temperatures are unprecedented. But that is simply false. In fact, the Earth was warmer than it is now for about 90% of the time since the end of the last Ice Age approximately 12,000 years ago. ...So 2014 was far from the warmest year ever. On the contrary, we are living during a relatively cool period.” [70793, 70875]

The year 2014 was actually among the coldest three percent of years in the last 10,000 years, according to Dr. Tim Ball. The claim is that “2014 was the warmest year ever recorded”—*if no years before 1880 are considered*. (That is tantamount to finding a dark grain of sand in a one-square-inch area of a white-sand Florida beach and claiming, “This is the darkest grain of sand in the entire state!”) Ball points out, “The instrumental data is spatially and temporally inadequate. Surface weather data is virtually non-existent and unevenly distributed for 85 percent of the world’s surface. There are virtually none for 70 percent of the oceans. On the land, there is virtually no data for the 19 percent mountains, 20 percent desert, 20 percent boreal forest, 20 percent grasslands, and 6 percent tropical rain forest. In order to ‘fill-in,’ the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), made the ridiculous claim that a single station temperature was representative of a 1200 km radius region. Initial claims of AGW [Anthropogenic Global Warming] were based on land-based data. The data is completely inadequate as the basis for constructing the models.” Additionally, “Most surface stations are concentrated in eastern North America and Western Europe and became the early evidence for human induced global warming. IPCC [the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] advocates ignored, for a long time, the fact that these stations are most affected by the urban heat island effect (UHIE).” Ball also questions the claim that is 2014 is 0.02°C warmer than any other year, when the majority of weather stations (in the United States) are not accurate to less than one degree. (In other words, recording temperatures for 2014 and claiming their average is 0.02 degrees higher than a previous record year is next to meaningless when the thermometers themselves are not that accurate.) [70793, 70875]

On *60 Minutes*, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) comments on Obama's State of the Union address: "My first thought was it sounded like he was running for a third term. ...He seemed to have completely forgotten or chose to ignore the election last November." House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), in the joint interview, says, "You know, [Obama] could have, with the State of the Union, just put out an olive branch, could've taken just a little bit different tone that would've indicated to us that there's some interest in working with us. I can tell you, we're interested in working with him." On the topic of Obama's "free community college giveaway," McConnell says, "We added more debt during the Obama years than all the presidents from George Washington down to George Bush, and giving away free tuition strikes me as something we can't afford." On the issue of illegal immigrant amnesty, McConnell says Obama "did exactly what he said he didn't have the authority to do." [70732]

On January 26, at about 3 o'clock in the morning, a hobbyist drone is found on the White House lawn. The owner later reports himself to the Secret Service. Secret Service spokesman Brian Leary states, "Initial indications are that this incident occurred as a result of recreational use of the device." (It is not known whether, at the first "drone alert!," everyone in the White House assumed it was just the long-winded Obama rambling on about his greatness.) [70767, 70768, 70777, 70786]

Kurdish fighters, aided by U.S. airstrikes, force ISIS out of Kobani, Syria. FoxNews.com reports, "As their victory neared, the Kurdish troops earlier in the day raised their flag on a hill overlooking the town just across the border with Turkey, replacing the Islamic State group's black banner. The battlefield success is a major conquest both for Syria's embattled Kurds and the U.S.-led coalition, whose American coordinator had predicted that the Islamic State group would 'impale itself' on Kobani. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Kobani-based Syrian activist Farhad Shami said the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, had been fully expelled, with some sporadic fighting on the ouster [sic; outer] eastern edges of the town." [70755]

IMRA.org (Independent Media Review and Analysis) reports, "Haaretz reporter Roi Arad revealed in an article in the Hebrew edition today that the foreign funded [leftist] organization, 'One Voice,' is bankrolling the V-2015 campaign to defeat Binyamin Netanyahu's national camp in the March 2015 Knesset Elections. One indication of the generous financing is that it has now flown in a team of five American campaign experts (including Jeremy Bird, the Obama campaign's national field director) who will run the campaign out of offices taking up the ground floor of a Tel Aviv office building. V-2015 is careful not to support a specific party—rather 'just not Bibi [Netanyahu].' As such, the foreign funds pouring into the campaign are not subject to Israel's campaign finance laws." Caroline Glick comments, "Obama won't meet Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington when he addresses the Joint Houses of Congress in March because of Netanyahu's visit's proximity to the Israeli elections. And Obama, of course believes in protocol and propriety which is why he won't get involved. No, he's not getting involved at all. He's just sending his 2012 field campaign manager to Israel to run a campaign to defeat Netanyahu. That's all. No interference whatsoever." PJMedia.com notes that the leftist *Haaretz* conveniently neglected to translate its article for its English Web site,

apparently not wanting Americans to know what Obama was up to. [70803, 70804, 70865, 70874, 70945, 70965, 70966]

In Greece, the newly-elected Alexis Tsipras, is sworn in as prime minister. Tsipras, the nominee of the far-left, “anti-austerity” Syriza party, states he will “protect the interests of the Greek people.” (To many, that means Greece—which has an unemployment rate of about 25 percent—will embark on another borrowing binge, followed by an inability to pay down its debt, a plea for debt-forgiveness, another bail-out, and more financial havoc in the European Union.) [70756, 70757, 70780, 70784, 70859, 71003]

PamelaGeller.com comes back online after an outage of about two weeks caused by a denial of service hack attack by her ideological opponents. (As long-time readers know, this *Timeline* often quotes Geller because of her unabashed defense of liberty, her refusal to pretend that radical Islam is not a global problem, and her reporting of stories that Obama sycophants in the mainstream media refuse to touch. Jihad Watch’s Robert Spencer writes, “We cannot give the pro-jihad thugs a victory. Pamela Geller... is one of the foremost defenders of freedom today. What has happened to her website is an unconscionable assault on the freedom of speech and efforts to tell truth about jihad. We should all be deeply grateful for her stand for freedom.”) [70750, 70824]

FBI statistics show that violent crimes decreased by 4.6 in the first six months of 2014. (Katie Pavlich writes at Twonhall.com, “I should point out that while violent crime continues to decrease, the number of people obtaining a concealed carry license continues to skyrocket.”) [70759]

For reasons unknown, the Pentagon announces an essay competition to honor the late Saudi King Abdullah. WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “The competition, to be hosted at the National Defense University over the next academic year, will focus on issues related to the Arab and Muslim worlds, according to the official DOD [Department of Defense] News.” Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, president of National Defense University, states, “This scholarly research competition presents NDU students with a unique opportunity to focus their research and writing efforts on relevant issues at the intersection of U.S. security interests and the Arab-Muslim world.” (Razor tweets: “[The] Man who refuses to meet with Netanyahu has his Defense Dept run an ‘Honor Abdullah’ essay contest.” [70764, 70765, 70766])

In India, Obama offends Prime Minister Narendra Modi by chewing gum—possibly Nicorette—during their meeting. DailyCaller.com writes, “In what The Times of India called ‘an ungainly sight,’ Obama popped the gum out of his mouth to talk to Modi during a Monday morning parade, only to pop it back in his mouth a second later. News cameras and photographers captured the moment, which spread quickly on Twitter. ... This is not the first time Obama’s habit has drawn the ire of an Asian country’s media and Twitter denizens. Chinese media and Internet users harshly criticized Obama’s gum-chewing at formal events during his most recent visit to the country.” HotAir.com asks, “How bad is this guy’s smoking habit... if he couldn’t make it through an afternoon without a hit of nicotine? ... Either he was jonesing awfully hard for a smoke or today’s

the day he moved officially from the YOLO [you only live once] phase of his presidency to the WGAF [who gives a fuck?] phase.” [70773, 70774, 70851]

In New Delhi, Obama whines, “There were moments in my life where I’ve been treated differently because of the color of my skin.” (Obama has led a charmed life, attended some of the best private schools in the nation, appears never to have had a job where he had to work up a sweat, is a multi-millionaire, and occupies the most powerful position in the world—yet complains that he’s had a tough life.) “There have been times where my faith has at times been questioned by people who don’t know me, or they’ve said that I adhere to a different religion, as if that were somehow a bad thing.” (In other words, “I’m not a closet Muslim, but so what if I were?”) “Every woman should be able to go about her day, to walk the street or ride the bus, and be safe and be treated with the respect and dignity that she deserves. ...Our nations are strongest when we uphold the equality of all our people and that includes our women.” (Pamela Geller asks, “Does Obama make such remarks in Muslim countries? Never.”) At PJMedia.com Paula Bolyard notes that Obama referred to himself “an astonishing 118 times in the short 33-minute speech, touching on injustices in the United States and in his own personal life. [70871, 70872, 70886]

Rahm Emanuel begins airing radio ads featuring an endorsement from Obama, as he seeks a second term as Chicago’s mayor. [70778, 70779]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “House Republican leaders Monday abruptly canceled votes this week on their border security bill, blaming the weather but also earning more time to work out disagreements within their own caucus that had threatened to scuttle the legislation. Under the new schedule announced Monday afternoon, the House will no longer vote on any bills Monday evening, but will spend Tuesday and Wednesday working on bills dealing with human trafficking and liquid natural gas. The border bill had been planned for debate on Wednesday, but is no longer on the schedule. ...Democrats are overwhelmingly opposed to the border bill, arguing that Congress should leave it up to the Obama administration to decide how to enforce the laws. That means GOP leaders weren’t able to count on any Democratic support for the bill. Republicans could still pass the bill through the House if they were unified, but conservatives have rebelled, arguing the border bill doesn’t go far enough in cracking down on the problem. Couple with Democrats’ opposition, it was unlikely Republican leaders could have mustered enough votes for their bill without changes.” [70792]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Obama administration will make historic changes to how the U.S. pays its annual... health-care bill, aiming to curtail a costly habit of paying doctors and hospitals without regard to quality or effectiveness. Starting next year Medicare, which covers about 50 million elderly and disabled Americans, will base 30 percent of payments on how well health providers care for patients, some of which will put them at financial risk based on the quality they deliver. By 2018, the goal is to put half of payments under the new system. For doctors and health facilities, the system will tie tens, and then hundreds, of billions of dollars in payments to how their patients fare, rather than how much work a doctor or hospital does, lowering the curtain on Medicare’s system of paying line-by-line for each scan, test and surgery.” [70794]

The premise of the scheme is that doctors should be rewarded for results, rather than simply be reimbursed, item by item, for tests and procedures. That may sound appealing to people with limited intellectual facilities, but the unintended consequence of such a policy will be that *physicians will be unwilling to take on patients who are unhealthy!* Why, for example, would a doctor accept as a new patient a morbidly obese man or woman with diabetes who just turned 65 and went on Medicare? Regardless of that doctor's skills and talents, he cannot control the eating and exercise habits of his patient. If a different patient dies from lung cancer, does that justify cutting the physician's Medicare payments simply because the patient did not get cured? How will federal bureaucrats decide whether a doctor or a hospital "deserves" a higher or a lower Medicare payment? Why, for that matter, *should* a federal bureaucrat be making such decisions? When "healthy patients" means "higher Medicare reimbursements," who would doubt that some chronically unhealthy senior citizens will have difficulty finding a physician willing to treat them when it means a financial loss?

