

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

July 2013

On July 1 taxpayer-subsidized Stafford student loan rates increase from 3.4 to 6.8 percent after Democrat leaders in the U.S. Senate fail to move forward with bi-partisan legislation intended to prevent the automatic increase. One Republican aide tells DailyCaller.com, “Senate Democrats don’t want a deal. They think they’ll be able to blame Republicans for opposing their political fix, but with Senate and House Republicans and [Obama] all in basic agreement on the fundamentals here, somehow Senate Democrats think they won’t be held responsible for their obstruction. If I were starting college in the fall and needed to get a loan, I’d be furious that Senators [Harry] Reid and [Tom] Harkin are getting in the way of this kind of rare Washington agreement.” (The increase in interest rates may actually keep tuition rates from increasing at their present pace because colleges and universities will not be able to take advantage of the below-market rates given to students.) [46102, 46150, 46187]

Moneynews.com reports, “U.S. manufacturing activity grew in June at its slowest pace in eight months as overseas demand dried up and firms took on the fewest new workers in more than three years, a survey showed on Monday. Financial data firm Markit said its final U.S. Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index stood at 51.9 in June, below 52.3 in May and a preliminary June estimate of 52.2. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the sector. ...The employment sub-index fell to 49.9, the lowest since January 2010 and ‘consistent with roughly 30,000 jobs being lost per month in the manufacturing sector,’ according to Markit chief economist Chris Williamson said. It stood at 52.6 in May. ‘Firms are responding to the increasingly worrying order book trend by pulling back on recruitment,’ Williamson said.” [46165]

Obama visits Tanzania, where a “First Ladies Summit” event hosted by the George W. Bush Foundation is also held. In attendance at the summit are Michelle Obama, Laura Bush, Hillary Clinton, Barbara Bush, and Rosalyn Carter. Mrs. Obama says, “There are some prison elements to [being First Lady], but it’s a really nice prison.” Laura Bush cites having a White House chef as a major benefit, to which Obama responds, “You can’t complain, but there is [sic] definitely elements that are confining.” [46158, 46182]

At his press conference in Tanzania, Obama addresses the demonstrations in Egypt, saying, “Everybody has to show restraint. ...What is clear right now is that although Mr. Morsi was elected democratically, there is more work to be done to create the conditions in which everybody feels their voices are heard, and that the government is responsive and truly representative.” Obama praises George W. Bush for his AIDS relief program in Africa: “I think this is one of his crowning achievements. Because of the commitment of the Bush administration and the American people, millions of people’s lives have been saved.” (At a state dinner later in the evening, Obama also praises former Tanzania

president Julius Nyerere—who pretty much destroyed the nation’s economy with his collectivist schemes.) [46174, 46175, 46182, 46194]

WND.com reports, “The Egyptian Military Council and the country’s secular opposition have rejected an Obama administration proposal to keep embattled President Mohamed Morsi in power as a transition leader until new elections can be held, according to a senior member of the council... The Military Council member further said there was a feeling of distrust for the White House among the opposition and that the Obama administration was asked by protest leaders to ‘stay out of it.’ ‘The opposition feeling is the U.S. did enough to put the Muslim Brotherhood in power and then try to keep Morsi there,’ said the council member. ‘The message sent to [U.S. Ambassador to Egypt] Anne Patterson was that this is an internal Egyptian matter and [Obama should] stay out of it.’ The council member said it was Patterson who delivered the Obama administration proposal to keep Morsi in office until new elections are set. Protest leaders, who are calling for more mass demonstrations today, gave Morsi until 5 p.m. local time to step down from office. The powerful Egyptian armed forces themselves yesterday gave Morsi an ultimatum of 48 hours to resolve the crisis or else they will introduce a plan for the country’s future. ‘If the demands of the people are not realized within the defined period, it will be incumbent upon (the armed forces) to announce a road map for the future,” said the statement by General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the commander-in-chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Also yesterday, the Washington Post reported Patterson herself became a target of opposition protesters in Egypt, with some waving signs telling her to ‘get out’ and accusing her of secretly aiding the Muslim Brotherhood and Morsi.” One protest banner reads, “Obama & Patterson Support Terrorism in Egypt.” (Pamela Geller advises at AtlasShrugs.com, “Best foreign policy primer for those who don’t follow these things closely enough. Whoever Obama supports—support the other guy. Stand for freedom? Oppose Obama.” [46141, 46169, 46175, 46181, 46190, 46194, 46392]

The Investigative Project on Terrorism reports, “Egypt’s Islamist government teetered on the brink Monday in the wake of stunning weekend protests against Muslim Brotherhood rule. ‘Theocracy failed here,’ Egyptian blogger Mahmoud Salem, also known as ‘Sandmonkey,’ wrote in a Twitter post Monday. Sixteen people were killed and hundreds were injured during weekend protests that reportedly drew millions of Egyptians to the streets. Many estimated that the protests were larger than the 2011 demonstrations that forced dictator Hosni Mubarak from power. Numerous media accounts describe the broad demographic base of the protesters, from young women to old men, from liberal secularists to conservative Muslims. Several deaths took place when Muslim Brotherhood members opened fire on demonstrators who attacked, set on fire or looted Brotherhood offices. Four cabinet ministers—over tourism, parliamentary affairs, environment and communications—resigned from the government Monday in support of the protesters. Opposition organizers, calling themselves the June 30 Front, are asking demonstrators to wage a campaign of civil disobedience until President Mohamed Morsi resigns, just one year into his four-year term. That includes a continuation of protests, a general strike and other actions. More ominously, the Egyptian army gave Morsi a 48-hour ultimatum to negotiate some kind of resolution with the opposition or face what

could amount to a coup, as the military promises to ‘announce a future roadmap and measures to oversee its implementation.’” [46176, 46179, 46180, 46184]

Meanwhile, Morsi apparently feels confident he can ride out the storm of protests if Obama remains in his corner. According to *The Guardian*, one Morsi aide states, “Obviously we feel this is a military coup. But the conviction within the presidency is that [the coup] won’t be able to move forward without American approval [and U.S. funding].” [46177]

In Aleppo, Syria, Obama-backed Islamist rebels issue an order banning women from wearing “immodest dress” or “in tight clothing that shows off their bodies or wearing makeup on their face. It is incumbent on all our sisters to obey God and commit to Islamic etiquette.” [46178]

In Germany, demonstrators protest the U.S. government’s spying on European communications. Some demonstrators carry placards showing Obama wearing headphones and listening to their telephone calls, with the words, “All you data is belong to us [sic]” and with a caption “Stasi 2.0”—referring to the secret police of the former East Germany. [46153]

European Parliament President Martin Schulz states, “We need more precise information [about U.S. spying practices]. But if it is true, it is a huge scandal. That would mean a huge burden for relations between the EU and the US. We now demand comprehensive information.” Luxembourg’s Foreign Minister, Jean Asselborn says, “If these reports are true, then it is abhorrent. It would seem that the secret services have gotten out of control. The US should monitor their own secret services rather than their allies. ... The US justifies everything as being part of the fight against terrorism. But the EU and its diplomats are not terrorists. We need a guarantee from the very highest level that it stops immediately.” German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger states, “If media reports are correct, then it is reminiscent of methods used by enemies during the Cold War. It defies belief that our friends in the US see the Europeans as their enemies. There has to finally be an immediate and comprehensive explanation from the US as to whether media reports about completely unacceptable surveillance measures of the US in the EU are true or not. Comprehensive spying on Europeans by Americans cannot be allowed.” Markus Ferber, a member of the European Parliament, says, “A democratic constitutional state that uses Stasi methods sacrifices all credibility as a moral authority. It has destroyed trust.” Guy Verhofstadt, former Belgian prime minister and current head of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, states, “This is absolutely unacceptable and must be stopped immediately. The American data collection mania, shown publicly with SWIFT and hidden with Prism, has achieved another quality by spying on EU officials and their meetings. Our trust is at stake.” (The Europeans are apparently realizing that Barack “transparent” Obama is not the polar opposite of George W. Bush they thought he was in 2008.) [46154, 46159, 46173]

Secretary of State John Kerry brushes off the charges of spying, telling reporters, “I will say that every country in the world that is engaged in international affairs and national

security undertakes lots of activities to protect its national security and all kinds of information contributes to that. All I know is that is not unusual for lots of nations.” (Kerry apparently does not understand there is a difference between spying on enemies and spying on allies.) [46161]

Edward Snowden issues a statement via Wikileaks: “On Thursday ...Obama declared before the world that he would not permit any diplomatic ‘wheeling and dealing’ over my case. Yet now it is being reported that after promising not to do so, [Obama] ordered his Vice President to pressure the leaders of nations from which I have requested protection to deny my asylum petitions. This kind of deception from a world leader is not justice, and neither is the extralegal penalty of exile. These are the old, bad tools of political aggression. Their purpose is to frighten, not me, but those who would come after me. For decades the United States of America have been one of the strongest defenders of the human right to seek asylum. Sadly, this right, laid out and voted for by the U.S. in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is now being rejected by the current government of my country. The Obama administration has now adopted the strategy of using citizenship as a weapon. Although I am convicted of nothing, it has unilaterally revoked my passport, leaving me a stateless person. Without any judicial order, the administration now seeks to stop me exercising a basic right. A right that belongs to everybody. The right to seek asylum. In the end the Obama administration is not afraid of whistleblowers like me, Bradley Manning or Thomas Drake. We are stateless, imprisoned, or powerless. No, the Obama administration is afraid of you. It is afraid of an informed, angry public demanding the constitutional government it was promised — and it should be. I am unbowed in my convictions and impressed at the efforts taken by so many.” (Noting Snowden’s shock that Obama would lie, Morning Jolt’s Jim Geraghty later points out that “all statements from Barack Obama come with an expiration date.” Geraghty also notes Snowden’s grammar. His use of “the United States of America *have been*” indicates someone else drafted—or coached—the statement, because virtually all Americans would incorrectly write *has been*. Wikileaks then changes the statement to read *has been*. Of course, *have been* is, in fact, grammatically correct because it relates to the plural, *states*. One would say, “states have been...” and not “states has been.”) [46171, 46172]

Obama’s approval rating reaches a record low 43.2 in the IBD/TIPP Presidential Leadership Index. (His rating was 48.9 just one month earlier.) [46196]

Bloomberg.com reports that cash-strapped cities are considering dumping their retired employees on the ObamaCare exchanges in order to reduce the costs of insuring them. “The municipalities plan to end or limit health coverage for retirees under 65 who don’t yet qualify for Medicare, with the expectation they can get insurance in the exchanges opening Jan. 1 under ...Obama’s health-care law. With U.S. cities facing rising benefit costs and billions of dollars in unfunded liabilities, more municipalities will consider moving retirees off city rolls and into the exchanges, even if they continue to subsidize the coverage, said Neil Bomberg, a program director at the National League of Cities in Washington. ...Chicago plans to phase out retiree health coverage by the beginning of 2017, according to a May 15 letter from Comptroller Amer Ahmad. The city projects that

health-care spending would increase to \$540.7 million in 2023 from \$108.8 million in 2012 without changes, according to a Retiree Healthcare Benefits Commission report in January.” (In essence, this means that the city of Chicago plans on shifting the burden of insuring its retired municipally employees on taxpayers who do not even live in Chicago. Of course, if many other cities across the nation do the same, no one’s tax burden will be reduced. Dumping older retired city workers onto the ObamaCare exchanges means even higher insurance for the younger customers who will be forced to pay more to subsidize the retirees.) [46324, 46341]

At USDL.info Daniel Greenfield reports, “Obama has announced the appointment of Azizah al-Hibri to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Al-Hibri (full name, Azizah Yahia Muhammad Toufiq al-Hibri) is a Muslim professor and the granddaughter of a Sheikh, who claims that the Koran inspired Thomas Jefferson and the Founders and that the Saudi criminal justice system is more moral than the American one because it accepts blood money from murderers. Appointing a Muslim scholar to a commission on international religious freedom is only justifiable if that scholar recognized that much of the injustice in the world originates from Islamic law. But Al-Hibri has made her career whitewashing Islamic law and even presenting it as superior to American law. While she has been called a reformer, her call in 2001 for a return to the fundamentals echoes Wahhabi rhetoric. Rather than examining the incompatibilities of Islamic law and the modern world, and urging the appropriate adjustments, as genuine reformers have done, Al-Hibri instead builds myths that uphold the Islamist agenda. According to Al-Hibri ‘Islamic fiqh is deeper and better than Western codes of law.’ She favorably compares Saudi Arabia’s willingness to accept blood money bribes to excuse a murder, to the ‘impersonal and powerful’ American justice system.” [46201, 46202]

Blogger Doug Ross posts “15 photos from the Tahrir Square protests you’ll never see in legacy media.” They include photos of banners and signs that read, “Wake up America, Obama backs up a fascist regime in Egypt,” “Obama supports terrorism,” “Obama supports dictator Morsi,” “Obama, your bitch is our dictator,” and, “From the Egyptian people to U.S. policymakers: Get your dirty hands out of Egypt. To all the American people: We’ve got nothing but love for you.” (IsThatBaloney.com comments, “While the main stream media is covering the protests in Egypt and letting us know that Egyptians are absolutely fed up with Mohamed Morsi and his thuggish radical Islamic regime, they aren’t going to tell you that many of the protestors are also against Obama for supporting Morsi. These latest round of protests are being called by some as the largest protests in human history but since they are against the Muslim Brotherhood that Obama supports, the White House has remained virtually silent about them. Of course the willing State Run Media is also playing along with Obama and even though they are showing the large scale of the protests, they are not showing the real sentiment behind them and what’s going on via Twitter. The pictures... tell a different story. The people of Egypt see and experience the evil of the Muslim Brotherhood backed Morsi and his fundamentalist Islamic regime he is trying to implement. They live with it every day and they don’t like it and don’t like the fact that the Obama administration is using its power and money and military hardware to support radical Islam.”) [46218, 46219, 46227, 46241, 46261, 46304]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on the Egyptian protests against President Mohamed Morsi: “Obama is a bystander, again. Here are the Egyptians in the millions out on the street, trying to bring down an Islamic government, increasingly dictatorial, increasingly intolerant, arresting journalists and judges, trying to Islamicize the military and the people are saying no. And what does [Obama] do? He takes a position of studied neutrality, says he is not supporting either side. And yet... in the Mubarak revolution, he obviously strongly took the side of the people, he demanded that [Hosni] Mubarak had to go. He was not neutral. But this reminds me of the Green Revolution in Iran in 2009 when the same thing happened. Islamists, dictatorial government, the people out in the street, and they were shouting ‘Obama, Obama, are you with us or against us?’ And he took a position that was essentially supportive of the regime. And the reason was he wanted to negotiate a nuclear deal he thought he could do, and he didn’t want instability. That was a shameful episode. There’s also the idea of national interest. Mubarak was pro-American. He was an ally of ours. He helped us in all kinds of ways. Obama worked against him.” [46149, 46183]

Krauthammer continues, “Morsi represents a movement which is essentially deeply anti-American, and deeply anti-democratic. And yet he is neutral on this. This is a shocking position for [Obama] to take.” Moderator Bret Baier points out that Morsi, bad as he may be, was elected. Krauthammer replies, “We have a long history of dictatorial parties that get elected and then end elections. You had [Vladimir] Putin in Russia. [Adolf] Hitler is the greatest example, of course. [Hugo] Chávez, the Sandinistas. The list of these is long. The [Muslim] Brotherhood is not a democratic party. It’s not the British Labor, not the Democratic Party of America. It is a movement that has an ideology. Its allegiance is to Islam. And it was—in the short year it was in office [in Egypt], it ran through an Islamist extreme constitution with no compromise with anybody and was ruling dictatorially. I think for a president to pretend if elected once, you have the protection and support of the United States is a complete misunderstanding of what legitimacy is.” [46149, 46183]

On July 2 the White House confirms that Obama telephoned Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. According to the Associated Press, “Obama told Morsi that the United States is committed to the democratic process in Egypt and does not support any single party or group. The statement also said Obama underscored to Morsi that the current crisis can only be resolved through a political process.” (It is worth noting that in 2011 Obama “took sides” and urged Morsi’s predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, to step down, but is unwilling to take sides and encourage the decidedly anti-American Morsi to resign.) Obama enlists the aid of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey to help rescue Morsi, with Dempsey telephoning Egyptian chief of staff General Sedki Sobhi—probably in an attempt to dissuade the Egyptian military from ousting Morsi. [46156, 46208]

Meanwhile, Morsi refuses to step down from the presidency or even accede to any of the demands of millions of protestors. He defiantly states, “I am the president of Egypt. ...The remnants of the former regime [of Hosni Mubarak], they are fighting against our democracy. If they come back to the people they will be rejected. They are accustomed to

corruption, rigging elections sucking dry the blood of the people. They cannot thrive in democracy. ...Safeguard Egypt, safeguard the revolution. The revolution we earned by the sweat of our eyebrows and by the blood of our martyrs.” [46208, 46210]

At Townhall.com Kevin McCullough reports, “On Wednesday June 26, 2013 reports began to pop up across the Arabic world citing an internal Libyan government memo that has not yet been acknowledged in the American press. ...Multiple sources have confirmed this document details several confessions of the six Egyptians in Libyan custody for the 9.11.12 bombing of the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. The document details the involvement of the Muslim Brotherhood and Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi as being involved with and in the funding, support, planning, and execution of the attack. ...[The memorandum] was prepared by Mahmoud Ibrahim Sharif, the Director of National Security of Libya. In his report Sharif conveys that the Libyan investigation unearthed an Egyptian (terror) cell that had been involved in the planning and execution of the attack. Six confessions [are extracted] from those arrested at the scene—all of them Egyptian—and all connected to the U.S. terror watch listed group Ansar al-Sharia. Concerning the most important claim of the Libyan memo, Raymond Ibrahim, (an American research librarian, translator, and author, whose focus is Arabic history, language, and current events) indicates that ‘during interrogations, these Egyptian jihadi cell members ‘confessed to very serious and important information concerning the financial sources of the group and the planners of the event and the storming and burning of the U.S. consulate in Benghazi... And among the more prominent figures whose names were mentioned by cell members during confessions: Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi...’ The investigation also seems to have unearthed a video taken the night of the attack in which members of the jihadists identify themselves as being sent personally by ‘Dr. Morsi.’” [46206]

McCullough asks, “If in fact Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was even remotely involved, tacitly aware, or even seen giving nodding approval, why on earth did ...Obama turn around and deliver 16 fighter jets and 200 tanks to the Egyptian regime roughly three months later? Why was Morsi invited to the White House in September 2012? Then invited for December 5, 2012? Then February 2013, then March? Why does his visit get continually postponed as though the White House seems to know something about him and his visit that they are not comfortable with? Why was [Obama] so thoroughly unreachable when the attack took place, and for a period of six to eight hours, incapable of accounting for where he was as the worst of it played out? ...Why did the Obama White House and the National Security Council meet with and host a Muslim Brotherhood radical on June 13, 2013? ...And why does the current administration have as many as a half dozen mid to upper level appointees that have ties to the Muslim Brotherhood—either directly or through Brotherhood member organizations? ...Is it possible that something even more sinister was playing out on the night of 9.11.12, and the rationale for all the lies about the incendiary video, and Dr. Susan Rice, and the changing of the story during a Presidential debate, was in fact to keep us from having the bigger story told? Was Egypt part of the intentional set-up with the out-of-the-blue protest at the American embassy initiated by the Morsi government to help give the Obama administration the cover for the narrative about ‘the video?’ There is no doubt

that when Obama had the choice to assist Hosni Mubarak—who while far from perfect—kept a tight leash on the extremist elements under his rule, chose instead to push Mubarak aside in favor of the Brotherhood’s Mohamed Morsi. And the questions persist... ‘why?’ Another question that also now rises: ‘Will the White House press corps do its job and press for answers on Egyptian involvement in 09.11.12?’” [46206]

Note that *The Obama Timeline* continues to believe that the Obama-Morsi scheme was for U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens to be kidnapped, after which Obama would “negotiate” a deal in which Stevens would be exchanged for Omar Abdel Rahman, the “blind sheik” who is serving time in a U.S. prison for planning the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Morsi had promised radical Muslims that one of his primary goals as president of Egypt would be the release of Rahman, and Obama believed he could reassure his reelection with his “brilliant” actions to save Stevens. But the Obama-Morsi scheme went awry when Morsi’s thugs inadvertently killed Stevens, forcing Obama to rely on the story that the attack was simply a YouTube video protest that got out of hand. Hillary Clinton was forced to go along with the story to protect her own political future and assure that Obama would support her in 2016, and Obama was forced to “play nice” with Morsi to keep him from revealing the truth—which would result in the impeachment of Obama and criminal charges being filed against him for conspiracy to kidnap. If this conjecture is accurate, Obama has to protect Morsi in order to keep him quiet—or somehow insure that his silence is guaranteed.

In Dar es Salaam, former President George W. Bush joins Obama in laying a wreath to commemorate victims of the 1998 terrorist bombings at the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. [46182]

FamilySecurityMatters.org reports, “On June 27, 2013, four families of Navy SEAL Team VI and special ops forces brought suit in federal court in Washington, D.C. (Case No. 13-cv-974) over the death of their sons, whose helicopter was shot down by Taliban jihadists on August 6, 2011, in Afghanistan. Among those who died in the crash were 16 Navy SEALs and 8 special ops servicemen... As alleged in the complaint, the disclosures of classified information by Vice President Biden and then newly sworn-in Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta that SEAL Team VI was responsible for the killing of Osama Bin Laden put a ‘target on the backs’ of the now fallen heroes and their families. Predictably, the Taliban retaliated by blasting the helicopter out of the air and killing all on board. ...Larry Klayman, the founder of Judicial Watch and now Freedom Watch and former U.S. Justice Department prosecutor, legally represents these plaintiff families and observed the following upon filing suit: ‘It is hypocritical and outrageous that while the Obama Justice Department can criminally charge Edward Snowden for allegedly disclosing classified national security information and wage an international manhunt for his arrest, Biden and Panetta get off scot free for their callous, cynical, opportunistic illegal release of the identity of SEAL Team VI in the Bin Laden killing—allegedly orchestrated to boost ...Obama’s and Vice President Biden’s reelection prospects in the months leading up to the 2012 November 6 election. This underscores how the nation’s ‘leaders’ in Washington are not held to the same standards as are other citizens. It therefore falls upon the families of Navy SEAL Team VI and special ops servicemen to

seek justice in the civil courts, as Biden and Panetta are ‘not above the law.’ The hard reality is that Biden and Panetta are alive ‘feasting’ on their ‘political notoriety,’ power, and wealth, while the brave heroes who gave their lives for our nation’s security are dead, thanks to them!’ To punish Biden and Panetta for their alleged criminal acts, the complaint asks for over \$200,000,000 dollars in damages. If successful, the damage award will be used to aid and support the surviving families of fallen heroes like the plaintiffs’ sons.” [46952, 47009, 47076, 47168]

Canada’s *National Post* reports, “A British Columbia man and woman are facing three terror charges after they allegedly left devices similar to those used in the Boston Marathon bombing intended to ‘cause death’ during Canada Day [July 1] celebrations at the B.C. Parliament Buildings. John Stewart Nuttall, 38, and Amanda Marie Korody, 28, have been charged with knowingly facilitating a terrorist activity and making or possessing an explosive device. RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] said the pair took steps to build explosives devices—using pressure cookers, which were used in the Boston attack—to cause “death and injuries” during Canada Day celebrations in Victoria and they were inspired by Al Qaeda ideology.’ Pictures provided by the RCMP showed rusted nails inside the pressure cookers. ‘These individuals were inspired by al-Qaeda [that is, Islamist] ideology. Our investigation demonstrated that this was a domestic threat, without international linkages,’ RCMP Assistant Commissioner James Malizia said in a statement.” (Obama has no comment.) [46259, 46260]

Obama faces political reality with one aspect of ObamaCare, as Bloomberg.com reports: “Businesses won’t be penalized next year if they fail to provide workers health insurance after the Obama administration decided to delay a key requirement under its signature 2010 health-care law. The government will postpone enforcement of the so-called employer mandate until 2015, the administration said today. Under the provision, companies with 50 or more workers face a fine of as much as \$3,000 per employee if they don’t offer affordable insurance.” (In other words, “The employer mandate is being postponed until after the November 2014 elections.”) Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett states, “In our ongoing discussions with businesses we have heard that you need the time to get this right. We are listening.” (In other words, “If the economy suffers any more job losses, Democrats will lose big in the Congressional elections.”) HotAir.com predicts, “Expect lots of public pronouncements from Hillary Clinton, beginning sooner than you think, about how she admires [Obama] for having tried on universal health care but emphasizing that she would have done things ‘quite a bit differently.’” (Although delaying the employer mandate for one year may result in fewer ObamaCare job losses, insurance premiums for most policies will still likely increase substantially throughout 2014—and many voters will remember that at the ballot box. Delaying the employer mandate will also cost the taxpayers billions of dollars because employees who do not receive employer-paid insurance will then buy it at the ObamaCare exchanges, where the cost will be subsidized by the taxpayers—to the tune of about \$5,290 per enrollee.) [46185, 46186, 46199, 46204, 46209, 46213, 46214, 46233, 46323, 46871]

Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) calls the regulatory announcement a “clear admission” that ObamaCare is “unaffordable, unworkable, and unpopular. It’s also a cynical political

ploy to delay the coming train wreck associated with ObamaCare until after the 2014 elections.” (Barrasso does not ask, “If Obama can unilaterally delay implementation of portions of ObamaCare, what is to stop him from arbitrarily delaying any border enforcement requirements in amnesty legislation?”) In 2011 the administration postponed ObamaCare’s long-term nursing home care program, which was so unworkable it was repealed in 2012. Earlier in 2013 the Obama administration delayed until at least 2015 the Small Business Health Option Program, yet another indication that ObamaCare is unworkable—or that the people responsible for its implementation are incompetent. [46199, 46283]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) issues a statement declaring that ObamaCare “is already raising costs and costing jobs. This announcement [of the partial delay in implementation] means even the Obama administration knows the ‘train wreck’ will only get worse. I hope the administration recognizes the need to release American families from the mandates of this law as well. This is a clear acknowledgment that the law is unworkable, and it underscores the need to repeal the law and replace it with effective, patient-centered reforms.” [46205]

LATimes.com reports, “The nation’s largest health insurer, UnitedHealth Group Inc., is leaving California’s individual health insurance market, the second major company to exit in advance of major changes under the Affordable Care Act. UnitedHealth said it had notified state regulators that it would leave the state’s individual market at year-end and force about 8,000 customers to find new coverage. Last month, Aetna Inc., the nation’s third-largest health insurer, made a similar move affecting about 50,000 existing policyholders.” (Obama’s promise that “You can keep your policy” under ObamaCare is meaningless if the insurance company is pushed out of the market by the legislation.) [46216, 46217]

Via Twitter, Fox News, Bret Baier reports, “Various sources expect the Egyptian military to remove [Mohamed] Morsi from the Presidency tomorrow.” But on Facebook, a Muslim Brotherhood leader, Mohammed el-Beltagi, states, “Seeking martyrdom to prevent the ongoing coup is what we can offer as a sign of gratitude to previous martyrs who died in the revolution.” HotAir.com observes, “It’s easy to draw the conclusion from the size of the mammoth anti-Morsi protests in Cairo that the people are entirely against him. Not true. The Islamists waited decades to take power in Egypt. They’re not ready to hand it back after two years...” [46189]

The U.S. embassy in Cairo, Egypt remains closed for a third consecutive day, and CNSNews.com reports, “Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr became the fifth cabinet minister to resign in two days; a former armed forces chief of staff said he was resigning as an advisor to [President Mohamed] Morsi and throwing his support behind opposition protestors; and the Salafist Nour party, once allied to the Muslim Brotherhood, also joined calls for early elections.” [46194]

At FoxNews.com Chris Stirewalt writes, “...Obama has reached that unhappy moment in which his best defenders are the cynics. The world-weary porters of low expectations for

political courage and reform are rousing themselves to [his] defense, telling his detractors left and right to demand less of Obama. ...The idol of 2008, a healer of the Age of Oprah, dissolved faster in the eyes of the American people. The man who promised that we could 'be the change' we wanted if we only could 'believe,' had been mostly replaced by 2010 with a guy who often explained that things were much worse than he thought and that we could only 'be the change' if Republicans stopped being so Republican-y. ...As problems foreign and domestic overtake [his] second term, Obama's defenders are turning into apologists. Yes, the IRS is a thoroughgoing disaster and the Department of Justice was out of line. And sure, nobody likes having Big Brother listening in. And of course, the Arab Spring is Islamist chaos. And who wouldn't expect Syria to be an al Qaeda nightmare? And naturally, the Russians and Chinese are rubbing our noses in the NSA mess. And certainly, the implementation of the health law is a 'train wreck.' And of course, every now and then a political appointee will be accused of sex crimes. But the bureaucracy is impossible, they say. And America's stature in the world isn't what it used to be, so [Obama] is bound to get punked from time to time by Vladimir Putin. Republicans are impossible and implacable because politics today are 'unworthy.' The guy is doing his best with a terrible situation, okay, so just give him a break. The point at which defenders become apologists and the cynics hold sway is the point at which the central argument becomes that the task of leadership is simply impossible." [46200]

Author and Middle East expert Raymond Ibrahim reports, "Sheikh Hazim Abu Ismail, an important figure among Egypt's Islamists, who bridged between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafis—and who was even a former 2012 presidential candidate, before being disqualified—has been arrested. The report does not indicate why Abu Ismail was arrested. But it is interesting to note that his name—along with President Morsi and other prominent Egyptian Islamists—was mentioned in a recent Libyan report as being involved in the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi. As news was announced that the anti-freedom, Sharia-pushing sheikh had been arrested, Egyptian protesters in front of the presidential palace celebrated by shooting fireworks and chanting 'Still more! Still more!'—a reference to other Islamist leaders, namely of the Muslim Brotherhood, that many Egyptian protesters hope to hear are soon returned to their prison cells." (Within hours, in fact, additional prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood are arrested in Egypt.) [46203]

William W. Taylor III, attorney for IRS official Lois "Plead the Fifth" Lerner, tells Politico she will testify before Congress about the agency's discriminating against conservative groups only if she is granted immunity from prosecution. [46212, 46221]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service investigators working on the federal government's probe into the IRS targeting scandal have not contacted any of the conservative groups involved in a class-action lawsuit against the tax agency. 'No one from the FBI or the IRS investigative team has contacted any of the 41 conservative groups we represent or any of our attorneys,' American Center for Law and Justice spokesman Gene Kapp told The Daily Caller. ACLJ is representing tea party and other conservative groups in the lawsuit." [46215]

The Senate Intelligence Committee releases a letter from James Clapper, Obama's Director of National Intelligence, in which he claims he falsely testified that the government was not spying on the telephone records of U.S. citizens only because he "simply didn't think of Section 215 of the Patriot Act." (That is, "I said we weren't spying on Americans because I forgot that we were spying on Americans." *The Obama Timeline* does not suggest that any American tell the IRS, "I did not pay my taxes because I forgot there was an income tax.") [46220]

A June 20–24 Gallup poll shows that only 48 percent of Americans believe Obama "shares their values." The general consensus is that Americans find him likeable (76 percent) but less than competent, with only 44 percent believing he "can manage government effectively," 38 percent believing he "has a clear plan for solving the country's problems," and 40 percent believing he "works well with both [political] parties in Washington." [46318, 46319]

The Wall Street Journal reports, "Florida State's Attorney Angela Corey has been indicted by a citizens' grand jury, convening in Ocala, Florida, over the alleged falsification of the arrest warrant and complaint that lead [sic' led] to George Zimmerman being charged with the second degree murder of African-American teenager Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. The indictment of Corey, which was handed down last... charges Corey with intentionally withholding photographic evidence of the injuries to George Zimmerman's head in the warrant she allegedly rushed to issue under oath, in an effort to boost her reelection prospects. At the outset of this case, black activists such as Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, who whipped up wrath against Zimmerman, demanded that he be charged with murder, after local police had thus far declined to arrest him pending investigation. Following Corey's criminal complaint charging Zimmerman, legal experts such as Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz condemned her for falsely signing an arrest affidavit under oath, which intentionally omitted exculpatory evidence consisting of the photographs showing the injuries Zimmerman sustained, and rushing to charge him with second degree murder under political pressure. Dershowitz called her actions unethical and themselves crimes." (A "citizens' grand jury" is one convened by concerned citizens who believe justice is not being served on a particular issue. Their applications to official courts are usually ignored.) [46690, 46691, 46692, 46693]

On July 3 Congressman Steve King (R-IA) says, "If ...Obama wants to make changes to ObamaCare, he must come to Congress. Two years ago, the Obama Administration, through a memo from a Homeland Security Department bureaucrat, declared it would not enforce our nation's immigration laws. Now the Obama Administration, through a blog post by an Assistant Secretary in the Treasury Department, is declaring it won't even enforce its own health care law on employers. We live in a Constitutional Republic. We are a nation governed by laws written by Congress, not memos and blog posts written by bureaucrats." (Obama did not have the courage to announce that he was delaying the implementation of the employer mandate in ObamaCare. Instead, the surprising change was announced by a bureaucrat via the Internet.) King states that Obama "has no constitutional authority to amend his own bill. He has no constitutional authority to simply waive the law. No matter Obama's determination to suspend his own law, only

Congress can do so.” (Obama cannot simply choose to implement some parts of ObamaCare while delaying others. The job of the executive branch of the federal government is to implement and enforce the law, not write or interpret the law.) [46222, 46239]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Philip Klein points out various ways in which the delay of the employer mandate “wreaks havoc” with ObamaCare. “One of the main ways that ...Obama’s health care law plans to expand insurance coverage is by offering subsidies for individuals to purchase insurance on government-run exchanges. There are a number of eligibility requirements attached to the subsidies such as income level and immigration status. But another fundamental requirement is that applicants for federal subsidies must be able to show their employer does not offer health insurance that meets the federal government’s standards for affordability and breadth of benefits. If the employer offers qualifying health insurance, then the worker is not eligible. Yet in its Tuesday announcement, the Treasury Department said it was not only delaying the implementation of the employer mandate, but also the employer insurance reporting requirements. If the Obama administration won’t be making judgments on whether employers are meeting the requirements of Obamacare, how can it assess individuals’ eligibility to receive subsidies to purchase insurance on the exchanges?” [46268, 46269, 46323]

On *CBS This Morning*, John Dickerson comments on the ObamaCare employer mandate delay: “As a political matter, this is not good. It sort of contributes to the feeling that the Affordable Care Act is a jalopy they’re trying to roll out of the driveway here at barely operational for [Obama]. So that’s not good. The White House made the decision, though, [to] take the pain now before the July 4th weekend rather than have all of these stories over the next year of companies that were laying off workers or having such a hard time implementing this. ...The problem for Democrats running is that they’re already weighed down by the feelings people have about this, about this bill and about the opposition from small business and from businesses of all kinds. And though this delay, again, takes this story from being a chronic ailment as it gets implemented, it doesn’t really reduce the fact that in a lot of these states where Democrats are running, red states, this law is unpopular.” [46270]

Home Depot co-founder and former CEO Bernie Marcus tells the Fox Business channel’s Neil Cavuto that ObamaCare “is going to have a very dramatic effect on the way we live our lives. It’s going to hurt every one of them. This is a bad deal for America. It’s a bad deal for business, it’s a bad deal for job creation in America and I don’t know what’s going to happen. I can’t believe the American people don’t understand that their costs are going to go up, that the kind of medical attention in the future is nothing like what they had in the past. ...It just doesn’t make any sense to me. ...Older people, the people who [can] least afford it, the poor people and the single people who voted overwhelmingly for him [Obama] are gonna have to come up and involve themselves in the mandate or they’re gonna pay a fine. ...This [employer mandate delay] is all a political maneuver and it’s bad for America. Why aren’t we thinking about what’s good for the American people? This is very destructive for jobs, it’s very destructive for anybody out there. It’s

only what's good for the politicians and we know there's an election coming up in 2014 and we know that if this thing had gone into effect in 2014, there would have been hell to pay." [46370]

