

The Obama Timeline – Part II

The Doomed Presidency

June 2013

On June 1 Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) tells *Newsmax*, “We ought to let this congressional process play out for a while longer and see if we can’t get the administration to provide the information that the American people deserve [related to the IRS targeting of conservative groups]. As I have said really for weeks now, I am skeptical that they will do that, and therefore a special counsel will end up being necessary. ...The administration is not coming forward with the information that we’ve requested. When we wrote letters about this issue back in 2012, they responded saying everything’s fine, there’s no targeting going on, and even now the answer to our questions are not the kind of comprehensive answers we need to get to the bottom of it. We need to get them to come clean, the American people need to know what actually happened, who was responsible, why it happened, so that we can get to the bottom of it and keep it from ever happening again. ...This is a very serious matter because it has to do with arguably the department who [sic] has the most power over our lives, power to tax. Chief Justice [John] Marshall once said it has the power to destroy. This is an agency that affects all of us in a very fundamental way, and ultimately, this is about not just political targeting of one group or another, but it’s about a lack of fairness in the application in the administration of our tax laws, which we must get to the bottom of and we must stop.” [45350]

NBC’s David Gregory reports that the Department of Justice’s investigation of Fox News reporter James Rosen was prompted by then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, who telephoned Attorney General Eric Holder at his home and asked him to take action against Rosen. [45353]

Political consultant Richard Grenell reports via Twitter that NBC News senior political editor Mark Murray has kept secret the fact that he is married to Obama appointee Sasha Johnson. (Johnson, the FAA’s chief of staff, is a former CNN producer. Why being a CNN producer makes one qualified to work for the Federal Aviation Administration is not addressed by Grenell.) [45357]

NYPost.com reports that “...Obama made a secret deal to support Hillary Clinton when she runs for president in 2016, campaign sources say, payback for the support her husband gave him in 2012. Bill Clinton’s animosity toward Obama is legendary. A year before the last election, he was urging Hillary to challenge [Obama] for the nomination—a move she rejected. According to two people who attended that meeting in Chappaqua, Bill Clinton then went on a rant against Obama. ‘I’ve heard more from Bush, asking for my advice, than I’ve heard from Obama,’ my sources quoted Clinton as saying. ‘I have no relationship with [Obama]—none whatsoever. [He] doesn’t know how to be president. He doesn’t know how the world works. He’s incompetent. He’s an amateur!’” The 2012

Democrat National Convention “...deal was struck: Clinton would give the key nominating speech at the convention, and a full-throated endorsement of Obama. In exchange, Obama would endorse Hillary Clinton as his successor.” (The joint Obama-Hillary Clinton “love-in” interview with softball-lobbying Steve Kroft on 60 Minutes was one result of the arrangement.) [45363, 45398]

Obama’s deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, appears on CNN’s *The Lead* and attempts to downplay the 157 White House visits by former IRS head Douglas Shulman. (Shulman’s predecessor at the IRS, Mark Everson, had only one visit to the White House during his four year tenure.) Cutter says, “A couple of facts here that I think are important for us to stick by, number one, the only reason we know about these visits is because [Obama] makes everything public. Number two, what we’re really looking at some of these visits... What we are looking at the number of times that Mr. Shulman was cleared into the White House. It doesn’t necessarily mean he went to a meeting. Number three, many of those meetings were for healthcare implementation. I was in them with him. So there’s nothing nefarious going on.” (Cutter unwittingly provides ammunition for Obama’s opposition, as a campaign strategist’s attendance at ObamaCare implementation meetings is clearly inappropriate. Because her job is purely political, “nefarious” is, in fact, an appropriate word to explain her presence at the meetings. Investors.com asks, “[I]f they were not political meetings, why was she there at all? Was she there to offer her health care or tax code expertise?”) [45370, 45371, 45466, 45505, 45507, 45520]

Former vice president Dan Quayle says of Obama’s “I know nothing” defense strategy, “You’re not out of the loop on Benghazi; an American ambassador and three other Americans are killed. You know what’s going on and you know what your spokespeople are going to say that weekend. ...[Obama] knew what they were going to say. I’m very confident of that.” (In other words, “Obama is a liar.”) [45372]

On *Cashin’ In*, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) calls for the abolition of the IRS bureaucracy and replacing the income tax with “a simple flat tax.” [45381]

On June 2 *The New York Times* writes, “Over the course of four and a half years, no other member of ...Obama’s cabinet has been at the center of so many polarizing episodes or the target of so much criticism. While the White House publicly backed Mr. Holder as he tried to smooth over the latest uproar amid new speculation about his future, some in the West Wing privately tell associates they wish he would step down, viewing him as politically maladroit.” (Obama will not ask Holder to leave because that would mean a victory for the Republicans and show that he succumbed to pressure from critics. He will therefore support Holder as long as he can, no matter what damaging evidence him may be presented against him.) [45386, 45395]

On *Meet the Press*, former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw is asked if Attorney General Eric Holder will get to keep his job. Brokaw responds, “Boy, I think it’s tough to see how he does at this case, but it’s up to [Obama]. That—what we’re seeing in The New York Times today is that familiar Washington two-step. Officially, getting the endorsement of people like David Axelrod and—and the spokesman for [Obama], but at the same time,

there's another part of that two-step that is going on which people are saying it would be better if he left. It would be better for [Obama] to get this cleaned up. He has become obviously the lightning rod for a lot of the criticism just on this panel and certainly in Republican circles. From a political point of view, one of the ways that you can measure the impact of all of this and the fairness of it is [to] think if this had happened in the Bush administration with John Ashcroft as the Attorney General. You know full well that the Democrats and the left would be going very hard after them with these issues that are in play." [45368]

Congressman Darrel Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, appears on CNN's *State of the Union* and calls White House press secretary Jay Carney Obama's "paid liar." Issa says, "Their paid liar, their spokesperson ...he's still making up things about what happened [in the IRS targeting scandal] and calling this a local rogue. The reason that Lois Lerner tried to take the fifth is not because there's a rogue in Cincinnati. It's because this is a problem that was coordinated—in all likelihood, right out of Washington headquarters. We're getting to proving it. ...[Obama's] spokesman—spokesperson—is saying whatever's convenient at the time. The story changes. ...What we have is people who have to come in and transcribe interviews. They're saying under penalty of crimes that certain things are true. We have subpoenaed documents that would support that that they say emails went back and forth. We will learn the whole truth. ...My gut tells me that too many people knew that this wrongdoing was going on before the election, and at least by some sort of convenient benign neglect allowed it to go on through the election, allowed these groups, these conservative groups, these, if you will, not friends of [Obama] to be disenfranchised through an election. Now, I'm not making any allegations as to motive, that they set out to do it. But certainly, people knew it was happening." (The Obama administration has long considered Issa a thorn in its side and has, according to TheGateWayPundit.com, "been pushing dirt on [him] for years." In his book *This Town*, reporter Mark Leibovich states that the White House has urged reporters to write negative stories about Issa.) [45351, 45364, 45365, 45390, 45394, 46243]

On *Face the Nation*, *New York Times* editor Jill Abramson says, "The *Times* and our readers are quite concerned about the six active criticism leak cases that the Obama administration has pursued. That's more than all the other administrations combined. And, you know, we are concerned that the process of news gathering is being criminalized. ...The reporters who work for the *Times* in Washington have told me many of their sources are petrified even to return calls... it has a real practical effect that is important." [45373]

Also on *Face the Nation*, journalist Bob Woodward says, "...*The New York Times* this morning was quoting people from the White House saying they would really like him [Attorney General Eric Holder] to resign. But then, on the other side of it they say, this is all politics and you have to decide in this case. But it's all very troubling. And you lump all these things—the IRS [targeting scandal], Benghazi, and this [the Department of Justice spying on Fox News reporter James Rosen] together and what you've got is a feeling that no one's coming clean, that we aren't getting straight talk. And this goes to

...Obama. He's got to find a way to unravel this. We live in an age of distrust. I think it's more severe now, and he has to come find [sic] some way to clean this up and say, this is what happened, this is what it means. So people will say, ah, a member at the beginning of his administration, he got involved—a mistake with [former] Senator [Tom] Daschle—and Barack Obama... came out and said, I screwed up. If that's happened [again], we need to hear it again." [45374, 45386, 45388]

On *Fox News Sunday* Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) states, "Yes, it is fair to say we're investigating the conflict in [Attorney General Eric Holder's] remarks [about the targeting of reporter James Rosen]. Those remarks were made under oath. But we also think it's very important that the attorney general be afforded the opportunity to respond, so we will wait to pass judgment on that until we receive his response. ... This is a very, very serious allegation and the Justice Department I think made the problem worse by claiming that, because they were not prosecuting [Rosen], there was no false information given [by Holder]." [45389, 45393]

Newsmax.com writes, "Presidential aides are privately admitting to a growing frustration inside the White House with Attorney General Eric Holder's political ineptness in the press leak investigations and are hoping the embattled appointee will resign from office, The New York Times reports. 'The White House is apoplectic about him, and has been for a long time,' said an anonymous Democrat source, identified only as a former government employee who acknowledged the White House staffers in question are his friends." [45366]

The Associated Press reports, "A government watchdog has found that the Internal Revenue Service spent about \$50 million to hold at least 220 conferences for employees between 2010 and 2012, a House committee said Sunday. ... The conference spending included \$4 million for an August 2010 gathering in Anaheim, Calif., for which the agency did not negotiate lower room rates, even though that is standard government practice, according to a statement by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Instead, some of the 2,600 attendees received benefits, including baseball tickets and stays in presidential suites that normally cost \$1,500 to \$3,500 per night. In addition, 15 outside speakers were paid a total of \$135,000 in fees, with one paid \$17,000 to talk about 'leadership through art,' the House committee said." [45367, 45500]

Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters demonstrate in Turkey. USAToday.com reports that "they are alarmed with the rising power of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose Islamist-rooted Justice and Development Party has won plaudits for its democratic and economic reforms but has recently become more restrictive on social issues. A bill creating far-reaching restrictions on alcohol was hastily passed last month, and Erdogan has also publicly stated women should have at least three children." Protester Filiz Polat, obviously not as fond of Erdogan as is Obama, states, "The government interferes with what we need to eat, what we need to drink, how we should sleep with our partner, how many kids that we should have. This is getting beyond reasonable." [45369, 45407, 45611]

At CommentaryMagazine.com Jonathan S. Tobin writes that the "...demonstrations in Turkey have exposed Obama's policies in a way that perhaps no other development has done. By continuing to support the Turkish ruling party, as it now becomes the subject of anger from its citizens, the administration is showing its true colors. If Obama is not prepared to criticize his friend who heads up the government in Ankara the way he has done other regimes that came under fire, then it shows that the talk about democracy was just so much hot air and that when push comes to shove, [Obama] would rather befriend an Islamist ruler than embrace the pleas of the Turkish people for change. ...An American government that did not hesitate to embrace the Tunisian and Egyptian protests yet which stayed silent when demonstrators took to the streets in Istanbul—just as it did when Tehran was the scene of massive protests against another Islamist regime in 2009—has opened itself up to charges of hypocrisy as well as incompetence. ...[I]f this episode passes without an expression of American support for those seeking reform in Turkey, then it will confirm that the Obama administration's version of realpolitik has more to do with [Obama's] level of comfort with Islamist regimes than it does with American strategic interests." [45382]

Attorney Mario Apuzzo (*Kerchner v. Obama*) posts an article refuting Congressional Research Service attorney Jack Maskell's definition of the term "natural born citizen." Apuzzo writes, "First, as to the formal logical fallacy [of Maskell's argument], let us break down what Maskell... said into its logical form. I will use the following symbols: Natural born Citizen=NBC, and Citizen at birth=CAB

All NBCs are CABs.

All persons like Ted Cruz (born in Canada to a U.S 'citizen' mother and non-U.S. 'citizen' father) are CABs.

Therefore, all persons like Ted Cruz are NBCs.

First, it is a tautology to argue that a 'natural born Citizen' is a born citizen. Second, this argument commits the fallacy of affirming the consequent (affirming that one is a CAB does not prove that one is a NBC). Third, this argument suffers from fallacy in that it violates the rule of the undistributed middle (the middle term CABs is not distributed in either the major or minor premise meaning the term has not been defined as belonging or not belonging within the class of NBCs). So, while the major and minor premises are both true, the conclusion, which equates a CAB to a NBC is false. We should see intuitively that the conclusion does not follow from the two premises. An easy way to see the invalidity of the argument is the following:

All poodles are dogs.

Bubbles is a dog.

Therefore, Bubbles is a poodle.