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "A former CIA officer was convicted Monday of leaking classified details of an operation to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions to a New York Times reporter. Jurors convicted 47-year-old Jeffrey Sterling, of O'Fallon, Missouri, of all nine counts he faced in federal court. ...At issue in the two-week trial: Who told journalist James Risen about the secret mission, one that former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice testified was one of the government's most closely held secrets as well as one of its best chances to thwart Iran's nuclear-weapons ambitions? The case was delayed for years as prosecutors fought to force Risen to divulge his sources, though they ultimately decided not to call him to testify once it became clear he would not reveal those sources even if jailed for contempt of court." [70795]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "It will cost the federal government—taxpayers, that is—\$50,000 for every person who gets health insurance under the Obamacare law, the Congressional Budget Office revealed on Monday. The number comes from figures buried in a 15-page section of the nonpartisan organization's new ten-year budget outlook. The best-case scenario described by the CBO would result in 'between 24 million and 27 million' fewer Americans being uninsured in 2025, compared to the year before the Affordable Care Act took effect. Pulling that off will cost Uncle Sam about \$1.35 trillion—or \$50,000 per head. The numbers are daunting: It will take \$1.993 trillion, a number that looks like \$1,993,000,000,000, to provide insurance subsidies to poor and middle-class Americans, and to pay for a massive expansion of Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) costs. Offsetting that massive outlay will be \$643 billion in new taxes, penalties and fees related to the Obamacare law." [70801]

Facebook bows to political pressure from a court in Turkey, and blocks access to more than 1,800 pages that Muslims in that country believe insult their prophet, Muhammed. (Pamela Geller slams Facebook billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, writing, "All his speechifying about freedom of speech and freedom of expression and without so much as an internal struggle, he betrayed the freedom loving people of Turkey. Take a stand, man. What a cowardly punk... with enormous power.") [70814, 70815, 70817, 70867, 70902]

*The Jerusalem Post* reports, “The United States suspended the resale of US-made military helicopters by Israel to the Nigerian government for its fight against Boko Haram last summer, according to Abuja [the capital city]. The transfer of such aircraft requires a review to determine its ‘consistency with US policy interests,’ Obama administration officials told *The Jerusalem Post*. Reviews of this kind take place in the case of ‘any requests for one country to transfer US-origin defense items to another country,’ said Ned Price, White House Assistant Press Secretary and Director for Strategic Communications. According to a report initially published in a local Nigerian daily, *ThisDay*, Nigerian government officials believe a large sale was halted because of ‘unfounded allegations of human rights violations by our troops,’ one such official is quoted saying. The Nigerian official is not named in the report. ‘This,’ he continued, ‘after the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had initially approved the purchase.’” (The Obama administration may believe that Twitter hashtags from the State Department are sufficient to stop Boko Haram’s murderous rampages, and that helicopters are unnecessary.) [70820, 70823]

DailyCaller.com reports, “An Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] memo sent to top officials implored the agency to build up support for its agenda by tying its regulatory agenda to the ‘personal worries’ of Americans. ‘Polar ice caps and the polar bears have become the climate change ‘mascots,’ if you will, and personify the challenges we have in making this issue real for many Americans,’ reads a memo sent around to top agency officials in March 2009, just months after ...Obama took office. ‘Most Americans will never see a polar ice cap, nor will most have the chance to see a polar bear in its natural habitat,’ the memo reads. ‘Therefore, it is easy to detach from the seriousness of this issue. Unfortunately, climate change in the abstract is an increasingly—and consistently—unpersuasive argument to make.’ ‘However, if we shift from making this about the polar caps and about our neighbor with respiratory illness we can potentially bring this issue home to many Americans,’ the memo adds. ‘There will be many opportunities to discuss climate-related efforts this year. As we do so, we must allow the human health argument to take center stage.’ The EPA memo even says to use people’s children as a way to build up support for their efforts to fight global warming and ramp up clean air and water regulations.” [70802]

“...The EPA memos were obtained by Chris Horner, attorney and senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, through a Freedom of Information Act request. Horner found the memo in a trove of emails to former EPA chief Lisa Jackson’s secret email account, which used the alias ‘Richard Windsor.’ ‘What this memo shows is the recognition that EPA needed to move its global warming campaign away from the failed global model of discredited Big Green pressure groups and their icons,’ Horner told The Daily Caller News Foundation. ‘In it, we see the birth of the breathtakingly disingenuous ‘shift from making this about the polar caps [to] about our neighbor with respiratory illness,’ Horner said. ‘It also shows the conviction that if they yell ‘clean air’ and ‘children’ enough, they, the media and the green groups will get their way.’” [70802]

Delta flight 1061, from Los Angeles to Orlando, is forced to land at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport after Twitter bomb from “Junaid Hussain@AllahuAhkbar911.” (No bomb was found and the plane was eventually allowed to continue on to Florida.) [70812, 70813, 70821]

Politico.com writes that Hillary Clinton’s potential Democrat Party competition “is so weak that Clinton might wind up not even debating during the primaries, which many Democrats view as a mixed blessing. The Clinton team knows it can’t campaign with the swagger of a presumptive nominee because the air of inevitability was so damaging last time around. That said, some advisers are already privately talking up potential running mates, with Sens. Michael Bennet of Colorado and Tim Kaine of Virginia dominating the early speculation. Some advisers expect a push for diversity on the ticket. So the shortlist also is expected to include Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, Labor Secretary Tom Perez, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey and perhaps California Attorney General Kamala Harris, who is running for U.S. Senate.” Politico also notes, “Bill Clinton is already deeply engaged in the campaign, warning that Jeb Bush is a real threat, while New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is probably just a sideshow.” (If Democrats are “warning” that Jeb Bush is a threat, that probably means they believe he would be the easiest to beat of all the potential Republican candidates. Clinton is essentially saying to the GOP, “*Please* nominate Jeb Bush!”) [70829]

Politico also notes that Tom Nides “will have a top role” in Hillary Clinton’s 2017 campaign. FreeBeacon.com adds what Politico does not: “...Nides is the longtime husband of Virginia Moseley, who has been the vice president and deputy Washington bureau chief for CNN since 2012. ...Moseley is a veteran political journalist who covered the campaigns of both Bill and Hillary Clinton. In 1992, she was an embed on the campaign for CBS. In 2008, she was the senior political editor for ABC. When she left ABC for CNN, she was lauded for ‘her deep and strong relationships in Washington.’” (Clinton helps guarantee positive coverage from CNN with her hiring of Nides—not that CNN would not willingly provide it anyway.) [70829]

Although Clinton may believe she has an easy path to the White House, Andrew Malcolm writes at Investors.com, “In just the past month, when no one with a real life was thinking about the 2016 presidential race, Hillary Clinton’s massive poll lead over every single potential Republican opponent has collapsed. In a hypothetical match-up, her margin over Jeb Bush, the closest GOP president, was cut in half to eight points this month, 45%-37%, according to Zogby. That’s down from a whopping 15-point lead in December. Similarly, the former first lady’s 15-point margin over Mitt Romney slid to nine points, 46%-37%. Still sizable margins, to be sure. But trending uncomfortably in the wrong direction even before an announcement, as Clinton goes to ground to plot her campaign, assemble staff and devise a credible rationale other than gender for why Americans should let her move back into the White House, this time in the West Wing. ...With a swaggering Obama indicating he won’t go silently into retirement, Clinton faces the tricky maneuver of separating from him enough to shed sufficient association with the failures and deceptions in voters’ minds without totally alienating Democrats’ extreme left wing, inviting Elizabeth Warren into a divisive competition. ...Then, there’s



Clinton's health and age. She'd be 69 by election day... compared to a field of major Republican candidates with fresh faces who average 50 including Romney and only 47 without him." [70850]

Newsmax.com reports, "Freedom Partners, the political operation run by the Koch brothers [Charles and David, of Koch Industries], has budgeted \$889 million for its political activities in the 2016 election, donors were told at the group's meeting in California over the weekend. ...The Koch-backed group's budget would rival the \$1 billion that each of the two major parties expects to spend on 2016, making it a significant political force. The money for 2016's presidential and congressional races more than doubles the \$407 million that the 17 groups funded by Freedom Partners spent on 2012's elections, the [Washington] Post reported. Freedom Partners-funded groups include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and several tea party organizations." [70836, 70844]

At HotAir.com Mary Katharine Ham writes, "It has long been a theme of the Obama [White House], buffeted by bad economic winds and scandals of its own incompetence, that the only thing holding Obama back is the dark specter of cynicism. If only Congress could dream bigger and harder, and with more of other people's money, everything would be going swimmingly. America is pretty cool, [Obama] concedes, but consumed by a debilitating lack of faith in him that prevents it from gliding smoothly in his stream—a silly, pessimistic pilot fish spurning his giant, unstoppable force. ...It's you, America, not him. [Obama's] self-conception is of a man who is simultaneously nearly all-powerful and utterly stymied at every turn by the very smallest of routine disputes of American politics. ...[T]his impotent power absolves him of all responsibility while he congratulates himself for what he could have accomplished if not for you, America." Ham describes Obama's plan "for most everything [he] would like to accomplish. Announce Plan \_\_\_\_\_ would be super-keen and make everyone happy, make no plans for accomplishing Plan \_\_\_\_\_, subjugate success of Plan \_\_\_\_\_ to day-to-day political considerations, give speeches about how Plan \_\_\_\_\_'s awesomeness is being foiled by everyone else's cynicism." [70849]

Senate Democrats block an effort to end debate on Keystone XL pipeline legislation, preventing it from proceeding to a vote. [70845, 70879]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, retired Lieutenant Colonel Tony Schaffer says, "The Army has come to its conclusion, and ...Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl *will* be charged with desertion. I've been told... by two other sources that his attorney was given what we call a 'charge sheet,' ...listing out the articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice which have been violated. The key violation is desertion. ...As a corporate entity, the Army has decided that they want to pursue Bergdahl for this violation. ...This is shaping up to be a Titanic struggle behind the scenes. Believe me, the Army here wants to do the right thing. Factually, there's no way they can *not* do the right thing regarding Bergdahl. And the White House, because of the political narrative, P...Obama cozying up to the parents [of Bergdahl] and because he, ...Obama, releas[ed] the five Taliban [detainees in exchange for Bergdahl]... The narrative is what the White House does not want to have come out."