The Wall Street Journal writes, "These columns fought the Affordable Care Act from start to passage, and we'd now like to apologize to our readers. It turns out we weren't nearly critical enough. The law's implementation is turning into a fiasco for the ages, and this week's version is the lawless White House decision to delay the law's insurance mandate for businesses, though not for individuals. The employer mandate is central to ObamaCare's claim of providing universal coverage. Companies with 50 or more 'employee equivalents' must pay a \$2,000 penalty per full-time employee if they don't provide government-approved health insurance. The provision was supposed to start in January, and delaying it is like Ford saying its electric car is ready to go, except the electric battery doesn't work. ... This [delay] is probably an admission that Treasury's information technology isn't ready to process and cross-check paperwork across the 5.7 million businesses in America, especially the pass-through S-corps and partnerships that file under the individual tax code. This is more than a typical government snafu. It relates directly to the design of the law, which was thoughtlessly written and rammed through Congress with instructions for the bureaucracy to figure it all out. And, lo, over eight interim final rules, three final rules, 20 requests for comment, 21 proposed rules, one information collection request, two amendments to the interim final rules, six requests for information and one frequently-asked-questions document, the Administration has created an employer-mandate system that, for example, requires business to track and report every full-time employee's hours of service on a monthly basis." [46271, 46284]

"Meanwhile, the law stipulates that a full-time workweek for the purposes of the mandate is 30 hours, when general business practice is at least 35. The result is that businesses have been scrambling to insulate themselves from higher labor costs by hiring part-time workers, or splitting shifts, or in some industries like fast food even sharing workers. Small firms trying to expand while avoiding the 50-worker trigger have come to be known as 49ers. The delay will help these and other employers avoid immediately higher costs, which is why the main business lobbies endorsed it. But the decision will continue to dampen overall job creation because businesses know they'll still be whacked in a year. Businesses don't hire workers with the intention of sacking them later. The Administration's media cheerleaders are nonetheless portraying this as a stroke of political genius to push all the pain past the 2014 elections. But if that's the goal, it is too clever by half. If Republicans have any sense, they will move immediately to delay the rest of the bill for at least a year too. They should start with the individual mandate to buy insurance or pay a tax. Individuals are only supposed to be eligible for ObamaCare's subsidies if their employer doesn't offer the right benefits. But how will the Treasury know who qualifies in 2014 if they lack the information that businesses are supposed to provide?" [46271]

"Citizens must also pay the individual mandate-tax if they decline coverage from their employer. How will the Treasury verify these offers? Which brings us to the dubious legality of this delay. The Affordable Care Act's Section 1513 states in black-letter law

that ‘(d) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.’ It does not say the Administration can impose the mandate whenever it feels it is politically convenient. This selective enforcement of laws has become an Administration habit. From immigration (the Dream Act by fiat) to easing welfare reform’s work requirements to selective waivers for No Child Left Behind, the Obama Administration routinely suspends enforcement of or unilaterally rewrites via regulation the laws it dislikes. Now it is doing it again on health care, without any consultation from, much less the approval of, Congress. ...Obama probably figures business and Republicans won’t object because they don’t like the law anyway. But Republicans should give Mr. Obama the legal authority to suspend the mandate—in return for other concessions. In addition to forcing votes on suspending the individual mandate-tax, this could include repealing the medical device tax and other harmful provisions. Democrats will find it hard to defend an individual mandate-tax now that businesses are spared. And a delay of one year can easily become two, then three, and then past the next Presidential election. ObamaCare has become a rolling ‘train wreck,’ in Senator Max Baucus’s memorable phrase, and it gets worse the more of it the public sees. The employer mandate is terrible policy, as the law’s critics said before it passed. Now the Administration is all but admitting it can’t implement it properly, and the task for opponents is to press the concession and begin to delay the rest of the law and dismantle it piece by piece.” [46271]

WashingtonTimes.com reports that immigrants “...have accounted for all of the job gains in the U.S. labor market since 2000, according to a report that highlights the stiff competition for jobs in a tight economy as Congress debates adding more workers to the mix. The Center for Immigration Studies report, which is being released Wednesday, says 22.4 million immigrants of working age held jobs at the beginning of this year, up 5.3 million over the total in 2000. But native-born workers with jobs dropped 1.3 million over that same period, from 114.8 million to 113.5 million. Meanwhile, the number of Americans who aren’t in the labor force at all has jumped by almost 13 million to reach 48.6 million—a finding the report’s authors say signals profound changes in the American job market and challenges conventional wisdom that immigration is good for the economy.” [46211]

Millions of Egyptians celebrate as their army removes President Mohamed Morsi from power. Many in the crowd chant, “No more beards!” According to NBCNews.com, “The former leader was placed under house arrest at the Republican Guard Club, a senior adviser to the Freedom and Justice Party and spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood said. Most members of the presidential team have also been placed under house arrest. Egyptian security forces also arrested the head of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Freedom and Justice Party and another of the movement’s top leaders. The commanding general of the armed forces, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, said on Egyptian television that the military was suspending the constitution, which Morsi pushed through and which many Egyptians saw as slanted toward Islamists. ...[Al-Sisi] spoke alongside a leading Sunni Muslim cleric and the head of Egypt’s Coptic Christians, as well as a prominent political opponent of Morsi—Mohamed ElBaradei, the former head of the U.N. nuclear weapons agency. Armored vehicles, tanks and troops deployed throughout the Egyptian capital,

including near the presidential palace. The army seized the headquarters of the state television and the state-run newspaper, which reported that Morsi had been told he was no longer president.” [46224, 46228, 46249, 46276]

Obama states, “As I have said since the Egyptian Revolution, the United States supports a set of core principles, including opposition to violence, protection of universal human rights, and reform that meets the legitimate aspirations of the people. The United States does not support particular individuals or political parties, but we are committed to the democratic process and respect for the rule of law.” (Obama did, of course, support the ouster of Hosni Mubarak in 2011 in deference to the Muslim Brotherhood, so he can hardly say he does not pick sides.) “Since the current unrest in Egypt began, we have called on all parties to work together to address the legitimate grievances of the Egyptian people, in accordance with the democratic process, and without recourse to violence or the use of force.” [46224, 46228, 46231, 46264, 46265]

“The United States is monitoring the very fluid situation in Egypt, and we believe that ultimately the future of Egypt can only be determined by the Egyptian people. Nevertheless, we are deeply concerned by the decision of the Egyptian Armed Forces to remove President Morsi and suspend the Egyptian constitution.” (The military is well respected by most Egyptians and has no desire to take control of the presidency. Adli Mansour, head of the constitutional court, will be acting president until new elections are held.) “I now call on the Egyptian military to move quickly and responsibly to return full authority back to a democratically elected civilian government as soon as possible through an inclusive and transparent process, and to avoid any arbitrary arrests of President Morsi and his supporters.” (Obama has no business deciding which Egyptians have broken the law and warrant arrest.) “Given today’s developments, I have also directed the relevant departments and agencies to review the implications under U.S. law for our assistance to the Government of Egypt.” (The Obama administration unilaterally waived restrictions in aid to the Morsi regime in March 2013 and again, secretly, in April 2013. With his Muslim Brotherhood buddy Morsi removed from office, Obama now suddenly decides he wants to follow the rules for providing aid. PPJMedia.com notes that Obama ignored Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) when he argued that aid to Egypt should be suspended because of Morsi’s human rights violations.) [46224, 46228, 46231, 46264, 46265, 46272]

“The United States continues to believe firmly that the best foundation for lasting stability in Egypt is a democratic political order with participation from all sides and all political parties —secular and religious, civilian and military. During this uncertain period, we expect the military to ensure that the rights of all Egyptian men and women are protected, including the right to peaceful assembly, due process, and free and fair trials in civilian courts.” (Obama calls on the military to respect rights that the Morsi regime abused and ignored.) “Moreover, the goal of any political process should be a government that respects the rights of all people, majority and minority; that institutionalizes the checks and balances upon which democracy depends; and that places the interests of the people above party or faction. The voices of all those who have protested peacefully must be heard—including those who welcomed today’s

developments, and those who have supported President Morsi.” (Obama demanding that the Muslim Brotherhood not be excluded from the political process in Egypt is tantamount to demanding that gang members and drug dealers be represented on the Chicago City Council.) “In the interim, I urge all sides to avoid violence and come together to ensure the lasting restoration of Egypt’s democracy.” [46224, 46228, 46231, 46264, 46265, 46296]

“No transition to democracy comes without difficulty, but in the end it must stay true to the will of the people. An honest, capable and representative government is what ordinary Egyptians seek and what they deserve. The longstanding partnership between the United States and Egypt is based on shared interests and values, and we will continue to work with the Egyptian people to ensure that Egypt’s transition to democracy succeeds.” (Of Obama’s statement, Mary Katherine Ham remarks at HotAir.com, “There’s a dash of ‘let me be clear’ mixed with a classic ‘I’ve consistently supported a vague framework within which this happens to totally fall,’ seasoned with an emphasis on non-violence and a mild brow-furrowing over use of force. The statement does not come to a conclusion on Allah’s approve/disapprove question, but notes ‘deep concern’ and a promise to ‘review’ law governing assistance to Egypt.”) [46224, 46228, 46231, 46264, 46265]

Egypt’s Al-Tahrir newspaper responds to Obama’s remarks with a front page message: “It’s a revolution... not a coup, Mr. Obama.” [46297]

With Mohamed Morsi reportedly under house arrest in Egypt, AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller asks, “Is Obama catering? Or is it palace arrest? No jet setting either for the thug and his jihad homies.” [46250, 46266]

Newsmax.com reports, “Millions of anti-Morsi protesters around the country erupted in celebrations after the televised announcement by the army chief. Fireworks burst over crowds in Cairo’s Tahrir Square, where men and women danced, shouting, ‘God is great’ and ‘Long live Egypt.’ Fearing a violent reaction by Morsi’s Islamist supporters, troops and armored vehicles deployed in the streets of Cairo and elsewhere, surrounding Islamist rallies. Clashes erupted in several provincial cities when Islamists opened fire on police, with at least nine people killed, security officials said. ...Egyptians were angered that Morsi was giving too much power to his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists and had failed to tackle the country’s mounting economic woes.” Meanwhile, pro-Morsi supporters at Cairo University chant anti-Jewish slogans, including, “‘Khaybar, Khaybar, O Jews, the army of Mohamed will return.” (Muslim forces defeated Jews in the 7th century Battle of Khaybar.) [46226, 46244, 46245, 46246]

AtlasShrugs.com reports, “Muslim Brotherhood groups in America, so designated in the largest terrorist funding trial in our nation’s history, the Holy Land trial, are panicky that their mother organization is going down in flames in Egypt. CAIR, ISNA, MSA, MAS, all of them are on a jihad to save the Muslim Brotherhood. It is of course, sheer poetry that the vicious Muslim Brotherhood was overthrown on the eve of Independence day. 80 years ago today, the Muslim Brotherhood was founded. Today, the Egyptians cut the MB’s head off. Hamas-CAIR is utterly inconsolable at the news of Morsi’s ouster—Der

Führer is gone. It is time that the Obama administration, the DoJ, the DoS, and the DoD purged these Muslim Brotherhood operatives from his administration. Obama backed the wrong horse...Obama, tweeted on June 28 that ‘Overthrowing Morsi thru undemocratic means, whether protest or coup, is unacceptable.’” [46247, 46248]

At ForeignPolicy.com Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) writes of the developments in Egypt: “In what has to be one of the most stunning diplomatic failures in recent memory, the United States is—in both perception and reality—entrenched as the partner of a repressive, Islamist regime and the enemy of the secular, pro-democracy opposition. It did not have to be this way. When Morsi was elected a little more than a year ago ...Obama could have expressed strong reservations about a member of the Muslim Brotherhood taking control of the country. He should have also been more aggressive about using American aid to extract concessions from the Egyptian government on human rights, as well as economic and political reform. Instead, Obama made a personal call to congratulate Morsi, characterized his election as a ‘milestone’ in Egypt’s progress toward democracy, and pledged \$1 billion in U.S. taxpayer-funded aid. In the ensuing months, Morsi received a steady stream of assistance from the United States in the form of arms sales, unconditional financial aid, and visits from high-level officials such as Secretary of State John Kerry—all of which enhanced the strength and legitimacy of his regime. Emboldened by U.S. support, Morsi consolidated his power—removing the traditionally pro-American military leadership, imposing an Islamist constitution, marginalizing the judiciary, and turning a blind eye to brutal attacks against religious minorities, including Coptic Christians and Shiite Muslims. Morsi also began to agitate for the release of the ‘blind sheik’ Omar Abdel Rahman, who orchestrated the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Offensive remarks describing Jews as ‘bloodsuckers’ and ‘the descendants of apes and pigs’ soon came to light. Still, the United States continued to place its resources at his disposal—apparently on the grounds that a budding Islamist dictator with a healthy hatred of Israel and America was the appropriate recipient of Abrams tanks and B-16 bombers.” [46273, 46278]

“More recently,” continues Cruz, “as opposition to Morsi coalesced around the Tamarod movement, the Obama administration missed the opportunity to support its efforts and further the vital interests of the United States without firing a shot. Instead, the sole priority seems to be to defuse the situation and preserve the status quo. Ambassador [Anne] Patterson has assumed the leading role in implementing this policy, meeting with members of the opposition not to encourage them to pursue a true secular democracy in Egypt but to try to persuade them to tone things down. Patterson has said she is ‘deeply skeptical’ of their movement. Obama, traveling in Africa on the eve of the protests, offered no words of support. Instead, he admonished the demonstrators to remain peaceful and made the tepid recommendation that Morsi engage in a ‘constructive conversation’ about reform... [Obama’s] comments fall into an all-too-familiar pattern. We are witnessing a moment of real opportunity for reform in Egypt right now, just as we witnessed hopeful moments in Iran in 2009 and Syria in early 2011. In both cases, meaningful change might have been encouraged through robust economic and moral support for the protesters and diplomatic pressure on the regime. But in both cases, the United States opted for a policy of strategic silence.” [46273, 46278]

“The result? In Iran, we saw the window for change snap shut as the mullahs brutally crushed the protests and accelerated their nuclear weapons program. In Syria, hopes that President Bashar al-Assad would turn out to be a reformer proved groundless and the situation descended into chaos. Today, some 100,000 Syrians have been killed, and both Hezbollah and al Qaeda are engaged in a vicious civil war—one [Obama] is now dragging the United States into, albeit with no clear purpose or strategy. Hopefully, we can avoid repeating the same mistake yet again in Egypt. As we prepare to celebrate the 237th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this week, halfway around the globe Egyptians may witness the birth of their own freedoms. It is a great pity that Obama’s policies have provoked so much hostility toward the United States from the very people we should most want to support—and it would be an even greater pity if his accommodation of the Morsy regime helped the Egyptian leader remain in power. Since [Obama] has refused to act, Congress should move quickly to freeze all aid to Egypt that is supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. We should treat with great caution any proposal to deploy U.S. forces to Egypt in response to these events. And we should find the courage to speak out forcefully on behalf of those advocating secular democratic reforms in Egypt.” [46273, 46278]

WhiteHouseDossier.com calls the ObamaCare mandate delay a “crushing blow to Democrats.” Keith Koffler writes, “[H]aving to delay a central component of the law is clear evidence that things are broken. Remember, the individual mandate remains on schedule, and amid the confusion of implementing it, Republicans will now have an opening to argue that the entire law is chaotic and unworkable. Voters will increasingly have the sense that they are being subject to something harmful, written by people who are incompetent. Republicans will be able to propound the general theme that this law is bad for Americans, and that their health care will be in jeopardy once it is subject to bureaucrats who can’t even figure out the rules. In short, something that was supposed to provide a feeling of safety—a guarantee of insurance—will now be viewed as adding to insecurity. ...[T]hose who defend Obamacare have taken a brisk blow to the gut. The White House, which has sought to portray things as moving along nicely, is now all but acknowledging that things are not humming smoothly and that the law may indeed be harmful. Instead of having to try to prove that Obamacare is an unwieldy mess that is damaging businesses and causing unemployment, Republicans can showcase Exhibit A—the Obama administration’s own decision to delay the employer mandate until after the election. It will be hard, with the mess undergirding this law exposed, for Democrats to argue that Congress needs additional Democrats to write such more such bills.” [46225]

WeeklyStandard.com reports, “The House of Representatives will investigate the Obama administration’s sudden decision to delay the employer mandate in Obamacare, leaders in the House Energy and Commerce Committee announced today. ‘House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders today wrote to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, requesting documents and information regarding the administration’s decision to delay full implementation of the health care law’s employer mandate for one year. The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA), has held a series of hearings on the

...health care law and will examine the administration's delay of the employer mandate in the coming weeks,' reads a press release from the committee." Committee chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) states, "Just as the law was crafted out of sight from the American people, the administration is again taking care of some interests behind closed doors while struggling Americans are left to pay for the looming rate shock and grapple with the law's complex mandates. Despite delays and missed deadlines, administration officials had repeatedly testified before Congress that they were still on schedule to implement the law. Yesterday, they admitted that wasn't the case, and it's clear we have no idea the full scope of delays and disarray that may be coming. The American public deserves answers." [46229]

As legislation prohibiting abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy is considered in the Texas State Capitol, pro-life activists sing *Amazing Grace*. Pro-abortion demonstrators counter with chants of "Hail Satan!" (Obama, who repeatedly voted against late-term abortion restrictions as an Illinois state senator, has no comment. The Texas legislation passes on July 9, as pro-abortion demonstrators chant, "fuck the church, not the state!", pro-abortion legislators display wire coat hangers, and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst receives a death threat.) [46230, 46234, 46262, 46374, 46382, 46383, 46384, 46385, 46388]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "White House officials vetoed all public airing of a video of ...Obama thanking the American Library Association Sunday for helping inform the public about Obamacare. 'We were specifically told by the White House to only show it [the video] once to conference attendees, and [the] White House said we aren't able to send it out,' Jazzy Wright, Press Officer for ALA's Washington, D.C. office, told the Washington Examiner. The ALA, which is a tax-exempt 501(C)(3) foundation, agreed last weekend during its annual meeting in Chicago to help [Obama] get the word out about Obamacare. As a result of the partnership between Obama and the group, librarians across the country will be 'navigators' handing out White House-approved information about the new government health insurance program. In the video, [Obama] thanked conference attendees 'for helping enroll for health insurance as part of the Affordable Care Act,' according to the ALA's blog. A White House spokesman declined to comment when asked why the ALA was instructed not to show the video after its single airing." [46308, 46309]

Attorney Orly Taitz issues a press release: "By a very interesting coincidence today, right after filing a legal action against the Postmaster General and Inspector General, Attorney Taitz received a response from the Office of the Inspector General of the USPS David Williams. According to the response attached below they received the criminal complaint and DVD sent by Taitz in regards to a fabricated cancellation US Postal stamp affixed to the fabricated Selective Service Certificate issued to Barack Obama. They acknowledged that they received the criminal complaint in May of 2012 and Inspector General forwarded it to the Fraud Division and demanded to advise him of any action taken within 30 days. Referral to the USPIS-Mail Fraud division was made on 06.29.2012. 30 days expired on 07.29.2012, nearly a year ago. Taitz will be submitting a new FOIA request and demanding to know what action was taken by the fraud division. Cases are

starting to unravel. Employees at the bottom of the chain of command do not want to go to prison or to the gallows for complicity to commit treason, usurpation of the U.S. Presidency, identity theft, forgery, USPS fraud, elections fraud. Attorney Taitz continues a targeted and precise campaign of multiple FOIA requests and legal actions involving multiple federal agencies and multiple corresponding information release/transparency state agencies in a number of states to expose and prosecute Barack Hussein Obama and his accomplices for fraud, forgery, ID fraud, ID theft, elections fraud, usurpation of the U.S. Presidency and treason.” [46232]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Egyptian police have orders to arrest 300 leaders and members of Mohamed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood after the army deposed the Islamist president on Wednesday, the website of the official Al-Ahram newspaper reported early Thursday. A senior interior ministry official confirmed to AFP that arrest warrants have been issued for ‘Muslim Brotherhood members,’ but provided no further details. Earlier officials said that security forces had arrested on Wednesday two senior Brotherhood leaders close to Morsi. Saad al-Katatni, who heads the Freedom and Justice Party—the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood—and Rashad Bayoumi, the deputy head of the Islamist movement were detained, the officials said.” [46235]

WND.com reports, “Following the ousting today of Mohamed Morsi as Egypt’s president, members of his Muslim Brotherhood are already studying how to form a so-called military wing to carry out terrorist attacks, according to a senior Egyptian security official speaking to WND. The official said the possibilities the Muslim Brotherhood members were discussing include formally renouncing membership in the Muslim Brotherhood so they can direct attacks, including against tourist sites in Egypt. The Brotherhood’s proposed military wing would model itself after Al-Gamaa al-Islamiyya, a notorious Egyptian terror group founded by the Muslim Brotherhood, the official said.” [46236]

At Upright Opinion, Saeed Qureshi writes, “[W]hat the people of Egypt expected of the new government [when Morsi was elected in 2012] was not achieved. The people wanted civil liberties, social independence, and a combination of secular and Islamic culture. They wanted revolutionary changes for recovery of the economy and to refurbish Egyptian role as a leading power in the Middle East. Primarily Muhammad Morsi, as a staunch leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, could not go beyond a certain limit to secularize the society and to switch over the political paradigm to an entirely western type of democracy. He wavered and got stuck up between an Islamic system of government and a democratic dispensation that would open up the society and free it from ideological barriers. ...[T]he people felt that... they were under the sway of a kind of fundamentalism that was as suffocating and oppressive as the military that ruled over Egypt since Anwar Sadat for 41 years. As if adding insult to injury, president Morsi made certain decisions that were leading towards making him a kind of despot under the farce of democracy. He did not look much different from his hated predecessor who ruled Egypt with an iron hand brooking no opposition. ...Morsi seemed to be too much in a haste to usurp and concentrate powers in his person so as to stifle any opposition that might accrue from his mission of putting Egypt on the path of a rigid Islamic system in

sync with the doctrine and philosophy of the Akhwan-al-Muslimeen (Muslim Brotherhood).” [46237]

Americac2c.com reports that Obama did his best to save Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi: “With a deadline to solve Egypt’s crisis just hours away the United States made a last-minute attempt today to stop the country exploding into civil war. US officials ditched their previous hands-off approach and contacted the opposing sides in Egypt to push for a compromise involving billions of dollars in aid. ...Egyptian generals had set President Mohammed Morsi a deadline of 5pm today to reach an agreement on the demands of liberal protesters or be removed. Democratically-elected Mr. Morsi rejected the ultimatum and his Muslim Brotherhood supporters pledged that an army coup would only pass over their ‘dead bodies.’ The US drive to end the crisis was relayed to Mr. Morsi by Barack Obama in a phone call and was later pressed home by diplomats. Speaking anonymously, officials said the US was urging Egypt’s president to take immediate steps to address opposition grievances, with the offer of billions of dollars in aid if he agreed.” (In other words, Obama offered Morsi billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to crush the Egyptian citizens who were demanding more freedom.) [46238]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “And Obama stands with the Muslim Brotherhood. We will pay dearly for the MB stooge in the White House. [The Egyptian Army’s Supreme Council states,] ‘We swear to God that we will sacrifice even our blood for Egypt and its people, to defend them against any terrorist, radical or fool.’ Hard to know if they are talking about Obama or Morsi. The Obama regime is constantly on the phone, working to save MB dictator Morsi. Too bad he didn’t do the same to save Ambassador Chris Stevens and Navy Seals in Benghazi. There too he covered for the jihadists.” [46251]

The U.S embassy in Cairo, Egypt orders a mandatory evacuation of all “non-essential” employees. [46240]

Ben Shapiro writes at Breitbart.com, “As the Egyptian military effectively declared a coup, overthrowing the elected government of repressive Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi, the Obama administration struggled to come up with a coherent strategy to deal with the situation. ...Obama released a statement on Morsi’s ouster, suggesting that his administration ‘does not support particular individuals or political parties, but we are committed to the democratic process and respect for the law.’ With those principles in mind, Obama declared himself ‘deeply concerned’ and called for a transition to civilian rule. He refused to state whether the United States would withdraw aid to Egypt, saying only that he had directed a comprehensive review process. Simultaneously, the State Department, which issued a mandatory evacuation order to non-essential personnel on Wednesday, said it would not take sides in the Egyptian situation. ‘We haven’t taken sides and don’t plan to take sides here,’ said State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki.” (The Obama administration did, of course, take sides in 2011 when it called for Hosni Mubarak to leave office.) Shapiro concludes that Obama “isn’t even leading from behind at this point, simply because he can’t tell which direction is behind.” [46242]

According to CBS, Secretary of State John Kerry reportedly “attended” a meeting about the situation in Egypt via a secure telephone from his yacht in Nantucket Sound. The State Department laughably denies the claim that Kerry was relaxing on his luxury yacht, but numerous photographs prove the validity of the report. (On July 5 Kerry is again spotted on his yacht, which he should perhaps rename “Nero’s Fiddle.”) [46242, 46267, 46281, 46289, 46292]

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) tells Newsmax.TV, “The Obama administration has thoroughly failed when it comes to handling the post-Arab Spring revolution. They’ve bet on the wrong folks time and time again. Many of us in Congress were saying: ‘Guys, look at the Muslim Brotherhood. This is a group that’s going to take over—and it’s not going to be what you think.’ ...The Obama administration is adrift when it comes to policy in the Middle East or North Africa. Morsi came in with the Muslim Brotherhood. What does that mean? They were anti-Christian, anti-minority, anti-women—and one year after Morsi won in ‘his election’ and all of the millions of dollars that the Obama administration badly wasted in this government, the people have risen up and said: ‘No, you have failed us. We want you out. We want to try again.’ ...It is way past time to suspend the [economic] aid [to Egypt]. Why are we giving money to theocratic regimes or to autocratic regimes? It’s not like we don’t have a lot of problems here at home. Let’s use the money wisely. Let’s leverage it so we can help countries become stronger and freer and more democratic, which is in our national-security interest. Giving money to someone who’s a thug and wishing and hoping and praying that they’re going to turn into a Jeffersonian Democrat is wrongheaded. It’s foolish and it’s never worked—and it’s [been] proven again with Egypt. ...[The Obama administration gave] money away as if they were Santa Claus, giving people millions of millions of dollars. We need transparency. We need accountability. We need to see that the money that we’re using to help us build friendships and keep our country strong is a really effective way of using American taxpayer dollars. ...We gave Morsi a lot of money. We just threw that money down a rabbit hole. It’s wasted.” [46263]

AtlasShrugs.com reports, “The president of Bolivia [Evo Morales] was in Russia for a meeting and when he departed on the return to Bolivia, his plane was denied overflight rights by France, Spain, Portugal and Austria. This caused a low-fuel situation and a clear life-threatening safety issue forcing him to land in Austria. This was all caused by the notion that he had smuggled NSA leaker Edward Snowden aboard at the Moscow airport to whisk him out of the country to asylum in Bolivia. Allegedly, these flight denials were ordered by the United States. Austria searched the plane on the tarmac and found no Snowden aboard. Recall that Obama said he wasn’t ‘...going to scramble jets to find a hacker...’ in an attempt to play it cool. What a fraud. If this is true, it is yet another example of the disastrous and embarrassing foreign policy of Obama, who has alienated our allies while enabling our enemies and has made America the laughing stock of this entire planet. When are Americans going to wake up? Obama still enjoys healthy approval ratings (46%). It’s nuts. He is a disaster.” [46252, 46253, 46254, 46255, 46256, 46257, 46258]

At NYPost.com Michael Goodwin writes, “From Afghanistan to Iran to Egypt to Libya to Syria and now back to Egypt again, ...Obama has resembled a weather vane. Over and over again, he waits to see which way the wind is blowing, then races to get ahead of the storm. When it changes direction, he does, too. If he had been top dog in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776, American independence would have died waiting. [Obama’s] problem is that he can’t decide whose side he’s on. The lack of a perfect social order, as he defines it, leads him into paralysis and dead ends, such as the one in Libya, where aides boasted he was ‘leading from behind.’ When Syria’s butcher crossed Obama’s ‘red line’ by using chemical weapons, [Obama’s] fumbling response was that of a lawyer looking for a loophole. His belated decision to send small arms to some Syrian rebels means he aims to delay defeat instead of going for victory. It’s a pattern he follows around the globe, even when it involves our troops in Afghanistan. Confused by imperfection and lacking principled clarity about America’s interests, he can’t bring himself to join a side. Obama is lost because the real world is too messy for his utopian dreams. And his compass is distorted by the need for self-aggrandizement. ...Obama made a hash of foreign policy because his worldview is so warped and his experience so limited. His starting point, that America needed to apologize for its arrogance, reflects a naiveté about history and human nature. ...American Exceptionalism has been a blessing and a burden on this great nation. From our founding, we recognized ourselves as different, and that belief gradually conferred a special duty to the world. [But Obama] more often than not, rejects the very notion of American Exceptionalism. In effect, he has not joined the side he’s on. Unless he embraces America’s unique role, and does it soon, his mistake will become the world’s tragedy.” [46290, 46291]

On July 4 Obama delivers an unenthusiastic reading of a sophomoric Independence Day statement: “On July 4th, 1776, a small band of patriots declared that we were a people created equal—free to think and worship and live as we please. It was a declaration heard around the world—that we were no longer colonists, we were Americans, and our destiny would not be determined for us; it would be determined by us. It was a bold and tremendously brave thing to do. It was also nearly unthinkable. At that time, kings and princes and emperors ruled the world. But those patriots were certain that a better way was possible. And to achieve it—to win their freedom—they were willing to lay it all on the line. Their lives. Their fortunes. Their sacred honor. They fought a revolution. Few would have bet on our side to win. But for the first of many times to come, America proved the doubters wrong. And now, 237 years later, the United States—this improbable nation—is the greatest in the world. A land of liberty and opportunity. A global defender of peace and freedom. A beacon of hope to people everywhere who cherish those ideals. Generations of Americans made our country what it is today—farmers and teachers, engineers and laborers, entrepreneurs and elected leaders—people from all walks of life, from all parts of the world, all pulling in the same direction. And now we, the people, must make their task our own—to live up to the words of that Declaration of Independence, and secure liberty and opportunity for our own children, and for future generations.” (Arguably, what made America great was its citizens *not* “pulling in the same direction,” but following their individual dreams.) [46287]

Abdul Rahman Ali Alharbi attends July 4 activities at the White House. (GlennBeck.com later notes that Alharbi was “once a person of interest in the Boston Marathon bombing... He was at one time placed on a watch list and was at one point labeled a threat to national security by the State Department. What in the world was he doing [at the White House]?” [46395, 46396]

Director Oliver Stone, visiting a film festival in the Czech Republic, says, “It’s a disgrace that Obama is more concerned with hunting down [Edward] Snowden than reforming these George Bush-style eavesdropping techniques.To me, Snowden is a hero, because he revealed secrets that we should all know, that the United States has repeatedly violated the Fourth Amendment. He should be welcomed, and offered asylum, but he has no place to hide because every country is intimidated by the United States. This should not be. This is what’s wrong with the world today, and it’s very important that the world recognizes and gives asylum to Snowden. Everyone in the world is impacted by the United States’ Big Brother attitude toward the world. ...We need countries to say no to the United States. The United States is the dominant power in the universe, with its eavesdropping abilities, cyber abilities, and the world is in danger with our tyranny.” [46274]

Angry over the removal of Mohamed Morsi from power, Salafis and supporters of the Muslims Brotherhood loot the homes of Coptic Christians and attempt to burn down St. George parish in the village of Delgia, Egypt. Morsi supporters burn at least 23 homes belonging to Coptic Christians. (Obama, whose ambassador to Egypt Anne Patterson previously called on Coptic Christian *not* to demonstrate against the Morsi regime, has no comment.) [46028, 46029, 46030, 46074, 46175, 46195, 46279, 46280, 46298, 46315, 46316]

WND.com reports, “Seven members of Hamas were arrested in Cairo after being caught with explosive-laden cars meant to be used in a series of attacks in Egypt, according to a senior Egyptian intelligence official speaking to WND. The official said the Hamas gunmen were working in conjunction with members of the Muslim Brotherhood pending a decision by leaders within the Islamist group to order attacks in retaliation for the military’s ouster of Mohamed Morsi as president following days of massive popular protests.” (Obama has no comment.) [46299]

On July 5 thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters of ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi demonstrate at the Raba Al Adaawya mosque in Cairo. [46276, 46285, 46356]

In a test of the ground-based midcourse defense system (GMD), an interceptor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base fails to intercept and destroy a missile launched from the Marshall Islands. CNSNews.com notes, “The last successful GMD test took place in December 2008, when an interceptor missile launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. intercepted and destroyed a long-range ballistic missile target launched in Alaska minutes earlier. Since then there have been three failed tests of the

system...” Republican legislators blame the failure on Obama’s decision to slash funding for the GMD program. [46473, 46499]

The Department of Labor reports that the economy created 195,000 jobs in June. The unemployment rate remains 7.6 percent. (Although the 195,000 figure is higher than what many economists expected, it is nowhere near enough to help the economy recover—with about 12 million Americans unemployed and more millions working only part-time because they cannot find full-time employment. In fact, the number of Americans moving from full-time to part-time work in June increased by 322,000—most likely as a result of many employers reducing the hours of employees in order to avoid ObamaCare requirements. More than 4.3 million Americans are working part-time but want full-time jobs. The U-6 rate—the combined percentage of unemployed, discouraged, and underemployed workers surged from 13.8 to 14.3 percent. There were 780,000 “discouraged” workers in May—people who gave up looking for employment.) [46286, 46300, 46317, 46437, 46525]

Obama blames George W. Bush for the weak jobs reports, with a statement from economic advisor Alan B. Krueger noting the “deep hole that was caused by the severe recession that began in December 2007.” [46320, 46321]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) whines that the U.S. economy is suffering because the federal government is not spending enough money. Reid states, “We need to continue advancing policies that spur growth and create jobs. It’s time for Republicans to let go of their failed austerity policies that weigh down our economy and prevent a speedier recovery. We simply can’t cut our way to prosperity.” (Since Obama entered the White House, federal spending has been between 22–25 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product—higher than all but two years since World War II. CNSNews.com notes, “During the eight years that George W. Bush was president for example (2001-2008), the federal government spent 18.2 percent, 19.1 percent, 19.7 percent, 19.6 percent, 19.9 percent, 20.1 percent, 19.7 percent, and 20.8 percent of GDP. At no time, during the Bush years, did federal spending hit even as high as 21 percent of GDP.”) [46369]

Obama plays golf at Andrews Air Force Base. [46320, 46321]

At CBSNews.com Sharyl Attkisson reports, “Marine Corps Col. George Bristol was in a key position in the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) chain of command the night of the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. As such, he’s high on the list of people [who] some Republican members of Congress want to interview. But they don’t know where he is and the Pentagon isn’t telling. Pentagon spokesman Major Robert Firman told CBS News that the Department of Defense ‘cannot compel retired members to testify before Congress.’” Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) states, “They say he’s retired and they can’t reach out to him. That’s hogwash. ... We will end up talking to [Bristol] at some point. He had a very important role and we want to talk to him about it. ... All this raises concern when there’s so much resistance to letting us speak with him.” [46288]