We know that this argument is not valid because, with dogs being comprised of more than just poodles, Bubbles can be a German Shepherd or some other type of dog. ...First, the major premise, all 'citizens at birth' are 'natural born Citizens' is false because the

Founders, Framers, and Ratifiers of the Constitution did not so define a ‘citizens at birth’ and there does not exist any evidence that they did. Second, regardless of how a ‘citizen at birth’ may be defined, the text of Article II specifically states ‘natural born Citizen,’ not ‘Citizen at Birth’ or some variant thereof. Additionally, while it is true that all ‘natural born Citizens’ are ‘citizens at birth,’ it does not follow that all ‘citizens at birth’ are ‘natural born Citizens.’” [45377]

Apuzzo continues, “Now as to the correct definition of a ‘natural born Citizen,’ here it is: A ‘natural born Citizen’ is a child born in a country to parents who are its ‘citizens’ at the time of the child’s birth. This is the settled definition of the clause under American national common law. See Emer de Vattel, *The Law of Nations*, Section 212 Citizens and natives (London 1797) (1st ed. Neuchatel 1758) (‘The natives, or natural-born citizens, are those born in the country, of parents who are citizens’); *The Venus*, 12 U.S. 8 Cranch 253, 289 (1814) (C.J. Marshall concurring); *Inglis v. Sailors’ Snug Harbor*, 28 U.S. 99 (1830); *Shanks v. Dupont*, 28 U.S. 242, 245 (1830); *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 60 U.S. 393, 476-77 (1857) (J. Daniels concurring); *Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162, 168-170 (1875); *Ex parte Reynolds*, 20 F.Cas. 582, 5 Dill. 394, No. 11,719 (C.C.W.D.Ark 1879); *United States v. Ward*, 42 F.320 (C.C.S.D.Cal. 1890); *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 169 U.S. 649, 679-80 (1898) (all confirmed Vattel’s Section 212 of *The Law of Nations* (London 1797) (1st ed. Neuchatel 1758) definition of the ‘natural-born citizens’ who ‘are those born in the country, of parents who are citizens’). This is the only definition of the clause that has ever existed and which has been recognized by our U.S. Supreme Court. The conditions of being born in the country to ‘citizen’ parents are both necessary and sufficient conditions of being a ‘natural born Citizen.’ The definition of a ‘natural born Citizen’ therefore excludes anyone who is either not born in the country (or its jurisdictional equivalent) or not born to parents (both parents) who are its ‘citizens’ at the time of the child’s birth or both.” (*The Obama Timeline* agrees with Apuzzo’s argument and believes that Obama, Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), Senator Mario Rubio (R-FL), South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal are *not* natural born citizens because they were not born on U.S. soil and/or did not have two U.S. citizen parents at the time of their births.) [45377]

Vicky Nissen writes at Examiner.com, “The media has long been silent on the birth certificate issue. According to Mike Zullo, the lead investigator for Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio’s Maricopa County Cold Case Posse, he recently talked with prominent members of the press and was told, in anonymity, that their job security and even personal safety was threatened if they reported on the birth certificate issue; not even Fox News will cover it. Although Zullo was scheduled to appear on Hannity in the past, his appearance was cancelled. At the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Convention yesterday, Mike Zullo presented evidence of the biggest fraud in history being perpetrated on U.S. citizens. ...Barack Obama’s birth certificate is a complete forgery. ...Zullo reports that several constitutional officers, public officials, attorneys, elected officials, and others are now pledging full and personal support in moving this matter to a congressional investigation. Zullo says that the media blackout has kept many of these officials in the dark. He says most of them are now outraged—now that they have seen the evidence that they should have seen from the beginning.” [45396, 45405]

Gilbertson, Pennsylvania police chief Mark Kessler is interviewed and asked about his impressions of the Cold Case Posse's presentation of evidence. Kessler tells Pete Santelli, "I had no idea about Mike Zullo and what he was doing with the Obama forgery investigation... I am not a 'birther;' I am not a conspiracy theorist; my head was in the ground; I drank the KOOL-AID... There has been a complete media black-out on this subject. Lieutenant [Mike] Zullo's presentation opened my eyes, especially the information presented in the closed-door session—which I cannot discuss. Mike did a great job; he weeded out the garbage; he compressed the results of a twenty-one month investigation into a one-hour presentation. Lieutenant Zullo presented rock-solid evidence to an audience of about 300 constitutional peace officers. The birth certificate displayed on the internet and represented as Obama's original birth certificate is unquestionably a forgery. However, the fraudulent birth certificate is just the tip of the iceberg. The information Mike presented will make your skin crawl when it comes out. If you are not enraged when this becomes public knowledge, you are not an American. The issues are so serious that our country's future is at stake. I believe in a peaceful resolution of this matter. The next step is for Congress to take up this issue. There are thousands of law enforcement officers who are calling for congressional hearings on the questions surrounding the evidence uncovered and the issues raised in the investigation by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Posse. If Congress fails to act, the people will rise up to demand action. This is the real deal." [45433, 45434]

On June 3 89-year-old Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) dies. Obama states, "Michelle and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg, a proud New Jerseyan who lived America's promise as a citizen, and fought to keep that promise alive as a senator. First elected to the Senate in 1982, he improved the lives of countless Americans with his commitment to our nation's health and safety, from improving our public transportation to protecting citizens from gun violence to ensuring that members of our military and their families get the care they deserve." [45375, 45391, 45392, 45400, 45425, 45427]

WND.com reports, "At the same time the Internal Revenue Service delayed or denied requests for tax-exempt status from hundreds of conservative non-profit groups, it was quietly restoring the tax-exempt status of an Islamist front group accused of collaborating with terrorists. Last year, the politicized agency reinstated the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations' tax-exempt status despite years of delinquent tax filings. CAIR officials had met with officials inside the White House before the decision was made. Though Democrat-connected CAIR did not officially endorse Obama, many of its staffers helped turn out the Muslim vote for his re-election. CAIR [an unindicted co-conspirator in the Holy Land Foundation terror-financing prosecution] boasted that its own polling showed more than 85 percent of Muslim-Americans voted for Obama. In 2011, the IRS stripped the group's national office of its nonprofit status for failure to file annual tax reports as required by federal law. The move followed requests by then-Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., and other congressional leaders asking the IRS to investigate after the 2009 bestseller 'Muslim Mafia' called attention to CAIR's missing IRS filings and foreign donations. ...CAIR repeatedly failed to file its annual disclosure report, IRS Form

990. CAIR blames a clerical error for the delinquency and claims to have completed the forms. However, several news organizations, including Politico.com and Gannett Co., have asked CAIR for the 2007-2010 documents, and CAIR has not been able to produce them. ...CAIR's terrorist ties run deep. The Justice Department lists it among U.S. front groups for Hamas, a Palestinian terrorist organization. And several CAIR officials have been convicted or deported on terrorism-related charges." [45539]

At Townhall.com John Ransom reports that the General Services Administration is relocating employees to a new, high-rent building, while still committed to a lease on the old property until May, 2018. The cost to the taxpayers will exceed \$250 million. One "source close to Congress" states, "The GSA is making a major mistake by neglecting to take advantage of existing below market lease rates for an extended term. It is outrageous that they simply seem to be ignoring a significant cost savings to the taxpayer. This is a time we all need to be exercising prudent fiscal responsibility, a basic responsibility of the GSA. They have dropped the ball and had better pick it up soon." [45376]

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik sends a letter to the members of the House Judiciary Committee stating, "At no time during the pendency of this matter—before or after seeking the search warrant—have prosecutors sought approval to bring criminal charges against the reporter [Fox News Channel's James Rosen]. The Attorney General's testimony before the disclosure of classified information was accurate and consistent with these facts." (In other words, "We weren't going to *prosecute* Rosen; we only wanted to *persecute* him.") At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reminds readers, "[O]n May 15, 2013 [Eric] Holder said, 'In regard to potential prosecution of the press for the disclosure of material. This is not something I've ever been involved in, heard of, or would think would be wise policy.' Just days later, we found out that Holder personally signed off on the secret monitoring of Fox News Chief Washington Correspondent James Rosen, who was named as a criminal co-conspirator in the affidavit Holder signed." [45385, 45411]

The House Judiciary Committee responds to Kadzik's letter: "Today's response from the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs raises more questions than it answers. By having a subordinate send this response rather than Attorney General Holder himself, this response begs the question of whether Holder has something to hide. Discrepancies in Attorney General Holder's congressional testimony made on the record need to be corrected on the record to Congress by Attorney General Holder himself. Attorney General Holder still has yet to respond to our letter. He can't outsource the responsibility for his actions to lower level staff—the buck stops with him. The American people and Congress deserve answers and accountability from Attorney General Holder. The House Judiciary Committee anxiously awaits his response to our May 29 letter by this Wednesday's deadline." [45385, 45411]

The Oklahoman's editorial describes "a tale of two Obamas." One Obama eagerly takes credit for positive actions, and proclaims, "*I did this. I did that. We provided. Action was taken at my direction.*" This ...Obama would have Americans believe he oversees every major action of the federal government, particularly when a specific action is politically

popular. But then there's the Obama who appeared after it was revealed the IRS had targeted conservative and pro-Israel groups with audits and extreme scrutiny, that the Justice Department was investigating reporters for the crime of journalism, and that the government's response to the Benghazi embassy attack was misleading and lackluster, at best. *That* Obama can barely tell you where the public restroom is located, let alone who's in charge. On the IRS issue, Obama claimed, 'I first learned about it from the same news reports that I think most people learned about this. I think it was on Friday.' On Benghazi, Obama painted a picture of a White House with little direct knowledge or power. 'Here's what we know: Americans died in Benghazi. What we also know is clearly they were not in a position where they were adequately protected.' Well, thanks for clearing that up! ...Clearly, Obama wants to have it both ways, claiming to be an in-charge leader one moment, then a powerless bystander the next, based on crass political considerations, not his actual involvement in any activity." [45399]

FoxNews.com reports, "Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday that the Obama administration would sign a controversial U.N. treaty on arms regulation, despite bipartisan resistance in Congress from members concerned it could lead to new gun control measures in the U.S." (The Senate has already voted 54-46 against the treaty's ratification. Ratification requires a two-thirds majority. Obama's signature on the document is legally meaningless.) [45403, 45414]

CNBC.com reports, "Nearly two-thirds of Americans who currently lack health insurance don't know yet if they will purchase that coverage by the Jan. 1 deadline set by the ACA [Affordable Care Act], a new survey revealed Monday. And less than half of those in the survey released by InsuranceQuotes.com think they'll get better health care after Obamacare takes full effect. Nearly 50 percent believe the ACA will make it more difficult for them to get tests and procedures done in a timely manner, according to the phone survey of 1,001 adult Americans conducted in early May. ...Laura Adams, senior insurance analyst at InsuranceQuotes.com, said public uncertainty about Obamacare—particularly a lack of commitment to signing up—could end up driving up health-insurance costs under the program because not enough healthy people will participate to offset benefits payouts." (The author of *The Obama Timeline* has no intention of purchasing health insurance or paying the penalty for not having coverage, and will instead, if it becomes necessary, take advantage of ObamaCare's absurd requirement that insurers must sell a policy even when there are pre-existing conditions.) [45404]

McClatchyDC.com reports, "Israel's military fumed Monday over the discovery that the U.S. government had revealed details of a top-secret Israeli military installation in published bid requests. The Obama administration had promised to build Israel a state-of-the-art facility to house a new ballistic-missile defense system, the Arrow 3. As with all Defense Department projects, detailed specifications were made public so that contractors could bid on the \$25 million project. The specifications included more than 1,000 pages of details on the facility, ranging from the heating and cooling systems to the thickness of the walls." An unnamed Israeli military official comments, "If an enemy of Israel wanted to launch an attack against a facility, this would give him an easy how-to

guide. This type of information is closely guarded and its release can jeopardize the entire facility.” [45406, 45443]

The White House issues a veto of a House appropriations bill because it does not give the Department of Homeland Security as much money as Obama wants. RollCall.com reports that “...Republicans in the chamber are viewing the administration’s strongest threat to date as yet another bluff. ... Though [Obama] has repeatedly said he is done linking the debt limit to budget cuts, the House GOP is banking on [him] doing just that. ... The government is projected to hit its debt limit early this fall—roughly the same time that this fiscal year’s appropriations bills are set to expire. The current spending levels were set by 2011’s Budget Control Act, the legislative result of the last major fight on the debt limit when Republicans exacted an austerity policy from Democrats in exchange for raising the borrowing levels.” [45408, 45409]

At a Congressional hearing, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George is asked if its IRS audit uncovered the identity of the person who ordered the targeting of conservative groups. George responds, “We did pose that question, and no one would acknowledge who, if anyone, provided that direction.” HotAir.com observes, “That ‘if anyone’ is a cute little hedge but obviously someone gave the order. Extra scrutiny for conservative groups isn’t something that began organically among 88 different employees.” That no one seems to know who issued the marching orders “...raises two possibilities. One: Collective amnesia. Two: A whole lot of employees are intimidated by the thought of getting on the wrong side of whoever it is who ordered this, a realization that’s doubly interesting given the transcript [Congressman Darrell] Issa released suggesting interest among IRS officials in Washington in some of these cases at the time.” Drudge Report editor Joseph Curl tweets: “Hearing from some top Hill sources that IRS scandal about to explode. Low-level agency workers miffed at being blamed. About to return fire” and “One source says there’s a paper trail to DC, and some who were worried from the get-go kept a paper trail. Wouldn’t say WH [White House], but said ‘high.’” [45415, 45416]

Congressman Tom Graves (R-GA) asks acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel if Obama ordered him to “clean house” at the agency. Werfel hems and haws and refuses to provide a direct answer. Graves notes that the tax-exempt division’s Lois Lerner is on paid administrative leave and asks, “Is that your definition of accountability?” [45430]