According to WND.com, “Paul Boyce, spokesman for Forces Command, told the Army Times there is no charge sheet and the Fox News story ‘seems to be speculative in nature.’” On Twitter, Pentagon press secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby states, “Contrary to media reporting, no decision made by Army leadership with respect to Sgt. Bergdahl’s case. The process will be respected.” [70807, 70811, 70828, 70834, 70837, 70838, 70843, 70873, 70933, 71014]

It was clear to the Army from day one that Bergdahl—who declared himself a “warrior for Islam”—was a deserter, but assistant national security advisor Ben Rhodes, Obama’s point man on the issue, has reportedly been pressuring the Army not to charge Bergdahl with desertion—or at least stall a trial as long as possible. This *Timeline* believes Bergdahl should be charged with both desertion and treason. Pamela Geller writes, “Who is surprised that these devout Muslims are returning to wage bloody holy war in the cause of Islam? No one. It was predicted by all of us immediately. Why is the enemedia not calling out Obama on his treachery? Because they are complicit. There is a divide in America. Patriots versus the destroyers, and I suspect it will come to war eventually. I do not believe we will go silently into night. The left scored a deathblow with the election of Obama, but it ain’t over yet.” [70807, 70811, 70828, 70834, 70837, 70838, 70843, 70873, 70933, 71014]

On January 27 NBC reports that Bowe Bergdahl will be charged with desertion. (A conviction could result in Bergdahl being forced to return the back pay he accumulated while with the Taliban.) [70807, 70811, 70828, 70834, 70837, 70838, 70843]

Obama and his wife stop in Saudi Arabia, on their way home from their trip to India, to pay their respects to the late King Abdullah and his successor. (On Twitter, some Saudis criticize Michelle Obama for not wearing head covering.) FreeBeacon.com reports that Obama’s stop in Riyadh “is costing taxpayers \$267,787 in hotel and SUV rentals, according to contracts issued by the State Department,” even though he is there for only four hours. “Despite the short length of the trip, the visit still requires numerous hotel rooms. The State Department is paying \$25,920 for hotel rooms at the Marriott, \$64,320 for rooms at the Radisson Blu, and \$32,000 for rooms at the Ritz-Carlton. Three other hotel bills issued for [Obama’s] visit totaled \$106,667. Sedan and SUV rentals for [Obama] cost \$20,693, and the State Department is also paying \$18,187 for Internet services at the Ritz-Carlton.” [70806, 70833, 70839, 70840, 70868, 70890, 70970]

Angelina Jolie, actress, filmmaker, and special envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, writes at NYTimes.com, “I have visited Iraq five times since 2007, and I have seen nothing like the suffering I’m witnessing now. ... For many years I have visited camps, and every time, I sit in a tent and hear stories. I try my best to give support. To say something that will show solidarity and give some kind of thoughtful guidance. On this trip I was speechless. What do you say to a mother with tears streaming down her face who says her daughter is in the hands of the Islamic State, or ISIS, and that she wishes she were there, too? Even if she had to be raped and tortured, she says, it would be better than not being with her daughter. What do you say to the 13-year-old girl who describes the warehouses where she and the others lived and would be

pulled out, three at a time, to be raped by the men? When her brother found out, he killed himself. How can you speak when a woman your own age looks you in the eye and tells you that her whole family was killed in front of her, and that she now lives alone in a tent and has minimal food rations? ...Nothing prepares you for the reality of so much individual human misery: for the stories of suffering and death, and the gaze of hungry, traumatized children.” [71085]

“[T]he plain fact is we cannot insulate ourselves against this crisis. The spread of extremism, the surge in foreign fighters, the threat of new terrorism—only an end to the war in Syria will begin to turn the tide on these problems. Without that, we are just tinkering at the edges. At stake are not only the lives of millions of people and the future of the Middle East, but also the credibility of the international system. What does it say about our commitment to human rights and accountability that we seem to tolerate crimes against humanity happening in Syria and Iraq on a daily basis? ...Much more assistance must be found to help Syria’s neighbors bear the unsustainable burden of millions of refugees. The United Nations’ humanitarian appeals are significantly underfunded. Countries outside the region should offer sanctuary to the most vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement—for example, those who have experienced rape or torture. And above all, the international community as a whole has to find a path to a peace settlement. It is not enough to defend our values at home, in our newspapers and in our institutions. We also have to defend them in the refugee camps of the Middle East, and the ruined ghost towns of Syria.” [71085]

At NationalReview.com Victor Davis Hanson writes, “We are now in [a] ...turbulent age of rising empires—mostly due to a new American indifference and passivity. Or, to put it more exactly, ...Obama believes that his own legacy rests with avoiding all confrontations overseas, withdrawing as many troops as he can, and cutting the defense budget as much as Congress will allow so as to use the funds to address supposed inequality at home. If chaos results abroad, he can either blame his predecessor, George W. Bush, or assume that his successor will have to deal with what he wrought—or both. Obama is running out the clock of his presidency on the premise of *Après moi, le déluge*. ...We are witnessing empire-building unlike anything seen since the 1930s and early 1940s. What is different this time around is not just the older themes of American isolationism, indifference, and appeasement, but also a new, bizarre twist. The Obama administration feels almost as if these rising suzerainties have a more legitimate right to carve out regional empires than the United States has to stop them.” [71002]

According to LibertyBlitzkrieg.com, the 35 wealthiest Americans have a combined net worth of about \$941 billion. (Bill Gates is worth an estimated \$76 billion.) For those who, like Obama, have a desire to tax and redistribute that wealth, it is worth noting that if that entire \$941 billion were confiscated and distributed equally to the world’s 7 billion people, each would receive only \$134. (In other words, taxing the wealth does not make the poor any less poor.) If the \$941 billion were confiscated distributed only to the 315 million people living in the United States, each would receive only \$2,987—hardly enough to lift anyone out of poverty. Helping the poor is best done by increasing

economic freedom so that they can earn their own wealth—something Obama and his fellow leftists seem unable to comprehend. [71317]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “On Wednesday [January 28] ...Obama’s nominee to replace Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch, will testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee in an effort to prove why she’s fit to be the nation’s top law enforcement officer. On Thursday, Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley [R-IA] will hold a separate, follow up confirmation hearing and will listen to testimony from a host of different witnesses regarding Lynch’s nomination. Among those witnesses: Investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson, who has been repeatedly targeted by the Department of Justice for her work on Benghazi and Operation Fast and Furious; Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, who has been an outspoken opponent of Attorney General Holder’s vilification of law enforcement; George Washington University Law Professor Jonathan Turley, who has been highly critical of the Obama administration’s abuse of executive power; True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht, who has been targeted by both the DOJ and the IRS for opposing Obama administration policies and for promoting Voter I.D. laws.” (Attkisson is suing the Department of Justice for illegal surveillance of her computer, laptop, and telephone lines.) [70827, 70866]

The White House commemorates the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz—with a (recycled 2012) photograph of Obama looking at images of Holocaust victims. (Yet again, Obama makes himself the focus of an occasion that has nothing to do with him.) [70830, 70831, 70835]

Responding to a week of intense criticism from parents and legislators (and journalists with 529 plans), White House officials announce that Obama will drop his plan to tax Section 529 college savings plans. NYTimes.com notes, “The decision came just hours after Speaker John A. Boehner of Ohio demanded that the proposal be withdrawn from [Obama’s] budget, due out Monday, ‘for the sake of middle-class families.’ But the call for the White House to relent also came from top Democrats, including Representatives Nancy Pelosi of California, the minority leader, and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, the ranking member of the Budget Committee.” (The proposal will still be in the published proposal, which was printed before Obama caved in—and before he was told that even Democrat families have 529 plans.) [70832, 70857, 70858, 70951]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) “told his House GOP colleagues Tuesday morning that a judge could be the only thing that can stop ...Obama’s deportation amnesties, in comments that signaled just how little power Republican leaders believe they have to push back against the White House’s executive actions. Mr. Boehner suggested that the House itself could also end up joining the legal battle against Mr. Obama’s immigration moves, further escalating tensions between congressional Republicans and the White House after last year’s lawsuit challenging the legality of the president’s executive actions on Obamacare. ...The House has already passed a homeland security spending bill that would halt both the 2012 and 2014 amnesties that could cover up to 5 million illegal immigrants, but that bill is likely to face a Democrat-led filibuster in the Senate and an eventual Obama veto, leaving GOP leaders

scrambling for a backup plan.” HotAir.com asks, “How exactly is O’s arm being twisted when he knows full well that the GOP’s unwilling to carry out its threats?” [70881, 70887]

Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) states he has spoken with Hillary Clinton and she told him she is willing to testify before the House Select Committee that is investigating the Benghazi attacks. But Committee chairman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) says, “If I were to conclude this investigation having not talked to the Secretary of State at the time it would be an incomplete investigation, but I can’t talk to her until I have the documents that would make that conversation productive. I’m not interested in having a conversation where old allegations are repeated or a shouting match. I want to ask specific questions rooted in documents. ...I’m willing to work with [committee Democrats] on the timing. I’m willing to do it sooner rather than later. What I’m not willing to do is do it in a vacuum where I don’t have access to the documents. ...If six people witness an event you can’t credibly report on the event by interviewing one of the six...you have to interview all of the witnesses. ...It is interesting but not relevant to note the number of pages agencies have produced to Congress. What is interesting and relevant is whether agencies have produced *all* documents... Giving Congress 10,000 pages of material out of a universe of 100,000 pages of material does not get us any closer to issuing final report in a timely fashion.” [70869, 70878]