According to the Associated Press, the presidents of Venezuela and Nicaragua say they are were willing to grant asylum to National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden. [46302]

On July 6 Steven Ahle, editor of Red Statements, writes at DCClothesline.com, “For decades... the Muslim Brotherhood were known terrorists. For some strange reason, they ceased to be terrorists when Obama was inaugurated. President Hosni Mubarak may have been a tyrant but the people of Egypt were working and the US had a staunch ally who worked closely with the US. Like Jimmy Carter before him, Obama determined that a radical Muslim extremist government would be beneficial to the people of Egypt. With just a little support from Obama, Mubarak would have remained president. Instead, Obama decided that he would help remove Mubarak and replace him with a terrorist organization. Gee, who would have thought that wouldn’t work? The Muslim Brotherhood took control of Egypt and one of their first acts was to arrest a large group of American social workers. The Brotherhood murdered Christians in the streets and used their terroristic methods to consolidate power. ...Now, the people of Egypt have overthrown the oppressive regime of the Muslim Brotherhood and Obama is ‘upset.’ He is ‘troubled’ by the arrest of members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Why? Perhaps because he invested a lot in ensuring the Muslim Brotherhood had the full support of our government over the objections of congress, republicans and democrats alike. He supplied the MB with cash, F-16 fighters, Abrams tanks, and 140,000 tear gas canisters. No matter what atrocity the government perpetrated, they had his backing. And now that the Egyptian people have taken back their country from the terrorists, Obama says he has to reevaluate US aid. Terrorists good. Free people bad. Congress must rise up and take the decision out of Obama’s hands and nurture the new Egyptian government and support their efforts to rid themselves of the terrorists. Egypt must be allowed to follow their own path, rather than Obama’s.” [46303]

Dave Jolly writes at GodfatherPolitics.com, “Barack Obama gave US support in the overthrow of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Before the democratic elections could be held last year in Egypt, Obama through his support behind the radical Islamic terrorist group, the Muslim Brotherhood. Mohamed Morsi was elected president of Egypt and was sworn into office on June 30, 1012. ...Obama continued to offer tons of support to Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood. With Obama’s support, Morsi launched an all-out war against Egypt’s Coptic Christians. Morsi announced that he intended to re-establish the Islamic Caliphate and Obama continued to support him with hundreds of millions of dollars and military aid against the will of Congress. Morsi and his cabinet were seen on live television saying that the US was just as much an enemy as was Israel and that they needed to fight against us, and yet Obama continued to support him. According to the US Constitution, that support [giving aid and comfort to the enemy] is defined as treason, but sadly our Congress is too gutless to do anything about it.” [46305, 46306]

Jolly continues, “On July 4, 2013, Mohamed Morsi was ousted from office after he failed to comply with certain requirements placed upon him by the Egyptian military. Morsi may have won the election a year earlier, but after his ouster, it seems that a majority of

the Egyptian people were celebrating. Their tyrannical president was gone and they saw new hope. ...The people of Egypt are obviously more astute than millions of Americans. They see Barack Obama for what he is and for what he does. They knew first hand that Obama supported terrorism and radical Islamists. They saw firsthand the human rights violations carried out by the people that Obama supported. I wonder what the Egyptian people and military would do if Obama were to visit Egypt now? Would they welcome him with open arms or would they go after him to charge him with crimes against their people for his support of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood? I just wish the American people would see Obama for what he is like the Egyptian people see him. I wonder how long he would last in office. Would the people demand impeachment or arrest for crimes against the people of Egypt and the US? We can only hope that what happened to Obama's buddy Morsi is an omen for what's in store for Obama and his future." [46305]

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) calls on Obama to suspend \$1.5 billion in annual financial aid to Egypt because of the removal of president Mohamed Morsi. McCain says, "We cannot repeat the same mistakes that we made at other times in our history by supporting the removal of freely elected governments." (Neither McCain nor Obama had a problem giving Morsi cash while he was in office and suppressing the rights of Egyptians.) [46311]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller notes that Obama "had no public schedule July 3, July 4, July 5, July 6, July 7, July 8, July 9, July 10, July 11, July 12, July 13, July 14, July 15, July 16, July 17, July 18, July 19, July 20, July 21 (it goes on and on)—he has nothing scheduled for the summer. What the hell does this man do? I don't expect him to be a Lincoln (even though he compares himself to him). Lincoln would meet and talk to Americans every day of his Presidency. This is absurd." [46312]

Islamist militants murder a teacher and 29 students at a boarding school in the village of Mamudo in Nigeria. According to USAToday.com, "Some of the pupils were burned alive in the latest school attack blamed on a radical terror group, survivors said. Parents screamed in anguish as they tried to identify the charred and gunshot victims. ...The gunmen are believed to be from the Boko Haram sect whose name means 'Western education is sacrilege.'" (The Obama administration has refused to designate Boko Haram a terrorist organization.) [45844, 45845, 45846, 46074, 46094, 46313, 46314, 46457]

On July 7 NBC's Chuck Todd says on *Meet the Press*, "The White House, now, I have—they had been *so* confident they were gonna [sic] sign immigration reform this year, [but] for the first time I'm... I'm hearing that it... there is some doubt seeping in, that they think that maybe the House won't act—what they need is, they need a... they need something to sort of force [House Speaker John] Boehner to, like [sic] at the last minute bring it to the floor the same way that the fiscal cliff deal happened. The problem is there's no trigger at the end of the year; there isn't the end of this Congress; there isn't this—so I don't know how this happens by the end of this year and suddenly now the White House doesn't see a path to how this happens." [46322]

On *Face the Nation*, Reuters journalist David Rohde comments, “I don’t know how this happened, but it was terrible optics. The next day [after the turmoil in Egypt, Obama] goes golfing, [and] Secretary [of State John] Kerry’s out on his yacht. What does that say to young people in Egypt, across the Middle East—whether they’re part of the debate—about America’s interest in the region, [and] in democracy?” [46343]

On *Fox News Sunday*, senior political analyst Brit Hume says, “I think there’s a good chance that the employer mandate [in ObamaCare] never takes effect. ...[Y]ou could implement the rest of it. The problem is we’re dealing with two laws, we’re doing the health care law and the law of unintended consequences. And the unintended consequences abound here. ...[O]ne of the important ones is that, you know, businesses are... changing their hiring practices to try to avoid having enough employees... to be under the mandate. So you’re getting part time work—an explosion in the hiring of part-time workers. Well, this is certainly not what the administration intended or the Democrats in Congress who rammed the bill through intended. So this is a situation where the law as written probably can’t work. Pieces of it [may] sort of fall away or be postponed or whatever. So, you know, some legislative changes [may be put into] effect, or I think the whole thing may simply collapse.” [46375]

Newsmax.com reports, “The Obama administration has scaled back another of its key healthcare rules, delaying a requirement that verifies the income levels of those seeking taxpayer subsidies until after the 2014 midterm elections. Instead, the new insurance marketplaces operated by states and the District of Columbia will take the consumer’s word that they qualify for the subsidies, The Washington Post reported. The announcement came on Friday without fanfare with the Department of Health and Human Services publishing the notification in the Federal Register.” HotAir.com comments, “Well, I can’t imagine what could possibly go wrong there. I mean, if you need to be below a particular income and not have access to a particular level of employer provided coverage to qualify for a chance to dip into the taxpayer funded coffers, we don’t need to check things like that, do we? Nobody would be such a scofflaw as to violate the ‘honor system’ in America. Wait... are you really saying this is going to run on the honor system?” (WhiteHouseDossier.com suggests that the delay in the employer mandate and its enforcement mechanism is an effort by Obama to get more people to sign up for federal insurance at the ObamaCare exchanges. That is, many Americans may obtain taxpayer-subsidized health insurance by lying about their income at the exchanges, and “Millions may sign up who don’t qualify. ...Once our citizens start getting their new subsidized gifts, they will be LOATHE TO GIVE THEM BACK. The Obama people know that. It’s the guiding principle of the whole welfare state: Roll out the benefits, and let the Republican just try to roll them back!”) [46323, 46325, 46326, 46346, 46347, 46365]

Teresa Simoes-Ferreira Heinz Kerry, wife of Secretary of State John Kerry, is taken to the hospital and is reported to be in “critical but stable condition.” The nature of her illness is not disclosed. [46327, 46328, 46329]

MrConservative.com wonders if Obama is “mentally unstable” and provides support for the claim from Obama’s actions and from statements in his book, *Dreams From My Father*. [46330]

In Turkey, hundreds of thousands attend an anti-government peace concert to protest the Islamist regime of Obama’s favorite foreign leader, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. They are met by police who toss tear gas canisters into the crowd. Amateur video footage shows people with machetes attacking demonstrators. [46331, 46332, 46333, 46355, 46391]

In India, Muslim terrorists stage a bomb attack against the Bodh Gaya temple complex, the holiest site for Buddhists. (Obama has no comment.) [46334, 46335]

In Alexandria, Egypt, Islamists throw two teenaged boys head first off a roof for celebrating the ouster of President Mohamed Morsi. (Obama has no comment.) [46336, 46357]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A State Department officer has been accused of selling visas for sex and money in what may have been a massive human trafficking operation, The Daily Caller has learned. The State Department acknowledged last week that one of its officials is the target of a probe over ‘allegations of improprieties relating to a Consular Officer formerly assigned to Georgetown, Guyana’ without providing further details. Local media are also claiming the official, who was recently withdrawn from normal duties pending completion of an official investigation, associated with drug lords as part of his visa scam. The scandal began when executives and tourists complained that their visa applications were being held up, and local media began reporting that a visa official was demanding bribes and sex in exchange for visas. ...[Edy] Duran has been ‘accused of selling visas to many corrupt businessmen [and] drug dealers ...for as low as US\$15,000,’ according to a news report in the Guyana Observer News. ‘The Feds have not stumbled on concrete evidence on the issue of money for visas, but sufficient evidence on the sex for visas.’” [46339]

Jeff Cohen, a former senior producer for MSNBC, writes at Alternet.org. “When it comes to issues of U.S. militarism and spying, the allegedly ‘progressive’ MSNBC often seems closer to the ‘official network of the Obama White House’ than anything resembling an independent channel. With a few exceptions... MSNBC has usually reacted to expanded militarism and surveillance by downplaying the abuses or defending them. Had [John] McCain or [Mitt] Romney defeated Obama and implemented the exact same policies, treating whistleblowers like [Bradley] Manning and [Edward] Snowden as foreign espionage agents, one would expect MSNBC hosts to be loudly denouncing the Republican abuses of authority. ...For the most part, the left is perfectly okay with MSNBC being a branch of the Obama White House on every other issue. It is only on issues the left disagree with, like this spying business, that brings out the complaints. MSNBC is at least being consistent.” [46348, 46349]

Despite the fact that there is close to zero chance that his immigration legislation will pass in the House of Representatives, Obama plans “battleground states” trips to drum up public support for amnesty. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that Obama “will also try to convince reticent Republican lawmakers that the GOP’s viability as a national party with aspirations of winning back the White House is linked to the fate of the bill, White House officials said. ...As he travels to presidential swing states, Mr. Obama won’t attempt to pressure particular House members, but rather underscore the point that the GOP must improve its standing among Latino voters if it hopes to win presidential races down the road, White House officials said. He will go to ‘areas that Republicans hope to do better in and need to do better in,’ one White House official said. (It is absurd, of course, for anyone to believe that Obama would offer advice that is helpful to Republican candidates. He simply wants millions of illegal immigrants turned into Democrat-voting U.S. citizens.) [46358, 46359]

On July 8 Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) writes in *The Wall Street Journal*, “...Obama’s decision last week to suspend the employer mandate of the Affordable Care Act may be welcome relief to businesses affected by this provision, but it raises grave concerns about his understanding of the role of the executive in our system of government. Article II, Section 3, of the Constitution states that the president ‘shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.’ This is a duty, not a discretionary power. While the president does have substantial discretion about *how* to enforce a law, he has no discretion about *whether* to do so. ...The only constitutional power the president has to suspend or repeal statutes is to veto a bill or propose new legislation. Writing for the court in *Clinton v. City of New York*, Justice John Paul Stevens noted: ‘There is no provision in the Constitution that authorizes the president to enact, to amend, or to repeal statutes.’ The employer mandate in the Affordable Care Act contains no provision allowing the president to suspend, delay or repeal it. Section 1513(d) states in no uncertain terms that ‘The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 31, 2013.’ Imagine the outcry if Mitt Romney had been elected president and simply refused to enforce the whole of ObamaCare. ...Democrats too may acquiesce in Mr. Obama’s action, as they have his other aggressive assertions of executive power. Yet what will they say when a Republican president decides that the tax rate on capital gains is a drag on economic growth and instructs the IRS not to enforce it? And what of immigration reform? Why bother debating the details of a compromise if future presidents will feel free to disregard those parts of the statute that they don’t like? ...Of all the stretches of executive power Americans have seen in the past few years, [Obama’s] unilateral suspension of statutes may have the most disturbing long-term effects. As the Supreme Court said long ago (*Kendall v. United States*, 1838), allowing the president to refuse to enforce statutes passed by Congress ‘would be clothing the president with a power to control the legislation of congress, and paralyze the administration of justice.’” (Some Democrats also question Obama’s action. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) asks, “This was the law. How can they change the law?”) [46376, 46386]

ArsTechnica.com reports that the Economic Development Administration, an agency within the Department of Commerce, responded to a possible malware infection in its computer systems in late 2011 by destroying “desktop computers but also printers,

cameras, keyboards, and even *mice*. The destruction only stopped—sparing \$3 million of equipment—because the agency had run out of money to pay for destroying the hardware. The total cost to the taxpayer of this incident was \$2.7 million: \$823,000 went to the security contractor for its investigation and advice, \$1,061,000 for the acquisition of temporary infrastructure (requisitioned from the Census Bureau), \$4,300 to destroy \$170,500 in IT equipment, and \$688,000 paid to contractors to assist in development of a long-term response. Full recovery took close to a year. ... The malware that was found was common stuff. There were no signs of persistent, novel infections, nor any indications that the perpetrators were nation-states rather than common, untargeted criminal attacks. [An] audit does, however, note that the EDA's IT infrastructure was so badly managed and insecure that no attacker would *need* sophisticated attacks to compromise the agency's systems." [46400, 46401, 46402]

MyWay.com reports, "The nation's top special operations commander ordered military files about the Navy SEAL raid on Osama bin Laden's hideout to be purged from Defense Department computers and sent to the CIA, where they could be more easily shielded from ever being made public. The secret move, described briefly in a draft report by the Pentagon's inspector general, set off no alarms within the Obama administration even though it appears to have sidestepped federal rules and perhaps also the Freedom of Information Act. ... [S]ecretly moving the records allowed the Pentagon to tell The Associated Press that it couldn't find any documents inside the Defense Department that AP had requested more than two years ago, and could represent a new strategy for the U.S. government to shield even its most sensitive activities from public scrutiny. 'Welcome to the shell game in place of open government,' said Thomas Blanton, director of the National Security Archive, a private research institute at George Washington University. 'Guess which shell the records are under. If you guess the right shell, we might show them to you. It's ridiculous.'" [46340]

The Washington Times reports, "During his recent \$100 million 'working' vacation in Africa ... Obama was upbraided by the president and vice president of his father's native Kenya and got into a very public spat with the president of Senegal, all over homosexual rights and same-sex marriage. On the initial leg of his weeklong trip, Mr. Obama took African nations to task for discriminating against homosexuals. Senegal is one of 38 African nations that criminalize 'consensual same-sex conduct.' With hundreds of journalists watching, Mr. Obama traded barbs with Senegalese President Macky Sall. Mr. Sall told him bluntly: 'We are not ready to decriminalize homosexuality.' Senegal's tabloid press came down firmly on the side of Mr. Macky. The newspaper Liberation, mocking Mr. Obama's 2008 campaign cry, declared: 'No, we can't.' According to a Pew poll, 96 percent of the Senegalese disapprove of the practice of homosexuality. Mr. Obama's gay evangelism continued on the other side of the African continent. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Deputy President William Ruto, at separate religious events Sunday, both rebuffed Mr. Obama's overtures. Mr. Ruto said Kenya, which wasn't even on Mr. Obama's itinerary, 'is a God-fearing nation,' and that it would uphold its strong religious strictures on homosexuality. The Pew poll found 90 percent of Kenyans think homosexuality is wrong. Mr. Obama's gay crusade isn't limited to Africa. Religious leaders in the Dominican Republic are angry over Mr. Obama's nomination of

a homosexual activist to be the ambassador to the Caribbean island nation. The nomination of James Brewster, co-chairman for homosexual issues at the Democratic National Committee, has drawn the wrath of Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez, the Catholic archbishop in the Dominican capital, and other religious leaders there. Vicar Pablo Cedano told The Associated Press that the nomination showed ‘a lack of respect, of consideration, that they send us that kind of person as ambassador.’ They asked Dominican President Danilo Medino to reject the nomination.” [46344]

According to the Department of Agriculture, an estimated 101 million Americans receive food stamps or benefits from one of 14 other federal food programs. CNSNews.com points out, “That means the number of Americans receiving food assistance has surpassed the number of full-time private sector workers in the U.S.” (The food programs cost the taxpayers \$114 billion in 2012.) [46345]

TheHill.com reports, “The Obama administration is urging companies to thoroughly check a person’s eligibility before providing cellphone service that is subsidized by the government. The FCC expressed concerns that wireless companies might be activating phones for the program, known as Lifeline, ‘prior to fully verifying the eligibility of such consumers.’ ...Many of the companies that receive money under the Lifeline service offer free or cheap phones to consumers who participate. The notice from the FCC comes a few weeks after Project Veritas, a conservative organization led by activist James O’Keefe, released a video that shows distributors giving free Lifeline phones to people who said they planned to resell them. One of the recipients said he planned to use it for drug money.” (In other words, O’Keefe shamed the administration into following the law.) [46351]

In an interview with WorldTribune.com, Mike Zullo, the lead investigator for the “cold case posse” investigation of Obama’s birth certificate, says, “We have obtained an affidavit from a certified document analyzer, Reed Hayes, that states the document is a 100 percent forgery, no doubt about it.” According to WorldTribune.com, “This is a key development, asserts Lt. Zullo, because Mr. Hayes [a Democrat] is a certified handwriting analyst and forensic document examiner who worked repeatedly for Perkins Coie, a reputable law firm, and was deemed a dependable professional in their legal cases. Moreover, Perkins Coie has defended Mr. Obama in his legal jousts on the birth certificate matter over the past five years.” Hayes, “who has over 20 years of experience and has authored five books on his craft, presented a detailed 40-page report with a stark assessment: ‘...based on my observations and findings, it is clear that the Certificate of Live Birth I examined is not a scan of an original paper birth certificate, but a digitally manufactured document created by utilizing material from various sources,’ writes Mr. Hayes. ‘In over 20 years of examining documentation of various types, I have never seen a document that is so seriously questionable in so many respects. In my opinion, the birth certificate is entirely fabricated,’ states Mr. Hayes.” [46352, 46595]

Algemeiner.com reports, “Not sated by his anti-Semitism, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has tried his hand at another form of blatant racism. In comments made about Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of the center-left and secular Republican Peoples

Party (CHP), Erdogan declared, ‘Kilicdaroglu is striving every bit he can to raise himself from the level of a black person to the level of a white man.’ The comments were made during a weekly meeting of his Justice and Development Party.” (Erdogan is reportedly Obama’s favorite foreign leader.) [46353, 46354, 46391]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters, “I’ve made it clear, and I’ll make it clear again: the House is not going to take up the [illegal immigrant amnesty] Senate bill. The House is going to do its own job in developing an immigration bill.” [46360]

Reuters reports, “Congressional committees are holding up a plan to send U.S. weapons to rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad because of fears that such deliveries will not be decisive and the arms might end up in the hands of Islamist militants, five U.S. national security sources said. Both the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees have expressed reservations behind closed doors at the effort by ...Obama’s administration to support the insurgents by sending them military hardware.” [46364]

On July 9 FoxNews.com reports, “The IRS mistakenly posted the Social Security numbers of tens of thousands of Americans on a government website, the agency confirmed Monday night. One estimate put the figure as high as 100,000 names. The numbers were posted to an IRS database for tax-exempt political groups known as 527s and first discovered by the group Public.Resource.org. ...The group said the Social Security numbers were largely those of donors, though some were also from people who prepared tax returns to furnish to the IRS.” [46337, 46338, 46350, 46361]

CBSNews.com reports, “The Obama administration—in yet another health care overhaul delay—has quietly notified insurers that a computer system glitch will limit penalties that the law says the companies may charge smokers. A fix will take at least a year to put in place. Older smokers are more likely to benefit from the glitch, experts say. But depending on how insurers respond to it, it’s also possible that younger smokers could wind up facing higher penalties than they otherwise would have.” (CBS does not explain why it will take “at least a year” to fix a “computer glitch.”) [46362, 46363]

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), chairman of the House Budget Committee, asks the Congressional Budget Office to reevaluate the cost of ObamaCare in light of changes announced by the Obama administration. TheHill.com reports, “Experts have suggested that delaying the employer mandate and the consumer income verification requirements could increase the law’s cost by making more people eligible for tax subsidies on the exchanges.” (With the delay of the employer mandate, more Americans will be forced to buy insurance on the federal health care exchanges. With the suspension of the income verification requirement, more Americans will claim they are eligible for federal subsidies to buy insurance—and that will increase the taxpayer cost of ObamaCare.) [46365, 46366, 46367]

At PJMedia.com Patrick Richardson warns that the Dodd-Frank bank reform legislation will “strain community banking” because it fails to consider bank size and “would

require small regional and community banks to adhere to the same rules and regulations as ‘too big to fail’ banks like J.P. Morgan Chase.” (Small community banks, typically with assets of \$250 million or less, simply do not have the manpower to comply with the regulations. While a huge Wall Street bank can add several new compliance officers to deal with the bureaucratic burden of Dodd-Frank, a small bank cannot hire additional employees without having to pass on their cost to local customers.) [46368]

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton tells Newsmax.TV, “The [Egyptian] army did the only thing it could do. The Muslim Brotherhood was engaged in a creeping coup after their election. With millions of people on the street demonstrating against the Muslim Brotherhood and with the Brotherhood on the street demonstrating in favor of [President Mohamed] Morsi, it was only a matter of time before the civilians started mayhem against each other. From the evidence we have, it looks to me like the Muslim Brotherhood provoked it, that they wanted the army to react the way it did. The Brotherhood was looking to create martyrs for its cause. And for well or ill, there are plenty of people in the military who’d be just as happy to help them reach that objective of martyrdom. We’ve got to find a way to keep this calm. Showing a signal of support for the military will certainly keep our leverage where it is now. And the military, sad to say, is the only institution in Egypt that’s capable of restoring peace and getting stability into the equation, which has important ramifications not just in Egypt domestically but for us internationally—keeping the Camp David Peace Accords with Israel in effect, and keeping the absolutely vital Suez Canal open. Morsi’s single-minded pursuit of radical Islamic political theory alienated a lot of the Egyptian people. But if something isn’t done to turn the economy around ...then you’re going to have potentially serious humanitarian problems, shortages of food and the like, and enormous political instability, because of people not having jobs, not having incomes. ... We need to cut through the semantics. Of course it’s a coup. Look at the reality on the ground. The army overthrew Mohammed Morsi. Case closed. There is a law that prohibits American assistance in such circumstances. [Obama], typically, is trying to reinterpret the law to mean something that it doesn’t say. The more honest, more direct approach is for [Obama] to say, ‘I need a congressional fix to this. I need it immediately.’ We shouldn’t let a technicality stand in the way of protecting American interests. We need to get this done. And then I would make sure that the assistance, which is primarily military assistance to the army, keeps flowing.” [46371]

Via Twitter, the Drudge Report’s Matt Drudge reminds readers, “More US troops dead in Afghanistan on O [Obama’s] watch than W. [George W. Bush’s] No urgent NIGHTLINE reading of names. No 60 MINS on disillusioned soldiers. Invisible.” (While Bush was in the White House, 1,209 American troops were killed in Afghanistan. The count under Obama is currently 1,875.) [46372]

At *Ynet News* Hagai Segal berates Secretary of State John “I want a Nobel Peace Prize too” Kerry, writing, “The U.S. cannot make peace between Arabs and other Arabs, yet it believes it can make peace between Israel and the Palestinians. ...Is it possible that John Kerry is more talented than all the American mediators who came before him? Not at all. Kerry’s mediation skills are limited to pressuring Israel to make dangerous concessions

for the sake of negotiations that will lead nowhere. He lacks the intellectual and diplomatic ability to devise a permanent agreement that will satisfy both sides. He is a blind proponent of an impossible vision and is his own candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.” [46373]

Assyrian International News Agency reports, “Syria has invited the United Nations top Syrian chemical weapons investigator and the UN high representative for disarmament to Damascus following the discovery of enough rebel-held chemical weapons to ‘destroy a whole country,’ the Damascus envoy to the world body said on Monday. ...The Syrian government in March accused the rebels in northern Syria of firing a chemical rocket at the town of Khan al-Asal that killed more than 26 people, while Britain, France and the United States alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government. ...The industrial chemicals were listed as 79 barrels of polyethylene glycol (PEG), 67 barrels of mono ethylene glycol, 25 barrels of mono ethanol (or ethanolamine) and 68 barrels of diethanolamine (DEA) and 42 barrels of triethanolamine (TEA).” (In January 2013 AtlasShrugs.com reported, “Leaked emails have allegedly proved that the White House gave the green light to a chemical weapons attack in Syria that could be blamed on Assad’s regime and in turn, spur international military action in the devastated country.”) [46377, 46378]

Supporters of Egypt’s ousted president, Mohamed Morsi, open fire at Mar Mina Church in Port Said, Egypt. (Obama has no comment.) [46379, 46380, 46381]

Obama nominates Matthew Barzun to be the next U.S. ambassador to Great Britain, and John R. Phillips to be ambassador to Italy. (Both Barzun and Phillips are being rewarded for raising cash for the Obama campaigns in 2008 and 2012. Barzun was an Obama campaign finance chairman in 2008 and 2012 who reportedly bundled as much as \$2.3 million in 2012. Phillips, who raised more than \$1 million, is married to Linda Douglas, an ABC reporter who served as communications director in Obama’s Office of Health Reform.) According to CNSNews.com, Obama has rewarded “at least 18 top fundraisers with plum diplomatic positions since 2009”—despite the fact that the Foreign Service Act of 1980 requires that “contributions to political campaigns should not be a factor in the appointment of an individual as a chief of mission” and the positions “should normally be accorded to career members of the Service.” According to Newsmax.com, the law also requires that ambassadors have a “useful knowledge” of the language of the nation where they will serve. It is assumed that Barzun speaks English; whether Phillips speaks Italian is not known. [46389, 46437]

On July 10 Townhall.com’s John Ransom looks at Obama’s decision to delay ObamaCare’s employer mandate and asks, “Are you really this stupid or is this part of some devious plan? ...What got me thinking about this was an interview I did with Cato’s Dan Mitchell... who thought perhaps that when Obama postponed the implementation of the big company mandate, requiring companies to provide healthcare coverage for employees under Obamacare, that Obama got what he really wanted. ‘It’s going to have the perverse effect of throwing more people into these heavily subsidized, unworkable exchanges... which may indeed be what the White House wanted all along,

to create more dependency and more government spending.” The Cato Institute’s ObamaCare expert, Michael F. Cannon, writes, “The decision to delay this mandate suggests that, from the Obama administration’s uniquely informed vantage point, the chaos that will result from its delay will be less than what would result from implementing it when the law requires. The administration doesn’t go around looking for ways to make implementation harder. This decision can only be understood as an effort to take the path of least resistance—and if this is the path of least resistance, then Obamacare itself must be even more chaotic. This decision is the best window we have to see how nervous the administration is about what lies ahead.” Ransom concludes, “So I think that Obama is stupid. It’s just that he gets graded on a curve, and the GOP is stupider still. The genius of Obama is that his opponents are so dumb. And I guess that’s the same thing as genius—in politics at any rate.” [46387]

Kathleen Sebelius, Obama’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, announces \$150 million in grants to health centers to facilitate enrollment in the ObamaCare exchanges. [46390]

In a speech in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke states, “Highly accommodative monetary policy for the foreseeable future is what’s needed in the U.S. economy.” (The stock market responds positively, believing Bernanke means, “I’m going to keep printing money in order to finance the federal government’s debt and delay reality for a while longer.”) [46412]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) was deployed to Sanford, Florida in 2012 to provide assistance for anti-George Zimmerman protests, including a rally headlined by activist Al Sharpton, according to newly released documents. The Community Relations Service (CRS), a unit of DOJ, reported expenses related to its deployment in Sanford to help manage protests between March and April 2012, according to documents obtained by the watchdog group Judicial Watch. ...A Department of Justice spokesperson said that she did not know off the top of her head what CRS’ role was in the anti-Zimmerman protests but is currently trying to figure out that answer.” (As the Zimmerman trial reaches its conclusion, Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton remarks, “The prosecution seems to have a weak case against Zimmerman. These new documents make one wonder if there would have been a prosecution at all but for the pressure organized with the help of the Obama Justice Department.”) Ondray Harris, former director of the Community Relations Service, states, “At CRS headquarters, [I] regularly had to warn or take corrective action against career employees for acting as advocates instead of mediators. Some CRS employees come to the agency with anti-law enforcement or anti-what they would call the ‘white establishment’ [attitudes]. ...I was shocked to learn that one black CRS employee in [the southeast] region told a white CRS employee that the Civil Rights Act was meant for black people, not white people. It is clear that some of the Agency’s employees feel more of an allegiance to the people they perceive to be discriminated against than to the law, the government, or even the CRS mandate.” [46393, 46394, 46406, 46408, 46413, 46414, 46427, 46440, 46603, 46620]

At DCClothesline.com Laurie Sterling suggests that the “recent uprisings in Egypt... appear to be just another false flag operation to finally get the men in power that [George Soros’ International Crisis Group] wanted all along. Mohammed ElBaradei is one of those men. On July 9, 2013, ElBaradei became Egypt’s second in command. He was appointed Vice President of Foreign affairs to rule alongside Hazem Beblawi, for now, anyway! ... There is more to this story than meets the eye and ElBaradei is the one that we should keep our eyes on for now. There are forces behind him who could possibly ‘nudge’ him into the top spot. Don’t forget that ElBeblawi is the interim Prime Minister. ... Mohammed ElBaradei is George Soros’ man. ... The most important question that we can ask now is: where do ElBaradei’s loyalties lie? We know that he is in the pocket of Soros, but it may shock you to know that he has a history of being sympathetic to Iran and its ability to attain nuclear weapons. ... It is no secret in international circles that, as head of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], ElBaradei turned a blind eye to Iran’s desire to become a nuclear nation. ... Further, where Soros is, Obama is usually lurking in the shadows. It seems no coincidence that Obama has snubbed Netanyahu time and time again and turned a blind eye to Iran’s nuclear ambitions. More of Obama’s involvement in this matter will be revealed in the coming days. The mainstream media will do its best to spin ElBaradei as a leader for human rights, but he is simply a front man for Iran, Soros and United Nations. So, watch closely in the next few weeks and months. Keep your eye on ElBaradei. This sinister web is unraveling and more will be revealed. Please stay tuned and informed. There is more to this story... much, much more.” [46397]

According to NationalReview.com, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) called on his fellow House Republicans to “pass a one-year delay of the [ObamaCare] individual mandate to go along with an employer-mandate delay.” Cantor reportedly stated, “After both bills pass we combine them into one bill to send to the Senate. On the delay of the employer mandate, we will make the point that [Obama] doesn’t have the authority to just ignore the law. It will also force Democrats into the position of supporting or opposing [Obama].” (Obama has no legal authority to delay the employer mandate because the ObamaCare legislation requires that it go into effect January 1, 2014. Obama cannot arbitrarily ignore parts of the law; he cannot “pick and choose.” In fact, Article II, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution *requires* that all presidents “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”) [46398, 46411]

WND.com reports, “A letter by a top Libyan official blames the attack that killed U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens on Mohamed Morsi, the now deposed president of Egypt. WND has verified the authenticity of the letter by Col. Mahmoud al-Sharif, the chief of the Department of Security of the Libyan government in Tripoli, written four days after the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi. The letter mentions Morsi as being implicated in the planning that led to the Benghazi attack and identifies the Egyptian jihadist group Ansar Sharia as the group responsible.” [46399]

In Egypt, Islamist supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi continue their attacks on Christians The Associated Press reports, “a mob of Muslim extremists chased a Christian businessman and his nephew and “hacked them with axes and beat them with

clubs and tree limbs.” The mob also terrorized “the village of Nagaa Hassan, burning dozens of Christian houses and stabbing to death three other Christians as well.” (Obama has no comment.) [46403, 46404]

Fort Hood terrorist Nidal Malik Hasan tells jurors in his murder trial that he supports the Taliban and Muslim Shari’ah law. [46405]

The House of Representatives passes a farm bill program, stripping the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps) from the legislation in order to deal with it separately. The White House threatens an Obama veto. [46423]

On CBN’s *700 Club*, evangelist Pat Robertson says, “You know they revolted in Egypt against the oppressive actions of the Muslim Brotherhood, and this example of state socialism [ObamaCare] is something that Americans should rise up against.” [46416]

On July 11 Kyle Olson reports at Townhall.com that “Officials in New York’s Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake school district have become the latest to opt out of [Michelle Obama’s] National School Lunch Program, citing ‘hungry, frustrated children plus lost income.’” [46407]

Breitbart.com reports, “Despite issuing a widely publicized threat against [George] Zimmerman last year, the New Black Panther Party was never contacted by the Department of Justice according to a statement from a NBPP spokesman. Breitbart News spoke exclusively to Brother James J. Muhammad, the National Director of Education for The Ordinary People Society New Black Panther Party. He said, ‘We were never contacted by the Justice Department. We were never contacted to calm down.’” (The New Black Panther Party had called for 5,000 black men to capture Zimmerman, saying, “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.”) [46415]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “A tea party group that launched a petition drive to prosecute U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder reported on its Facebook page that nearly 1 million have signed on—and the movement is only growing by the minute. The petition from TheTeaParty.net states, in part: ‘A person is supposed to be innocent until proven guilty. That’s not the case, however, in Obama’s America when he needs to manipulate the people for his own political expediency. Who can he always rely on to be his hatchet man? None other than Attorney General Eric Holder. Do you stand with us in calling for Holder’s resignation and prosecution?’” [46522, 46524]

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) issues a white paper warning that ObamaCare “threatens to harm our members by dismantling multiemployer health plans.” The IBEW also runs a full-page color ad in *Roll Call* calling for Obama to “keep [his] promise” and ensure that “if you like your health care plan, you can keep your health care plan.” The ad states, “Because it does not recognize the unique nature of multiemployer plans, the Affordable Care Act contains provisions that could undermine

this American success story and reduce the number of working families covered and lower the quality of their care.” [46419, 46420, 46421]

Meanwhile, the supermarket chain Wegmans will reportedly will no longer offer health insurance coverage to part-time employees because of ObamaCare costs. [46422]

First-time claims for unemployment benefits for the week ending July 6 increase by 16,000 from the prior week, to 360,000. (Remarkably, the Associated Press call the number “a level consistent with steady job gains.”) [46424]

VoiceofthePersecuted.com reports, “A Christian shopkeeper’s headless corpse was found in the Sinai Peninsula on Thursday, the second slaying of [a Coptic] Christian there since the military deposed Egypt’s Islamist president Mohammed Morsi on 3 July. Arabic satellite TV channel al-Arabiya cited Egyptian security sources as saying that 60-year-old Magdy Habashi had been abducted last Saturday in the city of Sheikh Zweid. His remains were found in a cemetery. ...Egypt’s Christians make up around 10 percent of the country’s population and have frequently been targeted by Islamists.” (Obama has no comment.) [46429]