Meanwhile, Eliana Johnson reports at NationalReview.com, “Congressional investigators are probing the highest echelons of the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., in connection with the agency’s targeting of conservative groups, according to documents obtained by National Review Online. Those documents, provided by an IRS employee who asked to remain anonymous, indicate that those being asked to provide computer data to investigators include the agency’s chief counsel, William J. Wilkins, and both of his deputies. The chief counsel is one of just two political appointments at the IRS made by [Obama]. ... Wilkins previously served on the Democratic staff of the Senate Finance Committee and then as tax counsel, before becoming staff director and chief counsel to the committee in 1981. His most high-profile case came during his time in private

practice when, as a partner at WilmerHale, he represented Jeremiah Wright's Trinity United Church against allegations that it violated tax laws by hosting a speech by Senator Barack Obama. (The church, as a non-profit, is prohibited from advocating for specific candidates.) WilmerHale took the case pro bono due to its interest in the matter. ... The broad sweep of the current investigation indicates that IRS agents nationwide were targeting conservative groups, which belies the explanation initially offered by the inspector general, the IRS, and the Obama administration that the targeting originated with a handful of 'rogue' employees in the agency's Cincinnati office. It also suggests that the orders for that targeting, or the approval for it, may have come from the top lawyer at the agency—an individual appointed by ... Obama himself—or from one of his deputies. The question remains whether the White House itself ordered the agency to target Republican-leaning groups." [45417]

According to the Institute for Supply Management, its index of national factory activity fell from April to May—indicating a reduction in manufacturing. [45418, 45419]

On the floor of the House of Representatives, Congressman Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) says, "[Obama's] Justice Department sold weapons to narco-terrorists south of our border, who killed one of our finest [Border Agent Brian Terry]. [Obama's] State Department lied about Benghazi with false information provided by the White House. [Obama's] Attorney General authorized spying on a Fox News journalist and his family for reporting on a North Korean nuclear test. [Obama's] Justice Department confiscated phone records of the Associated Press because they reports on a thwarted terrorist attack. [Obama's] Treasury Department uses the IRS to target political opposition. [Obama's] Health and Human Services Secretary pressures the insurance companies she is supposed to regulate to promote ObamaCare, which is the same law she uses to force citizens to pay for abortion-inducing drugs against their religious liberties. Mr. Speaker, [Obama's] dishonesty, incompetence, vengefulness, and lack of moral compass leave many to suggest that he is not fit to lead. The only problem is that his vice president is equally unfit and even more embarrassing." [45431]

On *Hardball*, host Chris Matthews says, "[Obama] is the boss, he sets the ideological course. He puts in charge a chief of staff whose job is to hire, to fire, to make sure people obey [him] throughout the government—IRS, everywhere. A complete span of control. That's how presidencies work. When you don't run it that way, you have got to explain why. And I have a real problem. If [close Obama advisor] Valerie Jarrett is so powerful, and it comes across in your book [*The Center Holds*], you don't say negative things about her. Incredibly powerful. Why doesn't she become chief of staff? I don't understand." Author Jonathan Alter replies, "She would not be a good chief of staff. That doesn't match up well with her strengths and there is a lot of fear of her. ... She's not a well liked figure. ... She's not the boss of that White House. [But] She has a lot of control... Look, I mean, the problem with Valerie Jarrett's role is it's like the CEO putting his sister in charge of marketing." [45429]

On *The Tonight Show*, Jay Leno prompts audience cheers when he jokes, "...Obama says he's renewing his efforts to close Guantanamo Bay. Guantanamo Bay? How about

closing the IRS? Why don't we do that? ...How about shipping the IRS to Guantanamo Bay? That's what we... yes! That's how you do it. ...Well, more problems with the IRS. A new report has found that they spent \$50 million on employee conferences and retreats in just two years. They would have investigated sooner, but it turns out, you know, they don't belong to any conservative groups. So nobody really noticed. They didn't really see it. A little odd, yeah." [45422]

On June 4 Karen Kennedy, leader of the San Fernando Valley Tea Party Patriots testifies before the House Ways and Means Committee and relates stories of the atrocious treatment her group received from the IRS. Kenney's organization applied for 501(c)4 tax-exempt status in October 2010. She states, "We heard nothing until February 2012 when I received a packet from the IRS Exempt Organizations Office in Cincinnati, Ohio, which included a questionnaire with 35 items divided into 80 sub-points of inquiry. ...Generally, the questions were a demand that read like the chilling words from the 1950s: 'Are you now or have you ever been...?' ...My personal favorite was question No. 33, which in relation to protests asked for a listing of our 'committed violations of local ordinances, breaches of public order or arrests' then requested details on how we 'conduct or promote' illegal activities. I think the IRS needs to fix its labeling machine: We're the San Fernando Valley Patriots, not Occupy Oakland. ...I stopped the costly and exhausting IRS process in July 2012. We survive on my credit card and donations in our cake tin. ...This dialogue is about the jackboot of tyranny upon the field of our Founding documents. To whisper the letters I-R-S strikes a shrill note on Main St., USA, but when this behemoth tramples upon America's grassroots, few hear the snapping sounds." [45383, 45384, 45421]

The committee also hears from Wetumpka Tea Party President Becky Gerritson, who states, "We were worried, and we knew that we had to do something to sound the alarm. We knew the government had gone far beyond its habitual deficit spending. The government was mortgaging America's future. And we knew that Washington wasn't going to stop by itself. ...The Wetumpka Tea Party filled out a complete application. Our organization fell within the boundaries of receiving a 501(c)4 status. Yet our application was singled out solely because we had 'Tea Party' in our name. Government agents made invasive and excessive demands for information they were not entitled to... This was not an accident. This was a willful act of intimidation to discourage a point of view. ...We peacefully assemble. We petition our government. We exercise the right to free speech. And we don't understand why the government tried to stop us. I'm not here as a serf or a vassal. I'm not begging my lords for mercy. I'm a born-free American woman, wife, mother and citizen. And I'm telling my government that you've forgotten your place. It's not your responsibility to look out for my well-being and to monitor my speech. It's not your right to assert an agenda. Your post, the post that you occupy exists to preserve American liberty. You've sworn to perform that duty. And you have faltered. ...Many of the agents and agencies of the federal government do not understand that they are servants of the people. They think they are our masters and they are mistaken. I am not interested in scoring political points. I want to protect and preserve the America that I grew up in, the America that people cross oceans and risk their lives to become a part of. And I'm terrified it is slipping away." Gerritson states she received a March 16, 2012

letter directly from the Internal Revenue Service's Lois Lerner in Washington, D.C.— which is further proof that the targeting campaign cannot be pinned on “rogue employees” in Cincinnati. [45387, 45421, 45462, 45465, 45468, 45606]

Kevin Kookogey, of Linchpins of Liberty, tells the committee he is still waiting for IRS approval of his group's status two-and-a-half years after submitting its application. He states, “The only purpose [of the IRS demands] was to delay and to obfuscate, to make it as difficult as possible for me.” Among other outrageous demands, the IRS asked Kookogey to “Provide details regarding all of your activity on Facebook and Twitter.” [45424]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) introduces a resolution calling for Obama to “terminate the individuals responsible for targeting and willfully discriminating against Tea Party groups and other conservative groups” and institute an investigation “to determine if other entities in the [Obama] administration of ... were involved in or were aware of the discrimination and did not take action to stop the actions of the Internal Revenue Service.” Senate Democrats block the resolution, and Paul responds, “This resolution is not about Republican vs. Democrat or conservative vs. liberal. It is about arrogant and unrestrained government versus the rule of law. The First Amendment cannot and should not be renegotiated depending on which party holds power. Each senator took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, yet Senate Democrats chose to block my resolution and thus refused to condemn the IRS for trampling on our First Amendment rights. I am incredibly disappointed in Washington's party politics and I am determined to hold the IRS accountable for these unjust acts.” [45527, 45528]

BuellReview.com posts a statement by Cynthia Lee Meyers, the cousin of a CIA agent who had been assigned to protect U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi. Meyers writes, “Here is my story. A week out [before the September 11, 2012 terrorist attack] the Embassy in Tripoli began receiving multiple tips about an Al Qaeda cell in the area planning an attack on 9/11 in response to the killing of Bin Laden. For the next several days, the state dept and WH [White House] were asked for a security force and were denied at least six times. Ambassador Stevens and his team were given the all clear that the Consulate in Benghazi was safe and there was no need for a security force other than his 3 personal guards (One being my cousin) and a few Libyans who were not armed. Then the attack and murders occurred. Immediately the WH claimed it was a protest gone bad over a you tube video. Obama made a quick speech in the Rose Garden on Sept. 12 before catching a plane to Vegas to campaign. He made a generic statement at the end of his speech after placing the blame on an overheated protest over the video. He said ‘No act of terror will shake the resolve of America.’” [54964, 54965, 54966]

“Later that day and over the next 2 days, the liberal media began saying Ambassador Stevens and the other 3 men died of smoke inhalation. This was not the case. Out of respect for my cousin, I'm not going to be specific about his murder. However Ambassador Stevens was brutally murdered. His genitals were cut off, he was sodomized and beaten and cut and stabbed and burned. He was drug thru the streets and left for dead. This is eyewitness testimony of a local Dr. who found the Ambassador in a ditch and

tried to save his life. He had no idea who he was. The other 3 men, including my cousin, met similar fates. And deaths due to smoke inhalation is a 100% fabricated LIE. The next week I drove my aunt and uncle and 2 others to DC to receive his body. We met with [Secretary of State] Hillary [Clinton], [Secretary of Defense] Panetta, and [ambassador to he U.N.] Susan Rice. ALL of whom apologized and said it was a protest gone bad over a video and exited the area. Next Obama entered with the same story and didn't apologize and wasn't sympathetic. My aunt cried to this man and all he did was hand her flowers and walk away. I tried to get his attention, but didn't. I got upset and yelled liar to him, he kept walking. Then a secret service agent grabbed my arm and led me to a room where I was held till the proceedings were over." [54964, 54965, 54966]

"America, I saw firsthand how cold this man is. What kind of liar he is. Most of you haven't a clue about this tyrant and yet you support him. And act like every word he says is Gospel. These murders and the fast and furious cover ups make water gate look like, a kid who told his bff's secret to the class. We must stop this man, and please pass this story along. We must keep after this Administration to get the truth out! Benghazi was a tragedy that didn't have to happen, but one made even worse by Obama going to Las Vegas the next day for a fundraiser with Beyonce and Jay Z! If you haven't done so already go now and read my part two article on Benghazi Libya here. There is much more coming out including Al Qaeda terrorists apparently in charge of U.S. Embassy security and approved by Obama!" [54964, 54965, 54966]

Obama nominates three Harvard-educated judges (Patricia Ann Millet, Cornelia Pillard, and Robert Wilkins) to sit on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and complains that Republicans have stalled his nominations: "I recognize that neither party has a perfect track record here, but what's happening now is unprecedented. For the good of the American people, it has to stop." (Obama's choice of three leftist judges is meant to force Republicans to block them—giving Democrats the opportunity to label their GOP opponents "obstructionists" in their 2014 election campaigns.) Obama claims, "Time and again, congressional Republicans cynically used Senate rules and procedures to delay and even block qualified nominees from coming to a full vote. As a result, my judicial nominees have waited three times longer to receive confirmation votes than those of my Republican predecessor. Let me repeat that: My nominees have taken three times longer to receive confirmation votes than those of my Republican predecessor." (When it comes to the circuit courts of appeals, the level just below the Supreme Court, Obama's nominees have actually moved through the Senate faster than those of his Republican predecessor George W. Bush. [A Congressional Research Service] study found that Bush's first-term nominees waited an average of 277 days for confirmation, while Obama's waited 240 days. So not only did Obama's nominees not wait three times longer than Bush's, they actually made it to the bench faster. ...In the four years he served in the Senate, Obama was an enthusiastic obstructor of Bush's judicial nominations. ...Obama voted to filibuster one of the Supreme Court nominations, for Samuel Alito, and also tried to derail circuit court nominees William Pryor, Leslie Southwick and Janice Rogers Brown. And he certainly didn't spend his time exhorting colleagues to confirm Bush nominees more quickly.") [45426, 45657]

The Heritage Foundation reports, “The House Agriculture Committee approved an amendment to its farm bill that would lift the stay blocking implementation of ...Obama’s Christmas tree tax. We should be thankful the Agriculture Committee doesn’t have jurisdiction over toys.” [45526]

WhiteHouseDossier.com reports, “In the latest blow to the Obama administration’s claim to be the ‘openness administration,’ word emerged today that the Department of Labor sought to charge a news organization more than \$1 million for information. According to the Associated Press, which reported today on the widespread use by government officials of secret email accounts, Labor demanded that AP pay \$1.03 million for costs the department said were involved in retrieving email addresses for political appointees. ...A department spokesman later termed the demand for cash a ‘mistake’ and provided the Associated Press with the email addresses for all Labor appointees confirmed by the Senate. But it would appear demanding such an exorbitant sum to drum up a few email addresses may amount to an effort to create a barrier to the release of information.” (The Freedom of Information Act prohibits the government from charging news organizations any costs for requested information other than photocopy costs for requests in excess of 100 pages.) [45410]

The Associated Press reports, “Some of ...Obama’s political appointees are using secret government email accounts to conduct official business... a practice that complicates agencies’ legal responsibilities to find and turn over emails under public records requests and congressional inquiries. White House spokesman Jay Carney on Tuesday acknowledged the practice and said it made eminent sense for Cabinet secretaries and other high-profile officials to have what he called alternative email accounts that wouldn’t fill with unwanted messages. Carney said all their email accounts, public and otherwise, were subject to congressional oversight and requests by citizens under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. ...Most federal agencies have failed to turn over lists of political appointees’ email addresses, which the AP sought under the Freedom of Information Act more than three months ago. The Labor Department initially asked the AP to pay more than \$1 million for its email addresses. The AP asked for such addresses following last year’s disclosures that former chiefs at the Environmental Protection Agency had used separate email accounts at work. The practice is separate from officials who use personal, nongovernment email accounts for work, which generally is discouraged due to laws requiring that most federal records be preserved.” [45412, 45413, 45432]