CNSNews.com reports, “One in three, or 35.2 percent, of people getting federal disability insurance benefits have been diagnosed with a mental disorder, according to the latest data from the Social Security Administration (SSA). ...In 2013, the latest data from SSA show there were 10,228,364 disabled beneficiaries, up 139,625 from 2012 when there were 10,088,739 disabled beneficiaries. Disabled beneficiaries have increased 49.7 percent from a decade ago in 2003 when there were 6,830,714 beneficiaries; and the number is up 14.3 percent from the 8,945,376 beneficiaries in 2009, the year ...Obama took office. The largest ‘diagnostic group’ for disabled beneficiaries was a mental disorder. Of the 10,228,364 disabled people receiving federal disability benefits in December 2013, according to the report, 3,599,417, or 35.2 percent, were diagnosed with a mental disorder. ‘Musculoskeletal system and connective tissue’ problems accounted for the second largest group of disabled beneficiaries. Of the 10,228,364 disabled people receiving federal disability benefits in December 2013, 2,829,808, or 27.7 percent, had been diagnosed with a musculoskeletal problem.” (Some might suggest that the mental disorders and musculoskeletal system and connective tissue diagnoses are the top two because they are easiest to fake. “I suffer from depression” and “My back hurts” are difficult to disprove, but make it possible for someone in his mid-to-late 50s who can’t find a job to go on the federal dole.) [70852, 70952]

At WeeklyStandard.com Stephen Hayes reports on a “hard-hitting speech” by Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). According to Flynn, “The dangers to the U.S. do not arise from the arrogance of American power, but from unpreparedness or an excessive unwillingness to fight when fighting is necessary.” Hayes writes, “Flynn left government last summer, a year before scheduled. He did not provide a reason for his early departure, but sources close to Flynn

told THE WEEKLY STANDARD that he was forced out after years of making arguments the Obama administration did not want to hear. ...One key fight came over the analysis of the documents captured during the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. The CIA was responsible for the first scrub of the collection of more than 1 million documents and retained 'executive authority' over the cache when it was completed. But the CIA stopped analyzing or 'exploiting' the documents after that first quick and incomplete assessment and the Agency made no attempt to systematically examine and codify all of the intelligence included in the intelligence haul. Flynn assembled a team at the DIA to do exactly that, but the CIA initially refused to share the documents." Derek Harvey, a former DIA official says the government hasn't "done anything close to a full exploitation. A full exploitation? No. Not even close. Maybe 10 percent." [70870]

Ten Senate Democrats tell Obama they will wait until late March before they vote on an Iran sanctions bill, giving him more time to negotiate a nuclear arms deal. TheBlaze.com notes, "The Obama administration extended negotiations with Iran on a nuclear deal last November, and is now targeting March 24 as a deadline for reaching a framework agreement. The administration hopes to reach a final deal by June 30." In a letter to Obama the Senators write, "After March 24, we will only vote for this legislation on the Senate floor if Iran fails to reach agreement on a political framework that addresses all parameters of a comprehensive agreement. This deadline is the critical test of Iranian intentions." [70882, 70883]

Breitbart.com reports, "An Islamic Tribunal using Sharia law in Texas has been confirmed by *Breitbart Texas*. The tribunal is operating as a non-profit organization in Dallas. One of the attorneys for the tribunal said participation and acceptance of the tribunal's decisions are 'voluntary.' Breitbart Texas spoke with one of the 'judges,' Dr. Taher El-badawi. He said the tribunal operates under Sharia law as a form of 'non-binding dispute resolution.' El-badawi said their organization is 'a tribunal, not arbitration.' A tribunal is defined by Meriam-Webster's Dictionary as 'a court or forum of justice.' The four Islamic attorneys call themselves 'judges' not 'arbitrators.'" Pamela Geller comments, "This is how it starts. This is how it started in the United Kingdom. When Sharia courts were instituted there, Muslim and non-Muslim officials alike all assured the British public and the world that they would be voluntary, restricted to matters involving non-criminal matters, and subject to the British courts. Any areas in which British law and Sharia law conflicted would be referred not to the Sharia courts, but to the British courts. That is not how it worked out. The Telegraph reported in August 2011 that 'there are growing concerns' that the Sharia courts 'are creating a parallel legal system—and one that is developing completely unchecked.' The Independent stated in April 2012 'some Sharia law bodies have been misrepresented by the media as being transparent, voluntary and operating in accordance with human rights and equality legislation. This is not the case. Many Sharia law bodies rule on a range of disputes from domestic violence to child residence all of which should be dealt with by UK courts of law.' Instead, 'they operate within a misogynist and patriarchal framework which is incompatible with UK legislation.'" [70898, 70899]

On *On the Record*, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), an Iraq combat veteran, says of the fight against radical Islamist terrorism, “It’s not just about words, it’s not about semantics, it’s really about having a real true understanding of who our enemy is and how important that is, that we have to understand what their motivation is and what their ideology is, this radical Islamic ideology that’s fueling them. Just a couple of days ago, Secretary [of State John] Kerry said in a speech that ISIS and al-Qaeda are engaging in, quote, ‘criminal conduct rooted in alienation, poverty, thrill seeking and other factors.’ Now if we really look at what he’s saying and if that’s really the cause, then the solution would be to give them a trophy, give them a hug, give them a good paying job, \$10,000, and a skateboard so they can go and get their thrills and say, OK, great, they’re going to be happy and they won’t be fighting anymore. That’s not the case. Unfortunately, we have people who are living in poverty all around the world, people who have this same feeling of alienation from their government, but they’re not terrorists. So we’ve got to look at what their ideology is and how that’s fueling these tragic attacks that keep occurring.” [70884, 70885, 70888]

Gabbard states that Obama “really is not recognizing that Islamic extremism is the enemy. We can see that through their actions, through the decisions that this administration has made. And Libya is a perfect example, where if you don’t know who your enemy is, you end up going to war with people who are not your enemy. In Libya, we had a situation where [Moammar] Gadhafi was taken out. We attacked Libya, and we look now, rather than eliminating our enemy, these Islamic extremists, they’re stronger there now than they were before. And there are other examples. We look at the proposed attacks on Syria that occurred just over a year ago. Again, we’re dealing with a situation where this is not our enemy, this is not the people who are threatening the American people. It’s a real problem because of a very simple reason actually. That is something I learned as military 101, but something that’s easy for everyone to understand, and that is, if you are at war, which we are, you have to know who your enemy is in order to defeat them. You’ve got to recognize what’s fueling them, what’s motivating them, what are their strategies and tactics that they’re using in order to be able to defeat them and prevent them from attacking the American people.” [70884, 70885, 70888]

On January 28 Obama’s nominee for Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, is questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Asked about the scandal involving IRS targeting of conservative groups, Lynch responds, “With regards to the actions of any of the agencies in our government there is certainly no place for bias, or favoritism, or anything other than the even-handed application of the relevant laws and regulations. Certainly, that has always been my goal as a prosecutor and would be my continued goal should I be confirmed. With respect to the IRS investigation, I am generally aware that there is an investigation going on but it’s not a matter that’s either being conducted by my office or that I’ve been briefed on as United States attorney so I am not able to comment on the status now.” Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich writes, “Tomorrow Catherine Engelbrecht, President of voter integrity group True The Vote, will testify in front of the Committee about DOJ’s role in the IRS targeting scandal, which included inquiries about how the agencies could work together on criminal prosecution and charges for conservative groups who ‘lied’ about political activity on application forms. Department of Justice

leaders appointed trial attorney Barbara Bosserman in 2013 to investigate targeting of conservative groups. Bosserman is a democratic donor and gave thousands of dollars to ...Obama's 2012 re-election campaign." [70854, 70855, 70856]

Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) addresses Lynch: "[Obama's amnesty action] would give people who came here unlawfully the right to work, the right to participate in Social Security and Medicare, when Congress has not [authorized] that, allows them to stay, for at least a period, lawfully. Let me ask you this: In the workplace of America today, when we have a high number of unemployed, we've had declining wages for many years, we have the lowest percentage of Americans working—who has more right to a job in this country, a lawful immigrant who's here, a green-card holder, or a citizen, or a person who entered the country unlawfully? Lynch replies, "Well, Senator, I believe that, um, the right and the obligation to work is one that's shared by everyone in this country, uh, regardless of how they came here and certainly if someone is here, regardless of status, I would prefer that they be participating in the work place than not participating in the workplace." (The "obligation" to work is most certainly not "shared by everyone in this country." If it were, there would not be more than 90 million people of working age who are not working. Lynch's response is clearly a dodge that does not directly answer Sessions' question. Additionally, it is against federal law for an employer to hire an illegal immigrant. Lynch is essentially condoning lawbreaking—hardly a position to take for someone who wants to be the nation's top law enforcement officer.) [70857, 70921]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) addresses Lynch: "Let me ask about your understanding of prosecutorial discretion. Would it allow a subsequent president... to state that there are other laws that the administration will not enforce—labor laws, environmental laws—would it allow a president to say every existing federal labor law shall heretofore not apply to the state of Texas because I am using my prosecutorial discretion to refuse to enforce those laws? In your judgment, would that be constitutional?" Lynch: "Again, I would have to know what legal basis was being proposed for that..." Cruz: "I find it remarkable that you are unable to answer that question. I can answer it straightforward. It would be patently unconstitutional for any subsequent president to refuse to enforce the tax laws, or the labor laws, or the immigration laws for the very same reason that ...Obama's actions refusing to enforce immigration laws are unconstitutional. And it is discouraging that a nominee who hopes to serve as attorney general will not give a straightforward answer to that question." [70925]

Deputy White House press secretary Eric Schultz tells reporters the exchange of five Taliban fighters for Bowe Bergdahl was not negotiating with terrorists because "the Taliban is an armed insurgency," rather than a terrorist group. [70863, 70864, 70910, 70922, 70939]