July 12 marks the one year anniversary of the death of Alex Okrent, a gay Obama campaign worker in Chicago. The autopsy on the 29-year-old was “inconclusive.” (Some have speculated that Okrent was preparing to make public his relationship with Obama. According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Okrent “had traveled around the country and to the political heights with Obama since volunteering for his U.S. Senate primary race in 2004, but was eyeing this fall’s [2012] presidential election as the end.” (Okrent’s mother, Lynn Pollak, is a leader of the anti-Israel organization, Jewish Voice for Peace. She is also linked to the Chicago Movement for Palestinian Rights, an affiliate of the terrorist-supporting CAIR. Both Alex Okrent and his sister Abigail Okrent appear on the “Jewish Self-Hating and/or Israel Threatening” (SHIT) List. Abigail Okrent is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace.) Just days before the 2012 election, one Obama campaign worker worried about the fallout from Benghazi commented, “[Valerie] Jarrett and her people seem so confident. Why is that? Do you have any information on why she is so confident? I’m worried. Benghazi was supposed to play big this weekend. That is what everybody here was bracing for last week. You could really tell the staffers were freaking out. Now nobody is talking about it. Like it was never a concern. Like it never even happened. Don’t you have people to help with that? What happened? You said it was going to be a game changer. I told some others it would be and now I’m kind of hanging out there. Not the only one around here who got a real bad vibe after the Alex [Okrent] thing.” (As noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, several gay friends of Obama have died “before their time.” Donald Young, the gay choir director of the Chicago church Obama attended, was murdered on December 23, 2007. Young’s murder has never been solved, and his mother believes he was killed to prevent him from discussing his relationship with Obama. Another gay church member, Larry Bland, was murdered within weeks of Young.) [134, 135, 136, 392, 393, 409, 842 pp. 143, 352–353; 1242, 2278, 2438, 2475, 2499, 3668, 3669, 10361, 10362, 10370, 10372, 10374, 10407, 10408,

10513, 10960, 10961, 10962, 10963, 11168, 12753, 34396, 34397, 34398, 34399, 39570, 47137]

Obama's Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet "Butch" Napolitano, announces her resignation. Napolitano will be the next president of the University of California—the biggest single donor to Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns. (TakiMag.com observes, "As head of the UC system, Napolitano—who is allegedly not fond of men—will oversee, manage, and possibly bed a cornucopia of Associate Vice Chancellors for Faculty Equity, Assistant Vice Chancellors for Diversity, Graduate Student Diversity Liaisons, Directors of Development of Diversity Initiatives, Directors of Cross-Cultural Centers and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Centers, and perhaps even one or two people who teach math and English.") [46410, 46426, 46478]

Europe1.fr reports that after the crash of a Paris-to-Limoges train in Brétigny-sur-Orge, Muslim youths descended on the scene to rob the victims—including the corpses. (Obama has no comment. IslamVersusEurope.com asks, "An interesting question is whether the Muslims weren't just looting the corpses, what if they placed some obstruction on the track to produce the crash in the first place?") [46435, 46436]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer reacts to the news of Napolitano's resignation by referring to the Christmas Day 2009 "underwear bomber" Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab: "Her record was 'the underwear didn't explode.'" According to CNSNews.com, Napolitano "will leave the department in September to become the next president of the University of California." [46409]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The cost of complying with federal environmental regulations has forced American Electric Power to shut down an Ohio coal plant rather than convert it to a natural gas-burning power plant, says a Buckeye State congressman. ...Environmental regulations, lawsuits brought by activist groups and low-priced natural have contributed to the shutdown or slated retirement of more than 15,000 megawatts of coal-fired power plants. Power companies expect to shut down more than 37,000 megawatts of coal-fired electrical generation in the next decade. ...The plant operators would have had to spend \$275 million upgrading the facilities to meet the EPA's costly Mercury Air Toxics Standards, or MATS rule." Congressman Tim Murphy (R-PA) states, "The front line in the [Obama] administration's war on coal is right here in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and the casualties are the factories and homeowners who will pay higher electric bills, as well as the hundreds of utility workers, boilermakers, and miners who will be out of work. ...With the shutdown of the Mitchell plant and Hatfield's Ferry, which just four short years ago underwent \$1 billion in upgrades, [Obama] is making good on his promise to 'bankrupt' anyone who operates a coal plant." [46417, 46418]

Former New York City Mayor Rudi Giuliani tells PJMedia.com, "I think [Obama] should delay the whole thing [ObamaCare] permanently. I think [the delay of the employer mandate] is very strong evidence that the whole bill is flawed. After all, this bill was passed several years ago, right. If you have to delay it in order to implement it, there's

something fundamentally wrong with it. I mean, he should also delay the sanctions for individuals. Why are only businesses—in fact, businesses can prepare themselves better than private individuals can so necessarily he should also delay the sanctions for private individuals which means he should delay the whole thing. ...I mean, the whole thing was a mistake in the first place. It was a big disaster. It cost the Democrats the elections in 2010. I think they are very frightened it's going to cost them the elections in 2014 because the bill is totally flawed.” [46425]

DebbieSchlussel.com speculates that if George Zimmerman is acquitted of murder charges in the killing of Trayvon Martin, “The Obama Administration might prosecute him in federal court. Today, the George Zimmerman case will probably go to a Florida jury. But, even if he is acquitted, George Zimmerman may face federal charges. Because in America—while we think you can't be charged for the same crime twice—there really is double jeopardy, in the form of federal charges. And if you think Barack Obama—who said if he had a son, he would look like Trayvon Martin—hasn't instructed his Justice Department to consider it, think again. ...They could go after him for the nebulous, baloney 'crime' of 'violating Trayvon Martin's civil rights.' There is a lot of unfortunate precedent for this. ...Yes, there isn't just one bite at the apple—or at George Zimmerman—for left-wing race-baiters who want his hide. If he's acquitted by the jurors in this local trial, Barack Obama and [Attorney General] Eric Holder can swoop in and make his life hell yet again for defending himself against Trayvon Martin. And if you don't think they are considering it, think again. They are. Will they do it? I'm not sure they would risk the outrage of half the country on this. But they've done far worse. Note, by the way, that no President ever sent his Justice Department to go after O.J. Simpson or Casey Anthony. They just don't see any race-baiting value there.” [46428]

On July 13 *The Sacramento Bee* reports, “As California prepares to launch its [ObamaCare] health care exchange, consumer groups are worried the uninsured could fall victim to fraud, identity theft or other crimes at the hands of some of the very people who are supposed to help them enroll. The exchange, known as Covered California, recently adopted rules for a network of more than 21,000 enrollment counselors who will provide consumers with in-person assistance as part of the federal Affordable Care Act. In some cases, they will have access to personal and financial information, from ID cards to medical histories. But the state insurance commissioner and anti-fraud groups say the exchange is falling short in ensuring that the people hired as counselors are adequately screened and monitored. Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones also said the exchange does not have a plan for investigating any complaints that might arise once the counselors start work. That means consumers who might fall prey to bogus health care products, identity theft and other abuses will have a hard time seeking justice if unscrupulous counselors get ahold [sic] of their Social Security number, bank accounts, health records or other private information, he said.” [46458, 46459, 46472]

In his weekly radio/Internet address Obama calls for immigration reform, arguing that the nation needs more immigrants paying taxes. “If we don't do anything to fix our broken system, our workforce will continue to shrink as baby boomers retire. And without more immigrants and businesses paying their fair share in taxes, our deficit will be higher and

programs like Social Security will be under more strain.” (Obama does not address the fact that many immigrants collect welfare benefits rather than pay income taxes and are therefore a net burden to the nation. Nor does he recognize that his pro-abortion policies contribute to a substantially reduced population. Some might argue that it makes more sense to abort fewer Americans than to import foreigners.) [46476]

George Zimmerman is found not guilty of second degree murder charges in the self-defense shooting of Trayvon Martin—despite the judge’s pro-prosecution bias and the attempt to politicize the incident by Obama and the mainstream media. The verdict is followed by rioting and vandalism in Oakland, California. While media leftists and some blacks—including race pimp Al Sharpton—call on the Obama administration to prosecute Zimmerman on charges that he violated Martin’s “civil rights,” Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz tells Newsmax.TV, “I think there were violations of civil rights and civil liberties—by the prosecutor. The prosecutor sent this case to a judge, and willfully, deliberately, and in my view criminally withheld exculpatory evidence. ...They denied the [jury] the right to see pictures that showed Zimmerman with his nose broken and his head bashed in. The prosecution should be investigated for civil rights violations, and civil liberty violations. ...If the judge had any courage in applying the law, she never would have allowed the case to go to the jury. She should have entered a verdict based on reasonable doubt. ...The prosecutor had in her possession photographs that would definitely show a judge that this was not an appropriate case for second-degree murder. She deliberately withheld and suppressed those photographs, refused to show them to the judge, got the judge to rule erroneously this was a second-degree murder case. That violated a whole range of ethical, professional, and legal obligations that prosecutors have. Moreover, they withheld other evidence in the course of the pretrial and trial proceedings, as has been documented by the defense team. ...I think people’s rights have been violated, but it was the rights of the defendant and the defense team, by utterly unprofessional, irresponsible, and in my view criminal actions by the prosecutor.”) [46430, 46431, 46432, 46433, 46434, 46438, 46442, 46443, 46444, 46448, 46450, 46451, 46452, 46453, 46454, 46467, 46492, 46567]

At a Trayvon Martin rally in Portland, Oregon, one speaker tells the crowd, “Every fucking cop is a target.” Another says the police need to be prepared for more broken windows. [46453]

Popular former Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer announces he will not run for the U.S. Senate in 2014. (The decision makes it more likely that Republicans will be able to pick up the seat with the retirement of Democrat Senator Max Baucus.)

NYTimes.com reports that when Obama “proclaimed that those who commit sexual assault in the military should be ‘prosecuted, stripped of their positions, court-martialed, fired, dishonorably discharged,’ it had an effect he did not intend: muddying legal cases across the country. In at least a dozen sexual assault cases since [Obama’s] remarks at the White House in May, judges and defense lawyers have said that [his] words as commander in chief amounted to ‘unlawful command influence,’ tainting trials as a result. Military law experts said that those cases were only the beginning and that

[Obama's] remarks were certain to complicate almost all prosecutions for sexual assault. ...At Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina last month, a judge dismissed charges of sexual assault against an Army officer, noting the command influence issue. At Fort Bragg in North Carolina last month, lawyers cited [Obama's] words in a motion to dismiss the court-martial against Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, who is accused of forcing a lower-ranking officer to perform oral sex on him, among other charges. In Hawaii, a Navy judge ruled last month that two defendants in sexual assault cases, if found guilty, could not be punitively discharged because of ...Obama's remarks. In Texas, a juror was dismissed from a military panel on a sexual assault case after admitting knowledge of [Obama's] words. In Alexandria, Va., Eric S. Montalvo, a former defense counsel in the Marine Corps who is now in private practice, has cited [Obama's] words in motions to dismiss two sexual assault cases, one against an Army sergeant and the other against a Navy seaman." [46441]

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden accepts an offer of political asylum from Russia, reportedly on the condition that he ceases releasing intelligence information. [46445]

On July 14 Politico reports, "The Department of Justice said Sunday it would review the Trayvon Martin-George Zimmerman case to determine if it should consider prosecuting Zimmerman, who was acquitted Friday [sic; Saturday] in a Florida court, in the shooting case. 'Experienced federal prosecutors will determine whether the evidence reveals a prosecutable violation of any of the limited federal criminal civil rights statutes within our jurisdiction, and whether federal prosecution is appropriate in accordance with the Department's policy governing successive federal prosecution following a state trial,' the DOJ said." On *Meet the Press*, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), apparently eager for the Department of Justice to prosecute Zimmerman, says, "This isn't over with and I think that's good." Race baiter Al Sharpton also appears on the program and states, "I will convene an emergency call with preachers tonight to discuss next steps and I intend to head to Florida in the next few days." Obama avoids using the name George Zimmerman in a statement: "I know this case has elicited strong passions. I know those passions may [now] be running even higher. But we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken. I now ask every American to respect the call for calm reflection from two parents who lost their young son." Obama also uses the verdict as an excuse to push gun control, saying, "We should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis. We should ask ourselves, as individuals and as a society, how we can prevent future tragedies like this. As citizens, that's a job for all of us. That's the way to honor Trayvon Martin." (Obama does not explain why Martin should be honored if he was shot in self-defense by a man he was attempting to beat to death.) [46446, 46447, 46463, 46465]

Rasmussen reports, "Positive assessments of ...Obama's leadership have fallen to their lowest level in over a year of regular tracking. A new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey [conducted July 10-11] finds that 43% of Likely Voters now consider [Obama] a good or excellent leader. Thirty-eight percent (38%) give [Obama] poor marks for leadership." [46439]

On *Fox & Friends* author Ann Coulter comments on the George Zimmerman trial: “This was a media-led mob, and an innocent man almost went to prison for thirty years because of, well, Al Sharpton stirring up hatred and creating a narrative for which there was never any evidence and after this long trial there is still never any evidence. This case never should have been brought. It was purely political for the media to continue their narrative of all of America as ‘Mississippi Burning.’ They want to keep us divided by race, ginned up by race, and it’s a relief that someone who was innocent did not have to be the sacrificial lamb for this media narrative about America as being run by the [Ku Klux] Klan.” Coulter argues that race relations changed “...after the O.J. verdict. At that moment, when a mostly black jury—100 percent Democrat by the way—found a spectacularly guilty black celebrity not-guilty of murder, white America said, ‘That’s it we are shutting down the white guilt bank.’ And we had peace for a decade. And you’ll notice we didn’t have cases like this for about ten years after O.J. ...Obama brought it all back because the liberal media needs this ‘Mississippi Burning’ in order to promote [Obama and] his liberal policies, which is what they care about. But at least it wasn’t brought fully back, because George Zimmerman was found not guilty. ...Enough white people will think, if we just make a black man president, [race problems] will all go away. If we just allow this cop, or this person falsely accused of racism, they’ll be our sacrificial lambs, that’ll be the end of it. [But] It’s never the end of it. You have to say, ‘No, this is not fair, this is not the truth.’” [46449, 46464]

Facebook allows a “Kill [George] Zimmerman” page, stating it does not violate community standards. (At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “I have seen so many counter-jihad pages taken down. Many of my links are not postable on facebook because they might offend Muslims—mere news reports about FGM [female genital mutilation], honor violence and murder, Islamic Jew-hatred, etc. But this can stand. ...I am going to puke.”) Obama and his Attorney General, Eric “white people are cowards” Holder have no comment. (Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is an avid Obama supporter and major donor to Democrat candidates.) [46455, 46456]

Attorney Orly Taitz files a criminal complaint with Pam Bondi, Attorney General for the state of Florida, charging Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, the Department of Justice’s Community Relations Service, and Florida special prosecutor Angela Corey with violations of George Zimmerman’s Fourteenth Amendment rights. Taitz also charges NBC and ABC with fraud for their misrepresentation of facts in the case. [46460]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Last night’s not-guilty verdict in the George Zimmerman trial will enable the neighborhood-watch volunteer to resume his case against NBC News for the mis-editing of his widely distributed call to police. Back in December, Zimmerman sued NBC Universal Media for defamation over the botched editing, which depicted him as a hardened racial profiler.” (On March 27, 2012 NBC played a severely edited recording of Zimmerman telling the police dispatcher, “This guy looks like he’s up to no good. ...He looks black.” NBC—probably intentionally—omitted the crucial portion of the conversation in which the dispatcher asked Zimmerman, “OK, and this guy—is he black, white or Hispanic?” to which Zimmerman replied, “He looks black.”) At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, “[I]f the Zimmerman team wants to show malice at

NBC News, all they have to do is play MSNBC's coverage of the trial and especially the acquittal. The anger and malice (and even more misinformation) didn't just come from guest panelists on their coverage, it came from MSNBC's hosts, paid by NBC News. The phrase 'shooting fish in a barrel' comes to mind when proving this particular aspect of the case. If Zimmerman's legal team is moving ASAP to get the case to trial, NBC's lawyers should be moving ASAP to get the check cut for the settlement. Don't expect that to take very long, either." [46470, 46479]

On *Fox News Sunday* Congressman Steve King (R-IA) says the House of Representatives should not bother passing border security legislation because Obama won't enforce the law anyway. "There's nothing we can do," says King, "to force [Obama] to enforce a law he doesn't like. He has proven it over and over again. [Obama] is already refusing to enforce existing immigration laws. He will not enforce the laws that we might pass." Obama has "proven that he's violated his own oath of office... This is not a legislative branch problem—not a legislative branch problem. We can't fix with laws the things that [Obama] refuses to do." [46474]

In Senatobia, Mississippi a white jogger is abducted, beaten, and then released by three blacks, who tell him, "This is for Trayvon." (Obama has no comment.) [46487, 46489]

On July 15 journalist and filmmaker Christian Hartsock tells DailyCaller.com he was assaulted by members of the mob rioting in Oakland, California after the George Zimmerman verdict. Hartsock states, "I have interviews and I have footage of [Trayvon protestors] chanting 'no justice, no peace—fuck you pigs in your sleep.' One of them was an elementary schooler chanting with his mom. ...One young man chanted 'There's gonna be some violence tonight!' He then came up to me and demanded I erase the footage from my phone—another request I declined. As two other young men interrogated me, their friend behind them came up and a young man then slugged me in the face about three times—hard—and demanded that I leave. Then I began getting clocked by others in my left temple and jaw by other assailants and was mowed to the ground by about half a dozen of them. ...For a couple minutes I was pinned down to the ground—one gentleman on top of me slugging me across the face repeatedly as an indeterminable number of others kicked me in the side of the head, and tried to get my phone out of my hand... The harder my grip tightened, the harder their punches to my face became." According to Hartsock, an ABC news van was "less than 20 feet away" yet the ABC employees neither helped him nor filmed the incident. [46461, 46466]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "A government watchdog has found for the first time that confidential tax records of several political candidates and campaign donors were improperly scrutinized by government officials, but the Justice Department has declined to prosecute any of the cases. Its investigators also are probing two allegations that the Internal Revenue Service 'targeted for audit candidates for public office,' the Treasury's inspector general for tax administration, J. Russell George, has privately told Sen. Chuck Grassley. In a written response to a request by Mr. Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Mr. George said a review turned up four cases since 2006 in which unidentified government officials took part in 'unauthorized access or disclosure

of tax records of political donors or candidates,' including one case he described as 'willful.' In four additional cases, Mr. George said, allegations of improper access of IRS records were not substantiated by the evidence. Mr. Grassley has asked Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. to explain why the Justice Department chose not to prosecute any of the cases. The Iowa Republican told The Washington Times that the IRS 'is required to act with neutrality and professionalism, not political bias.' The investigation did not name the government officials who obtained the IRS records improperly, nor did it reveal the identities or political parties of the people whose tax records were compromised. By law, taxpayer records at the IRS are supposed to be confidential. The disclosures deal another blow to the IRS and the Obama administration, which are still grappling with revelations that IRS agents inappropriately targeted conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status for extraordinarily burdensome scrutiny during ...Obama's first term. Amid that furor over the abuse of the agency's powers, the IRS has denied that the tax records of political candidates or donors were improperly accessed. [46481]

During a White House event honoring former President George H. W. Bush, a cigarette-craving Obama is filmed popping a piece of Nicorette chewing gum in his mouth. [46462]

Attorney General Eric Holder tells the Delta Sigma Theta sorority convention, "Of course, as this celebration unfolds, we are also mindful of the pain felt by our nation surrounding the tragic, unnecessary shooting death of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida last year—and the state trial that reached its conclusion over the weekend. As parents, as engaged citizens, and as leaders who stand vigilant against violence in communities across the country, the Deltas are deeply, and rightly, concerned about this case. The Justice Department shares your concern—I share your concern—and, as we first acknowledged last spring, we have opened an investigation into the matter. Independent of the legal determination that will be made, I believe that this tragedy provides yet another opportunity for our nation to speak honestly about the complicated and emotionally-charged issues that this case has raised. We must not—as we have too often in the past—let this opportunity pass. I hope that we will approach this necessarily difficult dialogue with the same dignity that those who have lost the most, Trayvon's parents, have demonstrated throughout the last year—and especially over the past few days. They suffered a pain that no parent should have to endure—and one that I, as a father, cannot begin to conceive. Even as we embrace their example and hold them in our prayers, we must not forego this opportunity to better understand one another and to make better this nation we cherish." [46468, 46469, 46491, 46498, 46507, 46516]

"Moreover," continues Holder, "I want to assure you that the Department will continue to act in a manner that is consistent with the facts and the law. We are committed to standing with the people of Sanford, with the individuals and families affected by this incident, and with our state and local partners in order to alleviate tensions, address community concerns, and promote healing. We are determined to meet division and confusion with understanding and compassion—and also with truth. We are resolved, as you are, to combat violence involving or directed at young people, to prevent future tragedies and to deal with the underlying attitudes, mistaken beliefs and stereotypes that

serve as the basis for these too common incidents. And we will never stop working to ensure that—in every case, in every circumstance, and in every community—justice must be done.” (HotAir.com comments, “‘Independent of the legal determination that will be made’ sounds to me like he’s preparing people for a letdown.” That is, the Department of Justice is unlikely to prosecute George Zimmerman under the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009—partly because FBI documents have already suggested that Zimmerman’s actions on the night of the shooting were not racist. Holder is also unlikely to do anything about the many death threats against Zimmerman.) Holder does not comment on the fact that while the Zimmerman trial was being conducted four children in Chicago were shot and killed—and his Department of Justice is doing next to nothing to address the problem of gangs and black-on-black violence. According to SooperMexican.com, in the 513 days between the death of Trayvon Martin and the Zimmerman verdict, “11,106 blacks have been murdered by OTHER BLACKS.” (Some might ask why Obama and Holder have shown no outrage over that statistic.) [46468, 46469, 46471, 46475, 46483, 46491, 46498, 46507, 46516]

The next day Hillary Clinton also addresses the sorority—the nation’s largest African-American women’s organization—saying, “My prayers are with the [Trayvon] Martin family and with every family who loves someone who is lost to violence. No mother, no father, should ever have to fear for their child walking down a street in the United States of America. ... Yesterday I know you heard from the attorney general about the next steps from the Justice Department and the need for a national dialogue. As we move forward as we must, I hope this sisterhood will continue to be a force for justice and understanding.” [46516, 46540]

Jim Goad writes at TakiMag.com, “George Zimmerman is now a free man. He is free to be stalked, threatened, harassed, persecuted, and possibly killed at the hands of the perpetual malcontents who are sorely displeased with his acquittal late Saturday night. But he is not free to sleep soundly—not now, nor possibly for the rest of his life. Like O. J. Simpson after his murder acquittal, he is likely to face big-money civil suits from Trayvon Martin’s family members. And like the LAPD officers who were originally acquitted on charges of using excessive force against Rodney King, he is now vulnerable to a federal civil-rights prosecution. In fact, the Justice Department is investigating precisely that possibility, despite the fact that an FBI investigation found no evidence that Zimmerman is ‘racist,’ as if such a thing can actually be proved. ... Zimmerman is ‘going to be looking around his shoulder for the rest of his life,’ his brother Robert told butt-sniffing noodlehead Piers Morgan on CNN shortly after the verdict was announced. ‘I don’t know if he’ll carry a gun now, but I would think he has more reasons to than before... They express they’re trying to kill him, all the time, every day, on my Twitter feed, on the Internet.’” [46477]

Meanwhile, Al Sharpton—who race activist Cornel West calls an illustration of the “rent-a-Negro phenomenon on MSNBC”—heads to Sanford, Florida to arouse racial animosity over the Zimmerman verdict. Sharpton’s National Action Network is pushing protests in 100 cities. (RedState.com observes, “Sharpton is the consummate race hustler. Among his many ‘accomplishments,’ he is a tax cheat, and responsible for the Tawana Bradley

[sic; Brawley] hoax that racially inflamed the nation. Yet he's now been given the keys to one hour of airtime daily on MSNBC, not to mention numerous appearances on other NBC news shows... including a key role on this past Sunday's 'Meet the Press.' ...Sharpton is not a journalist, he is not even a commentator; he is a hard left racial activist He is also one more thing: The Rev Al is 100% bulletproof. When he was given the host job at MSNBC, I opined that one day, in the near future they're gonna wake up and realize, 'OMG... we can't fire him.' This won't end well, these ginned-up protests about the Zimmerman verdict. There will be demonstrations, and they will turn into riots. There will be extensive property damage, and even loss of life. And smack dab in the middle of all of it will be the Rev Al, broadcasting his show nightly from ground zero, surrounded by the mob. And NBC/MSNBC will see what little credibility it has left completely erode. ...Be assured, MSNBC will soon realize that they have a Frankenstein on their hands, and they have no idea how to control it. ...It's gonna be ugly, and will not end well for the peacock. More than a few feathers will be ruffled and lost. More like whatever credibility they had left." One reader responds, "The best part is that he personally guarantees a victory for Zimmerman in his defamation suit against NBC.") [46482, 46485, 46495, 46694]

Jesse Jackson, Sharpton's competition for race pimp champion, calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to investigate the acquittal of George Zimmerman. Jackson states, "Congress must act, and it's time to call on the United Nations Human Rights Commission [sic] for an in-depth investigation of whether the U.S. is upholding its obligations under international human rights laws and treaties." (Among the nations vying to gain a seat on the Human Rights Council when the United Nations General Assembly meets in November are Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Algeria, and China—nations which routinely violate the rights of their citizens.) [46508, 46523, 46602]

In the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles, young thugs "demonstrating" against the Zimmerman verdict rip down a fence, jump on cars, assault bystanders, and loot stores—and a local CBS reporter and cameraman are assaulted. (Obama and Eric Holder have no comment on how robbing a Wal-Mart store contributes to "social justice.") [46484, 46488, 46509, 46528]

In Baltimore, Maryland a group of blacks beat an Hispanic man while shouting, "This is for Trayvon." (Obama and Eric Holder have no comment. AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, "Congratulations, Obama, it's open season on anyone who is not a thug. Is Holder investigating if this man's civil rights were violated? Is anyone even looking for these racist thugs?") [46486, 46490]

At CNN.com Abigail Thernstrom, vice chairwoman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and an adjunct scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, writes, "Every American can make their own judgment about whether justice was served by the verdict in the George Zimmerman murder trial but one thing we should all recognize: ...Obama's interference in a local law enforcement matter was unprecedented and inappropriate, and he comes away from the case looking badly tarnished by his poor judgment. 'If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon,' [Obama] said when asked about the

case in the Rose Garden on March 23, 2012, after many had called for Zimmerman's arrest but several weeks before he was charged. 'When I think about this boy, I think about my own kids.' In fact, if [Obama] had a son, he would have been born to extraordinary privilege and raised with all the advantages of two very affluent and highly educated parents. He would have gone to tony private schools. His path in life would have been almost as dissimilar from Trayvon's as one could imagine. Yes, Obama's hypothetical son and Trayvon would have shared the same brown skin color. Would that have made them interchangeable? Not unless all brown-skinned boys are the same. Does [Obama] really believe that? [Obama's] remarks created a clear impression that he was motivated by one of two factors, and we can only guess as to which, or what combination of the two, was at work here. One possibility is that this is merely another manifestation of [Obama's] well-known narcissism: No matter what the situation may be, it's all about him. The other, more troubling possibility is that [Obama] surrendered to his political instincts. He wants disadvantaged Americans to believe that he and his family are one of them—despite their life of unparalleled privilege—and he wanted the prosecutors, judge and jury to believe that this was a case about race where justice demanded a guilty verdict.” [46610]

NationalReview.com reports, “A Swedish professor has nominated NSA leaker Edward Snowden for the Nobel Peace Prize for his revelations of the surveillance program, but also to redeem the award's prestige after it was awarded to ...Obama in 2009. In his letter to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Umea University's Stefan Svallfors argues that Snowden, who would be the award's youngest winner at 30, exemplified that 'individuals can stand up for fundamental rights and freedoms.' Svallfors lauded Snowden's 'heroic effort at great personal cost.' ...The professor says that picking Snowden would 'help to save the Nobel Peace Prize from the disrepute incurred by the hasty and ill-conceived decision to award ...Obama the 2009 award.'” [46480]

Outspoken entertainer Ted Nugent tells radio talk show host Dennis Miller, “Number one, the whole [Trayvon Martin/George Zimmerman] thing is a tragedy—that he [Zimmerman] was charged with any crime after all the evidence that the law enforcement professionals ascertained immediately. It was a clear-cut case of self-defense and I'm very relieved and hopeful that there is justice in America the 'not guilty' verdict came in because when we the people do get all the evidence, we see self-defense as the pure thing that it is. I think that the real travesty here is that the prosecutor and the judge and the whole so-called justice system was cowed and pressured by just racism personified. And a government sadly and heartbreakingly—it pains me deeply to even have to say this, but when [Obama] and the gun-running attorney general [Eric Holder] get involved to push for a racist agenda, it's bad for America. It puts us back. ...I'm 65 years old this year, Dennis, and I've never seen such ugly race relations since the white and black water fountains in Detroit went away. We were on an even keel. We were on the upgrade. I think racism for all practical purposes was gone five, six years ago and it's back with a vengeance and it breaks my heart. But here's the ultimate lesson, if everyone would take a deep breath—I hear a lot of squawking that parents go, 'Well, that could have been my kid, that could have been my dead child.' Well, here's a little update for you: Teach your children not to attack people, thank you very much. Irresponsible, not leadership—it's

like a community organizer gone bad. And again, I take no joy in criticizing [Obama].” [46500, 46517]

Asked about the possibility of federal prosecution of George Zimmerman, White House press secretary Jay Carney responds, “This is a decision made by the Justice Department, by career prosecutors, and all questions about how that process is undertaken should be directed there. And that is not something [Obama] involves himself in [sic].” (Obama, of course, had no problem “involving himself in” the issue when he declared, “If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon.”) “As the Justice Department said yesterday, they first acknowledged last year that they have an open investigation into Trayvon Martin’s death. And they are continuing to evaluate that evidence.” Asked if Obama had discussed the issue with Attorney General Eric Holder, Carney says, “I’m not sure that I know the answer to that question. I don’t believe that this is something [Obama] views as a discussion he would have with the attorney general, especially on the substance of the case or decisions the Department of Justice would make. That is something the Department of Justice makes. And they (DOJ officials) have talked about this and put out statements about it. And they will make assessments and decisions on the merits and on the evidence.” (It is absurd to claim that Obama has not discussed the issue with Holder.) [46506]

Talk show host Rush Limbaugh tells his radio audience, “The progressives, the liberals out there are having a little temper tantrum [over the George Zimmerman verdict] because they didn’t get their way. But really, folks, how often are they on the losing end of anything anymore? They’re getting gay marriage, they got ObamaCare, they’ve got Obama. This verdict is not part of a string of defeats for the left. It is an interruption in a string of victory after victory. These are people that for the last four or five years have been used to getting their way on whatever it is. Here comes a little burp in the whole process. And for once they’re on the losing end of something.” The liberals, observes Limbaugh, are thinking, “‘How dare a jury deny us what we want?’ I think these protests are more about that than they are about the fate of Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin.” Their inability to influence the verdict is “what they’re really ticked off about. They know if they had been able to really make this a racial hate crime, then they would have gotten the verdict they want. But they weren’t able to convince people that this really was an event governed by the institutional racism and bigotry and near slavery of this country.” [46502]

The U.S. embassy in Cairo, Egypt reopens. [46504]

Fool.com reports that by the time the federal government sells all the General Motors stock it received in the company’s bankruptcy deal, the taxpayers will have lost about \$10 billion. [46512]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comment on the George Zimmerman acquittal: “What’s interesting here is that we saw every minute of the trial. There was nothing secret, there was nothing hidden. So, for all of those who want to make this into a racial incident, an example of racial prejudice, answer this: where was the racial taint in those

hours and hours of that trial? Where was the bias? And what parts of the trial were not fair because the victim was African-American? The way that these demagogues are comparing this incident to Emmett Till, who was lynched in the south half a century ago I think is a travesty and a desecration of the memory of Emmett Till who was a victim of real brutal racism in a country that at the time had legalized racism. Here was a trial that everybody watched and that was without any doubt a fair trial. I think the media's attempt to turn this into a racial incident is disgraceful because the paradigm is white on black, except that Zimmerman is Hispanic. So, CNN and others had to invent a new category, the 'white Hispanic.' Up until now we had never heard of that. Why? Presumably because one of Zimmerman's parents is white. Well, that also applies to [Obama]. Which means is he a white African-American? This is an absurdity and it's also a disgrace." [46505]

On July 16 the U.S. Senate votes 66–34 to confirm Richard Cordray as Obama's director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. (Created by the Dodd-Frank legislation, the new bureau will be tantamount to a National Security Agency of banking, with virtually unlimited access to every detail of every citizen's finances—including individual ATM transactions.) [46532, 46550]

Obama withdraws his controversial nominations of Sharon Block and Richard Griffin to serve on the National Labor Relations Board, proposing instead AFL-CIO attorney Nancy Schiffer and current NLRB attorney Kent Hirozawa.