FoxNews.com reports, “The chairman of an anti-gay marriage group testified Tuesday that his organization has proof that the IRS leaked confidential donor details last year, calling for prosecution into what he described as a ‘felony.’ ‘This just smells and I hope this committee gets to the bottom of it,’ John Eastman, chairman of the National Organization for Marriage, said at a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee. Eastman testified Tuesday alongside several Tea Party activists who all claim they were targeted by the IRS. The Tea Party groups offered a first-hand account of how the IRS singled them out when they applied for tax-exempt status, asking them onerous questions and dragging out their application process. But Eastman shed light on another

potential controversy involving the IRS—the unauthorized disclosure of tax document information. He recalled how information on their donors was leaked last year and published on the website of the Human Rights Campaign, which Eastman described as their ‘principal political opponent’ on the marriage issue. The documents showed Mitt Romney’s political committee as a donor. ...Eastman explained that while some information was redacted in the posted version, his group’s ‘forensic’ specialists were able to strip layers from the document and found ‘the original document that was posted there had originated from within the IRS.’ He said the version had ‘internal IRS stamps,’ which ‘only exist within the IRS.’ Eastman added: ‘You can imagine our shock and disgust over this. ...We jealously guard [the identities of] our donors.’” [45423]

NYTimes.com reports, “Michael Froman, a longtime White House economic aide nominated to be ...Obama’s trade representative, holds close to \$500,000 in the Cayman Islands and received millions of dollars to divest himself from Wall Street accounts that rely on a tax loophole the administration has sought to close.” [45428]

CNSNews.com adds to the Obama administration scandals, writing, “A new Inspector General report on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) conferences and costs shows that among 225 conferences held around the country between 2010 and 2012, at least 4 events took place at luxury hotel-casinos in Las Vegas at a cost to taxpayers of \$671,990. Two of the IRS events took place at the luxurious Caesar’s Palace Hotel & Casino, one at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino, and one at the Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino.” [45460]

Mediaite.com reports, “On Tuesday, House Republicans pressured Health and Human Services Sec. Kathleen Sebelius to intervene on behalf of 10-year-old Sarah Murnaghan who will die unless she receives a lung transplant in the coming weeks. Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) urged Sebelius to bypass regulations that require the lung she needs to be offered to adults before it is offered to children. ‘It simply takes your signature,’ Price said. Murnaghan, who is suffering from a terminal case of cystic fibrosis, is ineligible for the lung she needs to survive because she is not yet 12-years-old, the minimum age to be defined as an adult. Federal regulations require that adult patients first have access to donated organs before they are offered to children. ...‘Secretary Sebelius’ decision to not exercise her very clear authority under the law to intervene and mandate a variance that would help save Sarah’s life is devastating,’ Murnaghan’s family said in a statement. ‘Essentially, Sarah has been left to die.’ Price, a doctor, told Sebelius that she has the unique opportunity to personally save a life and urged her to take it. ‘Madam secretary, I would urge you, this week, to allow that lung transplant to move forward,’ Price said.” [45435, 45458, 45469, 45472]

At WashingtonTimes.com Bill Gertz reports, “An al Qaeda terrorist stated in a recent online posting that U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens was killed by lethal injection after plans to kidnap him during the Sept. 11 attacks in Benghazi went bad. The veracity of the claim by Abdallah Dhu-al-Bajadin, who was identified by U.S. officials as a weapons expert for al Qaeda, could not be determined. However, U.S. officials have not dismissed the terrorist’s assertion. An FBI spokeswoman indicated that the bureau is

aware of the claim but declined to comment because of the ongoing investigation into the Benghazi attacks. ‘While there is a great deal of information in the media and on the Internet about the attack in Benghazi, the FBI is not in a position at this time to comment on anything specific with regard to the investigation,’ spokeswoman Kathy Wright said. A State Department spokesman had no comment. ...According to a March 14 posting on an al Qaeda-linked website, Dhu-al-Bajadin stated that Stevens was given a lethal injection that was overlooked during the autopsy. The ‘plan was based on abduction and exchange of high-level prisoners,’ the terrorist wrote on the prominent jihadist Web forum Ansar al-Mujahideen Network. ‘However, the operation took another turn, for a reason God only knows, when one of the members of the jihadist cell improvised and followed Plan B.’” (Some believe that the original Benghazi plan, sanctioned—if not instigated—by Obama, was for Stevens to be kidnapped and then traded for Omar Abdel Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing known as the “blind sheikh.” Rahman would be released from a U.S. prison in exchange for Stevens, and Obama would take credit for brilliantly negotiating the deal—just in time for the November 2012 election. Others believe the plan was for a phony military operation to “rescue” Stevens from cooperative Muslim Brotherhood kidnappers—to have Obama succeed where Jimmy Carter had failed. The lax security at Benghazi was allegedly not a mistake but part of the scheme.) [43188, 43757, 45437, 45438, 45492, 45978]

In Manchester, Tennessee, officials from Obama’s Department of Justice hold an event called “Public Disclosure in a Diverse Society” to advise Muslims how criticism of Islam may violate federal civil rights laws. The American Freedom defense Initiative holds a demonstration in support of free speech outside the event. AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller later reports, “Almost 2,000 people were there—that’s three percent of the local [Manchester] population. This was the perhaps unlikely venue for a seminar led by a U.S. attorney and an FBI special agent on how ‘inflammatory’ speech against Muslims violated civil rights laws. Nowhere was it ever explained how there could be honest examination of Islam’s teachings of jihad that wouldn’t be ‘inflammatory’—and that was just the point. There were close to 800 people filling the small room to way beyond capacity. The lines were three deep along the wall, with folks spilling out into the hallways—plus many hundreds more outside. Those outside weren’t missing much—unless they were in the mood to be admonished and hectored as xenophobes, bigots and racists by an Islamic supremacist spokesman and two Obama officials who steadfastly refused to address the elephant in the room: the reality of jihad terror and Islamic supremacism, no matter how many times the boisterous crowd called them on their nonsense.” [45440, 45441, 45484, 45485, 45486, 45487, 45488, 45489, 45654, 45655, 45656, 45697]

Geller continues, “U.S. Attorney Bill Killian gave a power point presentation on hate crimes and hate speech. From beginning to end it was full of condescension, smears, charges that the crowd was racist, and thinly-veiled threats that truthful speech about Islam could be prosecuted. Never once did he address the fact that people aren’t concerned about Muslims because of racism and xenophobia, but because of the reality of jihad terror and the uniform denial and obfuscation, and victimhood posturing, that follows from Muslim communities after every jihad attack. Killian even stooped so low

as to claim a sharp rise in ‘religiously-motivated hate crimes,’ without ever informing the crowd that he was lumping in anti-Semitic hate crimes (which are at worldwide record levels, largely due to Islamic antisemitism) with anti-Muslim hate crimes. FBI special agent Kenneth Moore was little better. Both echoed the Islamic supremacist speaker’s opening remarks, all about how the people of Tennessee had to learn to be welcoming of people who were different.” James Lafferty, chairman of the Virginia Anti-Shariah Task Force, attended the event and tells Accuracy in Media, “I talked with many of the people who had driven hours to get to the rally—a farmer and his son, an orthodox Jewish family, World War II veterans and many more. They all said the same thing—the Justice Department is trying to curtail free speech by promising increased scrutiny of any Internet posts which mention Islam.” [45440, 45441, 45484, 45485, 45486, 45487, 45488, 45489, 45654, 456555, 45656, 45697]

At FrontPageMag.com author Robert Spencer, director of Jihad Watch, later writes of the Tennessee event: “The protesters turned out in such unexpectedly high numbers because they knew that truthful and accurate exploration of Islam’s violent teachings has been deemed ‘inflammatory’ by both Muslim groups and the Obama regime—and that leaves us unable to examine the motives and goals of jihad terrorists, or to defend ourselves adequately against them. That’s why everyone was so upset with Killian [and the other speakers], but the media were either oblivious to that fact or intent on ignoring it. One wonders who decided to hold an event like this in small-town Tennessee, rather than some higher-profile area, in the first place. Did the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney’s office think that their new suggestion that civil rights laws could be used to silence criticism of Islam would escape notice if it were held in a place that is usually outside the relentless gaze of the mainstream media? Did they hope to float a trial balloon and see if their anti-free speech initiative would be met with indifference and complacency in Manchester, Tennessee, which might be an indication that it wouldn’t encounter serious resistance in Nashville or Dallas or New York or Washington, either? Whatever the real reason may be, their efforts failed. The patriots who came to the Manchester event demonstrated to the Obama Administration that their efforts to subvert the First Amendment will not go unchallenged. That evening showed that the children and heirs of those who were responsible for the Boston Tea Party and other manifestations of resistance to tyranny have not all become willfully ignorant and complacent. And resist tyranny we will, once again.” [45654, 45655, 45697]

Meanwhile, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon vetoes legislation that would make it illegal to enforce Islamic Shari’ah law in the state. (Pamela Geller observes, “Nixon is a typical Democrat—usurping the will of the people and lying about why. Nixon said, ‘this bill could jeopardize a family’s ability to adopt children from other countries.’ Bald-faced lie. There was ‘nothing in the bill that would endanger foreign adoptions.’ Who got to Nixon? What do they have on this tool? His campaign coffer\$ should be examined.”) [45442]

David Yerushalmi, co-founder and senior counsel for the American Freedom Law Center, files a Freedom of Information Act request asking for “All records, reports, writings, notes, documents, memoranda, e-mails, photographs, videotapes, tape

recordings, PowerPoint presentations, or other statements or recordings” that relate to the Manchester, Tennessee “Public Disclosure in a Diverse Society” event. [45486]

According to a Bloomberg National Poll, 47 percent of Americans believe Obama was lying when he claimed he did not know the IRS was targeting conservative organizations. [45452, 45454]

At WashingtonPost.com Courtland Milloy writes, “I hope ...Obama appreciates the grand bargain he’s getting from African Americans: unwavering support, stratospheric approval rating, muted exasperation when he disappoints, vociferous defense when he’s under attack. But what do black people get in return? A recent spate of polls suggests that Obama himself is the payoff — that he need not do much more than be the first black [in the White House], the most powerful symbol of racial progress in American history.” Robert L. Johnson, “a black billionaire businessman who commissioned Zogby to survey African American attitudes,” states, “Our poll showed that there is great pride in having Obama as the leader of the free world. But that pride is part of a Faustian bargain we made. We will not push Obama to pull us up if we think that doing so might bring him down. I don’t think there will be a major effort to call Obama out for black unemployment, income disparities or issues such as glass ceilings for African Americans in corporate America. As the first black [in the White House], he gets a pass from us.” [45453]

On June 5 the Associated Press reports that Susan Rice will be Obama’s new national security advisor, replacing persistent information leaker Tom Donilon. (Rice has been the target of considerable criticism for her five Sunday talk show appearances after the Benghazi attack, in which she absurdly blamed a YouTube video for the killings of four Americans. Fortunately for Rice—but unfortunately for Americans—her new job does not require Senate approval.) Obama names Samantha Power to replace Rice as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Obama calls Rice “passionate and pragmatic. I think everybody understands Susan is a fierce champion for justice and human dignity, but she’s also mindful that we have to exercise our power wisely and deliberately.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, both Rice and Power are strongly anti-Semitic and have frequently spoken out against Israel. Rice, assistant secretary of state under Bill Clinton, and Richard Clark, persuaded Clinton *not* to accept Sudan’s offer to hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States. Former Clinton staffer Mansoor Ijaz stated that efforts to capture or kill Osama bin Laden were “overruled every single time by the State Department, by Susan Rice and her cronies, who were Hell-bent on destroying the Sudan.” Rice, wife of ABC’s *This Week* producer Ian Cameron, also encouraged Clinton to do nothing to stop the Rwanda genocide. Rice has been considered “wildly incompetent” by some Washington insiders, and one critic who has worked with her states, “She doesn’t know what she doesn’t know. And she doesn’t tolerate dissenters. To have her head the U.S. mission to the U.N. is a mind-boggling decision. It is frightening.” Power has called Hillary Clinton a “monster” and said, “The amount of deceit she has put forward is really unattractive.” She has also publicly discussed the possibility of invading Israel to help create a Palestinian state. Power—who will be subjected to a Senate confirmation hearing—once worked for the International Crisis Group, a George Soros

leftist think tank, and is married to Obama's former regulatory czar, Cass Sunstein, who believes animals should be allowed to file lawsuits. Power has recommended that the United States "pour billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money into the new state of Palestine.") [233, 234, 235, 236, 356, 360, 568, 569, 590, 628, 670, 831, 819, 1282, 1311, 1377, 1679, 1680, 1681, 2197, 2467, 2505, 2618, 5476, 8155, 8516, 10556, 30277, 30315, 45444, 45445, 45446, 45447, 45448, 45449, 45450, 45451, 45456, 45457, 45467, 45480, 45493, 45907]

HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes that because Rice's appointment does not require Senate confirmation, "...Obama won't have to provide Benghazi skeptics with another high-profile platform to ask embarrassing questions—or produce even more whistleblowers. That still leaves Rice—and Obama—with a very large problem in terms of credibility. Even if Rice had no input into the process of generating the false and damaging talking points for her full Ginsburg on September 16th, her only defense is that someone handed her a sheet and told her to tell that story without having checked it out for herself. Does a national-security adviser normally just act as someone else's mouthpiece? The very nature of that position requires an independent mind to test and, when necessary, oppose the conclusions coming from the intelligence community, and to dig into the intel herself to provide critical advice to [Obama]. Rice's claim that she didn't know anything on her own on September 16th but still went on five different talk shows to push the State Department line has always been suspect, but taking her at her word on that presents a significant disqualifier for this specific office. (Nor is that the only issue that Rice has bumbled, either.) Perhaps none of this matters to [Obama,] who thinks he knows more than anyone else in the room. I'd argue that an independent national-security adviser is even more critical in that circumstance and a yes-woman more dangerous. And while Obama may enjoy moving Rice up as a thumb in the eye of his opponents, he risks even more political damage if more whistleblowers come forward at State—or more e-mails are forced into the open—that starts eroding Rice's I-just-did-what-I-was-told defense. This administration is already facing a credibility crisis, and this won't help at all." [45457]

At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "Clearly, the number one skill for the post of National Security Adviser in the Obama administration is the ability to bald-face lie completely and directly to the American people with absolute aplomb. Susan Rice lied so pathologically and without hesitation on every Sunday show concerning the act of war by jihadist forces in Libya that resulted in the murder of four Americans. Rice, in keeping with Obama's anti-American intellectual balloon, did not hold the slaughtering jihadists responsible. No, Rice went before the American people (as did Obama) and covered for them. She blamed our freedom, our first amendment rights. And she is thusly rewarded by an outlaw administration. Obama's utter contempt for the American people is boundless. This, coupled with the appointment of Samantha Power to the post of Ambassador to the UN, makes this a dark day indeed. But hardly surprising." Of Power, Geller writes, "Obama ads another vicious antisemite to one of his top posts. He is so comfortable with haters—it's really creepy. Samantha Power was removed from his campaign team back in March 2008 because she was radioactive—but now the diabolist answers to no one. Obama never seemed fazed by her calling in a 2002 interview with

Harry Kreisler of the Institute for International Studies at Berkeley for military action against Israel to secure the creation of a Palestinian state. Power said that establishing a Palestinian state would mean ‘sacrificing—or investing, I think, more than sacrificing—billions of dollars, not in servicing Israel’s military, but actually investing in the new state of Palestine, in investing the billions of dollars it would probably take, also, to support what will have to be a mammoth protection force, not of the old Rwanda Book kind, but a meaningful military presence.’ She said that this would ‘require external intervention.’” [45493, 45494]

At AmericanThinker.com Ed Lasky writes, “Samantha Power has been a notorious critic of Israel for years and that, naturally, makes her well-qualified under ...Obama’s criteria to serve in such a crucial post. She will be welcomed with open arms at the United Nations. We at American Thinker have been warning about her influence with Barack Obama since 2008... But her bit of nastiness seems to be tinged with a bit of anti-Semitism as well. ...She even went so far as to call Israelis ‘bastards.’ She even promoted Palestinian propaganda that a massacre was committed in Jenin—even telling off a New York Times reporter (!) who did not agree with her view. She also wanted to impose a settlement on Israel, backed up with the placement of US troops (Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel thinks likewise, btw [by the way]). ...Ms. Power also derided concerns about Iran’s nuclear weapons program in a Time magazine column, stating that it was a figment of the imagination conjured up and promoted by George Bush to gin up pressure on Iran. She counseled, what else, outreach and engagement—not further pressure. She will be great at the United Nations: great for Iran, great for Hezb’Allah, great for Hamas. She will be widely welcomed in that hotbed of hatred.” [45495]

Keith Urbahn, former chief of staff for George W. Bush’s Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, comments on Obama’s selection of Power: “[Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations] Jeanne Kirkpatrick is turning in her grave right now.” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) warns that Power would be “an advocate of elevating UN interests over US sovereignty.” At CommentaryMagazine.com Seth Mandel asks what the worst of Power’s controversial statements have been, but observes, “It’s really a tough call, because it’s all so astoundingly ignorant and malicious. What is clear, however, is that such a person should not be anywhere near the levers of power—so of course then-Senator Barack Obama, with his scant knowledge of foreign affairs and his ideological rigidity, hired Power to advise him on foreign policy during the lead-up to the 2008 presidential election.” [45702, 45703]

FreeBeacon.com posts a list of Obama nominee Samantha Power’s “Five Worst Statements.” “1. Power called for global apology tour. ...Power recommended that United States officials should apologize to the world for its past failures in order to enhance credibility with foreign countries. ...2. Power recommended the United States intervene with a ‘Mammoth Protection Force’ in Israel, then called the idea ‘weird.’ ...3. Power praised Obama’s willingness to meet with enemies without preconditions. ...4. Power lost her job with Obama [in 2008] for calling Hillary Clinton a ‘monster.’ ...5. Power on John Kerry: ‘He must have thought that having got shrapnel in his ass out there [in Vietnam] bought him some credibility. It didn’t.’” [45704]

According to an NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll, Obama's approval/disapproval rating has plummeted from 41/46 percent among independent voters in April to 29/59 percent in June. Obama's ratings have fallen in the areas of "ability to handle crisis," "strong leadership qualities," "honest/straightforward," "good commander-in-chief," "working with different people," "and Changing 'business as usual.'" Remarkably, Obama still does well in the category of "easygoing/likeable." (One can therefore be either evil or incompetent but still remain popular with the help of charm, good dental work, and a cooperative mainstream media.) [45474]

The poll also shows that ObamaCare continues to be unpopular, with 49 percent voicing opposition and only 37 percent approving of the health care legislation. (In June 2012 the percentages were 44 and 40, respectively.) [45573]

Breitbart.com reports, "In analysis to be released Wednesday, the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) estimates that the Senate immigration bill's guest worker program would expand current levels to more than 600,000 new guest workers per year." According to the study, "[I]n the first year, the bill (S.744) would admit nearly 1.6 million more temporary workers than currently allowed. After that initial spike, the bill would increase annual temporary worker admissions by more than 600,000 each year over the current level—an increase four times larger than the one called for in the 2007 Bush-Kennedy proposal (about 125,000)." (With more than 20 million Americans either unemployed or working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment, the Senate's "gang of eight" believes 600,000 immigrants should be welcomed into the country and given jobs—or welfare benefits—each year.) [45470]

According to Politico, it was "Former CIA Director Leon Panetta [who] revealed the name of the Navy SEAL unit that carried out the Osama bin Laden raid and named the unit's ground commander at a 2011 ceremony attended by 'Zero Dark Thirty' filmmaker Mark Boal. Panetta also discussed classified information designated as 'top secret' and 'secret' during his presentation at the awards ceremony, according to a draft Pentagon inspector general's report published Wednesday by the Project on Government Oversight. ... Word that Panetta, a key member of Obama's national security team, might have been responsible for improper disclosures without encountering any known repercussions comes as the administration faces questions over the fairness of the aggressive anti-leak investigations and prosecutions being mounted by the Justice Department. The release of the findings in the draft report may also raise questions about why the document has been under wraps for so long, and which of its conclusions were known to White House officials prior to last November's election." [45471]

TheHill.com reports, "A *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll released late Tuesday shows 55 percent believe the IRS targeting of conservative groups raised questions about the [Obama] administration's 'overall honesty and integrity.' A plurality, 43 percent, believe that the IRS scandal is part of a 'widespread effort' on the administration's part to target political opponents, while 29 percent blame the actions on a few rogue officials. Fifty-eight percent say the administration's handling of the attack on the Benghazi,

Libya, diplomatic post also raises questions about the honesty of the White House. The same number say the Justice Department's subpoenaing of reporter email and phone records in national security leak investigations also raises concerns. ...Thirty-three percent say Obama is mainly or totally responsible for the IRS scandal, with 37 percent holding him accountable for the DOJ reporter subpoena controversy. Obama faces the most questions over the Benghazi incident, with 41 percent believing he bears responsibility." [45454, 45455]

CNSNews.com reports that Obama's 2009 stimulus legislation "financed a \$431,363 grant in Rep. Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco-based congressional district to study the 'psychological distress' of homosexual fathers. The study took three years to publish its results and created no jobs. The study concluded that homosexual men likely reduce their chances of contracting HIV after becoming fathers because they have less time for sex. The grant—entitled 'Health and HIV Among Gay Fathers'—was awarded to San Francisco State University. ...The \$431,363 was to be used to 'to identify psychological and behavioral factors that help prevent gay fathers from HIV risk, substance abuse, and psychological distress as they navigate the myriad life-changing situations faced as parents.'" [45461]

At FoxNews.com K. T. McFarland writes, "Tuesday morning my reaction was why appoint Susan Rice as national security adviser? She will be a DISASTER. Here's why: I spent seven years working for the most successful NSC [National Security Council] adviser in history, Henry Kissinger. I watched him conceive new policies, negotiate with foreign leaders, ride herd over the bureaucracy, massage the press and foreign policy intelligentsia and work behind the scenes with congressional leaders. Susan Rice can't do any of those things. ... So what is Obama thinking with the Rice appointment? He's doubling down and circling the wagons. He's rewarding Rice for being a loyal (if incompetent) soldier. He is hanging tough on the scandals and claiming that he knew nothing about them until he read about them in the papers. On the other hand, maybe Obama's appointment of Rice is smarter than it looks on the surface. By appointing Rice to the NSC job the president can invoke executive privilege and claim she doesn't have to testify on Capitol Hill. And even if she does talk about Benghazi, at some point, she will certainly be a loyal soldier if she is now sitting just steps from the Oval Office." [45476]

Debka.com reports, "A large American military force disembarked Tuesday, June 4, at the southern Jordanian port of Aqaba—ready for deployment on the kingdom's Syrian border, DEBKAFfile's exclusive military sources report. The force made its way north along the Aqaba-Jerash-Ajilon mountain road bisecting Jordan from south to north, under heavy Jordanian military escort. Our sources disclose that this American force numbers 1,000 troops, the largest to land in Jordan since the Syrian civil war erupted in March 2012. They are members of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Force carried aboard the USS Kearsage amphibious assault ship, which has been anchored off neighboring Israeli Eilat since mid-May. Upon landing, the marines took to the road in a convoy of armored vehicles including Hummers. Washington and Amman have imposed a blackout on their arrival. ...According to our US sources, the arrival of the US force in Jordan was... decided on at an emergency meeting at the Pentagon on May 31, which was attended by

top military and civilian Defense Department officials. ...The meeting decided that the military situation evolving in Syria and threats it posed to Jordan—including widening evidence of chemical weapons use in Syria—were urgent enough to warrant the dispatch of extra American military strength to Jordan, over and above the contingents participating in the joint exercise. The Israeli Air Force will provide air cover for the force until the F-16 jets are in place for the drill.” (Without the knowledge of the American people, Obama has sent troops in harm’s way.) [45478, 45479]

The Telegraph reports, “It had been hoped that this weekend’s crucial summit between Barack Obama and Xi Jinping at a Californian ranch might inject a new warmth into US-China relations. However, those hopes suffered an early setback on Wednesday when the White House announced that Michelle Obama would not be joining her husband in attending the two-day meeting with China’s new president and his wife. Her office cited domestic responsibilities for not attending... but the move leaves China’s first lady, Peng Liyuan, to attend the summit without her American counterpart. China experts immediately warned that Mrs. Obama’s decision to stay in Washington could have an unwelcome chilling effect on a summit that White House officials have billed as an ‘unprecedented’ opportunity to heal divisions between the world two biggest economies. Her absence is likely to limit Ms Peng’s role at the two-day California meeting and may be interpreted by the face-conscious Chinese bureaucrats and public as a deliberate snub, both US and Chinese analysts said. The Chinese public had hoped that their country’s first lady would dazzle the American public during this summit at the Sunnylands ranch in Palm Springs which opens on Friday and in which both sides have trumpeted as a bid to kick-start more constructive relations.” [45481]

Fort Hood terrorist Nidal Malik Hasan tells Colonel Tara Osborn, the presiding judge in his legal proceedings, that he took 14 lives “in defense of others,” specifically “the leadership of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the Taliban” [Mullah Omar]. (Hasan’s admission emphasizes the absurdity of the Obama administration’s classification of the killings as “workplace violence.” AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller observes, “This would be comical if it weren’t so monstrous. Jihadis yelling at Obama, ‘it’s jihad, stupid!’ Imagine, this is the [commander in chief] of the United States eleven years after 9/11, with his head planted firmly in his favorite place. Quite deliberately, I assure you. The victims of the Fort Hood jihadi deserve benefits and combat honors. Obama is a disgrace and a traitor.”) [45482, 45483]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The National Security Agency [NSA] is collecting the telephone records of millions of U.S. customers of Verizon under a top-secret court order issued in April, according to a report Wednesday evening in the Guardian newspaper. The order, a copy of which has been obtained by the Guardian, a publication in the United Kingdom, requires Verizon on an ‘ongoing, daily basis’ to give the NSA information on all telephone calls in its systems, both within the U.S. and between the U.S. and other countries. ...The document indicates that the Obama administration is collecting phone records of millions of citizens in bulk, whether or not they are suspected of wrongdoing. The order was signed by Judge Roger Vinson of the secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, according to the document posted online by the