In an ISIS video in which a Kurdish soldier is decapitated, the group warns that they will reach America: "This is a message to the whole world. This is the fate of anyone who opposes Islam. Know, oh Obama, that we will reach America. Know also that we will cut off your head in the White House and transform America into a Muslim province. And this is my message to France and to its sister, Belgium. We advise you that we will come



to you with car bombs and explosive charges, and we will cut off your heads. ... Know that we are men who fear no one.” (Pamela Geller quips, “Apparently when Obama told the American people that the ‘JV team’ was on the run, he neglected to mention where it was they were running to. The White House.” She adds, “Obama is wholly responsible for their growth and their power. You can deny reality, but you cannot deny the consequences of denying reality.”) [70876, 70877, 70897, 70920]

Jordan agrees to release terrorist bomber Sajida al-Rishawi in exchange for its pilot, Moaz al-Kaseasbeh (referred to as Muath al-Kaseasbeh in some articles), but demands proof that he is still alive. According to the *Daily Mail*, “Jordan has threatened to fast-track the execution of a would-be suicide bomber the Islamic State is trying to free if the terror group kills its captured pilot... The government has apparently warned that Sajida al-Rishawi and other jailed ISIS commanders would be ‘quickly judged and sentenced’ in revenge for Muath al-Kaseasbeh’s death.” [70880, 70900, 70901, 70983, 70984]

At Fort Meyer, Virginia, Obama gives a speech to honor outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. According to ConservativeTribune.com, Obama’s remarks “largely seemed to fall on deaf ears” and “the audience was largely silent, giving little response to Obama’s multiple attempts to draw a laugh until near the end of his presentation. ... The fact that [Obama] could barely get a smile from the servicemen and women assembled on what was, ostensibly, a happy occasion tells you everything you need to know about [his] relationship with the U.S. military.” [71004]

D. W. Ulsterman reports, “Rumors are circulating of an ever widening rift between the Clinton and Obama camps, most recently worsened by [Obama’s] State of the Union address last week. Clinton operatives repeatedly asked to be allowed input into the SOTU messaging in the weeks leading up to the address. These requests were ignored—entirely, by the Obama White House. Now with dissatisfaction regarding the general tone and content of Barack Obama’s SOTU, the Clinton Machine is said to be preparing a ‘talk right over them’ offensive... as the Clintons prepare to launch their 2016 campaign in earnest later this spring. ‘They hate each other and it’s getting worse and worse between them every day.’ So says a Capitol Hill source with ties to political operatives from both parties in Congress. ‘They (the Clinton camp) wanted input, or at least a chance to review, the details of the State of the Union. Those requests were ignored. I’m told a direct call was made to [Obama advisor Valerie] Jarrett’s office within days of [Obama’s] speech. No return call was made. This has the former president (B. Clinton) repeatedly reminding staff how disrespectful the Obama White House has always been to ‘...all of us. Not just me, but all of us. Congress, the whole thing. They sh\*t on everyone.’” [70889]

Ulsterman continues, “Two days after the SOTU, a staffer very close to Hillary reportedly informed a member of Bill’s staff they finally received a return message from the Obama White House. It was the same copy of the speech given to the media the day of the SOTU. The former president apparently, ‘...cursed for a good ten minutes before getting on the phone to make a personal call to the White House himself. He was livid. He was put through to John Podesta’s office and promised a quick return call. When that

call came just minutes later Bill Clinton is said to have taken the call and then abruptly hung up.’ ‘They (the Clintons and Obamas) hate each other and it’s getting worse and worse every day. Both Bill and Hillary are already seeing themselves back in the White House and getting more and more attention from all of the major donors of the Democratic Party. This agitates ...Obama who thinks he deserves a lot more gratitude. He can’t stand the idea of people looking at him like he’s irrelevant.’ Podesta’s alleged involvement in the SOTU-related blow up between the former president and [Obama] is even more interesting given recent media reports that Podesta will soon be leaving his position inside the Obama White House to help oversee Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign. Podesta was also a former White House Chief of Staff during the Bill Clinton presidency.” [70889]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Top Pentagon officials and a senior Democrat in Congress so distrusted Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2011 march to war in Libya that they opened their own diplomatic channels with the Gadhafi regime in an effort to halt the escalating crisis, according to secret audio recordings recovered from Tripoli. The tapes, reviewed by The Washington Times and authenticated by the participants, chronicle U.S. officials’ unfiltered conversations with Col. Moammar Gadhafi’s son and a top Libyan leader, including criticisms that Mrs. Clinton had developed tunnel vision and led the U.S. into an unnecessary war without adequately weighing the intelligence community’s concerns. ‘You should see these internal State Department reports that are produced in the State Department that go out to the Congress. They’re just full of stupid, stupid facts,’ an American intermediary specifically dispatched by the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the Gadhafi regime in July 2011, saying the State Department was controlling what intelligence would be reported to U.S. officials. At the time, the Gadhafi regime was fighting a civil war that grew out of the Arab Spring, battling Islamist-backed rebels who wanted to dethrone the longtime dictator.” (Pamela Geller writes, “If she were a Republican, she would be DOA. Let’s see if the media will be the man with the shovel following behind Hillary the circus elephant. No wonder Hillary was shrieking like a madwoman at the Benghazi hearings, ‘what difference does it make!?’ How she feared she would be found out.”) [70892, 70934, 71200]

“Mrs. Clinton argued that Gadhafi might engage in genocide and create a humanitarian crisis and ultimately persuaded ...Obama, NATO allies and the United Nations to authorize military intervention. Gadhafi’s son and heir apparent, Seif Gadhafi, told American officials in the secret conversations that he was worried Mrs. Clinton was using false pretenses to justify unseating his father and insisted that the regime had no intention of harming a mass of civilians. He compared Mrs. Clinton’s campaign for war to that of the George W. Bush administration’s now debunked weapons of mass destruction accusations, which were used to lobby Congress to invade Iraq, the tapes show.” [70892]

At FreeBeacon.com Adam Kredo reports, “The State Department hosted a delegation of Muslim Brotherhood-aligned leaders this week for a meeting about their ongoing efforts to oppose the current government of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt, who rose to power following the overthrow of Mohamed Morsi, an ally of the Brotherhood, in 2013. One member of the delegation, a Brotherhood-aligned judge in Egypt, posed for a picture

while at Foggy Bottom [the State Department] in which he held up the Islamic group's notorious four-finger Rabia symbol, according to his Facebook page. That delegation member, Waleed Sharaby, is a secretary-general of the Egyptian Revolutionary Council and a spokesman for Judges for Egypt, a group reported to have close ties to the Brotherhood." [3041, 3376, 70894, 70895, 70896, 70938, 70963, 71093]

The State Department initially claims the meeting with the Muslim Brotherhood leaders was organized by Georgetown University. Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki later tells reporters, "The meeting was set up by the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy [CSID], a nonprofit. So the visit was not funded, as you know, by us or the U.S. Government, but it was also not funded by Georgetown." JihadWatch.org observes, "[I]t is hardly better that the CSID was behind this meeting. Here is a portion of the Discover the Networks entry on the CSID: 'The Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy (CSID) was established in March 1999 by board members and former staffers of the American Muslim Council (AMC). Georgetown University academic John Esposito was also instrumental in CSID's founding, and later went on to serve as vice chair of the organization. According to Islam scholar Daniel Pipes, 'CSID is part of the militant Islamist lobby. It is well-disguised, and has brought in all the Islamist trends, giving them a patent of respectability.'" The American Muslim Council was once the leading 'moderate' Muslim organization in the U.S. Its founder, Abdurrahman Alamoudi, is now in prison for funding al-Qaeda. The CSID was founded by board members and former staffers of the AMC. The CSID, adds Discover the Networks, 'has numerous ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and its affiliated groups.' This is the kind of group that Obama's State Department partners with." [71093, 71134]

Pamela Geller comments, "Why would Obama host a terror group hellbent to unseat, assassinate or otherwise destroy the elected President of Egypt? It's a question we know the answer to. The election of Sisi was a resounding victory. President al-Sisi is the one bright light in the otherwise dark and savage leadership we have become inured to in the Muslim world. President Sisi's speech on Islam was one for the ages. ...Obama should be working hand in hand with this reformer and US ally. Obama is neither clueless, naive, or stupid. He knows just what he is doing, and it's treason." (There is *no justifiable reason* for the Obama administration to be hosting members of the radical Muslim Brotherhood. But Obama's move is not surprising. He also insisted that Muslim Brotherhood members be seated in the front row for his Cairo speech in June 2009. Obama later turned his back on Egyptian ally Hosni Mubarak, enabling the MB's Mohammed Morsi to succeed him. Luckily, the Egyptian people were able to oust Morsi, but Obama seems Hell-bent on returning the Muslim Brotherhood to power.) [3041, 3376, 70894, 70895, 70896, 70938, 70963, 71093]

The Associated Press reports, "The Drug Enforcement Administration abandoned an internal proposal to use surveillance cameras for photographing vehicle license plates near gun shows in the United States to investigate gun-trafficking, the agency's chief said Wednesday. ...Automated license plate scanners take pictures of every vehicle that passes their field of view and record the information in a database that can be used to track a vehicle's movements over time. ...The scanners have raised significant privacy

concerns even though they generally only record cars and trucks driving on public roads. There are no consistent, national rules that govern how police can use the information, how long it can be saved and how widely the records can be shared with other police agencies.” [70904, 70905, 72021]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration’s Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is threatening banks to be silent about the administration’s new programs supervising and investigating private bank account holders. A shocking bulletin that CFPB issued to banks, which was obtained by The Daily Caller, was sent around this week in the midst of controversy regarding the administration’s Operation Choke Point program, by which the administration pressures banks to cut off accounts for supposedly suspicious businesses, including gun dealers. Operation Choke Point’s anti-gun mission was recently confirmed in a series of audiotapes published by the US Consumer Coalition, in which a bank teller explained to a gun dealer why his account was being shut down.” (Banks have been pressured by the Obama administration to close accounts of businesses which it opposes, such as gun stores. The administration is now warning banks not to explain to the businesses why their accounts are being canceled. Because Obama cannot get restrictive gun control legislation pass, he is bypassing Congress and using regulatory bureaucrats to punish gun businesses.) [70919]