Liz Cheney, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, announces she will run for the U.S. Senate in Wyoming in 2014. [46533, 46577]

White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, "The data reflects that there is not support for the proposition that businesses are not hiring full-time employees because of the Affordable Care Act. ...I would say broadly that if you look at the economic data, the suggestion that the ACA is reducing full-time employment is belied by the facts. What the ACA allows is the opportunity for individuals who could not, prior to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, afford insurance to get insurance. And it provides subsidies for those who need help affording it, and it assists businesses in that effort, so they can offer insurance to their employees." (Carney is either an idiot or is lying. There have been many reports of companies slashing working hours of their employees to fewer than 30 per week in order to avoid the ObamaCare requirements. Additionally, TheHill.com reports, "According to The Wall Street Journal, employers have added more part-time employees—about 93,000 a month—in 2013 than full-time workers—averaging about 22,000 per month. That's a reversal from 2012, when employers hired 31,000 part-time workers and 171,000 full-time ones per month.") [46515, 46537]

TalkBusiness.net reports, "Little Rock-based Baptist Health System says it will lay off 170 workers across its statewide health care network and one industry leader says more hospitals could follow suit. Baptist Health has hospitals, clinics and medical facilities throughout Arkansas. The health care organization is one of the state's largest private employers with more than 7,300 workers. ...Bo Ryall, President and CEO of the

Arkansas Hospital Association, said the Baptist Health layoffs are part of a national trend in recent months due to cuts made by the Affordable Care Act and this year's federal sequestration. The Affordable Care Act reduced national Medicare funding by \$155 billion over a 10-year period that starts this year, Ryall said. He added that the fiscal impact on Arkansas was roughly \$2 billion. Compounded by the federal sequestration cuts made earlier this year, which lopped another two percent across-the-board cut to Medicare, Arkansas hospitals are feeling the pinch. 'This is a result of reimbursement reduction,' Ryall tells Talk Business. 'You're talking about a lot of cuts that hospitals cannot absorb. They have to make adjustments to keep their doors open.'" 47065]

WLFHN reports that Indiana's Purdue University "faces a \$2.8 million ObamaCare bill" in 2014. [46518]

Addressing the NAACP convention in Orlando, Florida, Attorney General Eric Holder states, "It's time to question laws that senselessly expand the concept of self-defense and sow dangerous conflict in our neighborhoods. These laws try to fix something that was never broken. . . .By allowing and perhaps encouraging violent situations to escalate in public, such laws undermine public safety. The list of resulting tragedies is long and, unfortunately, has victimized too many who are innocent. It is our collective obligation—we must stand our ground—to ensure that our laws reduce violence, and take a hard look at laws that contribute to more violence than they prevent." [46538]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius tells the NAACP audience that opposing ObamaCare is the equivalent of opposing equal rights for blacks in the 1960s. Apparently unaware that it was primarily Democrats who opposed civil rights legislation, she states, "The same arguments against change, the same fear and misinformation that opponents used then are the same ones opponents are spreading now. 'This won't work,' 'Slow down,' 'Let's wait,' they say. But history shows that upholding our founding principles demands continuous work toward a more perfect union. . . . And it requires the kind of work that the NAACP has done for more than a century to move us forward. You showed it in the fight against lynching and the fight for desegregation. You showed it by ensuring inalienable rights are secured in the courtroom and at the ballot box. And you showed it by supporting a health law 100 years in the making. With each step forward, you said to forces of the status quo, 'This will work,' 'We can't slow down' 'We can't wait,' 'We won't turn back.'" (Recognizing the absurdity of the comparison, Ed Morrissey writes at HotAir.com, "Er, *yeah*. Because opposing a law-enforcement effort to stop lynchings is so totally like opposing another big, costly, and destructive government intervention in the health-insurance industry.") [46536, 46551]

The *Orlando Sentinel* reports, "The U.S. Department of Justice on Monday afternoon appealed to civil rights groups and community leaders, nationally and in Sanford, for help investigating whether a federal criminal case might be brought against George Zimmerman for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, one advocate said. The DOJ has also set up a public email address to take in tips on its civil rights investigation. Barbara Arnwine, president and executive director the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law—who earlier in the day joined calls for federal civil rights charges against

Zimmerman, said that later in the afternoon, she joined a U.S. Department of Justice conference call to discuss the prospects. ‘They were calling on us to actively refer anyone who had any information,’ that might build a case against Zimmerman for either a civil rights violation or a hate crime, Arnwine said. ‘They said they would very aggressively investigate this case.’” (In other words, Obama’s Department of Justice is worried it has no civil right case against George Zimmerman and is shamelessly “trolling” for evidence that he is a racist. Meanwhile, the administration is doing nothing about the many death threats received by the Zimmerman family.) [46519, 46520, 46521, 46526, 46527, 46529, 46565, 46621]

DailyCaller.com reports, “African Americans benefit from Florida’s ‘Stand Your Ground’ self-defense law at a rate far out of proportion to their presence in the state’s population, despite an assertion by Attorney General Eric Holder that repealing ‘Stand Your Ground’ would help African Americans. Black Floridians have made about a third of the state’s total ‘Stand Your Ground’ claims in homicide cases, a rate nearly double the black percentage of Florida’s population. The majority of those claims have been successful, a success rate that exceeds that for Florida whites. Nonetheless, prominent African Americans including Holder and ‘Ebony and Ivory’ singer Stevie Wonder, who has vowed not to perform in the Sunshine State until the law is revoked, have made ‘Stand Your Ground’ a central part of the Trayvon Martin controversy.” (George Zimmerman did *not* invoke the “stand your ground” law as part of his defense.) [46530, 46545]

In an interview with Univision, Obama says he “probably” cannot give illegal immigrants amnesty via an executive order. (In other words, “I’m not sure, but I don’t think I have dictatorial powers.”) [46531]

On July 17 TheAtlanticWire.com reports, “As an aside during testimony on Capitol Hill today, a National Security Agency representative rather casually indicated that the government looks at data from a universe of far, far more people than previously indicated. Chris Inglis, the agency’s deputy director, was one of several government representatives—including from the FBI and the office of the Director of National Intelligence—testifying before the House Judiciary Committee this morning. Most of the testimony largely echoed previous testimony by the agencies on the topic of the government’s surveillance, including a retread of the same offered examples for how the Patriot Act and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act had stopped terror events. But Inglis’ statement was new. Analysts look ‘two or three hops’ from terror suspects when evaluating terror activity, Inglis revealed. Previously, the limit of how surveillance was extended had been described as two hops. This meant that if the NSA were following a phone metadata or web trail from a terror suspect, it could also look at the calls from the people that suspect has spoken with—one hop. And then, the calls that second person had also spoken with—two hops. Terror suspect to person two to person three. Two hops. And now: A third hop. ...For a sense of scale, researchers at the University of Milan found in 2011 that everyone on the Internet was, on average, 4.74 steps away from anyone else.” (Meanwhile Robert Zimmerman, the brother of George Zimmerman, tells Fox News, “We do have concerns and always have of having our phones tapped, having

our phones listened to by the administration or whomever because George is now, as we know, continually the subject of ongoing investigation. ...I think Eric Holder is being pressured by some groups who were calling for, initially, just an arrest. These same groups keep moving around the goal posts: the NAACP, Al Sharpton, the Rainbow Push Coalition with Jesse Jackson. First they wanted just a simple arrest and that's it, have his fair day in court and whatever the verdict is, we'll respect it. Then when the verdict was coming they wanted him to be found guilty. But the verdict isn't what they wanted, so now they're moving the goal post again, and calling on the Department of Justice to investigate him more.") [46510, 46511]

CNSNews.com reports, "The battle surrounding ...Obama's nomination of Samantha Power to be the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations heated up Tuesday when a group of conservative policy experts and others urged senators not to confirm her, accusing her of having an 'affinity for those who would diminish our sovereignty and strengthen our adversaries.' Several Republican senators have indicated they will not oppose Power's nomination, however, including some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has scheduled a confirmation hearing for Wednesday. A letter organized by the Center for Security Policy, sent to every senator, characterized Power's views as in line with those held by U.N. member-states that are antagonistic to America." The letter states, "In light of [Power's] low regard for our country, her animus towards one of our most important allies, Israel, and her affinity for those who would diminish our sovereignty and strengthen our adversaries, we consider her to be a wholly unacceptable choice for this sensitive post and urge you to reject this nomination. ...It is imperative that the American people be presented with the stark contrast between the views of ...Obama's nominee to be the next U.S. ambassador at the United Nations, and those of generations of our countrymen and women, who have fought for this country's sovereignty and helped achieve—and believed in—its greatness. Samantha Power's record suggests that she is better suited to represent the virulently anti-American U.N. to the United States, rather than the other way around." [46539]

During her Senate confirmation hearing, Power disavows some of her written statements when questioned by Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). With regard to her statements that the United States should invade Israel in order to create a Palestinian state, Power says, "I have disassociated myself from those comments many times. I gave a long, rambling, and very remarkably incoherent response to a hypothetical question that I should never have answered. A negotiated settlement is the only course." Rubio asks about her statements that the United States has committed war crimes: "Which crimes were you referring to and which decisions taken by the current administration would you recommend for such a reckoning?" Power responds, "I would never apologize for America. America is the light to the world. We have freedoms and opportunities here that people dream about abroad." Rubio presses her for an answer: "Which ones did the United States commit or sponsor that you were referring to?" Power: "Again, sir, I think this is the greatest country on earth. We have nothing to apologize for." Rubio: "So you don't have any in mind now that we've committed or sponsored?" Power: "I will not apologize for America. I will stand very proudly if confirmed behind the U.S. placard." Rubio: "No, I understand, but do you believe the United States has committed or sponsored crimes?"

Power: “I believe the United States is the greatest country on earth. I really do.” (In other words, “I will say anything in order to get the job as ambassador to the United Nations, where I will eagerly work against Israel and my own country.”) [46555]

By a vote of 264–161 the House of Representatives passes legislation delaying ObamaCare’s *employer* health insurance mandate by one year—thereby giving Obama potential justification for his illegal action in delaying he requirement. By a vote of 251–174 the House also passes legislation delaying the *individual* health insurance mandate for one year. (The White House states Obama will veto the legislation if it passes in the Senate—leaving him to explain why he is unwilling to give individuals the same one-year delay he is giving employers.) [46543, 46548, 46560, 46578]

A third federal appeals court rules that Obama’s “non-recess recess appointments” were unconstitutional. [36541]

Asked by 16-year-old DailyCaller.com intern Gabe Finger if the Obama administration was doing anything to protect George Zimmerman or his family, White House press secretary Jay Carney laughs and says, “Well, I think I would refer you to Florida authorities. I’m not aware of that story [about death threats]. But, you know, [Obama] has called for echoing the statements of Trayvon Martin’s family—for calm and reflection in the wake of the verdict. And that continues to be his position. He certainly would oppose any violence.” Asked if that means the Zimmermans are “on their own,” Carney responds, “You can editorialize all you want, and I have no doubt that you will, but that is a ridiculous statement.” (More accurately, it is ridiculous for anyone to believe Carney’s statement that he has not heard of death threats against Zimmerman or his family.) [46544, 46549, 46571]

According to MarineCorpsTimes.com, the Obama administration lied when it stated that Colonel George Bristol, commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force in the North African region, could not be forced to testify about the Benghazi terrorist attack because he had retired in March. In fact, Bristol is on active duty until July 31. [46561, 46562]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “IRS employees have told congressional investigators that they were ordered by the agency’s Washington office to give extra scrutiny to tea party groups’ applications for tax-exempt status, according to excerpts from interviews with the employees that were released by House committee chairmen Wednesday. Carter Hull, a tax law specialist with 48 years of experience at the IRS, told investigators that Lois Lerner, the former head of the Exempt Organizations division, demanded he send some of the reviews of tea party groups to the IRS chief counsel’s office in Washington. The chief counsel is one of two political appointees in the IRS.” Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) states, “It is clear that misconduct at the agency was not isolated to ‘rogue employees’ in the tax-exempt applications division. This recent development suggests that political targeting was potentially more widespread.” [46552, 46553]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments on reports that many labor unions no longer support ObamaCare: “It is true, they [labor unions] supported the bill, they supported the administration, they helped elect it, had the boots on the ground and they were swindled, but it isn’t as if they weren’t warned. [But] People who looked at the bill said the way it is constructed, there’s this huge incentive for any business, small business, to drop the number of employees under 50, the firms are now known as the 49ers, so people get fired as a way to get under the requirement of employer mandate. It also means that a lot of full time employees are going to lose at least ten hours of work; they have to get under 30 hours. So, if you’re a full-time worker now, you’re not going to be able to support a family on part time income. But the worst is... that they’re going to lose their members. The glory of the union movement is that beginning in the Second World War when there were wage and price controls, companies competed against each other by including health care in the package. That was the beginning of that. And that’s one of the great achievements of unions. Now what they’re seeing is workers are looking at the exchanges and seeing, ‘I can drop out of the employer plan, I get a huge subsidy, I come out ahead, and don’t have to be a member of the union.’ So this is a disaster for the unions and that’s why you have this letter of desperation and disappointment [from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, UFCW, and UNITE-HERE].” (The letter warns, “Right now, unless you... enact an equitable fix, the ACA will shatter not only our hard-earned health benefits, but destroy the foundation of the 40 hour work week that is the backbone of the American middle class.”) [46546, 46547, 46564, 46570, 46601]

Michelle Obama and her daughters attend a Beyonce Knowles concert in Chicago. (The cost to the taxpayers is not revealed.) [46535]

On July 18 the U.S. Senate votes 54–46 to confirm Obama’s nominee to head the Department of Labor, Tom Perez. The Senate also confirms Gina McCarthy, on a 59–40 vote, to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. (Both Perez, a racist, Islamist-sympathizing, illegal immigration advocate, and McCarthy are anti-business leftists. Perez was involved in the Obama “hotline” to solicit evidence that George Zimmerman is a racist. Perez has also been accused of “substantial misconduct” by current and former employees of the Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, which he headed.) [46494, 46526, 46542]

PJMedia.com reports the death of Larry Grathwohl, “the only informant to successfully penetrate Bill Ayers’ communist Weather Underground Organization (WUO).” (Grathwohl described the experiences in his book, *Bringing Down America: An FBI Informer with the Weathermen*. At one meeting he attended, Obama’s pal Ayers said as many as 25 million Americans would have to be killed in order for their communist revolution to succeed.) [46638, 46639, 46640, 46641, 46673]

Obama brags that because of ObamaCare, millions of insurance rebate checks “averaging around 100 bucks each” would be mailed by the end of the summer. (He neglects to mention that those rebate checks hardly offset the rising cost of insurance for tens of millions of other Americans. According to CNSNews.com, family premiums have increased by \$1,975 since the passage of ObamaCare.) Obama also criticizes the House

vote to delay the implementation of ObamaCare's individual mandate by one year, saying, "We've got a lot of problems in this country and there's a lot of work that Congress needs to do... and yet... we're re-fighting these old battles. Sometimes I just try to figure out why. Maybe, they [House Republicans] think it's good politics." (Obama apparently does not believe anyone noticed that his delay of the employer mandate by one year was in any way connected to politics—or the 2014 elections.) [46581, 46582]

Meanwhile, MoneyNews.com reports, "Researchers have concluded that Obamacare may drive nearly one million Americans out of the workforce to take advantage of government-provided health benefits. The findings... are higher than previous estimates by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which projected that as many as 800,000 people may leave their jobs once Obamacare takes effect." [46609]

Todd Starnes reports at Townhall.com, "A Texas grandmother was terrified after Trayvon Martin supporters surrounded her SUV, hit her in the head and tried to prevent her from taking her sick grandchild to the hospital. The grandmother, along with her daughter and granddaughter were trying to get the Texas Children's Hospital when protesters blocked traffic on a highway. ... 'We were shaking,' she said. 'Our bodies were shaking. We were terrified.' At some point in the altercation, Georgia said she was hit in the head and her daughter punched the accelerator. Once they reached a safe distance, they called 911." (Obama has no comment.) [46493, 46501, 46572]

The city of Detroit, more than \$18 billion in debt and run into the ground for decades by big-spending Democrats, files for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection. *The Wall Street Journal* reports, "Any hope of a federal bailout to avert bankruptcy fizzled last week after [Kevyn] Orr [the city's emergency manager] spoke with the White House, including Obama confidante Valerie Jarrett, according to city and White House officials." (During the campaign, Obama bragged, "I wasn't going to let Detroit go bankrupt. Or Toledo go bankrupt. Or Lordstown go bankrupt. I bet on American workers." In October 2012 Obama said, "I refused to let Detroit go bankrupt. And three years later, that bet is paying off in a big way.") Media leftists and Democrat politicians blame Detroit's problem on its plummeting population, which has reduced its tax revenue—while neglecting to consider what caused the population to fall in the first place. (The federal government is not about to bail out Detroit—partly because it does not have \$18 billion, but mostly because the city would quickly be followed by others demanding cash. Chicago has at least \$19 billion in unfunded employee pension liabilities and Los Angeles may be close to \$30 billion.) MSNBC's Ed Schultz blames Republicans for Detroit's collapse—a laughably absurd argument, considering that Democrats and labor unions have continuously controlled the city and its policies for decades. (Despite its financial situation, Detroit plans to build a new stadium for the Red Wings hockey team—with a \$450 million bond issue to be repaid over 30 years.) [46496, 46497, 46503, 46513, 46514, 46534, 46563, 46566, 46573, 46574, 46579, 46580, 46612, 46619, 46628, 46632, 46635, 46636, 46642, 46674, 46777, 46778]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Howard Coble (R-NC) states, "I'm not suggesting... that we compromise safety or security, but the first family, it

seems to me, treats Air Force One and related aircraft as their personal toys—a very expensive toy, I might add. ...I will admit that Air Force One belongs to ...Obama and his wife, but Air Force One also belongs to you and me, and to every taxpayer in America. I simply ask [Obama] and his wife to exercise more prudence and discipline regarding their aircraft activities. When the wheels of Air Force One are up, the meter is on [at an estimated \$179,000 per hour], and I'm talking about a heap of taxpayer dollars. ...The plague of the soaring debt continues to bother us, and I respectfully request that ...Obama and his wife direct more attention to our soaring debt and deficit and less time on Air Force One.” [46558]

University of Colorado environmental scientist Roger Pielke tells the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, “It is misleading and just plain incorrect to claim that disasters associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, floods or droughts have increased on climate timescales either in the United States or globally. It is further incorrect to associate the increasing costs of disasters with the emission of greenhouse gases. ...Hurricanes have not increased in the U.S. in frequency, intensity or normalized damage since at least 1900. The same holds for tropical cyclones globally since at least 1970.” [46576]

In an interview with *GQ* magazine, Vice President Joe Biden says, “I can die a happy man never having been president of the United States of America. But it doesn't mean I won't run. ...The judgment I'll make is, first of all, am I still as full of as much energy as I have now—do I feel this? Number two, do I think I'm the best person in the position to move the ball? And, you know, we'll see where the hell I am.” (The unstated number three is, of course, “Is Hillary Clinton running?”) [46559]

The Sanford, Florida police department confirms that the Department of Justice asked that it not release any evidence in the George Zimmerman trial—even though he was found not guilty and is legally entitled to the return of his gun. [46571]

On July 19 Obama again shows his inability to keep quiet on issues that are no concern of his—and a propensity to irresponsibly stir the pot of racial emotions—interrupting White House press secretary Jay Carney's daily briefing to tell reporters, “You know, when Trayvon Martin was first shot, I said that this could have been my son. Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me, 35 years ago.” (Obama does not elaborate or confess to buying Skittles and a soft drink to mix with cough syrup to make a drug cocktail.) “There are very few African-American men in this country who haven't had the experience of being followed when they were shopping in a department store. That includes me.” (Obama is apparently unaware that white teens are also routinely viewed with suspicion by department store security guards.) Obama says, “For those who resist that idea that we should think about something like the ‘stand your ground’ laws, I just ask people to consider if Trayvon Martin was of age and armed, could he have stood his ground on that sidewalk? And do we actually think that he would have been justified in shooting Mr. Zimmermann, who had followed him in a car, because he felt threatened? If the answer to that question is at least ambiguous, then it seems to me we might want to examine those kinds of laws.” (Obama ignores several important points. First, Martin

purportedly attacked Zimmerman—not the other way around. Second, to have one’s head bashed against concrete pavement most certainly justifies acting in self-defense; simply “feeling” threatened is an entirely different issue altogether—although Obama’s Secret Service agents can be expected to draw and perhaps fire their weapons if they “feel” that Obama is threatened. Lastly, the federal government has nothing to do with state criminal statutes—which properly grant citizens the right to self-defense. Obama also incorrectly refers to the Zimmerman verdict as a “ruling.”) [46554, 46557, 46584, 46594, 46658]

“I know that there’s been commentary about the fact that the stand your ground laws in Florida were not used as a defense in the case,” says Obama. “On the other hand, if we’re sending a message as a society in our communities that someone who is armed potentially has the right to use those firearms even if there is a way for them to exit from a situation, is that really going to be contributing to the kind of peace and security and order that we like to see?” (The message Obama fails to comprehend is: “Knocking a man to the ground and slamming his head against the pavement is not a good idea—regardless of whether the victim is armed.”) Obama also says, “When you think about why, in the African American community at least, there’s a lot of pain around what happened here, I think it’s important to recognize that the African American community is looking at this issue through a set of experiences and a history that... that doesn’t go away.” (The issue does not “go away” because people like Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and the leftist media continues to make race an issue and shove it down the throats of millions of Americans.) It is worth noting that White House press secretary Jay Carney had previously told reporters that Obama would *not* comment on the Zimmerman verdict. Obama broke that promise with his statement—and conveniently allowed no questions from reporters. [46554, 46557, 46584, 46594, 46637, 46658]

Former Congressman Allen West—whose skin is much darker than Obama’s—states, “I am a black male who grew up in the inner city of Atlanta and no one ever followed me in a mall. I don’t recall any doors clicking when I crossed the street. And I never had anyone clutching their handbag when I got on an elevator. I guess having two awesome parents who taught me to be a respectful young man paid dividends.” [46608]

AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller responds to Obama’s “Zimmerman is guilty, whites are evil, blacks are victims, and America sucks” remarks: “I know that we must suffer this buffoon his on-the-job training, but is there not a shred of decency in him? Is there not one iota of responsibility, or conscience, or goodness to this Jeremiah Wright disciple? He is inciting instead of calming, which is what a leader does. They picked the wrong case to exploit to their own racist ends, and still he and his thugocracy persist in spite of the facts. Stoking the flames. Stoking the failure. Stoking the lack of personal responsibility. Stoking the dissatisfaction. Stoking the entitlement class. Stoking the violence. War. What else could be his endgame except to pit American against American? The bloody joke is on all those voters who bought the ‘uniter’ ad copy. All of those voters who cast a vote for Obama, if only to show that we were beyond racism and the 20th century’s defects. But what America got was the opposite. Instead, we, as a nation, have been hurled backwards—horribly backwards. I have never known the

country to be so race fixed, so race obsessed, so race abused as we are under Obama. What an ugly transformation he has orchestrated. It is shocking. His sanction of ‘Every F***ing Cop Is A Target,’ of the mindless violence, the beatings of innocent people in the name of Trayvon [Martin], is sedition. But predicted [in my book]: *The Post-American Presidency: The Obama Administration’s War on America*. His flapping tongue is too eager to publicly lynch George Zimmerman, but strangely silent on Benghazi, the IRS war on patriots, [Operation] Fast and Furious, the Muslim Brotherhood, etc. Obama’s flapping tongue is strangely silent on the hundreds of young black men murdered by black men. Obama’s flapping tongue is strangely silent on the failure of Trayvon Martin’s parents.” [46586]

Conservative columnist and former presidential candidate Pat Buchanan refers to Obama’s comments as “leading from behind Al Sharpton,” and asks, “Why are white folks nervous about strange young black men in the neighborhood? Perhaps because they commit interracial muggings, robberies and rapes at 35 times the rate of whites.” [46658]

CNSNews.com reports, “A federal district court has granted Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., a preliminary injunction that prevents the federal government from enforcing its Obamacare mandate that the Christian company carry health insurance that offers contraceptives, sterilizations, and abortifacient drugs free of charge. ...As the injunction stands now and as [the] case moves forward in the courts, Hobby Lobby will not have to comply with the Obamacare mandate or pay any financial penalties related to non-compliance.” Ashley McGuire, senior fellow with The Catholic Association, comments, “Today the abortion-pill mandate took another blow. The courts have once again ruled that family business owners like the Green family of Hobby Lobby do not have to violate their consciences to enter the marketplace. We hope that other courts follow suit and restore religious liberty to all employers. And we hope that the Obama administration finally gets the message that the abortion-pill mandate is a blatant infringement on First Amendment rights and religious freedom.” [46556, 46587]

The Associated Press writes, “Another year, another round of exaggeration from ...Obama and his administration about health insurance rebates. In his speech defending his health care law Thursday, Obama said rebates averaging \$100 are coming from insurance companies to 8.5 million Americans. In fact, most of the money is going straight to employers who provide health insurance, not to their workers, who benefit indirectly. Obama danced around that reality in remarks that also blamed problems in establishing affordable insurance markets on political opponents, glossing over complex obstacles also faced in states that support the law. Just as he did a year ago, Obama made a splashy announcement about rebates that incorporates misleading advertising.” [46568, 46569, 46581]

WND.com reports, “In a survey by a top research firm, six in 10 physicians said it is likely many doctors will retire earlier than planned in the next one to three years. The same percentage say the practice of medicine is in jeopardy as medical experts lose control of their clinics and compensation with the implementation of the Affordable Health Care for America Act, or Obamacare. ...The survey by the Deloitte Center for

Health Solutions found that the ‘future of the medical profession may be in jeopardy as it loses clinical autonomy and compensation.’ Further, it found the health insurance exchanges required by Obamacare this year probably won’t be reality. Many doctors are starting to limit their participation in Medicaid and Medicare because of low reimbursement rates. Some doctors even close off their practices to such patients, the survey found.” [46607]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemary Aquillina ordered on Friday that Detroit’s bankruptcy be withdrawn, citing a concern that government employees’ pensions would be endangered by federal bankruptcy proceedings, The Detroit News reports. ‘It’s cheating, sir, and it’s cheating good people who work,’ the judge told assistant Attorney General Brian Devlin on Friday, adding that she will ensure that ...Obama gets a copy of her order. ‘It’s also not honoring [Obama], who took [Detroit’s auto companies] out of bankruptcy.’ At the same time, Aquillina voiced her confidence that Obama would ensure that pension guarantees were protected and honored. ‘I know he’s watching,’ she said.” (Aquillina, who may or may not know anything about law in general or bankruptcy law in particular, apparently believes the tooth fairy—or Obama—will leave \$18 billion under the Detroit mayor’s pillow. The “cheating” was, of course, not just running out of money but promising city workers pensions that the local government could never expect to pay.) [46575, 46585, 46653]

InfoWars.com reports, “A witness to the aftermath of the Michael Hastings accident on June 18 in Hancock Park in Los Angeles, California told Infowars Nightly News that the journalist’s body was not badly charred as reported by the Los Angeles Times. The LAPD and the Los Angeles County Coroner were ‘trying their best’ to hide the body from the witness, who asked to remain anonymous, when it was pulled from the vehicle approximately three hours after the fire was extinguished, between 7:20 to 7:40 AM. After the ferocity of the fire, the witness expected to see a body charred beyond recognition. ‘What I saw was the full body,’ she told Infowars Nightly News, ‘with a completely burned face, up to say the shoulders. From the shoulders down I saw the whole body, completely intact, not burned in any way.’ She identified the body as a ‘white guy about 25 to 30... a white young guy... I saw full, white arms.’ This contradicts the official story.” (It also reinforces the arguments of those who claim Hastings was murdered either in retaliation for what he had reported about the Obama administration or to prevent him from additional reporting. Hastings was reportedly working on a story about the CIA.) [46989]

CNSNews.com reports, “One day after an Aug. 4, 2011 meeting of IRS officials who gathered to discuss the handling of Tea Party tax-exemption applications, an appointment was made for William J. Wilkins, head of the IRS Chief Counsel’s office and one of only two political appointees there, to meet at the White House. Four days later, on Aug. 9, 2011, Wilkins kept that appointment, according to White House visitor records.” (The White House claims Obama knew nothing about the IRS targeting of conservative groups.) [46629, 46668, 46733]

Politico reports, “The House on Friday passed a sweeping overhaul of No Child Left Behind on a largely partisan 221–207 vote. The bill would roll back much of the landmark 2001 education bill, ending federal progress goals and letting states set their own targets for how much students learn. It also stops the Education Department from encouraging states to adopt common academic standards. The bill faces a veto threat from ...Obama and is likely going nowhere in the Senate.”

WND.com reports that the Washington D.C. voter rolls include an individual named Barry Soetoro who lists his address as 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. PJMedia.com’s J. Christian Adams, a former elections attorney at the Department of Justice, states, “Obtaining the actual registration forms submitted to the D.C. elections board might answer the question. In my view, it is worse if it is a fraud because it illustrates the ease at which one can trick the system. Or perhaps ...Obama wants out of crime-infested Chicago after his term is up and registered using his old name. I’ll go with option 1, the fraud.” (Barry Soetoro is the name Obama used after his mother married Lolo Soetoro and the family moved to Indonesia. *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama was legally adopted by Soetoro, making Obama a citizen of Indonesia who is unable to legally serve as president. Obama’s extraordinary efforts to keep his school records secret possibly relate to his citizenship and status as a foreign student.) [46583]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama’s Trayvon Martin remarks: “I thought it was a political speech addressed to his constituency on the left, which I thought was unfortunate, even though it sounded like a philosophical speech addressed to the whole nation. I gave him and Holder credit all week for trying to de-racialize the issue and what Obama did, I think, unfortunately today is to re-racialize it. The first statement he issued after the verdict on Saturday, I think it was, was to talk about [how] we have to honor what the jury decided. And then he spoke about helping our communities, thinking about our neighbors and gun control. But it wasn’t about race, and as we know from the trial, race was not an issue in the trial. The prosecution didn’t speak of race; the jury said it wasn’t an issue; the FBI investigation didn’t find any hint of racism in Zimmerman, but Obama re-injected it. Now, to give him the benefit of the doubt and I’m not sure why I still do. Three days in a row, I probably ought to consult a physician by now. I think the main message of the speech was what he buried which was they are not going to continue, they’re not going to pursue a federal prosecution. He knows, [and Attorney General Eric] Holder knows there is no case for a hate crime. But he buried it, in a throw-away line. And the rest—all the racial stuff, and the sympathy he expressed for all those who were upset—I think was a rhetorical fog, if you like, a compensation for the fact they are not going to get the demand that you’re going to hear in the demonstrations tomorrow for federal charge against Zimmerman. So I think it was a balancing act as a way to mitigate the fact that they are not going to pursue an unwinnable prosecution of Zimmerman.” [46592]

Actor James Woods responds to Obama’s Trayvon Martin remarks with a variety of Twitter messages: “Just curious. Does [Obama] have any advice for other teenage boys in America? Wounded warriors, for example...” “ALL youth of every heritage in this country would benefit from jobs and manageable student loans, NOT a bloated welfare

state.” “The only reason people lock their car doors when Obama walks by is they are afraid he’ll tax them to death...” “Racial integration has worked in the Armed Forces because everyone has a job, gets training in a skill, and MUST respect the rank of others.” “The race issues in America that have bedeviled this nation for decades could be greatly resolved with JOBS and EDUCATION and SKILLS TRAINING.” “Though I only have anecdotal evidence, I have personally watched diversity flourish in this country in my 66 years.” “For [Al] Sharpton et al, racial disharmony is in part a business. They thrive on discord, while we diverse Americans thrive on harmony.” “Well, I vowed if I were ever on Twitter, I would NEVER talk politics. That worked out pretty good...” [46626]

On July 20 even a few media leftists pan Obama’s Galesburg speech. On MSNBC’s *Morning Joe*, Joe Scarborough asks Chuck Todd, “What new did you hear yesterday that was new?” Todd responds, “I didn’t hear anything new. I remember asking this very question. I always say, remind people the first three letters of the word ‘news’ is n-e-w, right? At the end of the day, a news organization is charged with telling you what’s new. ...He spent a great deal of time about health care. And rightfully so. He’s got a big challenge ahead of him. But, if you’re looking for the new—no, there wasn’t new in there.” Scarborough observes, “Reelection does not legitimize you in the eyes of your most vocal opponents and it’s got to be frustrating as hell. Dana Milbank wrote about the speech in *The Washington Post*. He said, ‘a warmed-over jobs message. Even a reincarnated Steve Jobs would have trouble marketing this turkey. How can [Obama] make news and remake the agenda by delivering the same message he gave in 2005? He’s even giving the speech from the same place, Galesburg, Illinois.’” [46779]

“Justice for Trayvon” demonstrators protest the George Zimmerman jury verdict in a number of cities across the country. (Some protesters hold bags of Skittles candy and cans of Arizona Watermelon Fruit Juice Cocktail—apparently unaware that those items, which he purchased and was carrying on the night he was killed, are mixed with codeine-containing cough medicine to make a drug cocktail known as “lean,” “sizzurp,” and “purple drank.” Martin was not an “innocent child returning from a store with candy;” he was a young thug seeking to get high. One need only read some of Martin’s Twitter messages to understand that he was not an angelic child, but a street punk.) [46588, 46589, 46590, 46593, 46622, 46643]

Chicago is among the cities where Trayvon Martin “justice” demonstrations are held. (The *Chicago Sun-Times* reports, “Six men were killed and at least 23 people — including a 6-year-old girl—were wounded in shootings across the city since Friday night.” Al Sharpton and Obama have no comment. Obama plays golf.) [46617, 46630]

Veteran leftist White House reporter Helen Thomas, infamous for anti-Israel and anti-Jew remarks that were caught on camera in 2010, dies at age 92. Obama issues a statement: “Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Helen Thomas. Helen was a true pioneer, opening doors and breaking down barriers for generations of women in journalism. She covered every White House since President Kennedy’s, and during that time she never failed to keep presidents... on their toes. What made Helen the ‘Dean of

the White House Press Corps' was not just the length of her tenure, but her fierce belief that our democracy works best when we ask tough questions and hold our leaders to account. Our thoughts are with Helen's family, her friends, and the colleagues who respected her so deeply." (Obama's statement is written; whether he would have again mispronounced the word "corps" as "corpse" is not known.) [46591, 46596, 46606, 46623, 46672]

A *Boston Herald* editorial comments on Obama's Trayvon Martin remarks: "[S]ix days after George Zimmerman's acquittal in the death of Trayvon Martin, a time when the rallying has died down, the interviews tapered to a precious few and relative calm has returned to this long, hot summer, along comes ... Obama to stir the pot—again. Obama's surprise appearance in the White House briefing room yesterday was a mixture of self indulgence and political exploitation of the tragic death of the Florida teenager. It did nothing to advance the cause of better race relations—even as [Obama] himself had to acknowledge that life is indeed better for this generation—for his own daughters—than it was for his generation. ... [Obama] acknowledged that young black men are disproportionately both the victims and the perpetrators of crimes but in the end he fell back on the administration boilerplate about better training for police and taking a closer look at 'stand-your-ground' laws such as Florida's. 'Where do we take this?' he asked aloud. But apart from calling for 'all of us to do some soul-searching' never really gave the nation an answer." [46594]

At Rare.us James S. Robbins asks, "Would you trust thousands of low-level Federal bureaucrats and contractors with one-touch access to your private financial and medical information? Under Obamacare you won't have any choice. As the Obamacare train-wreck begins to gather steam, there is increasing concern in Congress over something called the Federal Data Services Hub. The Data Hub is a comprehensive database of personal information being established by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement the federally facilitated health insurance exchanges. The purpose of the Data Hub, according to a June 2013 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, is to provide 'electronic, near real-time access to federal data' and 'access to state and third party data sources needed to verify consumer-eligibility information.' In these days of secret domestic surveillance by the intelligence community, rogue IRS officials and state tax agencies using private information for political purposes, and police electronically logging every license plate that passes by, the idea of the centralized Data Hub is making lawmakers and citizens nervous. They certainly should be; the potential for abuse is enormous. The massive, centralized database will include comprehensive personal information such as income and financial data, family size, citizenship and immigration status, incarceration status, social security numbers, and private health information. It will compile dossiers based on information obtained from the IRS, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Social Security Administration, state Medicaid databases, and for some reason the Peace Corps. The Data Hub will provide web-based, one-stop shopping for prying into people's personal affairs." [46957, 46625]

Robbins notes that “Thousands of [federal ‘navigators’] will have unfettered access to the Data Hub, but there are only sketchy guidelines on how they will be hired, trained and monitored. Given the slap-dash, incoherent way Obamacare is being implemented the prospect for quality control is low. And the Obama administration’s track record of sweetheart deals, no-bid, sole-source contracting and other means of rewarding people with insider access means the Data Hub will be firmly in the hands of trusted White House loyalists. So if you think the IRS targeting Tea Party groups was bad, just wait for the Obamacare Navigators to be unleashed. ‘Trust us,’ the administration says, no one will abuse the Data Hub. Sure, because that has worked out so well in the past.” [46597, 46663]

DailyCaller.com points out that in recent polls both Obama and George Zimmerman have disapproval ratings of 48 percent. [46598]

TimesOfIsrael.com reports, “Amid conflicting accounts of the basis on which Israel and the Palestinians are set to renew negotiations, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday night hailed the resumption of the talks, announced Friday by Secretary of State John Kerry, as fulfilling Israel’s ‘vital strategic interests.’ Israeli ministers said the government had held firm to its insistence on there being no preconditions for resuming the negotiations, while Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas had given ground. According to the ministers, the talks would resume without Israel agreeing to a settlement freeze, without Israel agreeing to negotiations for a Palestinian state on the basis of the pre-1967 lines, and without there first being a release of longtime Palestinian prisoners. Still, Israel would release Palestinian prisoners, with Israeli blood on their hands—up to 350, according to some sources—in phases as the talks continued, they said. However, a Palestinian official said Abbas agreed to restart talks only after receiving a letter from Kerry guaranteeing that the basis of the negotiations will indeed be Israel’s pre-1967 borders. The official, quoted by AP, said Kerry’s letter also stipulated that both the Israelis and the Palestinians must refrain from taking any steps that would jeopardize the outcome of the talks. Thus, the unnamed official said, Israel is not to issue new tenders for West Bank settlements, while the Palestinians are to refrain from pursuing action against Israel at international organizations.” [46599, 46633]