Guardian. ...[T]he ACLU's deputy legal director, Jameel Jaffer, said the program 'could hardly be more alarming. It's a program in which millions of innocent people have been put under the constant surveillance of government agents. It's analogous to the FBI stationing an agent outside every home in the country to track who goes in and who comes out. It is beyond Orwellian, and it provides further evidence of the extent to which basic democratic rights are being surrendered in secret to the demands of unaccountable intelligence agencies.'" [45496, 45503, 45506, 45509, 45513]

The Center for Constitutional Rights condemns the NMSA surveillance: "As far as we know this order from the FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] court is the broadest surveillance order to ever have been issued: it requires no level of suspicion and applies to all Verizon subscribers anywhere in the U.S. It also contains a gag order prohibiting Verizon from disclosing information about the order to anyone other than their counsel. ...The Patriot Act provision requires the FBI to notify Congress about the number of such warrants, but this single order covering millions of people is a deceptive end-run around that disclosure requirement." (In May 2005 Deputy Attorney General James Comey told Congress, "Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act allows the FBI to obtain an order from the FISA Court requesting production of any tangible thing, such as business records, *if the items are relevant to an ongoing authorized national security investigation* [emphasis added], which, in the case of a United States person, cannot be based solely upon activities protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. ...Similar to a prosecutor in a criminal case issuing a grand jury subpoena for an item relevant to his investigation, so too may the FISA Court issue an order requiring the production of records or items *that are relevant to an investigation* [emphasis added] to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities." Needless to say, detailed information about a Verizon telephone call by someone wishing her grandmother a happy birthday is not "relevant" to a terrorism investigation.) [45496, 45529]

It is worth noting that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts, appointed all eleven members of the FISA Court. They serve seven-year terms. There is no requirement that members be confirmed by Congress. [46307]

Former vice president Al Gore issues a Twitter message: "In digital era, privacy must be a priority. Is it just me, or is secret blanket surveillance obscenely outrageous?" [45604]

At a news conference to discuss the NSA's security procedures, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) says, "As you know, this is just metadata. There is no content involved. ...This is the reason why we keep TSA doing what it's doing. This is the reason why the FBI now has 10,000 people doing intelligence on counterterrorism. This is the reason for the National Counterterrorism Center that's been set up in the time we've been active. And it's to ferret this out before it happens. It's called protecting America." The collected information, says Feinstein, "goes into a database... but cannot be accessed without what's called, and I quote, 'reasonable, articulable [sic] suspicion' that the records are relevant and related to terrorist activity. And it is simply what we call metadata that is never utilized by any governmental agency unless they go back to the FISA court and

that there is real cause as to why something within the metadata should be looked at. So that's, I think, been very clear all along through the years of this program. It has proved meritorious because we have gathered significant information on bad guys, but only on bad guys over the years." Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) says, "All of these [telephone] numbers are basically ferreted out by a computer, but if there's a number that matches a terrorist number that has been dialed by a U.S. number or dialed from a terrorist to a U.S. number, then that may be flagged. And they may or may not seek a court order to go further on that particular instance. But that's the only time that this information is ever used in any kind of substantive way." (Feinstein declares there is "no content," while Chambliss insists the content that does not exist is accessed only via court order.) [45562, 45593]

In an NBC interview, Attorney General Eric Holder comments on the inappropriate investigation of reporter James Rosen by his Department of Justice: "I'm a little concerned that things have gotten a little out of whack. ...I think we can do a better job than we have. We can reform those regulations, reform those guidelines to better reflect that balance." (At HotAir.com Erika Johnsen writes, "'A little concerned?' I'm a little concerned when the office printer is 'out of whack.' If the executive department responsible for administering nationwide justice of which I was in charge was found to be abusing the law to specifically thwart journalists, I would be appalled.") Asked if he will resign, Holder responds, "No, I have no intention of doing so now." [45477]

DailyCaller.com reports, "Washington IRS attorney named Carter Hull closely oversaw the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups and suggested questions that IRS employees could ask of conservative and Tea Party groups applying for tax-exempt nonprofit status, according to interviews that two IRS employees gave with congressional investigators. 'I was essentially a front person, because I had no autonomy or no authority to act on [applications] without Carter Hull's influence or input,' said Elizabeth Hofacre, an employee of the Cincinnati IRS office, according to a new report in the Wall Street Journal. ...As The Daily Caller has reported, at least five different IRS offices in Cincinnati, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland; Chicago, Illinois; Laguna Niguel and El Monte, California; improperly demanded extensive information from conservative groups applying for tax-exempt nonprofit status between 2010 and 2012. The IRS demanded copies of training materials distributed by conservative groups, as well as personal information on college interns and even the contents of a religious group's prayers. One employee of the agency's Cincinnati office told congressional investigators last week that Washington was 'basically throwing us underneath the bus' [with its claim that 'rogue employees in Cincinnati were solely responsible for the targeting].'" HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey asks, "Who gave Carter Hull his orders? What did he do with the knowledge that Cincinnati agents were targeting Tea Party groups on behalf of the IRS headquarters? I'm sure a House committee or two will be interested in talking with him to find out." (NationalReview.com reports that Hull is retiring, "according to an IRS source.") [45502, 45508, 45510, 45511, 45524, 45532, 45533, 45550, 45568, 45637]

MSNBC's Martin Bashir charges that any criticism of the IRS scheme to target conservative groups is nothing more than a racist attack on Obama: "This strategy is

nothing new, and it was explained way back in 1981 by Lee Atwater, who was Bush 41's chief strategist. ...So this afternoon, we welcome the latest phrase in the lexicon of Republican attacks on [Obama]—'the IRS,' three letters that sound so innocent, but we know what you mean." (Bashir misconstrues Atwater's remarks, in which he was actually explaining that racism was becoming less of an issue.) [45504, 45514, 45565, 45572]

Pat Smith, the mother of Sean Smith, one of four Americans killed in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, appears on *Hannity*. Host Sean Hannity asks for her reaction to Obama choosing Susan Rice to be his national security advisor. Mrs. Smith responds, "It's kind of curious. ...I don't understand why Obama would want a proven liar to be his security advisor. That makes no sense to me at all." Mrs. Smith relates that she was not invited to an awards presentation honoring her son because she was not a member of the "immediate family." She states, "When I went to the casket ceremony they told me that there was going to be an award and that they would send for me, that they would get me over there so I could witness the award. They didn't do it. And then not only did they not do that... it's so hard for me to talk, every time I think about it I get all upset and my blood pressure goes really high. ...The last time I saw Obama on TV my blood pressure shot up so high that I had to take extra pills because of it. He lies! He lies and so do everybody [sic] that's surrounding him is—they're not telling the truth. And I don't know why... [They told me] I was not a member of the immediate family, and I have that in writing. ...That's what they told me and, as I said, I have that in writing from the State Department..." [45538]

Jay Leno quips, "Well, folks, the mystery is over. The winner has been revealed. After a month of waiting, it turns out an 84-year-old woman in Florida has won the \$590 million Powerball lottery. ...Now, as for how much tax she's going to have to pay on that \$590 million, the IRS said it's too soon to tell 'cause they don't know whether she's a Republican or a Democrat." [45516]

On June 6 Obama fails to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich notes, "There is no released statement on WhiteHouse.gov and nothing on the White House or Barack Obama twitter feeds about the anniversary. ...Obama did not make any public remarks about the anniversary yesterday, either. However, Obama has taken the time to release a statement about Rep. John Dingell becoming the longest serving member of Congress in U.S. history." Obama also neglected to commemorate D-Day in 2011 and 2012, but in March 2010 Obama marked the 162nd anniversary of the 1848 Hungarian Revolution. (Obama would be wise to review the June 6, 1984 D-Day commemoration speech by President Ronald Reagan.) [45497, 45498, 45499, 45517, 45540, 45571]

June 6 marks the 60th anniversary of the publication of 1984, George Orwell's novel about massive government control of the lives of citizens. (Whether the book's substantial increase in sales at Amazon.com is a result of its anniversary or Obama's surveillance practices is not known) [45631, 45766]

Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett tells Huffington Post Live, “He is resilient, and I think one of the reasons why Eric Holder continues to have [Obama’s] full confidence and respect is that Eric never loses sight of what he’s there for. He’s there to be the chief lawyer for the United States of America, to make sure all our rights are protected, and to defend our country, to make sure that he is an advocate for those whose civil rights have been infringed upon, anyone whose rights have been infringed upon, and there are people all around the country who are counting on him to be the attorney general. And so, yes he is resistant, and he is tough, and he is strong, and he is perfectly capable of defending himself, and he is an outstanding attorney general, who enjoys the full confidence of the president of the United States. ...One of the things you learn in this business is, don’t listen to rumors. You can take it from me. Obviously, I know [Obama] pretty well, and I know the attorney general very well, and he will be in his position for quite awhile.” (In other words, “Obama and I dare anyone to try and force Holder out of office.”) [45555]

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie names state attorney general Jeffrey Chiesa to fill the Senate seat of the late Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ). [45557]

CNSNews.com reports, “In a belated and incomplete response to the House Ways and Means Committee’s request for Internal Revenue Service documents relating to the agency’s targeting of Tea Party and conservative groups for heightened scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel has informed the committee that the agency is in the process of reviewing approximately 64,600,000 pages of documents from IRS officials ‘who may have potentially relevant information’ about the targeting.” [45563]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi is asked by a reporter about insurance premiums increasing under ObamaCare. She responds, “Well, some of the people don’t have health insurance [now], and they certainly will have their premiums go up [from nothing to something]. But for anyone that that [sic] is a challenge, there are subsidies in the exchanges. It’s also about what you get for the money. In other words, people will be getting no lifetime or annual limits on their coverage, no discrimination because of a preexisting medical condition. It has a whole array of quality that is in the legislation. But if you don’t have health insurance, and you don’t qualify for a subsidy, and you’re mandated to have health insurance, yes, you will have an increase.” Pelosi performs a logical contortion to avoid the claim made by Obama, herself, and others that ObamaCare would reduce premium costs by \$2,500 per year: “I don’t remember saying that everybody in the country would have a lower premium, because everybody in the country doesn’t have health insurance. So how could it be lower? But the fact is, the value of what you get for the cost that you pay is a reduction in cost to you. But for everybody it is going to be, again, a liberation, a freedom. ...You just see. I mean be optimistic about [ObamaCare]. It is a very, very exciting enterprise.” [45459, 45559]

In Philadelphia, a federal judge issues a temporary restraining order allowing 10-year-old Sarah Murnaghan to be considered a lung transplant recipient, blocking the government’s rule that keeps patients under age 12 from receiving the lung of an adult donor. Philly.com reports, “Sarah has cystic fibrosis and only weeks to live, according to her

parents. She has been on the waiting list for children's lungs for 18 months and in Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since February. The order does not mean that Sarah will be next in line for adult lungs; rather, she will be offered lungs before wait-listed adults whose need is less dire." (Although the age 12 rule is arbitrary, Arthur Caplan, a "bioethicist at New York University Langone Medical Center," states, "What I really worry about, though, [is that the ruling may mean] "anyone who thinks [any] rules are unfair can ask for judicial relief." Obama's Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, had stated she could not allow an exception; the judge's ruling forces her to do so. (The rule is arguably illogical because it is exceptionally rare for a pediatric lung to become available for transplant. Children are therefore essentially sentenced to die if they are in need of a lung.) At Townhall.com Kristan Hawkins writes that Sarah's family "has publicly stated that they aren't asking for any special favors or to jump ahead of the line—just be entered into the line." [45472, 45473, 45475, 45491, 45594]

A doctor in Turkey charges that police are using CR gas, a chemical weapon, against demonstrators who are protesting the government of Obama's favorite foreign leader, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. JewishPress.com observes that Erdogan, "following the pattern of Hosni Mubarak and Basher al-Assad, among others, has called protesters 'terrorists' and has placed the blame for the riots primarily on users of social networks. His police arrested 25 people early Wednesday for the high crime of tweeting 'misinformation.'" (Three have been killed during nine days of demonstrations.) [45490]

DailyCaller.com reports, "In a little-noticed move, the White House raised the 'social cost' estimate for carbon dioxide emissions all federal agencies must use when formulating regulations. The White House Office of Management and Budget raised the social cost of carbon—a monetary estimate of the damages caused by carbon emissions—from \$21 per metric ton to \$35 per metric ton, which some experts say could allow the White House to move forward with greenhouse gas limits on power plants. 'The big regulatory action that they're looking at—that would certainly would be the most costly and have the biggest impact on the economy—are the rules for new and existing power plants,' Jeff Holmstead, air quality chief at the Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush, told the Hill." Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) states, "The new regulations attempt to force standards on coal emissions that would not only be incredibly expensive, but impossible to achieve even with advanced technology. Even worse, there would be no benefit from these new regulations." [45501]