According to the Associated Press, Raul Castro has “demanded... that the United States return the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, lift the half-century trade embargo on Cuba and compensate his country for damages before the two nations re-establish normal relations.” Castro also wants the United States to stop supporting Cuban dissidents and be taken off the list of state sponsors of terrorism. “If these problems aren’t resolved,” says the Cuban president, “this diplomatic rapprochement wouldn’t make any sense.” (Obama, of course, is looking for an excuse to close the terrorist detainee center at Guantanamo.) HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey notes that Obama is “desperate for a foreign-policy achievement that will allow him to claim a legacy, and Castro knows it. (So does Iran.) Castro isn’t anywhere near as desperate for normalized relations with the US; he gets plenty of hard currency from the rest of the world, and exchanges it with the near-worthless Cuban peso with which he pays Cubans. Castro wants to strengthen his regime, and humiliating Obama will raise his prestige immeasurably at home. The problem for Obama is that he largely can’t deliver on these demands without Congressional approval. ...As this opening bid shows, Castro’s main aim in these talks is clearly to humiliate Obama.” [70923, 70924]

On January 29 CNN reports, “The U.S. military and intelligence community now suspect that one of the five Taliban detainees released from Guantanamo Bay in return for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in May of last year has attempted to return to militant activity from his current location in Qatar by making contact with suspected Taliban associates in Afghanistan, multiple officials tell CNN. The development has led to an ongoing debate inside the administration about whether there is a new threat from this man, and potentially the other four. ...The officials would not say which of the five men is suspected. But an ongoing U.S. intelligence program to secretly intercept and monitor all of their communications in Qatar turned up evidence in recent months that one of them

has ‘reached out’ to try to encourage militant activity, one official said. The official would offer no further details.” Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich reminds readers of a statement by Hillary Clinton: “As long as they’re in Qatar, they’re not a threat to the United States. ...In Qatar with an agreement that has been entered into, they are supposed to be constrained from what they can do, and certainly they are not supposed to be permitted to travel, that is as my understanding tells me, what the deal is and in that situation, they are not a threat.” (Doing their best to shield Obama from criticism, ABC, CBS, and NBC all fail to mention the story in their evening news broadcasts.) [70908, 70909, 70918, 70946]

In at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, three American contractors and an Afghan national are shot to death by the Taliban (who White House deputy press secretary Eric Schultz might describe as non-terrorist armed insurgents). Asked by a reporter if the killings were an act of terrorism, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki responds, “...There’s an investigation going on into this incident; obviously any attack that kills contractors, that kills, uh, individuals who are working there in harm’s way is a horrific and a tragedy [sic], but I’m not gonna [sic] put new labels on it today.” Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy points out, “Under federal law, there are only three requirements for a group to qualify as a ‘foreign terrorist organization’: It has to be (a) foreign, (b) engaged in ‘terrorist activity’ (bombings, assassinations, etc., carried out to intimidate people and change policy), and (c) a national-security threat to the United States. The law that covers this is Sec. 1189(a) of Title 8, U.S. Code, from the federal Immigration and Nationality Act.” [70937, 70994, 71001]

Sky News reports that child sexual abuse cases are still rampant in Rotherham, England, but the perpetrators are not being arrested or charged because the authorities fear being labeled “Islamophobes.” (The media, even afraid to identify the criminals as Muslims, calls them “Asians.”) One victim states, “It’s still going on if not worse, because now they’re having to hide it more. I’m still seeing my abusers driving young girls in their car. They’re untouchable. ...All they [the police] care about is getting a statement. Six months on we’ve had no arrests, we’ve had no charges, evidence is still being lost.” [71136, 71137, 71143, 71278]

Investigative reporter Sharyl Attkisson testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee. She says, in part, “The job of getting at the truth has never been more difficult. Facets of federal government have isolated themselves from the public they serve. They covet and withhold public information that we as citizens own. They bully and threaten access of journalists who do their jobs, news organizations that publish stories they don’t like and whistleblowers who dare to tell the truth. When I reported on factual contradictions in the Administration’s accounts regarding [Operation] Fast and Furious, pushback included a frenzied campaign with White House officials trying to chill the reporting by calling and emailing my superiors and colleagues, using surrogate bloggers to advance false claims, one White House official got so mad he angrily cussed me out. The Justice Department used its authority with building security to handpick reports allowed to attend a Fast and Furious briefing, refusing to clear me into the public Justice Department building. Let me emphasize that my reporting was factually indisputable, government officials weren’t

angry because I was doing my job poorly, they were panicked because I was doing my job well. ...It matters not that when caught government promises to dial back, or that [journalist] James Rosen gets an apology, the message has already been received: If you cross this administration with perfectly accurate reporting they don't like, you will be attacked and punished. You and your sources will be subjected to the kind of surveillance devised for enemies of the state. The [Attorney General] nominee [Loretta Lynch], if confirmed, should chart a new path to reject the damaging policies and practices that have been used by others in the past. If we aren't brave enough to confront these concerns, it could do serious long-term damage to the supposedly free press." [70906, 70929, 70944]

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke tells the committee, "I want to spend some time critiquing... Attorney General Eric Holder's tenure at the Department of Justice and use it as a framework as a way forward. Incendiary rhetoric used by Eric Holder created a pathway for a false narrative that then became the rallying cry for cop haters across America. It sparked and justified hatred for America's law enforcement agents and its offices. Without a shred of evidence a broad brush has been used to unfairly malign the reputation of the professional policing in the United States. The accusation has been made that our communities systematically engage in the practice of targeting young black men because of the color of their skin. That claim is patently false. I reject out of hand the mere suggestion of it. If I'm wrong, someone needs to show me the evidence. Officers at the local level put on their uniforms and go out everyday to make their communities better and safer. Without them our communities would collapse into utter chaos. ...Are cops perfect? No, in fact far from it, but they are the community's finest. Every community is unique in what will work and what will not work. For the nation's sake, stop undermining the integrity and character of the American law enforcement officer." [70907]

Demonstrators from the leftist activist group Code Pink interrupt a meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee, demanding that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger be arrested for war crimes. In addition to protest signs, at least one demonstrator brandishes a pair of handcuffs. (Why Capitol police allow people with handcuffs and protest signs into committee meetings is not clear.) Committee chairman John McCain (R-AZ)—perhaps confusing the protesters with conservatives—says, "Get out of here you low-life scum." (One of the protesters appears to be Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin. In June 2009 Benjamin personally delivered a letter from the terrorist group Hamas to Obama. In September 2009 she met with then-Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York City in September 2009. Benjamin's fellow co-founder, Jodie Evans, has been an Obama fundraiser and frequent White House visitor. According to BigGovernment.com, Obama met with Evans "at a high profile Hollywood fundraiser just days after she attempted to storm the stage during Sarah Palin's acceptance speech. ...Evans had committed identity theft that enabled her to sneak past security at the [2008] Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota." [104, 215, 220, 355, 395, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 6860, 6861, 6862, 6863, 6864, 6865, 14760, 15281, 15282, 70912, 70913, 70932]

Joining Kissinger at the hearing are former Secretaries of State George Schultz and Madeleine Albright. Albright says, “I do believe the biggest threat is climate change in its national security aspect as has been described, and it leaves me to say the following thing: Our problem is not every problem can be handled militarily and that we also have a short attention span. These are very long-term problems.” Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) tells DailyCaller.com, “I think the problem for our Democratic colleagues is that they’re overselling the threat. They made it [global warming fears] a religion, not a problem, and their solution is draconian.” [70940]

Kissinger tells the committee, “I’ll reserve my comment on [the inspection problems] until I see the agreement [the Obama-Iran nuclear agreement]. But I would also emphasize the issue of proliferation. Assuming ...the stockpile of nuclear material that already exists, the question then is, what do the other countries in the region do? And if the other countries in the region conclude that America has approved the development of an enrichment capability within one year of a nuclear weapon, and if they then insist on building the same capability, we will live in a proliferated world... Because it’s a different problem from not having a capability at all to having a capability that is within one year of building a weapon. Especially if it then spreads to all the other countries in the region, and they—and they have to live with that fear of each other. That will produce a substantially different world from the one that we know... I’m troubled by some of the implications of what is now publicly available ...and the impact of all of this on an international system where everybody is within a very short period of getting a nuclear weapon. Nobody can really fully trust the inspection system or at least some may not. That is something I would hope gets carefully examined before a final solution is attained.” [71718]

Schultz tells the committee, “I see nuclear weapon proliferation. That is devastating... my physicist friends say the Hiroshima weapon was just a little play thing. Well, look at the damage it did. A thermonuclear weapon would incinerate the Washington area totally. ...And we were making progress, but that’s been derailed and we’re going the wrong way right now. ...It should be pointed out that a bomb made from enriched uranium is much easier to make than [the] Hiroshima bomb. [The] Hiroshima bomb was a uranium enrichment bomb. It wasn’t even tested ...[Y]ou can make an unsophisticated bomb from enriched uranium fairly easily. That’s not a big trick. So the enrichment process is key.” [71718]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY) send a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry to “express strong concerns” over reports that the group OneVoice “is actively working with a campaign operation called V15 or ‘Victory 2015’ in an effort to influence the outcome of the elections in Israel on March 17, 2015. ...OneVoice lists the State Department as a partner on its website. ...There appears to be a danger that U.S. taxpayer funds are being used to directly shape the outcome of the upcoming Israeli election—and specifically to campaign against Prime Minister Netanyahu—something all would agree would be highly inappropriate. We request a thorough investigation by the State Department’s Inspector General within the next 15 days...” [70965, 70966, 71000]

ABC's Jonathan Karl asks White House press secretary Josh Earnest whether the Obama administration considers the Taliban to be terrorists. Earnest replies, "They do carry out, uh, tactics that are akin to terrorism. They do pursue terror attacks, uh, in an effort to try to advance their agenda..." [70914, 70915]

The Senate votes 62-36 to approve legislation calling for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Nine Democrats join 53 Republicans in the vote. (GodfatherPolitics.com notes that "billionaire leftist environmental nut Tom Steyer," who donated millions to Democrat campaigns in 2012, "is a major investor in Kinder Morgan, which is building a competitor to the Keystone pipeline." Kinder Morgan describes itself as "the largest energy infrastructure company in North America. We own an interest in or operate approximately 80,000 miles of pipelines and 180 terminals. Our pipelines transport natural gas, refined petroleum products, crude oil, carbon dioxide (CO2) and more.") The Media Research Center notes, "Not a single second of coverage on Keystone appeared on English language networks ABC, CBS, and NBC in addition to Spanish-language networks Telemundo and Univision." [70916, 70917, 70926, 70927, 70928, 70947]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "Senate Republicans on Thursday asked ... Obama to turn over all communications he and his aides have had with the IRS since 2010, hoping to find out whether the tax collection agency shared private taxpayer information with political operatives at the White House. The request, made in a letter obtained by The Washington Times, is signed by Senate Finance Chairman Orrin G. Hatch and all 13 other Republicans on the committee, and is addressed specifically to Mr. Obama, saying they want to see if his employees broke the law by acquiring or sharing private information. ... The White House didn't respond to a request for comment. The IRS is strictly prohibited from sharing confidential taxpayer information with outsiders, though several high-profile conservative figures have said they believe their information was improperly accessed or shared." [70931]