A spokesman for Abbas later disputes Kerry’s claim that talks are imminent and makes it clear that the Palestinian Authority continues to demand as a pre-condition to any talks Israel’s acceptance of its pre-1967 “Auschwitz” borders. HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey later writes, “When Kerry became Secretary of State, he did promise to bring a fresh diplomatic approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Who knew that would be *fantasy fiction*? On the surface, this appears to be something out of *The Parent Trap*—tricking Mom and Dad into meeting someplace so that they can really discover how much they missed each other. All we need is Hayley Mills and some really bad songwriting. ...It’s going to take more than Hayley Mills singing *Let’s Get Together* (definitely not the Al Green version) to break this impasse. If this clumsy attempt at public pressure is the best America has to offer, then we can take the next four years off from the Israeli-Palestinian talks—and maybe we should.” According to TheBlaze.com, one Palestinian official stated, “The talks with Kerry were about to collapse, and the letter came as a lifeline in

the last minute bargaining.” (In other words, Kerry was willing to throw Israel under the bus in order to appear successful.) [46627, 46633]

On July 21 Doug Giles writes at Townhall.com, “Last Friday afternoon [Obama] injected himself into the Trayvon/Zimmerman mix again by doing what he excels at, namely, increasing the racial divide, blaming the ‘white Hispanic,’ condemning guns and upbraiding essentially everyone but the stoned and violent truant named Trayvon. Look, I don’t fault Obama for stirring the Trayvon pot again. Hell, I would have if I were in his shoes. ‘Why,’ you ask? Well, it’s pretty simple folks: it takes everyone’s attention off the Mama June-sized scandals he’s boiling in right now, that’s why. Of course he’s going to milk this cow. He doesn’t want us yapping about the ubiquitous outrages he’s enmeshed in; such as the IRS, NSA, DOJ, Benghazi, bankrupt Detroit or how much ObamaCare is hated and sucks. I’m really surprised he didn’t blow up a Sudanese aspirin factory yesterday and I guarantee he’s got [David] Axelrod and Oliver Stone in a joint effort to ‘fabricate’ a quick war next week in order to further cover his scandal-addled backside.” [46600]

At WashingtonTimes.com Joseph Curl writes that Obama “wasn’t there to calm the country. And he certainly wasn’t there to start some ‘conversation’ on race—he doesn’t find those ‘particularly productive,’ he said, what with all the listening. Instead, he came out unannounced to the briefing room to talk about ‘how people are feeling.’ Not all people, mind you, just black people—and especially, as always, himself. ...He ticked off a list of racist actions he said whites take whenever there’s a black man (especially him) nearby—locking car doors, clutching purses closer. ‘I don’t want to exaggerate this,’ he said, exaggerating wildly as he labeled all white people racist. [Obama], it turned out, had come to pick the scab off America’s healing wound. ...Violence, sporadic but intense, swept through communities across the country for a week after the [George Zimmerman] verdict, but was subsiding. [Obama], however, wanted to reopen the case. ...See, for Mr. Obama, there were no shades of gray—the case wasn’t even black and white, just black. Only Trayvon’s parents lost someone that night, he implied as he praised their ‘incredible grace and dignity.’ Mr. Zimmerman’s parents, though, didn’t matter. They didn’t even rate a mention from [Obama], who had decided that the jury was wrong—which is really what brought him to the podium. And he couldn’t have cared less about how Mr. Zimmerman had lost his life, too, in a very real way: No, [Obama] wanted to make his life worse, to pile on. And even though the altercation was not racially motivated—the testimony was clear on that point—Mr. Obama, adept at pitting side against side, was eager to play the race card.” [46614]

Obama, observes Curl, “oddly segued into black-on-black crime: gangs, drugs, he said. But America’s past is to blame for that: slavery, repression, he said. ‘Some of the violence that takes place in poor black neighborhoods around the country is born out of a very violent past in this country, and the poverty and dysfunction that we see in those communities can be traced to a very difficult history.’ Yes, slavery 150 years ago is still causing inner-city crime today. Victimology at its finest. Forget the fact that Mr. Zimmerman was mentoring two black children whose father is serving a life sentence (Mr. Obama didn’t mention that—it didn’t fit the narrative). Instead, he made a shocking

charge: ‘If a white male teen was involved in the same kind of scenario, from top to bottom, both the outcome and the aftermath might have been different.’ Which means this: If a 27-year-old black man had shot a 17-year-old white boy to death, the black man would be found guilty and sent to jail. End of story, at least for Mr. Obama. And that means the Florida jury was racist; it freed Mr. Zimmerman because he was white but would have convicted Trayvon because he was black. The Associated Press applauded the shockingly divisive statement, assigning a black reporter to write a story headlined ‘In passionate speech, Obama bares his black self.’ ...So that, too, was his motive, to shore up his bona fides within the black community. And perhaps the move worked. [Obama] clearly thought so: While rallies for Trayvon were held in 100 cities across the country on Saturday, Mr. Obama didn’t attend. Instead, he headed to the golf course.” [46614]

Newsmax.com reports, “All of the net gain in employment over the last 13 years has gone to immigrants, both legal and illegal, according to a new analysis of government data. From the first quarter of 2000 to the first quarter of this year, the number of natives working fell by 1.3 million while the overall size of the working-age (16 to 65) native population increased by 16.4 million. Over the same period, the number of legal and illegal immigrants working rose by 5.3 million, while the total number of working-age immigrants rose by 8.8 million, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) reports in an analysis based on the Current Population Survey, the nation’s primary source of information on the labor market.” [46602]

On *Meet the Press*, radio talk show host Tavis Smiley says, “I appreciate and applaud the fact that [Obama] did finally show up [and make a statement about Trayvon Martin], but this town has been spinning a story that’s not altogether true. He did not walk to the podium for an impromptu address to the nation. He was pushed to that podium. A week of protests outside the White House, pressure building on him inside the White House, pushed him to that podium [sic; lectern]. But when he left the podium [sic; lectern], he still had not answered the most important question, that Kingian [presumably Martin Luther King] question, where do we go from here? That question this morning remains unanswered, at least from the perspective of [Obama]. And the bottom line is, this is not Libya. This is America. On this issue, you cannot lead from behind. What’s lacking in this moment is moral leadership. The country is begging for it. They’re craving it. And I disagree with [Obama] respectfully that politicians, elected officials, can’t occupy this space on race. Lincoln did, Truman did, Johnson did, ...Obama did. He’s the right person in the right place at the right time, but he has to step into his moment. I don’t want him to be like Bill Clinton, when he’s out of office, regretting that he didn’t move on Rwanda. I don’t want [Obama] to look back and realize he didn’t do as much as he could have in this critical moment. ...I don’t know how [Obama] argues that he doesn’t believe that he can have a role in leading us in a moral conversation. This is not a political issue. This is a moral issue. I don’t know how he can’t lead us in a conversation on this, but he can on gay marriage? He can on a litany of other—he can on Israel and Palestine, but not race?” [46611]

Also on *Meet the Press*, David Brooks—Obama sycophant and the resident *New York Times* “pretend conservative columnist”—says of Obama’s statement, “It seemed

superficially unimportant, but it's important to remember race is his first subject, as it would be if you had a black father and a white mother. And all the mental habits, he breached all the other issues, grow out of the way he framed race and the way he started thinking about race—his tendency to do, 'On the one hand, on the other,' his desire to reconcile opposites, his ability to see different points of view. All the stuff we've come to see him apply to every other issue, it started with race. And I thought this speech was one of the highlights of [his White House occupancy]. I thought it was a symphony of indignation, professionalism, executive responsibility, personal feeling. It had all these different things woven together, I thought beautifully. But it's important to remember, race is how he thinks." (What Brooks believes is significant in a positive way is precisely what is *wrong* with Obama: *he looks at every issue from a racial perspective, thereby dividing rather than uniting the nation.*) [46624]

FoxNews.com reports, "The first family is returning this summer to Martha's Vineyard, the third time the Obamas have vacationed on the exclusive Massachusetts island in the past four years. ...Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will arrive August 10 and stay through August 18... The vacation is drawing some criticism about [Obama] relaxing among the rich and famous while drastic cuts to the federal budget known as sequester kick in with full force, including the start this month of furloughs for 85 percent of the Defense Department's civilian workforce." [46613, 46829]

Dave Hodges argues at TheCommonSenseShow.com that, "beyond a reasonable doubt," journalist Michael Hastings "was murdered." "The official version of the Hastings death," writes Hodges, "stated that he was traveling at an excessive speed, at least 80 mph, when he lost control of his car and he crashed into a tree causing his Mercedes to burst into a flames, which resulted in his death. According to the coroner, the Hastings body was burned beyond recognition. That claim is disputed by an eyewitness to the crime as reported on Infowars Nightly News who stated that the body was recognizable and intact. The fact that Hastings' family had requested that the body be sent to them for proper burial and this request was not honored, should be investigated. Unless there was a compelling legal reason to not comply with the family request to have the body sent to them, the coroner committed a criminal act for which he should be prosecuted. ...Just a few hours before his death, Hastings sent an email to colleagues at BuzzFeed.com stating that he was 'onto a big story' and that he would have 'to go off the radar for a bit.' ...Hastings also told BuzzFeed.com that that they might be questioned about him by authorities." Hodges points out that photographs show damage to the rear end of the car, rather than its front end, despite the fact that the accident supposedly involved a crash into a tree—a tree which appears relatively unscathed. ... A Westside LA newspaper, The Park Labrea News/ Beverly Press reported that '*LAPD investigators have stated foul play was involved.*' Yet when the newspaper attempted to question the lead investigator in the case, Detective Connie White from the LAPD's West Traffic Division, regarding the investigators revelation of foul play, she did not return calls to the newspaper, thus, refusing comment on the status of the investigation. This is a significant revelation because we have to remember that when whistleblower Andrew Breitbart was murdered, so was his coroner following the autopsy. The coroner who had investigated the Breitbart death was poisoned to death. Therefore, isn't it logical to assume that the LA coroner and

LAPD Detective White are aware of this fact and are subsequently afraid of their own shadow? The fix is in and official statements other than the ‘approved’ version will not be forthcoming.” (Like NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, Hastings had been in contact with WikiLeaks.) [46715, 46716, 46757]

For a second consecutive night Muslims riot in France, upset over a 2011 law banning face veils. (Obama has no comment.) [46615]

In Iraq, Muslims celebrate Ramadan with rioting and the killing of dozens of people as they fight to free more than five hundred fellow “religion of peace” followers—including convicted al-Qaeda terrorists and murderers—from the Abu Ghraib prison. (Obama has no comment.) [46616]

IllinoisReview.com reports that in 2004 then-State Senator Obama “actually co-sponsored a bill that strengthened Illinois’ 1961 ‘stand your ground’ law. The Obama-sponsored bill (SB 2386) enlarged the state’s 1961 law by shielding the person who was attacked from being sued in civil court by perpetrators or their estates when a ‘stand your ground’ defense is used in protecting his or her person, dwelling or other property. The bill unanimously passed the Democrat-controlled Illinois Senate on March 25, 2004 with only one comment, and passed the Democrat-controlled Illinois House in May 2004 with only two votes in opposition. Then-Governor Rod Blagojevich (D) signed it into law.” (Had George Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon Martin in Illinois, the Martin family could not sue Zimmerman because Martin was the aggressor.) [46654, 46655]

On July 22 Roger Simon writes at PJMedia.com, “According to Reuters, in New York a grand total of 2000 people showed up Saturday to protest in favor of Trayvon Martin in the George Zimmerman trial. That’s .00024257 of the population of our most populous city. ...In our second most populous city, my hometown of Los Angeles, the results were even worse, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. A measly 400 people demonstrated. The totals in Miami, closest big city to the event, were 300. In other words, the turnout was somewhere between minuscule and puny—maybe, at best, fifteen thousand people nationwide in a country of 314 million. (You do the math on that one... Okay, I’ll do it. That’s .00005 of the population.) ...So what are we to make of this astonishingly low attendance after non-stop coverage on cable news and elsewhere, as if this trial were the only serious issue confronting our country? Could it be that the citizenry, including African-Americans, supposedly so greatly injured, have seen through the media hype (what I earlier called media pornography) and themselves realize this case is simply an accidental, anomalous one-off and not that big of a deal? I certainly hope so, because what we have been going through is a form of national nervous breakdown, taking us rapidly backwards on race relations, something that has improved consistently in our country over the last fifty years. What we do not need now is a ‘national conversation on race.’ That’s like taking a scab that’s slowly healing and, just when it’s about to wither away, scratching it as hard as possible until the wound comes back.” [46630]

At the White House, Obama meets with various entertainers—including Kal Penn (one of Obama’s alleged gay lovers), Jennifer Hudson, and Amy Poehler—and encourages them

to push ObamaCare and its health care exchanges. (A White House official states that the meeting was “to engage artists who expressed an interest in helping to educate the public about the benefits of the health law. The reach of these national stars spreads beyond the beltway to fans of their television shows, movies, and music—and the power of these artists to speak through social media is especially critical. . . .Obama underscored that the efforts of these artists will be especially helpful since young uninsured Americans (ages 18–35) are key enrollment targets for the new marketplaces.” (At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, “Yes, by all means, super-cool TV stars and musicians, tell the many young people still living at home on their parents’ couches, and/or struggling to begin their careers or to find more than merely part time work, why they should pay thousands more dollars for a health care plan they neither want nor need. Sounds *awesome*. It is absolutely not a secret that ObamaCare needs millions of young, healthy people with relatively few and inexpensive health care needs to pay for the program’s ballooning costs and subsidize others’ insurance, and it sounds like the administration is looking to get their groove back with some help from his famous pop-culture allies. Goody.”) [46650, 46651]

According to a Quinnipiac poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings in Iowa are a dismal 41/55. (In May, his Iowa numbers were 45/50.) [46631]

Obama’s national approval/disapproval percentages drop to 41/48 in a McClatchy-Marist poll. [46644, 46645, 46649]

At Washington, D.C.’s Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Obama addresses supporters at Organizing for Action, and announces he will deliver an address on the economy in Illinois on July 24. He says, “I’m going to talk about where we need to go from here, how we need to put behind us the distractions and the phony debates and nonsense that somehow passes for politics these days, and get back to basics.” (In other words, “Let’s stop talking about the Benghazi cover-up, the NSA spying on Americans, the IRS targeting conservatives, the Department of Justice going after a Fox News reporter, and the ObamaCare train wreck, and let me change the subject back to the economy—where, for some strange reason, many Americans continue to give me the benefit of the doubt.”) [46645, 46752]

Obama also says, “I always remind people, I’ve run my last campaign. Michelle is not sorry about it. I’ve got a little over 1,200 days left in office. I am going to spend every waking minute of every one of those days thinking about and then acting upon any good ideas out there that are going to help ordinary Americans succeed, that are going to make sure that the next generation believes in the American dream because they’ve seen it in their own lives. That’s how I’m going to spend my time. I hope that’s how you’re going to spend your time. Because if you do, I guarantee you we will continue to make progress and we will deliver on everything that we talked about in 2008 and 2012.” [46657]

Meanwhile, White House adviser Dan Pfeiffer whines in an email to Obama supporters that “too many in Congress are trying to score political points, re-fight old battles, and trump up phony scandals.” (Pfeiffer does not explain why Operation Fast and Furious,

which resulted in the murder of Border Agent Brian Terry, is not a scandal.) [46656, 46752]

According to a Viewpoint Florida poll, 56 percent of the state's residents believe the George Zimmerman verdict was correct and 63 percent believe he should not face federal charges. Additionally, 53 percent believe that race relations have gotten worse since Obama entered the White House; only 10 percent say they have improved. [46662]

Dr. Cornel West, an outspoken black activist who is a professor at Union Theological Seminary and co-host of the *Smiley & West* radio show with Tavis Smiley, says on *Democracy Now!*, "I think we have to acknowledge that ...Obama has very little moral authority at this point, because we know anybody who tries to rationalize the killing of innocent peoples, a criminal—George Zimmerman is a criminal—but ...Obama is a global George Zimmerman, because he tries to rationalize the killing of innocent children... in the name of self-defense, so that there's [sic] actually parallels here. So when he comes to talk about the killing of an innocent person [Trayvon Martin], you say, 'Well, wait a minute. What kind of moral authority are you bringing? You've got [a] \$2 million bounty on Sister Assata Shakur [Joanne Chesimard]. She's innocent, but you are pressing that intensely.'" (Chesimard, a member of the Black Liberation Army, was convicted of killing a New Jersey state trooper. She then fled to Cuba. For some strange reason, Chesimard has gained the support of many blacks, Hollywood celebrities, and leftist activists who apparently believe killing cops is a reasonable thing to do.) [46677]

West also says, "We've got a black leadership that is deferential to Obama, that is subservient to Obama, and that's what niggerizing is. You keep folks so scared. You keep folks so intimidated. You can give them money, access, but they're still scared. And as long as you're scared, you're on the plantation." [46837]

On July 23 Catherine Herridge reports at FoxNews.com, "The former head of U.S. forces in Africa, General Carter Ham, told the Aspen Security Forum that it quickly became clear the assault on the American consulate in Benghazi last year was a terrorist attack and not a spontaneous demonstration. 'It became apparent to all of us quickly that this was not a demonstration, this was a violent attack,' Ham said. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton initially had portrayed the embassy attack as a response to an inflammatory internet video. Ham said he was in Washington D.C. for a routine meeting on September 11, 2012 with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Martin Dempsey, when an alert came in from commanders in Stuttgart, Germany that a violent assault was underway on the consulate in Benghazi and Ambassador Chris Stevens was missing. Asked if it was a terrorist attack, Ham said the intelligence left no doubt that it was." (Although it was clear from the beginning that it was a terrorist attack, Obama, Clinton, and others in the administration spread the lie that the activity was nothing more than outrage over an Internet video.) [46646, 46647, 46648]

New York City mayoral candidate Anthony Weiner, with his practicing Muslim wife Huma Abedin standing by his side, holds a press conference to admit that he continued sending sexual messages and photos to young woman even after he resigned from

Congress in disgrace and during her pregnancy. (HotAir.com comments, “And to add to the creepiness, his wife not only ended up at the podium next to him, she delivered her own statement in his defense. . . .The media naturally finds her brave and dignified; I think the two of them together put on one of the creepiest shows of careerism since whenever Charlie Crist’s last presser was. I’d vote against him for that reason—not because he’s ‘flawed’ but because we need fewer people in office whose political ambitions have left them literally shameless. Creepy, all the way through.) Abedin, who once worked for an Islamic-supremacist magazine and whose family has strong connections to the radical Muslim Brotherhood and al-Qaeda front groups, had been Hillary Clinton’s “closest” aide during her tenure as Secretary of State. How Abedin received security clearance for her position has never been explained. (Abedin may regret the attention she is now getting. According to FoxNews.com, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) has asked the State Department why she “was granted status as a ‘special government employee’ after the birth of her son. That title allowed her to work from home as a part-time consultant to State, earning \$135,000 as a government employee—while also earning \$355,000 as a consultant for Teneo, where former President Bill Clinton is a board member. Grassley wants to know who authorized Abedin’s change in status, what effect that change had on her security clearances, and whether the department interacted with the companies with which Abedin consulted.”) [46652, 46659, 46660, 46661, 46665, 46703, 46704, 46714, 46719, 46721, 46723, 46734, 46749, 46751, 46759, 46776, 46800, 46819, 46863, 46872]

The New York Times calls on Weiner to pull out of the mayoral race. (Obama has no comment.) [46667, 46675]

DailyCaller.com reports that entertainer “Jay Z” “will join Stevie Wonder, Madonna and other musicians boycotting the state of Florida in the wake of the George Zimmerman trial. Jay Z’s boycott, however, will begin after he makes millions of dollars for performing with Justin Timberlake in Florida [on August 16].” [46664]

At NBCNews.com Michael Isikoff reports, “. . .Obama’s nominee to be the Homeland Security Department’s No. 2 official is under investigation over alleged intervention to obtain approval for a company run by a brother of Hillary Clinton to participate in a program that provides U.S. visas for foreign investors, according to an email the department’s inspector general sent to lawmakers Monday night and obtained by NBC News. The investigation into Alejandro Mayorkas—who currently serves as director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCIS), an agency within Homeland Security—was opened in September 2012 based on a referral from an FBI counterintelligence analyst, according to the email. The inspector general probe was first reported by The Associated Press. . . .The probe is based on allegations that Mayorkas personally intervened to win an approval [for visas] for Gulf Coast Funds Management, a financing company headed by Clinton’s brother Anthony Rodham, after USCIS officials rejected its application, according to an aide to GOP Sen. Charles Grassley, who had received internal USCIS emails about the matter from a department whistleblower.” (Under the EB-5 visa program, a foreigner can obtain a “green card” to remain in the United States if he invests at least \$500,000 in a business and creates at least 10 jobs.

Mayorkas allegedly helped provide visas to foreigners who did not meet the requirements.) [46680, 46681]

Prior to a House vote on an amendment to rein in NSA's spying on the phone records of Americans, White House press secretary Jay Carney accuses House Republicans of attempting to "hastily dismantle one of our Intelligence Community's counterterrorism tools" and says their "blunt approach is not the product of an informed, open or deliberative process." (The next day the House votes 217–205 to reject the amendment. Carney's criticism is misdirected, as more Democrats than Republicans—111 versus 95—support the amendment. The \$598.3 billion spending bill passes by a vote of 315–109.) [46687, 46695, 46710, 46722, 46757]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, Bill O'Reilly states, "On Friday, [Obama] delivered surprise remarks to the press about the Trayvon Martin case and race in general. His main point: a plea for understanding. ... Many black Americans harbor at least some resentment for past injury. But what ... Obama surely knows is that you cannot reach a fair criminal verdict or design effective public policy that solves present problems by dwelling on the sins of the past. [I believe that Obama] was correct in addressing the race issue and framing it with the Martin case. He's the leader of America and the country is talking about this. By the way, when you hear a pundit or politician saying we should have a quote, 'conversation' about race, that means you are in for a sea of bloviating which will likely lead nowhere. The sad truth is that from [Obama] on down, our leadership has no clue, no clue at all about how to solve problems within the black community. And many are frightened to even broach the issue. That's because race hustlers and the grievance industry have intimidated the so-called 'conversation,' turning any valid criticism of African-American culture into charges of racial bias. So many in power simply walk away leaving millions of law abiding African-Americans to pretty much fend for themselves in violent neighborhoods. You want racism? That's racism. Thus, it is time for some straight talk, and I hope [Obama] is listening tonight because we need him to lead on this issue." [46666]

"Trayvon Martin was killed because circumstances got out of control. He was scrutinized by a neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman, because of the way he looked. Not necessarily his skin color, there is no evidence of that but because he was a stranger to Zimmerman and was dressed in clothing sometimes used by street criminals. It was wrong for Zimmerman to confront Martin based on his appearance. But the culture that we have in this country does lead to criminal profiling because young black American men are so often involved in crime, the statistics overwhelming. But here is the headline: young black men commit homicides at a rate 10 times greater than whites and Hispanics combined. When presented with damning evidence like that, and like the mini-holocaust in Chicago where hundreds of African-Americans are murdered each year the civil rights industry looks the other way or makes excuses. They blame guns, poor education, lack of jobs, rarely do they define the problem accurately. So here it is. The reason there is so much violence and chaos in the black precincts is the disintegration of the African-American family. Right now about 73 percent of all black babies are born out of wedlock. That drives poverty. And the lack of involved fathers leads to young boys

growing up resentful and unsupervised. When was the last time you saw a public service ad telling young black girls to avoid becoming pregnant? Has ...Obama done such an ad? How about [Jesse] Jackson or [Al] Sharpton? Has the Congressional Black Caucus demanded an ad like that? How about the PC pundits who work for NBC News? White people don't force black people to have babies out of wedlock. That's a personal decision; a decision that has devastated millions of children and led to disaster both socially and economically. So raised without much structure, young black men often reject education and gravitate towards the street culture, drugs, hustling, gangs. Nobody forces them to do that; again, it is a personal decision." [46666]

"But the entertainment industry," continues O'Reilly, "encourages the irresponsibility by marketing a gangster culture, hip hop, movies, trashy TV shows to impressionable children. In fact ...Obama has welcomed some of the worst offenders in that cesspool to the White House when he should be condemning what these weasels are doing. These so-called entertainers get rich while the kids who emulate their lyrics and attitude destroy themselves. And then there is the drug situation. Go to Detroit and ask anyone living on the south side of the eight-mile road what destroyed their city? They will tell you narcotics. They know addiction leads to crime and debasement. But what do the race hustlers and limousine liberals yell about? The number of black men in prison for selling drugs. Oh, it's so unfair. It's a nonviolent crime and blacks are targeted. That is one of the biggest lies in the history of this country. The thugs who sell hard drugs, no matter what color they are, deserve to be put away for long periods of time. They sell poison, they sell a product that enslaves and kills. They are scum. When was the last time you heard the Congressional Black Caucus say that? How about Jackson and Sharpton? How about ...Obama? The solution to the epidemic of violent crime in poor black neighborhoods is to actively discourage pregnancies out of marriage, to impose strict discipline in the public schools, including mandatory student uniforms, and to create a zero tolerance policy for gun and drug crimes imposing harsh mandatory prison time on the offenders." [46666]

"And finally, challenging the entertainment industry to stop peddling garbage. Hey, listen up you greed heads, if a kid can't speak proper English, uses the 'f' word in every sentence, it's disgraceful, it's disrespectful—it's disrespectful in his or her manner. That child will never, never be able to compete in the marketplace of America... never. And it has nothing to do with slavery. It has everything to do with you Hollywood people and you derelict parents. You're the ones hurting these vulnerable children. You want a conversation, you got it. You want a better situation for blacks, give them a chance to revive their neighborhoods and culture. Work with the good people to stop the bad people. Pumping money into the chaos does little. You can't legislate good parenting or responsible entertainment. But you can fight against the madness, with discipline, a firm message and little tolerance for excuse-making. It is now time for the African-American leadership, including ...Obama to stop the nonsense. Walk away from the world of victimization and grievance and lead the way out of this mess." [46666]

On July 24 White House press secretary Jay Carney appears on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* to promote a series of upcoming Obama speeches on the economy. Carney whines that

there has been too much focus “on the skirmishes that cause gridlock” and “the phony scandals that have consumed so much attention...” The attention, says Carney, “should be focused on what we can do to strengthen and grow the middle class, because when the middle class is thriving, when the middle class is growing, our economy is at its best and that’s what we need to do as we move forward in the 21st century.” Addressing the IRS scandal that the White House claims is not a scandal, Carney says, “I think what we’ve seen is inappropriate activity that [Obama] forcefully came out and said he would not tolerate and that he installed somebody at the IRS to take care of.” (Obama has done nothing but make statements. He has fired no one at the IRS who was involved in the targeting of conservative groups.) Obama, claims Carney, is “focused on the economy. ...He’s not focused on pretend scandals that Republicans on Capitol Hill want to turn into partisan skirmishes.” [46669, 46670, 46682, 46696, 46720, 46752]

Political reporter Salena Zito sends a Twitter message: “My unofficial count has this Obama ‘pivot on jobs’ speech his 19th ‘pivot’ since taking office. Today he will blame Washington & Republicans.” [46676]

At Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, Obama delivers a long, predictable, boilerplate speech on the economy in which he blames the Republicans’ focus on “phony scandals” for the lackluster business environment and calls on the federal government to spend even more money it does not have on trying to solve every problem under the sun. (Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich observes, “As predicted, Obama gave America the same speech he’s been giving for five years, saying the country needs more infrastructure spending due to crumbling roads and bridges, that we must fight poverty, that CEOs are making too much money while the poor suffer, etc. He even went so far as to tout ‘saving the auto industry’ one week after Detroit filed for bankruptcy. ...While Obama claims America is ‘back,’ 50 million people are on food stamps and 23 million people are unemployed. The healthcare system is starting to collapse as doctors leave their practices and gas is on average \$3.68 per gallon. It isn’t just the rich Obama has asked to ‘pay a little more.’ In January, he raised taxes on everyone.”) [46671, 46684, 46686, 46726, 46727, 46752, 46796]

Obama says, “As a country, we’ve recovered faster and gone further than most other advanced nations in the world. With new American revolutions in energy, technology, manufacturing, and health care, we are actually poised to reverse the forces that have battered the middle class for so long, and rebuild an economy where everyone who works hard can get ahead. But—and here’s the big but—I’m here today to tell you that we’re not there yet. We all know that. We’re not there yet, we’ve got more work to do.” (At RealClearPolitics.com’s “Daily Debate,” Robert Tracinski later writes that Obama “has ‘pivoted’ back to jobs for the umpteenth time and launched a new set of speeches to start a conversation with the American people—also for the umpteenth time. When you have a hammer, everything looks like a nail, and when you have been celebrated for your ability to give a good speech, it’s tempting to think that your best option in every situation is to give more speeches.” Obama’s economic message, notes Tracinski, “has shrunk from ‘hope and change’ to ‘we’re not there yet.’”) [46699]

Obama pats himself on the back, saying, “It’s interesting, in the run-up to this speech, a lot of reporters say that, well, Mr. [Obama], these are all good ideas, but some of them of you’ve said before; some of them sound great, but you can’t get those through Congress. Republicans won’t agree with you. And I say, look, the fact is there are Republicans in Congress right now who privately agree with me on a lot of the ideas I’ll be proposing. I know because they’ve said so. But they worry they’ll face swift political retaliation for cooperating with me.” (Obama’s speech is without new ideas, and arguably without the good ideas he claims he has. “Bigger government” is not an idea; it is a failed ideology.) [46747]

Obama also says, “Of course, we’ll keep pressing on other key priorities, like reducing gun violence, rebalancing our fight against al-Qaeda, combating climate change, and standing up for civil rights and women’s rights.” (At WeeklyStandard.com John McCormack asks, “I’ve heard of winning or losing fights, but what does ‘rebalancing our fight against al Qaeda’ mean? It’s a phrase Obama hasn’t used before.” During the 2012 campaign Obama suggested that al-Qaeda was “in retreat” thanks to his policies.) [46701, 46702]

Rush Limbaugh says of Obama’s speech, “To anybody that’s [sic] been paying attention for 4-1/2 years, it’s embarrassing. I don’t know how else to describe it. ...[H]e’s out talking about [the economy] as though he’s campaigning for office in 2008. ‘It’s just time somebody gets serious about this,’ he says, and he’s describing how the economy works in a philosophical, strategic way. People get jobs, they get health care, and get raises, and so forth—and this has got to start happening in America. We’ve gotta [sic] start ‘investing’ in one another. We gotta [sic] all start working together. So it’s all this feel-good stuff—and these poor, clueless Americans are sitting there applauding. It’s not robust applause, by the way. I, frankly, do not know how you can sit through a speech like this and not say to yourself, ‘I’ve been hearing this for five years.’ I don’t know how you can sit through a speech like this and not say, ‘Wait a minute, bud. You’ve been [in the White House] for five years. What have you done about this?’ I don’t know how that can happen, but it is. ...He’s out there in Galesville, Illinois, and he’s talking about the economy and how we’ve gotta [sic] get things rolling again finally, and he said, ‘Washington has taken its eye off the ball, and it has to stop.’ He’s not in Washington, you see? He has nothing to do with what is happening in Washington! Obama has nothing to do with what’s gone on in Washington.” [46683]

“Folks,” says Limbaugh, “we’re listening to the wrecking ball [called Obama] who has already torn down a bunch of buildings, tell us how he’s building new cities. It’s pathological. There is no building from the middle-out. There is no growing the economy from the middle-out. When you try that, you get Detroit. It’s never worked. I mean, there’s not even a formula for it. It’s just a bunch of words designed to sound good to a bunch of ignoramus low-information people who don’t pay enough attention to be fully informed about what’s going on and have been so woefully ineptly educated on economics that it all sounds good, but it’s meaningless. ...Okay, so Obama wants to help the middle class. Would the Keystone pipeline help the middle class? Would stopping the war on coal help the middle class? Does amnesty for 11 million new low skilled workers

help the middle class? Obama's not about helping the middle class. He's about turning the middle class into Detroit." [46683]

At WashingtonPost.com Dana Milbank suggests that Obama's speech "risks sending the signal that, just six months into his second term, Obama is fresh out of ideas. There's little hope of getting Congress to act on major initiatives and little appetite in the White House to fight for bold new legislation that is likely to fail. And so [Obama], it seems, is going into reruns. ...If he's to break through the resistance, Obama will need some bold new proposals. That's why his speech returning to the oldies would seem to confirm that the White House has given up on big achievements." [46698]

After his Galesburg, Illinois speech, Obama travels to Warrenburg, Missouri to essentially repeat the charge that Republicans are preventing him from energizing the economy and again call for more government spending on infrastructure to create jobs. He also asks for an increase in the minimum wage and reduced education costs. (TheCollegeFix.com later reports, "Ten college Republicans were dubbed a security threat and refused admittance... Despite the fact that the students had tickets to the event, security personnel turned them away at the door..." because they were wearing "Tea Party T-shirts and... patriotic or Republican-inspired clothing." At NationalReview.com, Nathan Harden writes, "I'd like to offer a helpful tip to all College Republicans who hope to attend an Obama speech in the future: Odds of admission improve if you wear a Che Guevara t-shirt, an 'I Heart Kim Jong Un' campaign button, and/or a ballcap displaying the slogan 'Obama Girl' prominently above the brim.") [46684, 46737, 46738]]

Secretary of State John Kerry honors Muslims with an Iftar dinner. According to the State Department, "Secretary Kerry will highlight State Department efforts to reach out in innovative and exciting ways to engage with Muslim communities around the world. The event will reinforce programs that build bridges of understanding and partnership, and celebrate people whose work exemplifies a spirit of cooperation and commitment to change. An Iftar is a celebratory dinner breaking the fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan, the month of the Islamic calendar during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is the month Muslims believe the Qu'ran was revealed to the Prophet Mohamed; it is a month of reflection, generosity, and compassion for nearly 1.7 billion Muslims worldwide." (For some Muslims it is just another excuse to persecute and kill Jews and Christians.) [46678, 46679, 46705, 46706, 46707, 46708, 46709, 46740, 46741]

The White House reports that Obama will nominate Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg to be the next U.S. ambassador to Japan. (Schlossberg does not speak Japanese; nor does she speak English very well. Her qualifications include being an early Obama supporter in 2008 and having a famous father whose name Obama would like associated with his.) [46685, 46688]

The Senate votes 81-18 to tie federal Stafford student loan rates to the regular financial market rates. [46689]

McClatchy.com reports, “Yemeni journalist Abdulelah Haider Shaye, whom ...Obama once personally lobbied to have remain in jail, has been pardoned and released, fulfilling a months-old pledge from Yemen’s president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. It was unclear whether Hadi had told American authorities in advance when Shaye would be released, but the White House said in an email Wednesday that it was ‘concerned and disappointed’ by his release before the expiration of his five-year prison term for associating with al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.” [46731]