The White House confirms that the National Security Administration is collecting telephone records of U.S. citizens, but calls the practice "a critical tool in protecting the nation from terrorist threats." Ed Morrissey explains at HotAir.com, "[T]he Bush administration did conduct massive data-mining of phone providers in the same way being done here, but the warrantless wiretapping was much more narrow. That surveillance was conducted on specific phone numbers discovered by intelligence operations that were in use by suspected terrorists, and on calls in which at least one end was in a foreign country. It was still controversial as the other end of the call was often inside the US and arguably comprised the forbidden practice of intel services spying domestically (the FBI has jurisdiction but has to proceed in criminal court with warrants),

and eventually the Bush administration was forced to seek FISA warrants for it. But those were and are two different kinds of operations.” The NSA document states, “It is hereby ordered that [Verizon Business Network Services’] Custodian of Records shall produce to the National Security Agency... all call detail records or ‘telephony metadata’ created by Verizon for communications (i) between the United States and abroad; or (ii) wholly within the United States, including local telephone calls. This Order does not require Verizon to include telephony metadata for communications wholly originating and terminating in foreign countries.” (The Obama administration’s spying is therefore domestic.) [45512, 45515]

At a Senate hearing, Attorney General Eric Holder claims, “Members of Congress have been fully briefed as these [Verizon phone records] issues, these matters have been underway. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) states, “This ‘fully briefed’ is something that drives us up the wall... ‘Fully briefed’ doesn’t mean we know what’s going on.” Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) asks Holder if the administration is gathering phone records of members of Congress. Rather than respond, “No,” Holder says, “...I don’t think this is an appropriate setting for me to discuss, um, that issue...” Kirk tells Holder, “...The correct answer would be to say, “No, we stayed within our lane, and I’m assuring you we did not spy on members of Congress.” [45518, 45556]

The New York Times editorial board writes, “Within hours of the disclosure that federal authorities routinely collect data on phone calls Americans make, regardless of whether they have any bearing on a counterterrorism investigation, the Obama administration issued the same platitude it has offered every time ...Obama has been caught overreaching in the use of his powers: Terrorists are a real menace and you should just trust us to deal with them because we have internal mechanisms (that we are not going to tell you about) to make sure we do not violate your rights. ...The administration has now lost all credibility. Mr. Obama is proving the truism that the executive branch will use any power it is given and very likely abuse it. That is one reason we have long argued that the Patriot Act, enacted in the heat of fear after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by members of Congress who mostly had not even read it, was reckless in its assignment of unnecessary and overbroad surveillance powers. ...Essentially, the administration is saying that without any individual suspicion of wrongdoing, the government is allowed to know whom Americans are calling every time they make a phone call, for how long they talk and from where. ...[A senior administration official] ...said the executive branch internally reviews surveillance programs to ensure that they ‘comply with the Constitution and laws of the United States and appropriately protect privacy and civil liberties.’” [45521, 45554, 45599, 45603]

“That’s no longer good enough,” continues the *Times* editorial. “Mr. Obama clearly had no intention of revealing this eavesdropping, just as he would not have acknowledged the killing of Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen, had it not been reported in the press. Even then, it took him more than a year and a half to acknowledge the killing, and he is still keeping secret the protocol by which he makes such decisions.” (The *Times* later revises one sentence to read, “The administration has now lost all credibility on this issue.”) HotAir.com comments, “After an editorial this blistering from a paper this

prominent, I think O no longer has any choice about the future of the policy. He'll simply have to give a speech defending it while pretending to be broken up about the whole thing. It's the only way to bring peace to anguished, betrayed liberal intellectuals like the Times's board and Jane Mayer. Maybe he'll even toss in a Reinhold Niebuhr quote or two. For old times' sake." [45521, 45554, 45599, 45603]

Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) states, "As the author of the Patriot Act, I am extremely troubled by the F.B.I.'s interpretation of this legislation. While I believe the Patriot Act appropriately balanced national security concerns and civil rights, I have always worried about potential abuses. Seizing phone records of millions of innocent people is excessive and un-American." In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, Sensenbrenner states, "I do not believe the released [secret court] order is consistent with the requirements of the Patriot Act. How could the phone records of so many innocent Americans be relevant to an authorized investigation as required by the act?" [45521, 45525, 45574]

John Nolte notes at Breitbart.com, "Over the past few weeks, four major scandals have broken over the Obama administration, and it is a very sad (and frightening) truth that our pathetic, American, lapdog mainstream media are not responsible for breaking even a single one. ...Our media are not only biased; it is an utter and complete failure and embarrassment. And although there are plenty of remaining table scraps to make meals out of, the media are already losing interest in the IRS, Libya, and AP scandals, but for only one reason—they are absolutely terrified of where they might lead." [45519]

Former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld tells DailyCaller.com, "The bigger problem, it seems to me, is that presidents don't lead by committee. They lead by consent, and to gain consent you have to be persuasive. To be persuasive you have to be believable, and what's happened here is that the trust factor is being eroded in Washington. It's getting eroded because of the way they handled Benghazi, it's getting eroded because of the way they handled the Internal Revenue Service. It's being eroded because of this AP thing, that's the one thing that got the media interested because it was their rights that were getting bullied. About the AP issue, I must say that I've seen a lot of leaks and I'm against leaks because they can put our country at risk, they can put people's lives at risk, but I've never seen anything like they did at the AP. Maybe there was some reason there was sufficient urgency, I just don't know. ...On the Internal Revenue Service issue I think [the Obama officials involved] should sit down and confess, a leader should get people into a room, who wants to sit down and get to ground truth, knows that trustworthiness gets eroded if you allow stories to get out, and a week later you find out that they weren't so, then they give an answer that was an answer of convenience. Don't get me wrong, that's a tough job, the president's job is a tough one. The White House staff is a tough series of jobs. In those jobs the days are long and the years are short. So I don't envy them because they've got the perfect storm. But that doesn't justify this idea that [Obama], when people are being killed, can campaign and fly off to Las Vegas and give a campaign speech and then pretend that the only thing where he was responsible for was killing Bin Laden but he's not responsible for the IRS or Benghazi or the AP thing. I think the big risk he faces is not one of those things, but all

of those things undermine his trustworthiness. I think you lose your leverage and you're weakened substantially." [45544]

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich tells Newsmax.TV, "This [IRS targeting scandal] is going to get bigger and broader. This is the largest bureaucratic big government scandal we've ever had. ...The fact is, today, we have a bureaucracy so big and so self-policing that we have no control as citizens. And it's going to take a very deep, substantial reform in order to be able to move away from the kind of threats we have to our very freedoms. ...If the Republicans will calm down and focus and do their job, they don't have to rely on rhetoric. They have to go out very methodically, bring in the people, depose them under oath, gather the information, and over the next six months to a year, we're going to learn a great deal about how deeply sickened the bureaucratic big government around us has become." [45523]

In an interview with KFAN FM, Baltimore Ravens Super Bowl player Matt Birk says he declined an invitation to the White House because of an event at which Obama said, "God bless Planned Parenthood." Birk states, "...I am a Catholic. I'm active in the pro-life movement, and I just felt like I couldn't deal with that. I couldn't endorse that in any way and was very confused by that statement—for God to bless a place where they're ending 330,000 lives a year, so I just chose not to attend." [45545]

On Fox News Channel's *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, author, attorney, and radio talk show host Mark Levin comments on the government's access of Verizon telephone records: "I tell you what I make of this—we have the elements of a police state here, and I'm not overstating it. When you step back and realize the Supreme Court the other day ruled 5-to-4 that law enforcement can take DNA from you even if you're arrested—by the way, you're arrested even when you're stopped for a speeding ticket, and [Justice Antonin] Scalia was right, concerned about a national database. That goes way over the line of our traditions. ...You look at the Internal Revenue Service, what's going on there today, and they collect extensive financial and personal information, and they put it on a database. This Obamacare is a massive data collection as well of our private personal medical conditions, procedures, drugs, mental, physical illnesses. The Transportation Department, people forget, has proposed black boxes in all of our automobiles to track how they function and how far they go in accidents. We now have domestic drones from EPA to make sure farmers aren't stepping out of line. The Department of Homeland Security now is checking laptops and iPhones and other data, making copies of it and keeping it, and now we have this [Verizon issue]. And some of my brothers and sisters in law enforcement, prosecutors, are saying, 'Look, look, this is permitted. We need to be able to go through and match'—wait a minute. You don't throw a whole net on the entire country and everybody's phone numbers and check the duration and see if you can come up with some overlaps. That's not law enforcement. That's not how national security works. I don't care what the Hell the Supreme Court said 30 years ago or what some judge said 15 minutes ago. This is America, and our government is collecting way too damn much data on we the private citizen. ...I want [Obama] to clean house, or give a speech to the American people and tell us why we need to live in this semi- or soft-police state, why we need to have all these records collected, whether it's health care or

automobiles or our DNA, whether it's all these other things. I mean, come out of the shadows, [Obama], be honest with the American people and tell us about your fundamental transformation. That's what I want him to do." [45546]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) tells Yahoo News, "I'm appalled. I'm absolutely opposed to the government sifting and sorting through millions of innocent people's records. I'm not opposed to them going to a judge and getting an order for an individual who you have probable cause to believe that they've been involved with a crime. ...I think when you look at millions of people's records you get distracted. It's sort of like the TSA at the airport. Because we treat everyone as a potential terrorist we're wasting time with 12-year-old kids and 75-year-old grandmothers. ...It's a violation of the Bill of Rights. We need to have a better and a more thorough understanding of the Fourth Amendment. ...I think it would be remedial education for those who are doing this. They need to go back and read the Constitution, read the Fourth Amendment, and understand that our records are private." (Vice President Joe Biden, now a supporter of the NSA's surveillance procedures, said on CBS in 2006, "[N]o one's arguing whether or not you have the right to go out and tap [telephone calls] and go and do everything you need to do to track down al-Qaeda. That's not the question here. ...But this idea that no court will review, no Congress will know and we're going to trust the president and the vice president of the United States, that they're doing the right thing, don't count me in on that.")

TakiMag.com points out that in 2005 Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), now a supporter of the NSA program, said she "was worried it might be something illegal. By 2006 she said NSA spying was a very serious violation of the Fourth Amendment. Now she says Snowden is a 'traitor' and that this much broader spy program is 'protecting America.'" In 2005 Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) "wondered aloud if NSA spying constituted an impeachable offense." In 2013 she apparently has no problem with the program. Of course, a number of mainstream media "talking heads" have no problem with spying on Americans in 2013 even though they opposed the practices when George W. Bush was in the Oval Office.) [45537, 45663, 45675, 45833]

DailyCaller.com reports, "An Albanian politician under investigation for corruption arranged a \$10,000 contribution to ...Obama's re-election campaign in order to set up a photo opportunity between Obama and the leader of the Socialist Party of Albania. Edi Rama, the Socialist party candidate for prime minister in Albanian elections later this month, was photographed with [Obama] at an October 2012 fundraiser. Rama has been heavily promoting this appearance with the U.S. leader in the apparent hope that it will help the Socialists gain power in the election. What Rama doesn't mention is that the photo was arranged with the help of a \$10,000 Obama campaign contribution made by an Albanian resident of New Jersey." [45543]

On Comedy Central's *Colbert Report*, Stephen Colbert says, "Yes, the National Security Administration is spying on our phone calls, and unlike during the Bush administration, this time it's the Obama administration. Yeah, this guy, he is always trying to outdo his predecessor. 'Oh, he poured water on their face? I'm going to blow 'em up! HAHHAHA! Did I win?' ...Now, folks, I'm going to be straight with you. I'm conflicted here, folks. On the one hand, this proves Obama is a tyrannical despot who ignores all the rules. On

the other hand, I kind of like tyrannical despots who ignore all the rules. Shows spunk.” [45597, 45598, 45719]

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews again blames criticism of Obama and his administration on racism: “Why do they get the idea, and if it isn’t ethnic—and I’ll just leave the possibility that it’s not—why do they just assume evil on the part of Obama? I mean he’s raised his life—his whole life has been crystal clear, and clean as a whistle, and transparent. We know his whole life, through all the great, excellent education he’s had, the good pro bono work he’s done throughout his life. He’s never been a money grubber. He’s never done anything wrong in his life legally, ethically, whatever. His family is picture-perfect. The way he’s raised those daughters. The marriage... everything is clean as a whistle. And yet, they just refer to him as evil. They just refer to him as a liar. I’ve just got to believe it’s ethnic with these people. They just got [sic] a problem with this guy being [in the White House]. Is there any other evidence to justify why they keep calling him a bad man? And that’s what they do.” [45535]

CNN’s Piers Morgan says to Senator Bernie Sanders (Socialist-VT), “*The New York Times* editorial board said tonight the administration has lost all credibility. Has what Barack Obama been doing—and his administration—not just with all these revelations in the last 24 hours, but also the IRS, going after AP and FOX News, and so on, has what he’s been doing worse than anything George W. Bush did?” Sanders responds, “Well, I think Bush started the process and what I had hoped, and I think millions of Americans had hoped, that Barack Obama that knew something about Constitutional law would not only change Bush’s policies in a number of ways but certainly with regard with civil liberties. I think it’s fair to say that many of us are deeply disappointed that he did not end many of those programs and provide a lot more transparency than he has.” Morgan: “You could argue he was right to say he’d be different. He’s worse.” [45536]

Also appearing on *Piers Morgan Live* is journalist Glenn Greenwald, who warns, “There is a massive apparatus within the United States government that, with complete secrecy, has been building this enormous structure that has only one goal, and that is to destroy privacy and anonymity, not just in the United States but in [around] the world. That is not hyperbole; that is their objective: to make it so that every single form of human communication, human interaction, human behavior can never be beyond their reach. And they have developed extraordinarily sophisticated technologies and enormously expensive mechanisms in order to make that happen. And it’s well past time that we have a debate about whether that’s the kind of country and world in which we want to live. But we haven’t had that debate because it’s all done in secrecy and the Obama administration has been very aggressive about bullying and threatening anybody who thinks about exposing it or writing about it or even doing journalism about it, and it’s well past time that that come to an end. ...People like [Senators] Dianne Feinstein and Saxby Chambliss can have press conferences threatening people for bringing light to what it is they’re doing, but the only people who are going to be investigated are them. It’s well past time that these threats start to be treated with the contempt that they deserve.” [45586]

Comedian Jimmy Fallon jokes, “During a middle school visit ...Obama said every U.S. school should have high-speed Internet. Then one kid said, ‘What, so you can read our e-mails faster?’”