Obama meets with House Democrats in Philadelphia, with no press allowed. Vice President Joe Biden tells the group, "To state the obvious, the past six years have been really, really hard for this country. And they've been really tough for our party. ... They've been really tough for our party. But together—and together—we made some really, really tough decisions—decisions that weren't at all popular, hard to explain." Obama says, "And I will just say, obviously we were all disappointed with the outcome of the last election, and there are a lot of reasons for it and I'm happy to take on some of the blame." Obama, of course, is not happy to accept any of the blame; he has resisted doing so for more than two months. He also says, "There is no economic metric by which we are not better off than when I took office," which is total nonsense. He criticizes Mitt Romney, saying a "former presidential candidate" was "suddenly deeply concerned about poverty. [Poverty levels are among the metrics which disprove Obama's claim.] That's great. Let's do something about it." Romney responds via Twitter: "Mr. Obama, wonder why my concern about poverty? The record number of poor in your term, and your record of failure to remedy." [70911, 70941, 70954, 70955, 70956, 70958]



Politico.com describes the event's security: "Reporters are being escorted to and from the restroom and lobby and are being barred from entering the hotel outside of scheduled events, even if they've been invited by a member of Congress. During Vice President Joe Biden's remarks at the retreat... reporters were required to have a staff member, usually a junior member of the press team, escort them when going to the bathroom or to the lobby. The filing center for reporters was at a separate hotel from where the retreat was taking place, so access was limited to members of Congress specifically made available to the press. 'It was a police state. It was absurd how heavy handed the capitol police and Democratic staff were in trying to control everywhere the press went,' New York Times reporter Jeremy Peters said in an interview. Peters said at one point he was also barred from entering the hotel where the retreat was taking place, despite the fact he had an invitation to eat breakfast with a member of Congress. 'I was an invited guest into this hotel, into the restaurant of the hotel. The staff from the Democratic caucus refused to let me into the hotel, and the Capitol Police told me to leave, even after the congressman went to them and said 'no, he is my invited guest,'" Peters said. Peters said he was told by a staffer they were being escorted to prevent them from talking to members of Congress." [70973, 70974]

On January 30 the Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 251.90 points, to 17,164.95. According to MarketWatch.com, "The blue-chip index declined 2.9% over the past week and lost 3.7% over the month." The government reports that the Gross Domestic Product increased at an annual rate of only 2.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014—proving false Obama's State of the Union address claim that the economy "is growing and creating jobs at the fastest pace since 1999." [70942, 70943]

Mitt Romney announces he will not be a candidate for president in 2016. Romney states, "After putting considerable thought into making another run for president, I've decided it is best to give other leaders in the Party the opportunity to become our next nominee. ...I feel that it is critical that America elect a conservative leader to become our next president. You know that I have wanted to be that president. But I do not want to make it more difficult for someone else to emerge who may have a better chance of becoming that president. You can't imagine how hard it is for Ann and me to step aside, especially knowing of your support and the support of so many people across the country. But we believe it is for the best of the Party and the nation. ...I believe a Republican winning back the White House is essential for our country, and I will do whatever I can to make that happen." (Although many pundits suggest Jeb Bush will benefit most from Romney's decision, others believe Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker will pick up many of the Romney supporters.) [70948, 70949, 70950, 70953, 70989]

On MSNBC, Donny Deutsch remarks, "We're coming off a 50 percent approval rating [for Obama], we, we all know the great numbers on employment, um, I'm just feeling the mojo from this guy [Obama] I've never felt before and it feels good." (More than 90 millions Americans of working age are not working, resulting in the lowest workforce participation rate—62.7 percent—since 1978. Why Deutsch might consider those figures "great numbers" is not clear.) [70971, 70972]

JPost.com reports, “Israeli officials told Channel 10 on Friday that they are convinced the Obama administration has already agreed to most of Iran’s demands in the... negotiations over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program. According to unnamed officials, Washington ‘has given the Iranians 80 percent of what they want’ out of the negotiations, Channel 10 is reporting. Jerusalem officials appear alarmed at the prospect that the United States will soon strike a deal with the Iranian regime that will leave it with a ‘breakout point’ of months before it can gallop toward the bomb. An Obama administration official dismissed the claims in the Channel 10 report as ‘complete nonsense.’” (Whether that official thinks Obama has given Iran more or less than 80 percent of what it wants is not clear.) [70957, 70962]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri writes, “[A]ccording to an inside source in the nation’s capital, the trade for an Army deserter [Bowe Bergdahl], the hesitancy to take stronger action against the Iranians [as they develop nuclear weapons], and the refusal to use the term Islamic terrorists are but three of the issues upon which Obama’s political mentor Valerie Jarrett has the final word, despite her never being elected by the American people and never being confirmed by the U.S. Senate. According to the Examiner’s inside, anonymous source, a top law enforcement official, Jarrett doesn’t even have a job title nor does she possess a written job description. [Jarrett is a “Senior Advisor” who supposedly oversees the Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs and chairs the White House Council on Women and Girls.] Yet, the entire federal defense and law enforcement agencies are working hard to shut down the U.S. terrorist detention center known as Gitmo because she’s offended by its existence. ... While a student at Stanford University, Jarrett admitted her loyalty to Islam and continues to object to any negative statements aimed at any part of her ‘religion of peace.’ Farsi-speaking Valerie Jarrett, the senior advisor to Obama, his right-hand woman was born in Iran. She also has ties with terrorist William Ayers, and her [late, ex-] father-in-law, Vernon Jarrett [was] a card-carrying communist party member and associate of Frank Marshall Davis, the controversial Communist Party activist who was Obama’s childhood mentor. ... In 2013, the well-respected Investor’s Business Daily ran a story that alleged that most of the cover-up in the Benghazi terrorist attack is aimed at protecting [Obama] and Valerie Jarrett. It is suspected that the infamous ‘stand-down’ order came from her lips, since her boss went to bed early to rest-up for his busy campaign schedule in Las Vegas.” [70959, 70960]

The Associated Press reports, “The federal government is considering allowing those of Middle Eastern and North African descent to identify as such on the next 10-year census, which could give Arab-Americans and other affected groups greater political clout and access to public funding, among other things. The U.S. Census Bureau will test the new Middle East-North Africa (MENA) classification for possible inclusion on the 2020 census if it gets enough positive feedback about the proposed change by Sunday [February 1], when the public comment period ends. Arab-Americans, who make up the majority of those who would be covered by the MENA classification, have previously been classified by default as white on the census, which helps determine congressional district boundaries and how billions of dollars in federal funding are allocated, among other things.” (Race, religion, or ancestry should have *nothing* to do with how the borders

of congressional districts are drawn; they should be based only on population. Of course, for decades the political parties in power in each state have always drawn boundaries that work to their advantage. Democrats, for example, may adjust borders so that more blacks and Hispanics are included in previously white-majority districts, while Republicans sometimes do the opposite. Over the years, such manipulations have resulted in “safe” districts, where total nincompoops can win election to Congress.) [70961]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “The Muslim Brotherhood called for ‘a long, uncompromising jihad’ in Egypt just days after a delegation of the Islamist group’s key leaders and allies met with the State Department, according to an official statement released this week. Just days after a delegation that included two top Brotherhood leaders was hosted at the State Department, the organization released an official statement calling on its supporters to ‘prepare’ for jihad, according to an independent translation of the statement first posted on Tuesday. ...The Muslim Brotherhood statement also was issued just two days before a major terror attack Thursday in Egypt’s lawless Sinai region that killed at least 25. ‘It is incumbent upon everyone to be aware that we are in the process of a new phase, where we summon what is latent in our strength, where we recall the meanings of jihad and prepare ourselves, our wives, our sons, our daughters, and whoever marched on our path to a long, uncompromising jihad, and during this stage we ask for martyrdom,’ it states. Preparation for jihad is a key theme of the Brotherhood’s latest call for jihad.” [70963, 70964, 71093]

On CNN, outgoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel says he was pressured by the White House to release terrorist detainees from the facility at Guantanamo: “Not everyone at the White House agreed with me ...on the pace of the releases. Because I have the responsibility and I play my own game here, and that is because, by law, I am the one official in government charged with certification of release of detainees. I take that responsibility very seriously.” Hagel defends the exchange of five Taliban members for deserter Bowe Bergdahl: “Absolutely it was the right decision. It was the right decision... because we don’t leave our troops behind. It was a prisoner of war exchange and I’m absolutely as committed to that decision today as when the decision was made. It was the right decision.” [70982, 70985]

Addressing a group of television and screenwriters, Michelle Obama praises them for pushing the homosexual agenda, and says, “So the fact is, in many ways, you all are in a unique position to help us address some of the most challenging issues that we face as a nation. Just take an issue like gay rights. It wasn’t all that long ago that this was a third-rail kind of issue, not just in politics, but in entertainment as well. It was considered sensitive, even controversial.” She also takes a swipe at the record-breaking motion picture, *American Sniper*, saying, “Of course, it’s always a ‘he.’ We sort of forget about the 1.5 million women veterans who have served in uniform. ...People generally see veterans in one of two ways: Either the broken, downtrodden vet who is homeless or on drugs or has such severe PTSD that he can’t even function, or the saintly hero who lives with such courage and moral clarity that the only thing the rest of us can do is shower him with awe and amazement. But these two images—one broken, one perfect—they’re just caricatures.” (Mrs. Obama may not be aware that movies based on the lives of boring

people generally lose money.) Many on the political left in the United States have criticized the Clint Eastwood film about Navy SEAL sniper Christopher Kyle for “glorifying war,” it is arguably an anti-war movie. BizPacReview.com notes, “What’s not common knowledge is that the film’s popularity has carried over to audiences in Iraq.” One Iraqi viewer, Gaith Mohammed, says, “I love watching war movies because especially now they give me the strength to face ISIS.” [70978, 70979, 70986, 70994, 71020, 71036]