MoneyNews.com reports, “Nearly one-third of the homeowners who got help through the government's main foreclosure prevention program are defaulting again on their mortgages, according to a government watchdog’s report. The Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) has worked on 1.2 million mortgage modifications since it started four years ago. Of those, more than 306,000 borrowers have defaulted again on their loans, and another 88,000 are at risk as well, reports CNN. The Special Inspector for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), which conducted the review, said homeowners are also more likely to default again on the modified loans the longer they stay in the program, with 46 percent of those involved in the program since 2009 defaulting on their loans again. The re-defaults have cost taxpayers some \$815 million, according to SIGTARP. So far, the Treasury Department has allocated \$19.1 billion to HAMP, and \$4.4 billion has been spent. The program was recently extended for another two years, until the end of 2015. The Obama administration’s Treasury Department created HAMP to help borrowers avoid foreclosure by making their house payments more affordable through a combination of reduced mortgage principals and interest rates and extended loan terms. But borrowers are dropping out of the program as they default again on their loans, and SIGTARP Director Christy Romero said Treasury needs to research why so many people drop out of a program that kept their homes safe from foreclosure.” [46730]

According to an NBC News/ Wall Street Journal poll, 61 percent of Americans believe the nation is on the wrong track—up from 53 percent in December 2012. Obama’s approval/disapproval rating is 45/50; it was 53/43 in the December poll. Democrat pollster Peter Hart comments, “There’s palpable unhappiness with Washington. Outside the Beltway, voters are simply saying, ‘You don’t get it.’” The same poll shows that only 52 percent of whites and 38 percent of blacks view race relations in the nation favorably. The percentages were 79 and 63 when Obama took office. [46697, 46718]

According to a Fox News poll, “Just 25 percent of independents approve of the job [Obama] is doing, down from 31 percent last month. Independents were essential to Obama’s 2008 victory when 52 percent backed him. That support dropped to 45 percent in the 2012 election (Fox News exit poll). In fact, Republican Mitt Romney topped Obama by garnering 50 percent among independents. Overall, 46 percent of voters approve of Obama’s job performance, while 47 percent disapprove.” [46712, 46713]

With Obama’s popularity fading, Michelle Obama sends an email to supporters asking them to get involved in supporting his policies and electing more Democrats. She writes, “There’s a lot of noise and talk and back-and-forth going on in Washington, but hardly

any of it seems to be about the struggles that middle-class families face. When I was growing up, a family like mine—living on my hard-working father’s salary at the city water plant—could build a solid life without much debt and without relying on any form of public assistance. Today, for too many families, that American promise is no longer within reach. Barack is working to fix that, to give all families a fair shot. And he needs solid Democrats in Congress to help him. I’m asking you to be part of the team working to elect more Democrats in Washington and across the country. Sign up today. It’s easy to get frustrated and cynical about politics. Now that the excitement of the presidential campaign has faded, it is so tempting to wait another four years to re-engage. But make no mistake about it—while some are tuning out, others are tuning in. They’re doing everything they can to make their voices heard. We’re seeing the effects of that kind of imbalance every single day. I know we can make our country a better place to live, for ourselves and our grandchildren, but Barack cannot do it alone. He needs people like you to get involved right now: <http://my.democrats.org/Now Thanks, Michelle>.” [46711]

On *Special Report* Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama’s economic speech in Galesburg, Illinois: “It was completely empty because he doesn’t have anything to say, anything new to offer. It was the usual stuff; it could have been a campaign speech—it was a campaign speech. I mean, somebody ought to tell [Obama] that the 2012 election is officially over and he won and there isn’t going to be another one for him. The main complaint I would have is that if you wanted to deliver a completely empty speech and you do it in Washington, you’ll save the CO2 emissions that you get on Air Force One from delivering it in Illinois. That’s the main critique I would offer, from a global warming perspective.” [46700]

On July 25 The Heritage Foundation’s Amy Payne lists “3 whoppers from Obama’s big economic speech.” Obama claims that “Obamacare is going great,” but “There are folks out there who are actively working to make this law fail.” “Nope,” writes Payne, “the law is failing just fine on its own. And that’s why Congress should not fund it with taxpayer dollars.” Obama also claims he cut the deficit in half. Romina Boccia, Heritage’s Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Federal Budgetary Affairs, points out that “Public debt doubled under [Obama’s] watch. Deficits projected at \$642 billion by the Congressional Budget Office for this year are ‘low’ only when compared to their trillion-dollar-plus levels over the past four years. The U.S. deficit and debt situation actually worsened since before the recession.” (In other words, Obama’s deficits are not half what they were under George W. Bush, they are merely half in 2013 what they were in 2009 and 2010—after Obama tripled them.) Obama claims, “The income of the top 1 percent nearly quadrupled from 1979 to 2007, while the typical family’s barely budged.” In fact, after-tax income has risen for all American income groups. According to the Congressional Budget Office, income has increased by almost 40 percent for Americans in the middle three quintiles—also known as “typical middle class families.” [46717]

A *Wall Street Journal* editorial responds to Obama’s economic address: “For four and a half years, Mr. Obama has focused his policies on reducing inequality rather than increasing growth. The predictable result has been more inequality and less growth. As even Mr. Obama conceded in his speech, the rich have done well in the last few years

thanks to a rising stock market, but the middle class and poor have not. [Obama] called his speech ‘A Better Bargain for the Middle Class,’ but no [White House resident] has done worse by the middle class in modern times. ...[M]edian real household income is \$2,718, or 5%, lower than the \$54,218 median in June 2009 when the recession officially ended. Median incomes typically fall during recessions. But the striking fact of the Obama economy is that median real household income has fallen even during the recovery. ...The core problem has been Mr. Obama’s focus on spreading the wealth rather than creating it. ObamaCare will soon hook more Americans on government subsidies, but its mandates and taxes have hurt job creation, especially at small businesses. Mr. Obama’s record tax increases have grabbed a bigger chunk of affluent incomes, but they created uncertainty for business throughout 2012 and have dampened growth so far this year.” [46765]

According to Politico and Newsmax.com, the Obama administration is less than pleased with the Supreme Court’s recent ruling that struck down an outdated provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act—and Attorney General Eric Holder plans to urge a federal judge to force Texas to comply with the “pre-clearance” rules that are no longer in force. (The “pre-clearance” provisions of the law required certain states to seek advance approval from the federal government for changes in their voting procedures. Obama and Holder apparently intend to act in defiance of the Supreme Court. Anyone who attempts to stop them will likely be excoriated as racists by the administration—and by cooperative members of the media. But Holder’s threat is meaningless; Texas will simply ignore him.) Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) tells Newsmax.TV, “The court has already ruled—and he’s trying to reinstitute the Voting Rights Act in Texas. If I were a Texan, I’d be so doggone livid that I don’t think I’d ever get over it. That’s not the thing to do, and it just shows how this administration ignores the law. They act like they’re despots. [Obama] is continuously doing things that he has no authority to do—and yet they just do it and they get away with it because many in the liberal media just will not hold them to account like they would a Republican...” [46724, 46725, 46735, 46750, 46754]

Obama travels to Jacksonville, Florida to push his even-bigger-government economic agenda. [46728]

The Telegraph reports, “The shocking conditions in Britain’s hospitals have been laid bare by an official report which disclosed that failings uncovered in NHS [National Health Service] wards were so bad that inspectors felt compelled to abandon their impartial roles and step in to alleviate patient suffering. Eleven NHS trusts were put into ‘special measures’ after an investigation found thousands of patients died needlessly because of poor care. The report blamed poor staffing levels and lack of oversight, and said that staff did not address the needs of patients. It concluded the hospitals investigated were ‘trapped in mediocrity.’ In a row that quickly became political, David Cameron said responsibility lay with the previous Labour government, which he accused of ‘covering up’ the NHS failings that stretched back to 2005. Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, said the findings exposed by the investigation into 14 NHS trusts were Labour’s ‘darkest moment.’ ...The review, ordered by the Prime Minister, began in February following the public inquiry into the scandal at Mid Staffordshire Hospital Foundation Trust, where up

to 1,200 people died amid ‘appalling’ failings in care. ...Figures showed up to 13,000 excess deaths since 2005 at the 14 trusts investigated, advisers to the review said.” (Many ObamaCare supporters consider Great Britain’s National Health Service to be the ideal system for health care.) [46729]

CNET.com reports, “The U.S. government has demanded that major Internet companies divulge users’ stored passwords, according to two industry sources familiar with these orders, which represent an escalation in surveillance techniques that has not previously been disclosed. If the government is able to determine a person's password, which is typically stored in encrypted form, the credential could be used to log in to an account to peruse confidential correspondence or even impersonate the user. Obtaining it also would aid in deciphering encrypted devices in situations where passwords are reused. ‘I’ve certainly seen them ask for passwords,’ said one Internet industry source who spoke on condition of anonymity. ‘We push back.’ A second person who has worked at a large Silicon Valley company confirmed that it received legal requests from the federal government for stored passwords. Companies ‘really heavily scrutinize’ these requests, the person said. ‘There’s a lot of ‘over my dead body.’” [46732]

Discussing the imprisonment of Pastor Saeed Abedini in Iran, Reverend Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan’s Purse, tells Fox News, “Many in the international community are expressing outrage over this blatant example of religious intolerance. I ask that our government do the same and demand that Pastor Saeed Abedini be released and allowed to return home to his wife and family in the United States. ...[Abedini’s wife] Naghmeh worries that she and her two young children may never see Saeed again. She’s discouraged by the fact that our own government seems to have abandoned them. ...Obama has been silent on the issue as an American Christian endures the horrors of Evin Prison. ...Sadly ...our government appears to have done little to pressure Iran to release a fellow American citizen. ...Pastor Saeed was in Iran trying to help children. With the permission of Iran’s government, he was working to build an orphanage. But his humanitarian mission led to an arrest on bogus charges and nearly a year of inhumane treatment simply because he loves Jesus Christ.” [46736]

After meeting with Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang at the White House, Obama tells reporters, “[W]e agreed that one of the great sources of strength between our two countries is the Vietnamese American population that is here but obviously has continued strong ties to Vietnam.” (At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield comments, “Much of America’s Vietnamese population came here as refugees. It’s like claiming that the Cuban community bonds us to Castro.”) Obama also claims that North Vietnam’s communist dictator Ho Chi Minh had been “inspired by the words of Thomas Jefferson.” (At FoxNews.com Chris Stirewalt writes, “In Obama’s credulous citing of the Constitution as an inspiration, there is particular historical dissonance. One of the great murderers of the 20th century could not have been truly inspired by the most significant advancement of the rights of the individual in human history. Obama may have just been trying to flatter his guest who was obviously eager to show that Ho was not the monster history shows him to be. But his connection between the American founders and Ho

shows either a massive lack of historical knowledge on the part of [Obama] or a remarkable degree of moral flexibility.” At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “The Muslim Brotherhood Morsi, Chavez, Ho Chi Minh... who’s next? Hitler? Barack Hussein said that the communist dictator was inspired by founding fathers. He is either supremely stupid or evil. Either way, we are screwed. He always sides with evil. Always.” At Spectator.org, Paul Kengor calls Obama’s claim “nonsense” and “the product of communist propaganda.” Kengor notes that the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) “...and its mouthpieces regularly compared Ho Chi Minh to the American Founders, claiming he was fighting for the ideas not of the Bolshevik Revolution but of the American Revolution. This line was employed constantly, and it worked magically with wide-eyed liberals.” Obama was no doubt also fed the “Ho Chi Minh was like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington” line by his communist mentor, Frank Marshall Davis.) [46756, 46758, 46761, 46762, 47072]

According to a Fox News national poll, “By a large 47-11 percent margin, voters expect the 2010 health care law will cost them rather than save them money in the coming year. Another 34 percent think the law won’t change their family’s health care costs. ...The poll asks people to take an up-or-down vote on ObamaCare: 40 percent say they would vote to keep the law in place, while just over half—53 percent—would repeal it.” [46739]

WeeklyStandard.com posts a Wisconsin news story reporting that the state’s Trig’s Supermarket stores will be reducing part-time workers hours to fewer than 30 per week to avoid ObamaCare’s insurance coverage requirement. Angie Dreifuerst, the company’s Vice President of Human Resources and Benefits, says, “Doing nothing was not an option. ...[ObamaCare’s requirement] would have put us out of business... within a year. There’s no doubt about that.” Meanwhile, the White Castle restaurant chain is considering hiring only part-time workers in the future. Vice President Jamie Richardson states, “If we were to keep our health insurance program exactly like it is with no changes, every forecast we’ve looked at has indicated our costs will go up 24 percent.” According to Richardson, the typical per-employee profit per employee is about \$750—hardly enough to cover the cost of providing them with insurance. Bob Westbrook tells Fox News Channel’s Greta Van Susteren he has been forced to sell or close his three CiCi’s Pizza franchises—which he has owned for almost 20 years—because he cannot afford to comply with ObamaCare or pay its penalties. (ObamaCare’s fines would cost Westbrook \$221,000 per year—\$78,000 more than his restaurant profits.) [46797, 46798, 46799]

Pat Smith, whose son Sean was killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, appears on the Fox News Channel’s *Your World* to counter Obama’s “phony scandals” claim. Smith says, “I don’t believe [Obama] anymore. He’s wrong. My son is dead. How could that be phony? ...When I was there at the ceremony of the welcoming of the caskets, both Obama and Hillary [Clinton] and [Joe] Biden and all of the other ones, all promised me they would get back to me to tell me what happened. I begged them. Please, I must know what happened with my son. How come this happened? They all promised me they would get back to me. You know, not one of them, not one of them ever got back to me in any way shape or form—not by a letter, not by anything other than I got a memo

stating that I didn't need to know because I was not part of the immediate family. ...I mean, it is wrong. It is not phony. It is not fake. My son is dead, and why is he dead? All I am waiting for even to this day is just someone to get back to me and tell me what happened. Why did Hillary do as she did? Why was there no security there when there was supposed to be? Who was the general that called back the troops when they were going to help?" (DailyCaller.com reminds readers that Obama "has never revealed what, if anything, he was doing while workers at the Benghazi embassy were urgently requesting support, nor has the administration explained why no forces were sent to protect the embassy. The administration also denied the attack was a terrorist incident, claiming it was a spontaneous protest against an obscure YouTube trailer for a film that may or may not exist.") [46746, 46752]

After several days of the Obama administration denying that its scandals are scandals, Becky Garrison—whose Wetumpka Tea Party organization was among those discriminated against by the IRS—says, "I think it's like the captain of the Titanic calling the icebergs phony. I think the only phony thing going on is the narrative that the White House is trying to push off on the American people." [46774, 46775]

DailyCaller.com reports, "A new report published by the Century Foundation shows that though the unemployment rate is going down, the decreasing numbers aren't due to a spike in employment rates or job creation. Instead, more people are leaving the work force entirely. The labor force participation rate is seeing a large decline. Rather than resulting in less unemployment because more people are becoming employed, there are simply fewer people to employ..." [46748]

Obama celebrates Ramadan at the White House by hosting an iftar dinner for Muslims. Obama says, "As the Koran teaches, whoever does an atom's weight of good will see its results. Muslim-Americans and their good works have helped to build our nation, and we've seen the results. Every day, Muslim-Americans are helping to shape the way that we think and the way that we work and the way that we do business, and that's the spirit that we celebrate tonight—the dreamers, the creators whose ideas are pioneering new industries, creating new jobs and unleashing new opportunities for all of us." (For five consecutive years Obama has celebrated Ramadan with an iftar dinner.) JihadWatch.com asks, "Have you ever heard Obama talk about Jewish or Christian or Hindu Americans helping build this nation? And how exactly have Muslims built this nation? Somehow I cannot recall their contributions to the Constitutional Convention, or the settling of the West, or the Civil War period, or any other aspect of American history, for that matter." (Muslims have, of course, dramatically change the New York City skyline.) [46763, 46764]

While Obama virtually ignores Muslims persecution of Christians, Jews, and Hindus, Russian President Vladimir Putin tells a group of Orthodox Christian leaders, "In many of the World's regions, especially in the Middle East and in North Africa inter-confessional tensions are mounting and the rights of religious minorities are infringed, including Christians and Orthodox Christians." [46781]

On July 26 Michael Barone, Senior Political Analyst for the *Washington Examiner* and a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, writes at Townhall.com that Obama “loves to give campaign speeches to adoring crowds, but... doesn’t seem to have much interest in governing. That was apparent Wednesday, when Barack Obama delivered the first of several promised ‘pivot to the economy’ speeches at Knox College... [T]here was not much in the way of serious public policy. Nothing much that seems likely to speed up the nation’s sluggish economic growth or to increase the lowest-in-three-decades labor force participation. Obama called for increasing the minimum wage. That always tests well in polls. But in real life it tends not to create but to destroy jobs, especially for young people with few skills and little work experience. He also called for job retraining, a Community College to Career Initiative. Unfortunately, studies have shown for years that government job training programs aren’t very effective. ...[Obama] said more about his proposal for universal pre-school education. But the administration’s own studies have shown that the four-decades-old Head Start program produces little in the way of lasting educational gains. This looks more like an expensive attempt to create more jobs for teacher union members—and more union-dues money to help elect Democratic politicians—than a serious attempt to stimulate the economy. Amazingly, Obama called for more money to create jobs in wind and solar energy. No mention was made of the hundreds of millions in loan guarantees lavished on the now bankrupt Solyndra and A123 Systems. ...And, ominously, he added, ‘I’m also acting on my own to cut red tape for responsible families who want to get a mortgage, but the bank says no.’ But didn’t granting mortgages to non-creditworthy borrowers trigger the collapse of the housing market? ...The problem Obama faces on this latest pivot to the economy is that most voters believe his policies have retarded rather than stimulated economic growth and job creation. This speech is not likely to change their minds.” [46742]

Also at Townhall.com, Katie Pavlich reports the reaction of the family of slain Border Agent Brian Terry to Obama’s statement about “phony scandals.” Terry’s mother Josephine states, “These deaths are real. My son’s death was real. I am outraged that ...Obama is talking about phony scandals when he knows all too well that my son was a victim of Operation Fast and Furious that was authorized by members of his Justice Department and a U.S. Attorney that he appointed. Operation Fast and Furious was all too real for me and my family, and it directly contributed to my son’s murder. Mr. [Obama], come to Michigan and I will show you my son’s grave... then let’s have a conversation about your definition of phony scandals.” Brian Terry’s uncle, Ralph Terry, states, “The entire Terry family has experienced a level of ‘trust deficit’ in their government and its leaders since Brian was killed. It hurts to be treated like this and just adds insult to injury when [Obama] speaks of phony scandals and minimizes the efforts of those officials tasked to investigate these matters.” [46743]

Pavlich also writes about the difficulty Obama will have getting healthy young people to buy health insurance in order to support ObamaCare: “Not only do they say they can’t afford health insurance, they just aren’t making it a personal budget priority. With Obamacare specifically, they’d rather pay a penalty for lack of coverage than sign up for an expensive plan they don’t need. A few things could potentially happen here: 1) Obamacare will start to collapse due to a pool of young healthy people going unfilled. 2)

The administration through the Department of Health and Human Services will raise the penalty for not having coverage faster than first anticipated to being higher than the price of insurance. Currently, starting in 2014 the penalty for lack of coverage is \$95. In 2015 the penalty jumps to \$325 and then in 2016 to \$695. 3) More delays will be implemented to make up for the lost cost and lack of young people enrolled. The bottom line here is this: Obamacare needs young people *now* and can't wait until after 2016 to get them enrolled. The administration is going to have to do something in order to fix the problem. Regardless of the decisions that are made, young people still won't be able to afford what the administration is selling whether it's a penalty or expensive insurance they don't need." [46744, 46753]

Former Congressman Bob Beauprez notes that there are "2 million less [sic; fewer] working Americans today than pre-recession, the smallest percentage of the population with a job or even looking for work in more than a generation, economic growth just half of normal recoveries, etc., etc., etc. Too many of the jobs that Obama wants to take credit for creating have been part-time jobs, low-wage, entry level jobs. ... Depending on whether you use the Presidential puff-master Jay Carney's 7.2 million jobs created number, or [Obama's] chief economic adviser Alan Krueger's 5.3 million, that means for every one job of any kind added during this non-recovery, there were at least two—or nearly three—Americans that signed up for food stamps. Some recovery!" [46745]

CNSNews.com reports, "The National Treasury Employees Union [NTEU] is urging its members to oppose legislation that would force federal employees off their government healthcare plans and onto the state and national healthcare exchanges established under Obamacare. Members of Congress and their staffers are already required to participate in the exchanges, which will go into effect next October 1st under the Affordable Care Act." (IRS employees who will be tasked with enforcing the individual mandate provisions of ObamaCare are members of the NTEU. They expect the taxpayers to pay them to enforce a law from which they want to be exempt.) At a Congressional hearing, acting IRS head Daniel Werfel is asked, "Why are your employees trying to exempt themselves from the very law that you're tasked to enforce?" Werfel responds, "I don't want to speak for the NTEU, but I'll offer a perspective as a federal employee myself and a federal employee at the IRS. And that is, we have right now as employees of the government, of the IRS, affordable health care coverage. I think the ACA was designed to provide an option or an alternative for individuals that do not. And all else being equal, I think if you're an individual who is satisfied with your health care coverage, you're probably in a better position to stick with that coverage than go through the change of moving into a different environment and going through that process. So I think for a federal employee, I think more likely, and I would—can speak for myself, I would prefer to stay with the current policy that I'm pleased with rather than go through a change if I don't need to go through that change." (Of course Werfel has "affordable" health care—because it is provided to him by the taxpayers. He does not want to "move to a different environment," but has no problem enforcing such a move for millions of Americans who do not work for the IRS to do so.) Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) comments, "Count the head of the IRS among the growing list of folks that includes Big Labor and the law's chief architect who are deeply

skeptical of [Obama's] signature achievement and don't want any part of it." [46755, 46788, 46868, 46883]

Elian Johnson reports at NationalReview.com, "In order to ensure Americans understand how to access the benefits available to them when many provisions of the Affordable Care Act go online October 1, the Obama administration announced last month that it is setting up a call center that will be accessible to Americans 24 hours a day. One branch of that call center will be located in California's Contra Costa County, where, reportedly, 7,000 people applied for the 204 jobs. According to the Contra Costa Times, however, 'about half the jobs are part-time, with no health benefits—a stinging disappointment to workers and local politicians who believed the positions would be full-time.' The county supervisor, Karen Mitchoff, called the hiring process 'a comedy of errors' and said she 'never dreamed [the jobs] would be part-time.'" [46760]

At ThePostEmail.com Montgomery Blair Sibley reports that in June 2009 the Obama administration acted to dismiss an indictment and arrest warrant against Elizabeth Duke, who was indicted in 1988 for bombing the U.S. Capitol on November 7, 1983. (Duke has been a fugitive since 1985, when she failed to re-appear in court after she was released on bail.) Sibley asks, "[W]hy did Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson grant the government's Oral Motion and enter an Order Dismissing the Indictment? Curiously, neither the Oral Motion nor the Order Dismissing the indictment gives any reason for this extraordinary action of dismissing an action against a dangerous felony fugitive." According to Sibley, "neither the law nor the facts granted Magistrate Judge Robinson the authority to dismiss the indictment against Elizabeth Duke." According to Martha Trowbridge at the blog Terrible Truth, Duke "is a long-time comrade of Weather Underground leader Bill Ayers and co-founder of May19CO, a New York City based communist organization dedicated to Malcolm X and Ho Chi Minh that advocated violent overthrow of the United States Government." (Some speculate that Obama's real father was Malcolm X, not the drunken wife-beater from Kenya, and that his mother was not Stanley Ann Dunham, but Elizabeth Duke/aka Jo Ann Newman. *The Obama Timeline* is unable to confirm or disprove the various theories of Obama's ancestry, but reports them so that readers can be as well-informed as possible. The entire truth may never be known—and Obama himself may not even know the truth.) [46769, 46770, 46771, 46772, 46835, 46869, 46870]

On July 27 Obama says in a *New York Times* interview "there is no evidence" that the Keystone XL pipeline "would be a big jobs generator. ...I meant what I said; I'm going to evaluate this based on whether or not this is going to significantly contribute to carbon in our atmosphere. And there is no doubt that Canada at the source in those tar sands could potentially be doing more to mitigate carbon release." (It is absurd to argue that building a pipeline across hundreds of miles would not create jobs. The pipeline would not construct itself—it would require workers. Even if the bulk of the several thousand new construction jobs would last only one or two years and not be permanent, the same would be true of any jobs created by Obama's "infrastructure" proposals. Further, blocking the pipeline will not eliminate any "carbon release," as Canada would simply

sell the oil to China. Canada will not stop accessing its natural resources simply because Obama wants to please believers in man-caused global warming.) [46766, 46802]

Obama also tells the *Times*, “Racial tensions won’t get better; they may get worse, because people will feel as if they’ve got to compete with some other group to get scraps from a shrinking pot.” (One of Obama’s 2008 campaign promises was that he could improve race relations in the United States. Five years later he essentially claims that progress is impossible because he won’t be able to confiscate as much wealth from whites as he would like to give to blacks and Hispanics.) [46792]

Asked about Obama’s questionable legal authority to delay ObamaCare’s employer mandate, Obama avoids the question and tells the *Times*, “[I]f Congress thinks that what I’ve done is inappropriate or wrong in some fashion, they’re free to make that case. But there’s not an action that I take that you don’t have some folks in Congress who say that I’m usurping my authority. Some of those folks think I usurp my authority by having the gall to win the presidency. And I don’t think that’s a secret. But ultimately, I’m not concerned about their opinions—very few of them, by the way, are lawyers, much less constitutional lawyers. [Despite media stories to the contrary, Obama also was never a constitutional law professor. More than half of the nation’s U.S. Senators are lawyers who can legally practice law—unlike Obama, who relinquished his law license when it was challenged by someone who noticed that he lied about his use of drugs and aliases.] I am concerned about the folks who I spoke to today who are working really hard, are trying to figure out how they can send their kids to college, are trying to make sure that they can save for their retirement. And if I can take steps on their behalf, then I’m going to do so. And I would hope that more and more of Congress will say, you know what, since that’s our primary focus, we’re willing to work with you to advance those ideals. But I’m not just going to sit back if the only message from some of these folks is no on everything, and sit around and twiddle my thumbs for the next 1,200 days.” (In other words, “I will do what I want to do, regardless of the law, and I dare anyone to try to stop me.” HotAir.com comments, “Evidently if Congress doesn’t do what he wants, he enjoys legal authority under the Doin’ Good For The People Clause of the Constitution to do it himself. That’s not the first time he’s invoked that clause either; remember, he decided to continue his intervention in Libya even though his *own lawyers* concluded that he had no power to do so under the War Powers Act. ...If [George W.] Bush pulled the ‘because I said so’ shtick in defending his own decision not to enforce a statute, Senator Obama would have screeched about it endlessly, just like he screeched about executive overreach, signing statements, drone warfare, domestic surveillance, and all the other supposed ills of the Bush age that he’s ended up adopting.”) [46815, 46820, 46849]

FoxNews.com reports, “Attorneys general across the country are fighting back against new Obama administration guidelines on businesses using criminal background checks for job applicants and two federal lawsuits that followed, calling both ‘a quintessential example of gross federal overreach.’ The nine attorneys general sent the letter Wednesday to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which in April 2012 voted in favor of the new guidelines that warn such checks can discriminate against

African-Americans because they being are [sic; they are being] arrested at a disproportionate rate compared to the rest of the U.S. population.” [46767]

While the Obama administration worries that criminal background checks will prevent black ex-convicts from getting good jobs (something one should consider before committing a crime), it is also pushing transgender bathrooms in schools. According to FoxNews.com, Obama’s Department of Justice is “fighting for a [female] transgendered California ninth-grader’s [alleged] right to use the boy’s room at school—has conservative groups wondering just how far Washington will go in the name of civil rights.” [46768]

At the Western Conservative Summit, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) calls for the de-funding of ObamaCare, saying, “On January 1 the exchanges kick in and the subsidies kick in. Once those kick in, it’s going to prove almost impossible to undo ObamaCare. The administration’s plan is very simple: Get everyone addicted to the sugar so that ObamaCare remains a permanent feature of our society. ...Right now we don’t have the votes. Right now we’re not even close. There’s only one way we’re going to get 41 Republicans in the Senate and 218 Republicans in the House of Representatives [to agree to de-fund the program], which is if they hear from the American people in overwhelming numbers.” [46773]

On July 28 FoxNews.com reports, “Israel and Palestine will resume face-to-face peace talks on Monday in Washington, the State Department said Sunday. The restart of the long-stalled talks is being attributed to Secretary of State John Kerry’s six months of frenetic shuttle diplomacy. Agency spokeswoman Jen Psaki said both sides had accepted invitations from Kerry to come to Washington ‘to formally resume direct final status negotiations’ that are scheduled to begin Monday evening and continue Tuesday. Psaki said in a statement that Kerry on Sunday called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and that the leaders agreed the talks would ‘serve as an opportunity to develop a procedural work plan for how the parties can proceed with the negotiations in the coming months.’” (The discussions will lead nowhere, but Netanyahu is likely doing his best to demonstrate that it is not Israel that is standing in the way of peace progress—so that if and when Israel strikes Iran’s nuclear facilities it will be more unreasonable for Obama to criticize the Jewish state. As usual, the Palestinians—with the support of the Obama administration—demand the release of jihadi terrorists from Israeli prisons as a precondition to the talks. Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com, “The Muslim authority (the PA) of Gaza, Judea and Samaria have stated unequivocally that they will never recognize the Jewish state. They cannot. It would violate the tenets of Islamic Jew-hatred. And this Israel refuses to recognize. How many thousands of Muslim terrorists has Israel released, to no good end? How much Jewish land has Israel given to savages, to no good end? Israel released more than 1,000 terrorists in exchange for Gilad Shalit, and so many went back to attacking Jews. And who is part of the devil's bargain?”) [46780, 46782]

DailyCaller.com reports, “In 1988, Mahmoud Salam Saliman Abu Harabish and Adam Ibrahim Juma’a-Juma’a decided to firebomb a bus of Israeli civilians. The result was

gruesome. A 26-year old school teacher, Rachel Weiss, was incinerated, along with her three young children, who ranged from three years old to 9-months. An Israeli soldier who came to their rescue also died as result of the attack. Thanks to Secretary of State John Kerry's nimble negotiating skills, Harabish and Juma'a-Juma'a will reportedly be among the 104 violent Palestinian terrorists released from Israeli prisons in stages as a goodwill gesture by the Jewish state in advance of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks that are set to begin Monday in Washington, D.C. ...But the whole process begs a question: why does Israel need to release over one hundred violent killers in order to get the Palestinians to come to the table to talk peace? Shouldn't the prospect of peace be enough to bring the Palestinians to the negotiating table? That conundrum alone should be enough to make Kerry question whether now is the right time to pursue peace talks." [46790]

The Israeli Cabinet approves the release of 104 imprisoned Palestinians, as requested by the Palestinian Authority as a pre-condition for peace talks—and as demanded by Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry. *Algemeiner.com* reports, "Ahead of the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu justified the move saying, 'This moment is not easy for me. It is not easy for the ministers. It is not easy especially for the families, the bereaved families, whose heart I understand. But there are moments in which tough decisions must be made for the good of the country and this is one of those moments.'" (Israel has released prisoners countless times in the past, each time in the mistaken belief that it would help lead to progress in peace talks with the Palestinians. But the goal of the Palestinians is not peace; it is the release of prisoners and the destruction of Israel.) *AtlasShrugs.com's* Pamela Geller asks, "And what is the Islamic authority in Gaza, Samaria and Judea giving in return? Nothing. Just the promise of more death, more hate, more rockets, more slaughter." [46803, 46804]

At *PJMedia.com* Barry Rubin later asks, "Is there some secret American promise [that is prompting the release of the 104 terrorists]? Well, what is an Obama promise worth? Obama has gone back on a pledge to support a frontier change to allow Israel to include large settlement blocs. And then there was Turkey, where ...Obama personally mediated a deal in which Israel made concessions, than he did nothing when Turkey ignored all the provisions and openly broke the agreement. Remember how Obama asked Israel for a construction freeze on settlements ...and then gave it no credit when it did so? *Twice?*... Was there a credible threat against Israel, wherein Obama would do something terrible or apply pressure if he didn't get his way? As the saying goes in Hebrew, *yesh gavul*—there's a limit. ...What will be the real effect of this [prisoner] release? Undermining Israel's credibility. Increased risk of terrorism to Israeli citizens. New confidence in Palestinian intransigence. Encouragement of Palestinians to commit terrorism, believing there will be no—or a reduced—price. Convincing the [Palestinian Authority] that it can get something for nothing. Persuading Europeans and Americans into believing they can endlessly pressure Israelis into concessions. Would America release al-Qaeda terrorists from Guantanamo Bay in the belief that this would lead them to make peace? I just don't get it. There is simply no proper motive for following such a terrible policy." (*The Obama Timeline* believes Israel has been told that if it releases the terrorists and gives further concessions to the Palestinians, Obama will support the

Jewish state if it attacks Iran's nuclear facilities—but will then break that promise if the attack takes place.) [46818]

On ABCs' *This Week*, Peggy Noonan comments, "When the White House calls it a 'pivot'—somebody counted up and said it's probably the tenth pivot to the economy that [Obama] has done since he came in. I noticed that in one of the speeches, it went over an hour, there was a heck of a lot jammed in. That told me something. It said, 'We're not sure exactly what to say, so we're going to say everything'—but a speech about everything is a speech about nothing. Beyond that, I think every president, in the intense media environment we have now, certainly every two-term president, gets to a point where the American people stop listening, stop leaning forward hungrily for information. I think [Obama] got there earlier than most presidents, and I think he's in that time now." [46786, 46816]

On *Fox News Sunday*, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew states that Obama will not sign any appropriations bills that cut domestic spending. Additionally, the administration wants the sequester cuts reversed. Lew says, "Congress should find a way out of sequester." (Lew makes similar statements on *Meet the Press* and *State of the Union*.) Lew also claims there is "no evidence" that Obama political appointees at the IRS were involved in its targeting of conservative groups, and states, "There's no political official who condoned it or authorized it." (Lew does not identify the person who did authorize the discrimination or explain why that person has not been fired.) [46775, 46787, 46793]

Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) says he will continue to fight to de-fund ObamaCare and that the issue is "not about Republican versus Democrat or liberal and conservative; it's Washington versus everyone else. ... We can delay [ObamaCare]. Maybe we cannot repeal it, but we can delay it, and if we delay it, we can stop the consequences for now. We have to do that. There are many of us that [sic; who] were elected specifically with this mandate. We have to do it now. [Obama] said he is not ready to enforce it and... he is going to selectively implement the law, holding hard working Americans to the fire. Subjecting them to the horrendous fines and at the same time, exempting big business. That is not fair or right and we should not fund that effort." [46789]

Martha MacCallum reports on Fox News that injured Benghazi hero David Ubben "waited for 20 hours after he was hit on that rooftop with Tyrone Woods and Glenn Doherty. His leg was shredded. We know that he's been recovering for ten months at Walter Reed [Army Hospital] as Catherine [Herridge] has just reported. He was defending the US consulate [sic; CIA annex] and then no medical aircraft apparently was sent to this scene to get him out of there. How could this be? How did all of this happen? Those are the questions that we hope we're gonna [sic] get some answers to in the hearings that are coming up in the fall..." [46783, 46805]

In *The Wall Street Journal* former Vermont governor and Democrat presidential candidate Howard Dean writes, "One major problem [with ObamaCare] is the so-called Independent Payment Advisory Board. The IPAB is essentially a health-care rationing body. By setting doctor reimbursement rates for Medicare and determining which

procedures and drugs will be covered and at what price, the IPAB will be able to stop certain treatments its members do not favor by simply setting rates to levels where no doctor or hospital will perform them. There does have to be control of costs in our health-care system. However, rate setting—the essential mechanism of the IPAB—has a 40-year track record of failure. What ends up happening in these schemes (which many states including my home state of Vermont have implemented with virtually no long-term effect on costs) is that patients and physicians get aggravated because bureaucrats in either the private or public sector are making medical decisions without knowing the patients. Most important, once again, these kinds of schemes do not control costs. The medical system simply becomes more bureaucratic.” [46791]

HotAir.com reports on some of the false claims that insurance premiums are going down because of ObamaCare. The leftist ThinkProgress.org, for example, claims, “Health premiums in Maryland’s exchanges will be ‘among the lowest of the 12 states that have available proposed or approved rates for comparison,’ the state’s exchange—Maryland Health Connection—announced Friday.” In fact, states HotAir.com, “Well... not so fast. The headlines are carefully scripted to give one impression, but the reality is something else. ...[T]he prices aren’t actually going *down* anywhere. They’re just going up *less* than projected in some places. And... even that isn’t thanks to Obamacare. It’s from blue state governments trying to bring the hammer down as hard as possible to put some lipstick on this pig.” (During the 2008 campaign Obama repeatedly promised that premiums would, on average, go down by \$2,500 per family.) [46794, 46795]

On July 29 WashingtonExaminer.com reports that the Obamas will be spending their upcoming Martha’s Vineyard vacation “at a \$7.6 million resort home on southern edge of the island in the town of Chilmark where homes feature water access to Chilmark Pond, tennis courts and swimming pools. ...As in the past, the Wesley Hotel in Oak Bluffs will house security and communications officials. The owner told the Vineyard Gazette that the Secret Service has booked 70 rooms and another five have been reserved for the Transportation Security Agency. Rates at the hotel run from \$225-\$345. Also, telephone and communications lines are being installed on the island for [Obama’s] use.” (Meanwhile, White House tours remain canceled due to spending reductions.) With tongue in cheek, WhiteHouseDossier.com writes, “...Obama plans to continue his crusade for income equality from his \$7.6 million vacation estate on Martha’s Vineyard, demanding action in Congress and handing out free lobster rolls on the driveway. ...Obama has also convinced Secretary of State John Kerry to pop over from Nantucket to give low-income children wind surfing lessons. ‘They’ll be trained and ready to go the minute they get their first sailboard,’ Kerry said in a brief interview. ...White House sources say that upon returning to Washington, Obama plans to write a book about his luxury vacation, titled, ‘I’ll Bet My Father Never Dreamed of This,’ and make plans for his excursion to Hawaii this winter.” [46784, 46785, 46829, 46917]

Financial Times reports, “A judge has ordered Ben Bernanke, the Federal Reserve chairman, to testify about the bailout of AIG in a case where the government is accused of illegally appropriating the insurer and using it ‘to covertly funnel billions of dollars to foreign entities.’ Government lawyers had argued Mr. Bernanke was too senior and the

facts had been raked over too often for his appearance to be necessary. Judge Thomas Wheeler disagreed. Compelling Mr. Bernanke to travel to a Washington law firm to answer questions about the government bailout, he wrote on Monday that the ‘court cannot fathom having to decide this multibillion-dollar claim without the testimony.’ The claim comes from Hank Greenberg, the former chief executive of AIG, who says he and other shareholders were unfairly diluted when the Federal Reserve Bank of New York took an 80 per cent equity stake in return for \$182 billion in emergency funding. He is suing the government for compensation.” [46801]

YnetNews.com reports, “Without much publicity or official announcements, the United States released five Guantanamo Bay detainees as a nod of willingness to open peace talks in Afghanistan. After officials in Kabul expressed desire for negotiations, the Obama administration released five members of the Taliban who were detained at the US detention center. A top US official said that the prisoners were released under the condition that they will not engage in any violent activity. While it is clear that they are guilty of crime, the benefit in releasing them—the potential withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan by the summer of 2014—is greater than the risk. The US announced it will attempt to negotiate peace talks with the Taliban and Afghanistan government officials some months ago. ...Releasing the detainees from Guantanamo Bay serves another purpose for ...Obama: The more prisoners released from the camp, the likelier it is for Congress to approve shutting down the facility altogether—a campaign promise which Obama he has been trying to realize since first being elected in 2008.” At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, “Want to score points with the Obama regime? Bomb schools, kill teachers, poison girls’ schools, strap bombs on to children, oppress and torture women, harbor jihad leaders like Osama Bin Laden—the more the better. Then you, too, will get on Obama’s favored status list. This is monstrous. Obama’s Ramadan gift to savages.” Even more monstrous is that the Taliban had previously offered to release an American soldier captured in 2009 in exchange for the five prisoners—yet Obama eventually released the five without getting the American freed. At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield writes, “Well that solves that. We don’t negotiate with terrorists. We just rename them so they’re no longer enemies or terrorists.” (*The Obama Timeline* does not endorse negotiating with terrorists—and it most certainly does not endorse releasing them from captivity while their comrades are at war with the United States and Western civilization.) [46923, 46970, 46971]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Republicans on Capitol Hill say the Obama administration is trying to regulate or prevent small companies from providing self-funded insurance for their employees because self-funded insurance plans could be the ‘Achilles heel’ for Obamacare implementation. The majority of U.S. employers now offer self-funded insurance plans, in which companies finance employee health plans from their own funds. Many of the companies purchase stop-loss insurance plans from insurance providers. These companies would therefore avoid many Obamacare regulations when the law takes full effect in 2014. The practice of self-funded insurance, which was outright banned in early drafts of Obamacare, represents the ‘Achilles heel’ for Obamacare implementation, according to insiders. ...[T]he New York Times reported in February, ‘The Obama administration is investigating the use of stop-loss insurance by

employers with healthier employees, and officials said they were considering regulations to discourage small and midsize employers from using such arrangements to circumvent the new health care law.” [46808]

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* reports, “Under a wrinkle that dates back to enactment of the [ObamaCare] law, members of Congress and thousands of their aides are required to get their coverage through new state-based markets known as insurance exchanges. But the law does not provide any obvious way for the federal government to continue paying its share of the premiums for the comprehensive coverage. If the government cannot do so, it could mean an additional expense of \$5,000 a year for individuals and \$11,000 for families under some of the most popular plans. Not surprisingly, that idea is unpopular on Capitol Hill. ‘It’s a very serious concern,’ said [Congressman] Billy Long, a Missouri Republican who said staff members were ‘freaked out’ at the prospect of paying the full cost of insurance out of their own pockets. ‘They’re thinking about leaving government service,’ said Mr. Long, noting that some staff members already lived in group houses and cramped apartments to make ends meet on Capitol Hill salaries. ‘They’re thinking about taking jobs other places. We have tried, and tried, and tried to get the answer on what they’re going to be paying. The Office of Personnel Management cannot tell us.’” (Some might argue that thousands of federal employees leaving their government jobs would be a good thing.) [46817]

Over a Muslim iftar dinner hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry, aides to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas begin discussing guidelines and preconditions for peace talks. According to Reuters, “The major issues to be resolved in the talks include borders, the future of Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the fate of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem.” [46813, 46814]

On July 30 Obama visits an Amazon.com distribution facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee to push his even-more-government agenda—and blame the GOP for the lack of jobs. He states, “If [the Republicans have] got a better plan to bring back more manufacturing jobs here to Tennessee and around the country, then let them know—let me know. I want to hear them. If they’ve got a better plan to create jobs rebuilding our infrastructure or to help workers earn the high-tech skills that they need, then they should offer up these ideas. But I’ve got to tell you, just gutting our environmental protection, that’s not a jobs plan. Gutting investments in education, that’s not a jobs plan. They keep on talking about this—an oil pipeline coming down from Canada that’s estimated to create about 50 permanent jobs—that’s not a jobs plan. Wasting the country’s time by taking something like 40 meaningless votes to repeal Obamacare is not a jobs plan. That’s not a jobs plan.” (According to FoxNews.com, Obama’s own State Department estimates that the Keystone XL pipeline “would create nearly 4,000 annual construction jobs—and potentially ‘support’ an annual 42,000 jobs.” Using Obama’s math, 4,000–42,000 is the equivalent of 50. Building a pipeline that would create jobs is, in Obama’s opinion, “not a jobs plan,” but giving tax breaks to his Democrat donors to invest in “green energy” businesses is.) [46806, 46811, 46830, 46832]

Obama calls for a reduction in the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 28 percent (something he knows the Republicans want because it will stimulate job creation), provided he gets to spend billions of additional dollars on “investing” in the middle class—which is “code” for infrastructure boondoggles and other projects that primarily help his union supporters. Obama’s proposed deal also includes taxing corporate foreign holdings, higher taxes on new investment through depreciation policy changes, and other revisions—all of which would add up to a net *increase* in taxes. Obama also states, “We’ll keep creating good jobs in wind, solar, and natural gas that are reducing energy costs, reducing dangerous carbon pollution, and reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Now is not the time to gut the investments in American technology that have brought us to this point—now is the time to double down on renewables, and biofuels, and electric vehicles, and the research that will shift our cars and trucks off oil for good.” (Myron Ebell, director of energy and global warming policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, tells DailyCaller.com, “Doubling down on renewable energy has got to be the dumbest idea in a speech full of dumb ideas. [Obama] challenges Republicans to come up with better ideas, but he has rejected all of their much better ideas on reducing the incredibly costly EPA regulations that are stifling innovation, new business start-ups, and job creation.” Daniel Kish, senior vice president for policy at the Institute for Energy Research, says of Obama’s speech that it is the “same stuff he’s been saying for five years now about how he wants to increase taxation on the kind of energy people want to use—and do use in this country—and instead subsidize the sorts of energy that he likes. The things that stand on their own merits, you [Obama] whack ‘em in the knees.”) Obama also calls for an increase in the minimum wage—apparently ignorant of the fact that such an increase is a surefire way to keep unskilled youths from being able to find jobs. [46812, 46830, 46832, 46834, 46839]

Obama tells the Tennessee audience, “Over the past four years, another 700,000 workers at the federal, state and local levels of government lost their jobs. These are cops and firefighters. About half of them are people that work in our schools. Those are real jobs. It doesn’t help a company like Amazon when a teacher, cop or a firefighter loses their job. They don’t have money to place an order. That’s hundreds of thousands of customers who have less money to spend. If those layoffs had not happened, if public sector employees grew like they did in the past two recessions, the unemployment rate would be 6.5 instead of 7.5. Our economy would be much better off, and the deficit would still be going down because we would be getting more tax revenue.” (Obama is an economic idiot if he does not understand that government employee salaries and benefits are paid by the taxpayers. Paying a federal worker \$50,000 means taking \$50,000 from other individuals via taxes. The unemployment rate would be zero if the government hired 23 million unemployed and underemployed Americans and gave them holes to dig and then fill up—but that does not make doing so a good idea.) [46855]

Obama is welcomed in Tennessee by a stinging editorial in the *Times Free Press*, which is bluntly titled, “Take your jobs plan and shove it... Your policies have harmed Chattanooga enough,”: and which reads in part, “Welcome to Chattanooga, one of hundreds of cities throughout this great nation struggling to succeed in spite of your foolish policies that limit job creation, stifle economic growth and suffocate the

entrepreneurial spirit. Forgive us if you are not greeted with the same level of Southern hospitality that our area usually bestows on its distinguished guests. You see, we understand you are in town to share your umpteenth different job creation plan during your time in office. If it works as well as your other job creation programs, then thanks, but no thanks. We'd prefer you keep it to yourself. That's because your jobs creation plans so far have included a ridiculous government spending spree and punitive tax increase on job creators that were passed, as well as a minimum wage increase that, thankfully, was not. Economists—and regular folks with a basic understanding of math—understand that these are three of the most damaging policies imaginable when a country is mired in unemployment and starving for job growth.” (*Times Free Press* editor Drew Johnson is then fired by the newspaper’s management, which called the headline “inappropriate.” Johnson—who was ostensibly fired for violating a headline policy that did not even exist until after the editorial appeared—responds, “I just became the first person in the history of newspapers to be fired for writing a paper’s most-read article.” Whether the White House pressured the newspaper to fire Johnson is not known.) [46824, 46825, 46841, 46850, 46873, 46895, 46903, 46905]

The Wall Street Journal writes, “Mr. Obama will agree to reform the corporate tax code—a GOP priority and one even [Obama] claims to support—but only if the reform raises more revenue and only if he is allowed to spend that windfall on his priorities. A White House press release clarified that [Obama] would also like to raise taxes on individuals, not just businesses, while allowing federal spending to rise still higher. ... This isn't a serious [tax] proposal, and [Obama] knows it. It also isn't bipartisan, since he is offering a compromise with appeal to the ideological spectrum running from [Senators] Elizabeth Warren [D-MA] to Chuck Schumer [D-NY]. Perhaps these are the only Members of Congress whom Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has in his iPhone. The real bipartisan reform opportunity would be to get behind the chief Senate and House tax writers, Democrat [Senator] Max Baucus [D-MT] and Republican [Congressman] Dave Camp [R-MI]. They've been holding hearings on tax reform for years, and Mr. Baucus has even invited all Senators to send him a list of tax provisions they'd like to retain and why. ... The problem, as ever, is that Mr. Obama simply can't get over his ideological fixation to keep tax rates as high as possible. We say 'ideological' because his own advisers concede that a 35% rate hurts U.S. business competitiveness. ... [Obama's] speeches aren't really about tax reform or the economy. They're about preparing the political ground for 2014. On that score, he adopted once again his charming habit of casting those who disagree with him as motivated purely by political spite. No wonder even Democrats want [Obama] out of the room when they try to negotiate on immigration. He's a deal killer.” [46839, 46840]

In a military court, Private Bradley Manning is found guilty of 20 counts, but not guilty of “aiding the enemy.” (Information illegally gathered by Manning was released to WikiLeaks, which then posted it on the Internet.) [46809, 46821, 46822]

CBSNews.com reports, “In recent weeks, members of the House and Senate and their staffers have held two classified hearings on the Sept. 11, 2012 terrorist attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya; conducted more than 25 hours of formal, transcribed

interviews with witnesses; and spoken informally with several dozen additional witnesses, including some who are being called ‘whistleblowers.’” Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) “tells CBS News that his office is now hearing from frustrated officials within military special forces and intelligence communities who say they have good leads on the whereabouts of suspects in the attacks but can't get approval to take action. Administration officials have consistently said they did everything possible to respond to the attacks but that no U.S. military assistance from outside Libya was available. The administration also says there was no attempt to cover up any facts, that that the State Department has taken steps to fix shortfalls in security procedures after an appointed Accountability Review Board conducted an investigation.” [47126]

CNBC reports, “Working more could ultimately mean thousands of dollars less for you under a quirk in the new health-care law going into effect this fall. This could prompt some people to cut back on their hours to avoid losing money. ...Under the ACA [ObamaCare], federal subsidies in the form of tax credits to buy insurance on new state health insurance exchanges will be available to millions of people who can start enrolling on those exchanges Oct. 1. The subsidies are available to people or families whose incomes total 400 percent above the federal poverty level [FPL] or less, and are designed to cap their insurance premiums at 9.5 percent of their total income. For a single person, that FPL income maximum is \$45,960 per year. The maximums are adjusted upward for couples and families until maxing out at \$94,200 for a family of four. Under a scenario that ValuePenguin.com identified, a couple in Ohio, both age 50, would be eligible for subsidies worth \$3,452 to purchase a so-called silver insurance plan—a moderately priced level of benefits under the ACA’s scheme—that costs \$9,346 annually if they made up to \$62,040 per year. But if they made just \$1 more than that, they would lose the subsidy. ...[T]he couple then would have to earn at least \$65,492 to make up for the lost subsidy. ...In New York, a family of three whose annual income totals \$78,120, would pay \$12,784 for the second-lower-priced silver plan on that state’s insurance exchange. After getting a \$5,363 tax credit, the family’s net cost for the insurance would be \$7,421. But if the family earned even slightly more than \$78,120, they would have to pay the entire \$12,784 for the insurance because they then wouldn’t qualify for the subsidy. To make up for that, the family’s annual income would have to reach \$83,483...” [46983]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The Obama administration’s plan to target young people with a public-relations campaign on the benefits of enrolling in Obamacare appears to violate the federal Age Discrimination Act. The Obama administration reportedly plans to roll out ‘campaign-style demographic targeting’ to encourage younger, healthier people to enroll in the Affordable Care Act and effectively balance Obamacare exchanges, which will initially serve primarily older people closer to death and would drive up health care rates under the law. The administration hopes that 18-to-30-year-olds will comprise 2.7 million of the 7 million people expected to sign up for Obamacare exchanges in the first six months of the law’s implementation.” The administration’s planned “demographic targeting could violate the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, which states that no program that receives federal money can discriminate with respect to age.” ...American Enterprise Institute health policy scholar Joseph Antos comments, “Maybe in some general sense there’s a violation. But you’ve already seen the administration directly violate the law.

Delaying the employer mandate for a year is the most recent example. If the administration can violate clearer laws, then violating something that is at best second-hand to this act should be relatively easy.” [46810]

On the floor of the U.S. Senate, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, “If we pass a budget that pays for everything except for ObamaCare, and [Obama] says he’ll veto that, it is he who wants to shut down the government. It is he who is basically saying, ‘I will shut down the government unless it pays for ObamaCare.’ And that is an unreasonable position. It’s unreasonable because this law is so bad. ...Why would we continue to pour billions and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars into a disaster? Why would we double down with your hard-earned money on a program that’s going to hurt you? ...[This is] our last best chance to do something about this, [because ObamaCare] is going to make it harder on the middle class. It’s going to make it harder for middle-class jobs to be created. ...We have got to stop this from moving forward. The implications of this law are already being felt, but the regulations around this law, the mandates in this law, the fees and the costs and the new rate increases in this law, those things you’re only going to start to feel right now in the next few months. You’re really going to start to feel what this new law means to your life, to your business, to the place where you work.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) states, “If ObamaCare were a good thing, if it were working, we can be sure ...Obama would want it to go into full effect before the next election. He would want to take credit with the American people for the benefits of this signature bill. The fact that [Obama] was forced to concede ‘the wheels are coming off’ to move the employer mandate until after the next election, I would suggest is highly, highly revealing.” Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) calls ObamaCare “ill-conceived, poorly crafted and damaging. ...[T]he American people deserve better. The American people demand better. This is not a good way to run a government. This is not a kind thing to do to an unsuspecting public, who hopes and expects that we have their best interests at heart. ...I would invite you to consider the possibility that what you’re doing, in thinking about funding [ObamaCare], isn’t really where you want to go. Consider what might be said about this.” [46854, 46864]

FoxNews.com reports, “The federal government is hiring what it calls a ‘Behavioral Insights Team’ that will look for ways to subtly influence people’s behavior, according to a document describing the program obtained by FoxNews.com. Critics warn there could be unintended consequences to such policies, while supporters say the team could make government and society more efficient. While the program is still in its early stages, the document shows the White House is already working on such projects with almost a dozen federal departments and agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture. ...Such policies—which encourage behavior subtly rather than outright require it—have come to be known as ‘nudges,’ after an influential 2008 book titled ‘Nudge’ by former Obama regulatory czar Cass Sunstein and Chicago Booth School of Business professor Richard Thaler popularized the term.” (Sunstein, allegedly a closet homosexual, was a Harvard classmate of Obama. Sunstein is married to Obama’s U.N. ambassador pick, Samantha Power. In a 2007 speech Sunstein supported “eliminating current practices such as... meat eating. ...We ought to ban hunting, I suggest, if there isn’t a purpose other than sport and fun. That should be against

the law. It's time now." In his book *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*, Sunstein wrote, "animals should be permitted to bring suit, with human beings as their representatives. Any animals that are entitled to bring suit would be represented by [human] counsel, who would owe guardian-like obligations and make decisions, subject to those obligations, on their clients' behalf." In his 2008 book, *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*, Sunstein complained, "The major obstacle to increasing [organ] donations is the need to get the consent of surviving family members." To rectify that "problem," Sunstein suggested that the concept of "explicit consent" (opt in) be changed to "presumed consent" (opt out). That is, the deceased would always be *assumed* to be a donor—unless there was a signed statement from the deceased asking that his organs *not* be removed. Because most Americans would object to such a policy, Sunstein says that "...the best choice architecture for organ donations is mandated choice." The government would force—rather than "nudge"—all Americans to sign a form declaring their wishes.) [3150, 3179, 3180, 3182, 3200, 3564, 3738, 3894, 4057, 4568, 4591, 46823, 47078]

The House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee accuses the IRS of stonewalling the investigation of its program to discriminate against conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status. The committee's letter to IRS acting commissioner Danny Werfel charges the agency has "attempted to delay, frustrate, impede and obstruct" the investigation, and states, "The actions of the IRS under your leadership have made clear to the committee that the agency has no intention of complying completely or promptly with the committee's oversight efforts." The letter also notes that "Obstructing a congressional investigation is a crime." According to FoxNews.com, "The agency has turned over just 12,000 pages of the roughly 64 million pages it deemed potentially relevant to the investigation, [committee chairman Darrell] Issa said. Furthermore, many of the documents are duplicates and so excessively redacted that they are 'completely unintelligible and useless,' according to the letter." (Page after page of the documents provided by the IRS to the committee are almost completely blacked out. According to the committee, the IRS has produced only 0.019 percent of the requested documents.) [46826, 46833, 46836]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "A Muslim outreach group with ties to the White House is distancing itself from a Canadian organization that shares its name following revelations that the Canadian group may have funded Pakistani jihadists. The Canadian Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) sent \$280,000 to a Pakistani organization that the Canadian government says has terror ties, according to an official investigation first reported by the *Star*. The Canada Revenue Agency audited ISNA-Canada's Development Foundation (IDF) and found the charity 'facilitated the transfer of resources that may have been used to support the efforts of' Pakistani separatist group Hizbul Mujahideen, as well as the extremist group's 'armed wing.' ISNA-America, which federal prosecutors have identified as a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood 'member organization,' came under scrutiny in 2009. ...The news from Canada has led to new scrutiny of ISNA-America, which critics say is too close to the White House... ISNA officials visited the White House in March. A top outreach official said the group was [Obama's] 'primary means of outreach to the American Muslim community.'" (AtlasShrugs.com reminds readers that

the ISMA “was named an unindicted coconspirator in the largest terrorist funding trial in our nation’s history”—but that has not stopped Obama from dealing with the organization. The ISNA was formed in 1981 by members of the radical Muslim Brotherhood jihad movement and, along with the Council on Islamic-American Relations, was an unindicted co-conspirator in the case against the Holy Land Foundation for directing charitable donations to the terrorist group Hamas; five HLF officials were indicted on 108 counts. Republicans in the Senate have attempted to stop the Justice Department from dealing with the ISNA. For some reason Obama’s Justice Department feels obligated to engage in an “outreach” program for the ISNA. Obama’s closest aide, Valerie Jarrett, has addressed the ISNA. One of ISNA’s members is Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN) also known as Keith Hakim.) [3683, 3684, 3789, 3790, 3817, 5648, 5688, 7082, 46827, 46828]

DailyCaller.com reports, “As the House Oversight Committee pushes for an investigation into new Internal Revenue Service accusations, representatives from two established tax-exempt organizations [the Clare Booth Luce Policy Institute and the Leadership Institute] appeared on Fox News Monday night to give an intimate account of what they believe to be politically-targeted IRS audits.” [46831]

ClimateDepot.com reports 1,122 record cold temperatures were reported in the United States during the week. (South America also experiences record cold temperatures. Obama and Al Gore have no comment.) [46844, 46845]

On July 31 Eliana Johnson reports at NationalReview.com, “Embattled Internal Revenue Service official Lois Lerner and an attorney in the Federal Election Commission’s general counsel’s office appear to have twice colluded to influence the record before the FEC’s vote in the case of a conservative non-profit organization, according to e-mails unearthed by the House Ways and Means Committee and obtained exclusively by National Review Online. The correspondence suggests the discrimination of conservative groups extended beyond the IRS and into the FEC, where an attorney from the agency’s enforcement division in at least one case sought and received tax information about the status of a conservative group, the American Future Fund, before recommending that the commission prosecute it for violations of campaign-finance law. Lerner, the former head of the IRS’s exempt-organizations division, worked at the FEC from 1986 to 1995, and was known for aggressive investigation of conservative groups during her tenure there, too. ...House Ways and Means Committee chairman Dave Camp [R-MI] and oversight-subcommittee chairman Charles Boustany [R-LA] are calling on the IRS, in the wake of these revelations, to provide all communications between the agency and the FEC between 2008 and 2012. ‘The American public is entitled to know whether the IRS is inappropriately sharing their confidential tax information with other agencies,’ Camp and Boustany write in a letter they will send to acting IRS administrator Danny Werfel on Wednesday.” [46838]

WND.com reports, “While the sexting of former congressman and current candidate for New York [City] mayor Anthony Weiner is still making national headlines, a blast-from-the-past sex tape involving Monica Lewinsky and former President Bill Clinton has just

reportedly surfaced. An audio tape obtained by the National Enquirer purports to reveal the former White House intern planning a secret sexual meeting with the president and proclaiming to her paramour she's 'too cute and adorable' to be ignored. The recording, made in November 1997 at the height of the pair's sexual affair, is three minutes, 47 seconds long, and is addressed to 'handsome.' At one point, Lewinsky is heard trying to seduce Clinton, saying: 'I could take my clothes off and start ...well ...I know you wouldn't enjoy that? I hope to see you later and I hope you will follow my script and do what I want.' Monica's voice is the only one heard on the tape, which was thought to have been destroyed years ago, though a duplicate was secretly made and has now surfaced, according to the Enquirer. On the recording, Lewinsky tells the commander in chief: 'Since I know you will be alone tomorrow evening, I have two proposals for you, neither of which is you not seeing me.' She then takes charge, instructing Clinton use his secretary, Betty Currie, to plan the president's schedule so they could secretly meet without any formal record of her visit. 'Now the first thing that has to happen is that you need to pre-plan with Betty that you will leave the office at, I don't know, at 7, 7:30 so that everyone else who hates me that causes me lots of trouble goes home,' Lewinsky tells Clinton. 'Then you quickly sneak back and then in the meantime I quickly sneak over and then we can have a nice little visit for, you know, 15 minutes or half an hour. Whatever you want.'" [46842]

At FoxBusiness.com Elizabeth MacDonald reports, "Health reform is now causing job turmoil across the country in three key groups that the White House has depended on for support—local government, school workers and unions. School districts in states like Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Utah, Nebraska, and Indiana are dropping to part-time status school workers such as teacher aides, administrators, secretaries, bus drivers, gym teachers, coaches and cafeteria workers. Cities or counties in states like California, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, Michigan and Iowa are dropping to part-time status government workers such as librarians, secretaries, administrators, parks and recreation officials and public works officials. ...To stop the wheels from coming off the school bus, school districts are doing the math, and are figuring out that cutting worker hours down to part-time status, or paying the [ObamaCare] mandate tax, or dropping part-time coverage is less expensive than offering health insurance benefits. ...On top of that, cities across the nation are discovering that the extra expense from health reform will trigger layoffs and cutbacks in city services like public works, city jails, government workers in nursing homes, parks and libraries if they don't push government workers down to part-time status. Some plan to hire even more part-time employees to make up for the lost hours, city officials have said. A record high 28.1 million workers are now part-time, though the recession officially ended four years ago. Since the 2008-09 recession, part-time employment rose by 2.8 million (almost all of the gain was involuntary)." [46843]

By a vote of 53–42 the U.S. Senate confirms B. Todd Jones to be the next director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. (Jones is a long-time friend of Attorney General Eric Holder. Jones was reportedly in attendance at the first meeting of Holder's 'Southwest Border Strategy Group,' at which Operation Fast and Furious was probably conceived. Jones was under fire for issuing a video message to all department employees in which he threatened whistleblowers with the statement, "[I]f you make

poor choices, ...if you don't abide by the rules, ...if you don't respect the chain of command, if you don't find the appropriate way to raise your concerns to your leadership, there will be consequences..." Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) comments, "What could have been an opportunity for [Obama] to bring competent leadership to a department wrought with mismanagement is instead a signal from the top that reckless behavior is not only permissible in his administration, but rewarded. Mr. Jones' nomination is an insult to the memory and families of those who fell victim to the botched Fast and Furious program. While I'm deeply disappointed this nomination is going forward, I will continue to push for answers for these families and hold this Administration accountable." Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), head of the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee—which has been investigating Operation Fast and Furious—states, "Jones was first brought into the job of ATF Acting Director in the middle of the Fast and Furious scandal after Justice Department officials had falsely denied reckless conduct and allegations by his predecessor that there was an effort underway to shield the Department's senior political appointees from the scandal. Because of the numerous ATF mistakes during his tenure as Acting Director pertaining to Fast and Furious, his nomination is a slap in the face to the family of fallen Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, Mexican citizens whose murder has been linked to Fast and Furious weapons, and ATF whistleblowers whom he failed to support." [25324, 34532, 46866]

FoxNews.com reports, "House Republicans, in a lengthy report on the Justice Department's leak investigations, formally accused Attorney General Eric Holder of misleading Congress with 'deceptive' testimony that he knew nothing of the 'potential prosecution' of the press. The 70-page report was released late Wednesday by Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee. To coincide with the release, lawmakers also wrote a letter to ...Obama calling for a 'change in leadership' at the Justice Department. 'The deceptive and misleading testimony of Attorney General Holder is unfortunately just the most recent example in a long list of scandals that have plagued the department,' House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) said in a statement. The report delved into the department's aggressive investigations over various security leaks, but focused in large part on the FBI affidavit seeking a search warrant for Fox News correspondent James Rosen's emails in connection with one such probe. The DOJ sought access to the documents by arguing Rosen was a likely criminal 'co-conspirator' in a leak case, citing the Espionage Act. Yet on May 15, shortly before the document was made public, Holder told the House Judiciary Committee that he hadn't heard of any effort to prosecute reporters." [46846, 46847]

In a meeting with House Democrats, Obama indirectly indicates he may nominate former Treasury Secretary and White House economics advisor Lawrence "there is no housing bubble" Summers to replace Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke when Bernanke's term expires in January 2014. DailyCaller.com notes, "Treasury Secretary Summers led the fight for deregulation of the financial industry under the Clinton administration in the 1990s, and successfully championed the repeal of last components of the Glass-Steagall act and complex derivatives regulation. Glass-Steagall was the law separating commercial banking from investment banking put in place after the 1929 stock market crash. Complex derivatives regulation prevented banks from using risky debt

swapping and trading practices. Both were huge components in manufacturing the housing and financial crisis that sent the economy into recession from 2008 on.” (Arguably, the repeal of Glass-Steagall partially caused the economic crash in 2008 because it allowed major banks to make risky investments—which then failed and led to the taxpayer bailouts in the TARP program.) Summers’ main competition for Bernanke’s position is Janet “inflation dove” Yellin, vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Yellin, like Bernanke, is a proponent of expanding the money supply to allow the government to continue its deficit spending schemes. For some Republicans, Summers—who cost Harvard University \$1.8 billion with risky investments when he was its president—is probably the lesser of the two Keynesian evils Obama has in mind. Others are more fearful of Yellin. *The Obama Timeline* warns of a third evil: former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.) [46852, 46887, 46890, 47053]

According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, economic growth has averaged only 1.075 percent per year since Obama entered the White House. CNSNews.com reports, “In the decade from 1981 to 1990, according to the BEA, average annual growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 3.36 percent. In the decade from 1991 to 2000, average annual growth in real GDP was 3.45 percent. In the twenty years from 1981 to 2000, average annual growth in real GDP was 3.405 percent.” [46853]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) tells reporters, “One of the pertinent questions today is why we have not captured or killed the terrorist who committed these attacks [in Benghazi]? [There is] News out today that CNN was able to go in and talk to one of the suspected terrorists [Ahmed Abu Khattala, leader of Ansar al-Sharia], how come the military hasn’t been able to get after them and capture or kill the people? How come the FBI isn’t doing this and yet CNN is?” [46860, 46861, 46865]

Fox News reporter Ed Henry then asks White House press secretary Jay “phony scandal” Carney, “How is it that someone who’s potentially a lead suspect in this terror attack could sit down with a media organization for a couple of hours and never be contacted by the FBI? How serious is...” Carney responds, “Well, I would refer you to the FBI for details of their investigation. I’m not aware of anything beyond what you just said in terms of that report. [Obama] has absolutely instructed his team to do everything they can to bring to justice those who are responsible for the deaths of four Americans, and that has been his priority from day one, as he made clear from day one. And, he will make that clear repeatedly as he’s updated on this process, but in terms of that specific report, I would refer you to the FBI.” (In other words, “Because I know the FBI will not tell you anything, I am referring you to the FBI.”) [46861, 46865]

On the Fox News Channel, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “CNN found [Ahmed Abu Khattala] within two hours. Apparently we [the government] can’t find him. Maybe we need to contract out to the media to go get these suspects. But this is a pathetic effort to bring people to justice. ...[I have had] special forces operatives and intelligence community personnel come up to me over the last two months and say they’ve got great leads, know where other members who planned the attacks are located in Libya and can’t

get approval to go after them. This is not a phony scandal. This is a pathetic effort to bring people to justice. I think if you've got these folks, you would find out how terrorist-centered this attack was. It was not based on a video. Maybe they're still looking for the guy from the video and that's why they can't find these folks. I don't know. But my belief is the people who killed our folks are wandering around Libya in the wide open and we aren't doing a damn thing about it. ...At the end of the day, we're almost a year out from Benghazi, not one person has been put in jail, but CNN was able to find the leader of the organization responsible for the attack after a two-hour effort in Benghazi, no one has been brought to jail. We still don't know if Hillary Clinton approved the consulate to be opened after it failed the security inspection. We still have no idea who changed the talking points to start this lie that it was a video—riot caused by a video. The basics of what happened in Benghazi are unknown and the Congress has never been able to interview one survivor. They're writing books, they're appearing on TV. This has to stop. This is not a scandal. This is a national security failure where four brave Americans died and we're doing nothing to bring the people to justice, to understand how it failed.” [46867]

RT.com reports, “New revelations about NSA surveillance systems show that it was enough to fill in a short ‘justification’ form before gaining access to any of billions of emails, online chats, or site visit histories through a vast aggregation program called XKeyscore. The structure of XKeyscore, leaked by the UK’s Guardian newspaper, is sourced from a classified internal presentation from 2008 and a more recent Unofficial User Guide, presumably obtained by Edward Snowden when he was a contractor for the National Security Agency in the past year. It shows that XKeyscore—then located on 750 servers around 150 sites worldwide—is a vast collection and storage program that served as the entry point for most information that was collected by the NSA. The Guardian claims that in one 30-day period in 2012 the program acquired 41 billion records. The information is not just metadata—depersonalized analytical usage statistics that allow spies to spot patterns—but includes almost all types of personal information. Using any piece of personal data on a subject—an email address, or the IP address of a computer—an agent could look up all online user activities, such as Google map searches, website visits, documents sent through the internet or online conversations. The service operates both, in real time, and using a database of recently stored information. All that appears to have been necessary to log into the system is to fill in a compulsory line on a form that gave a reason for why a certain person needed to be investigated. The form was not automatically scanned by the system or a supervisor, and did not require a US legal warrant, as long as the person whose name was typed in was a foreigner (even if his interactions were with a US citizen). The slides appear to vindicate security specialist Edward Snowden’s claims made during the original video he recorded in Hong Kong last month. ‘I, sitting at my desk, could wiretap anyone, from you or your accountant, to a federal judge or even [Obama], if I had a personal email [address],’ he alleged then. Mike Rogers, the Republican chairman of the House intelligence committee later said that Snowden was ‘lying.’” [46886]

In Exeter, England, a British soldier is beaten and kicked by a mob of Muslims as they chant, “Lee Rigby.” (Rigby is the soldier who was beheaded by a Muslim on a public

street on May 22.) Obama has no comment, but AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, "More Muslim outreach. Oh, the wonders of interfaith dialogue and mutual respect they are always clubbing us with." [46924, 46925]