*The New York Times* issues a correction: “An earlier version of this article misstated when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel accepted Speaker John A. Boehner’s invitation to address Congress. He accepted after the administration had been informed of the invitation, not before.” [71238, 71239]

On January 31 the White House, apparently needing an excuse to distribute yet another image of the temporary occupant of the Oval Office, tweets a photograph of Obama with Britney Spear’s former boyfriend, Justin Timberlake—and the message, “It’s Timberlake’s birthday!” (Meanwhile, Iran proceeds with its nuclear program, and tens of millions of Americans remain unemployed.) [70975, 70976]

ISIS executes hostage Kenji Goto. In a video released by the terrorist group, “Jihadi John” addresses Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe: “You, like your foolish allies in the Satanic coalition, have yet to understand that we, by Allah’s grace, are an Islamic Caliphate with authority and power—an entire army thirsty for your blood. Abe, because of your reckless decision to take part in an unwinnable war, this knife will not only slaughter Kenji, but will also carry on and cause carnage wherever your people are found. So let the nightmare for Japan begin.” (There is no truth to a rumor that the Obama administration has called the beheading a “kinetic organ separation action conducted by armed insurgents.”) [70977, 70990, 70992, 71011, 71070]

MyWay.com reports, “When Islamic State group militants invaded the Central Library of Mosul earlier this month, they were on a mission to destroy a familiar enemy: other people’s ideas. Residents say the extremists smashed the locks that had protected the biggest repository of learning in the northern Iraq town, and loaded around 2,000 books—including children’s stories, poetry, philosophy and tomes on sports, health, culture and science—into six pickup trucks. They left only Islamic texts. The rest? ‘These books promote infidelity and call for disobeying Allah. So they will be burned,’ a bearded militant in traditional Afghani two-piece clothing told residents, according to one man living nearby who spoke to The Associated Press. ... Since the Islamic State group seized a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria, they have sought to purge society of everything that doesn’t conform to their violent interpretation of Islam. They already have destroyed many archaeological relics, deeming them pagan, and even Islamic sites considered idolatrous. Increasingly books are in the firing line.” JihadWatch.org notes, “They are following in the illustrious footsteps of the caliph Umar, who is supposed to have said when ordering the ancient, fabled library of Alexandria to be burned: ‘If the books agree with the Qur’an, they are superfluous. If they disagree with it, they are heretical.’” [71007, 71008, 71009]

CBS' Mark Knoller tweets, "...Obama mingling with Washington power brokers at Alfalfa Club luncheon hosted by lawyer Vernon Jordan." [70980, 70981]

Retired Commander Charles Kerchner (*Kerchner v. Obama*) and WheresObamasBirthCertificate.com's Mike Volin report that they have mailed information about Obama's forged long-form birth certificate to every county sheriff in the United States. Kerchner writes, "The target of the mass mailing of the specially designed Sheriff Kit DVDs was to every county sheriff and county sheriff equivalent in the USA, over 3300 of them. Also receiving kits in this mass mailing was every state Governor and every state Attorney General. And in addition, new members of Congress. The Sheriff Kit package contains the forensic evidence and reports presented by Sheriff Joe Arpaio of Maricopa County AZ demonstrating that Obama's proffered long-form birth certificate PDF file placed on the WhiteHouse.gov website on 27 Apr 2011 is a human engineered, cut and paste, PhotoShopped, computer-manufactured digital forgery. It also shows Obama's Selective Service Draft Registration card, a copy of which was obtained via a FOIA request is a forgery. The total mailing totaled approximately 3600 pieces. Now a key and influential locally-elected law-enforcement official in every single county in every corner of the USA has in their possession a copy of the forensic evidence presented by Sheriff Joe Arpaio of AZ and Lead Investigator Mike Zullo at their press conferences showing that Obama's key identity documents are forged. Criminal document fraud has been committed on behalf of Obama. These crimes need to be investigated and prosecuted." [70987, 70988]

The *Express* reports, "An operative working for [the] Islamic State has revealed the terror group has successfully smuggled thousands of covert Jihadists into Europe. The Syrian operative claimed more than 4,000 covert ISIS gunmen had been smuggled into western nations—hidden amongst innocent refugees. The ISIS smuggler, who is in his 30s with a trimmed jet-black beard, revealed the ongoing clandestine operation is a complete success. 'Just wait,' he smiled." [71083, 71084]

On NBC's evening news broadcast, anchor Brian Williams relates the story of "a terrible moment a dozen years back during the invasion of Iraq when the helicopter we were traveling in was forced down after being hit by an RPG. Our traveling NBC News team was rescued, surrounded and kept alive by an armor mechanized platoon from the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry." Williams has told the story *several* times over the years, but on February 1 U.S. military veteran Lance Reynolds calls him out on the tall tale, writing on Facebook, "Sorry dude, I don't remember you being on my aircraft. I do remember you walking up about an hour after we had landed to ask me what had happened." Another veteran, Joseph Miller, writes, "[Williams] was actually on my aircraft and we came in behind you about 30-45 minutes later. He is a total POS [piece of shit]! He had the audacity to tell me the whole thing was like 'Saving Private Ryan' and that the whole army would be out looking for him. I called him an idiot in front of his camera crew and he didn't come back to my bird [helicopter] for next 3 days!" On February 4 Williams reluctantly says, "I would not have chosen to make this mistake. I don't know what

screwed up in my mind that caused me to conflate one aircraft with another,” and blames the false claim on “the fog of memory.” [71147, 71150, 71154, 71161, 71176, 71188]

Variety.com writes, “What makes Williams’ admission worse, according to one person familiar with the situation, is that he had been counseled in the past by senior NBC News executives to stop telling the story in public. The advice, this person said, was not heeded.” At Townhall.com, Matt Vespa reminds readers of Hillary Clinton’s lie about a trip to Bosnia on March 25, 1996. She falsely claimed, “I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base.” Writes Vespa, “But news video footage of her arrival at Tuzla shows Clinton, then the first lady, calmly walking from the rear ramp of a U.S. Air Force plane with her daughter, Chelsea, then 16, at her side. Both Clintons held their heads up and did not appear rushed.” [71147, 71150, 71154, 71161, 71176, 71188, 71216, 71251]

Williams is then forced (on February 4) to deliver an apology, in which he says, “On this broadcast last week in an effort to honor and thank a veteran who protected me and so many others after a ground-fire incident in the desert during the Iraq War invasion, I made a mistake in recalling the events of 12 years ago. It did not take long to hear from some brave men and women in the air crews who were also in that desert. I want to apologize. I said I was traveling in an aircraft that was hit by RPG fire. I was instead in a following aircraft. We all landed after the ground-fire incident and spent two harrowing nights in a sandstorm in the Iraq desert. This was a bungled attempt by me to thank one special veteran, and by extension, our brave military men and women, veterans everywhere, those who have served while I did not. I hope they know they have my greatest respect and now my apology.” [71182, 71183, 71186, 71191, 71993, 71195, 71244]

Williams does not note that he once claimed, during his reporting of Hurricane Katrina, that from the window of his French Quarter hotel in New Orleans he saw a body floating down the street. TheHayride.com points out that although there was massive flooding in New Orleans because of failed levees, the French Quarter remained substantially dry. “So if there was no major flooding in the Quarter, how does Brian Williams spot a dead body floating past his hotel window? You need a good 18 inches of standing water to float a body, if not more. If there was 18 inches of flood water in the Quarter, we’d all know about it. So this is a lie. NBC News’ anchor and editor in chief has now been caught in two lies about major world events.” Williams stated that he “rode out” the hurricane “with people who later died in the Superdome.” GotNews.com points out, “In fact, there were only six people who died—four from natural causes, one from drug overdose, and one from suicide.” Williams claimed his five-star hotel in New Orleans “was overrun with gangs” and he got dysentery. (Dr. Brobson Lutz, who treated patients in New Orleans at the time, states, “We were never wet. It was never wet [in the French Quarter]. I saw a lot of people with cuts and bruises and such, but I don’t recall a single, solitary case of gastroenteritis during Katrina or in the whole month afterward.”) [71182, 71183, 71186, 71191, 71993, 71195, 71229, 71233, 71234, 71244]

NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty later writes, "Here's the thing: NBC News employed Chelsea Clinton under that ridiculous contract, and MSNBC keeps Al Sharpton around (allegedly to keep him happy with corporate parent Comcast), has a correspondent that accused American Sniper Chris Kyle of going on 'killing sprees,' had a guest commentator who claimed Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal is 'trying to wash that brown off his skin,' has a host wearing tampon earrings, and gave a weekend show to Hillary Clinton's former deputy press secretary. How much more credibility is there to lose? [But] Brian Williams just signed a contract extension, believed to be \$10 million per year, and the president of the network declared, 'Brian is one of the most trusted journalists of our time.' His daughter [Allison] is in HBO's *Girls* and played Peter Pan for NBC. He and the network are tied at the hip, and he's media royalty. The network is going to rap him on the knuckles and then declare the matter resolved, and the rest of the media world—yes, the largely center-Left or outright progressive-Left world—will avert their eyes. The *New York Times* [buried the story] ...on page B10 this morning [February 5]."

Michelle Malkin points out that "Williams is close family friends with [Lena] Dunham, whom he affectionately calls 'Leens.' His daughter, last seen engaging onscreen in graphic anal sex, is a co-star on Dunham's TV show. ...After signing a hefty \$3.5 million book deal with Random House, [Dunham,] the hipster creator of HBO's 'Girls' and her publisher were forced late last year to walk back bogus allegations about a 'rape' attack by an 'Oberlin College Republican' that she neglected to disclose for nearly a decade ...until she needed to generate book publicity." (It is perhaps not surprising that someone who would lie about being shot at in Iraq would be pals with someone who made false rape claims in a book to help boost sales.) [71217]

Through January 2015, according to statistics compiled by TheReligionofPeace.com, Islamic terrorists have carried out more than 25,000 since September 11, 2001. There were 248 worldwide attacks in January, resulting in 3,788 deaths and 1,979 injuries. [71048, 71049]