On June 7 Barack “trust me” Obama defends the NSA’s gathering of telephone records of millions of Americans, calling it a “modest encroachment” of their privacy. “I think it’s important to understand that you can’t have 100 percent security and then have 100 percent privacy and zero inconvenience. We’re going to have to make some choices as a society. ...There’s a reason why these programs are classified. We have established a program that the American people should feel comfortable about.” (Of course, few Americans expect 100 percent security and 100 percent privacy, but they have heard of the Fourth Amendment and they assume that their privacy should be violated only if government investigators and the courts believe there is “probable cause” for that violation.) Obama claims that “every member of Congress” has been briefed on the NSA program, and says, “[I]f people can’t trust, not only the executive branch but also don’t trust Congress and don’t trust, uh, federal judges, to make sure that we’re abiding by the Constitution, due process, and rule of law, then we’re gonna [sic] have some problems here. Um, but my observation is is [sic] that the people who are involved in America’s national security, they take this work very seriously. They cherish our Constitution. The last thing they’d be doing is taking programs like this ta [sic] listen to somebody’s phone calls.” (Obama misses the point that the issue for many Americans is not whether they believe security analysts cherish the Constitution, but whether Obama respects and obeys it. Additionally, the “metadata” information about Americans’ telephone calls may be more revealing than their content. The NSA may not be listening to most conversations, but it knows the dates and times of calls, the phone numbers of the caller and the person called, and their locations.) [45522, 45530, 45570, 45677]

Several legislators dispute Obama’s claim that they had been briefed on the NSA telephone record activities. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) tells Politico, “They don’t receive this kind of briefing.” Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) states that he “hadn’t been briefed on this particular issue.” Congressman Billy Long (R-LA) tweets, “Not quite!” [45531]

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) tells Bloomberg Television, “Sure, [the NSA telephone surveillance] bothers me, and I think it bothers you and every other American. It should be stopped as far as the broad base that they’re doing. ...If there’s a [specific] profile and targeting that goes on, then fine. I’m wanting [sic] to do everything I can to fight the war on terror. There will not be another day in my life, my children or grandchildren’s life they won’t have to be vigilant against terrorists wanting to do us harm. But do you give up everything as an American? I think the Patriot Act and the interpretation and way it’s being enforced is broader than what we would have intended.” [45582]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The National Security Agency and the FBI are tapping directly into the central servers of nine leading U.S. Internet companies, extracting audio and video chats, photographs, e-mails, documents, and connection logs that enable analysts to track foreign targets, according to a top-secret document obtained by The

Washington Post. The program, code-named PRISM, has not been made public until now. It may be the first of its kind. The NSA prides itself on stealing secrets and breaking codes, and it is accustomed to corporate partnerships that help it divert data traffic or sidestep barriers. But there has never been a Google or Facebook before, and it is unlikely that there are richer troves of valuable intelligence than the ones in Silicon Valley. Equally unusual is the way the NSA extracts what it wants, according to the document: ‘Collection directly from the servers of these U.S. Service Providers: Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, Facebook, PalTalk, AOL, Skype, YouTube, Apple.’” According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The National Security Agency’s monitoring of Americans includes customer records from the three major phone networks as well as emails and Web searches, and the agency also has cataloged credit-card transactions, said people familiar with the agency’s activities.” (PRISM reportedly provides NSA analysts with information from emails, video chats, voice chats, videos, photos, stored data, VoIP, file transfers, video conferencing, logins, and online social networking from Microsoft (Hotmail), Google, Yahoo, Facebook, PalTalk, YouTube, Skype, AOL, and Apple.) [45534, 45541, 45552, 45553, 45605, 45625]

The National Security Agency posts a job opening for a “digital network exploitation analyst.” The agency is looking for applicants “who can perform discovery and target technology analysis of digital network and mobile communications.” [45605]

Rush Limbaugh observes, “[People] say, ‘Well, you can’t link [the IRS scandal directly] to Obama.’ You don’t need to link Obama to it. He hired these people. Lois Lerner and everybody at the IRS who’s doing this is doing everything they can to please Obama. There’s not gonna be a smoking gun, but you don’t need a smoking gun to know where this administration’s doing what it’s doing. Obama puts people in positions that mirror him. Eric Holder, you name it, they’re doing Obama’s bidding. Everybody. Susan Rice and Samantha Power, they are Obama, and there’s a context for what’s happening. Herbert Meyer [a national security official in the Reagan administration], if I may quote him again, asserted that essentially what’s taking place in the United States right now is a coup, not a violent coup, and not a militaristic coup, but nevertheless a takeover of a government, and it’s being done by the Obama administration. I don’t know if he used the word ‘peaceful,’ but clearly there’s a coup d’etat going. You know it and I know it. This is what animates us. This is why the Tea Party exists. This country was founded on certain concepts, principles, beliefs—and they’re under assault. Chief among them under assault is the right to privacy, and that’s what all this is about.” [45600]

Limbaugh continues, “...There are people attempting to take over this country and to make it something that it wasn’t founded as; turn it into something that it wasn’t intended to be. That is happening. You know it and I know it. It’s peaceful, nonviolent. The military isn’t involved. But nevertheless it’s a coup. ...We’re not all stupid about this and this is not simply because we don’t trust Obama. I don’t want my government doing this. I do not want my government preoccupied with paying this close attention to what every citizen is doing every minute of the day. This government’s already too big, it’s too damn powerful, and it’s too unforgiving—and this doesn’t have anything to do with competent intelligence gathering. Throwing wide nets like this is BS. It’s assuming way too much to

think that this is not a big deal. Left-wing overreaction, my backside.” (Limbaugh’s comments mirror those of *The Wall Street Journal’s* Kimberley Strassel on March 19: “The media and Congress are sleuthing for some hint that ...Obama picked up the phone and sicced the tax dogs on his enemies. But that’s not how things work in post-Watergate Washington. ...Obama didn’t need to pick up the phone. All he needed to do was exactly what he did do, in full view, for three years: Publicly suggest that conservative political groups were engaged in nefarious deeds; publicly call out by name political opponents whom he’d like to see harassed; and publicly have his party pressure the IRS to take action. ...Obama now professes shock and outrage that bureaucrats at the IRS did exactly what [he] said was the right and honorable thing to do. ‘He put a target on our backs, and he’s now going to blame the people who are shooting at us?’ asks Idaho businessman and longtime Republican donor Frank VanderSloot [who was targeted for criticism by the Obama campaign.]”) [5600, 45602]

The Guardian reports, “The Obama administration is invoking an obscure legal privilege to avoid judicial scrutiny of its secret collection of the communications of potentially millions of Americans. Civil liberties lawyers trying to hold the administration to account through the courts for its surveillance of phone calls and emails of American citizens have been repeatedly stymied by the government’s recourse to the ‘military and state secrets privilege.’ The precedent, rarely used but devastating in its legal impact, allows the government to claim that it cannot be submitted to judicial oversight because to do so it would have to compromise national security. The government has cited the privilege in two active lawsuits being heard by a federal court in the northern district of California—Virginia v Barack Obama et al, and Carolyn Jewel v the National Security Agency. In both cases, the Obama administration has called for the cases to be dismissed on the grounds that the government’s secret activities must remain secret.’ [45601]

Obama attends two fundraisers in California—his 14th and 15th such events of the year. [45499]

In Palo Alto, California Obama says, “I know that there are a few Republicans here in the audience. If you talk to us [Democrats], it turns out we’re pretty common-sense folks. We don’t think government can do everything. We don’t think that top-down solutions are the right way to go. We believe in the free market. We believe in a light touch when it comes to regulations. We don’t want to tax all businesses out of business, but we do think that there’s a role to play for government.” (Obama—who most certainly does believe in top-down solutions like ObamaCare, that government can and should do almost everything, and who opposes free markets—does not specify exactly how many companies he would like to tax out of business.) [45624, 45634]

In San Jose, California Obama is at a loss for words because he did not have a Teleprompter—and his aides neglect to leave his speech on the lectern (which the mainstream media continues to mistakenly call a podium). Obama says, “...I want to thank everybody who’s here. I think there’s only one problem, that is that my remarks are not sitting here. People! You know, things might, on, on, by Friday, uh, afternoon things

get a little, uh, uh, a little, uh, a little challenged... folks are sweating back there right now.” [45542, 45587]

Obama says, “And, by the way, with respect to my concerns about, uh, privacy issues, well, I, I will leave this office at some point, some time in the last—next three-and-a-half years, and, uh, after that I will be a private citizen. And I suspect that, uh, you know, uh, on a list of people who might be targeted, uh, you now, so that, uh, somebody could read their emails or listen to their phone calls, I’d probably be pretty high in that list. So it’s not as if I don’t have a personal interest in making sure my privacy is protected.” [45566]

Politico reports, “The economy added 175,000 jobs in May while unemployment increased to 7.6 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday. Analysts had expected job growth of about 167,000, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists.” The number of state and local government workers increased by approximately 92,000 in May. [45551, 45558, 45589]

Politico also reports, “Federal prosecutors are seeking a four-year prison sentence for former Illinois Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., who has pleaded guilty to illegally diverting hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds to personal use. Under the Justice Department recommendations, Jackson would have to forfeit the \$750,000 he stole from his campaign, and pay back another \$750,000 to his reelection committee. Prosecutors are asking that someone not related to Jackson be appointed to run the campaign, which would then be ‘wound down.’” [45596]

Former write-in presidential candidate Montgomery Blair Sibley issues a press release stating, “The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals entered their order yesterday summarily affirming the dismissal of Sibley’s *quo warranto* lawsuit by the District Court which sought to challenge Obama’s eligibility to be President. The Appeals Court—refusing to address the merits of Sibley’s claim—held instead that Sibley did not have “standing” to challenge Obama’s eligibility. However, by their Order, the Appeals Court has identified the only person who can challenge Obama’s eligibility: Mitt Romney. Hence, Sibley today is releasing his Public letter to Mr. Romney which alerts Mr. Romney that he is now the last man who can legally challenge Obama’s legitimacy. In the letter, Sibley states that he is privy to the heretofore-kept-private name of the forger of Obama’s Certificate of Live Birth and the trail which leads to Obama. Thus, it is up to Mr. Romney whether he will take that evidence and bring it to the public and the Court or whether he will retire from public life and this burden to him that it now brings.” [45547, 45548]

James Clapper, Obama’s Director of National Intelligence, calls the NSA’s collection of telephone records of millions of Americans “important and entirely legal. ...They involve extensive procedures, specifically approved by the court, to ensure that only non-U.S. persons outside the U.S. are targeted, and that minimize the acquisition, retention and dissemination of incidentally acquired information about U.S. persons. ...Information collected under this program is among the most important and valuable foreign intelligence information we collect, and is used to protect our nation from a wide variety of threats.” (Clapper does not explain how capturing information about calls between

U.S. citizens within the United States relates to “persons *outside* the U.S.” and could be “valuable *foreign* intelligence information.” On March 12, 2013 Clapper was asked by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), “Does the NSA collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of Americans?” Clapper answered, No, sir. ...Not wittingly. There are cases where they could, inadvertently perhaps, collect—but not wittingly.” Clapper was lying. He later tells MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell, “...I responded in what I thought was the most truthful, or least untruthful manner by saying no [to Wyden’s question]”—which leads to numerous calls for Clapper’s firing based on his “untruthfulness.” Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) defends Clapper, saying, “You can misunderstand the question.”) [45560, 45561, 45577, 45622, 45627, 45673, 45674]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has quietly sent \$1.3 billion of military assistance to Egypt—controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood—in defiance of congressional restrictions on dollars going to countries that haven’t yet complied with standards of democracy, a memo revealed.” (A May 9 memorandum from Kerry stated, “we are not satisfied with the extent of Egypt’s progress and are pressing for a more inclusive democratic process and strengthening of key democratic institutions”—but he sent \$1.3 billion in taxpayer cash anyway.) [45564]

At TheBlaze.com Wayne Allyn Root, a former Columbia University student, writes that “...something about ‘the Obama at Columbia story’ has always bothered me. Earlier in the week right here at The Blaze I wrote about having just returned from New York, where I attended my 30th Columbia University reunion. I celebrated with my esteemed classmates. Everyone except Barack Obama. As usual—he wasn’t there. Not a trace. Not a video greeting. Not a letter. I could not find any classmates who knew him. I called Obama ‘the Ghost of Columbia University.’ I pointed out (as I’ve said in the media for many years now) that Obama may have been registered at Columbia, may have graduated from Columbia, but he was rarely (if ever) seen for the two years in-between. It’s a strange, mysterious and frightening story. ...To make matters more mysterious, Obama’s college records are sealed. He’s had plenty of opportunities to authorize the release, to clear the air. He has never chosen to do so. But why? What has he got to hide? Funny enough Obama has never had a problem ripping open the sealed records of his political opponents. Every step of his career Obama has beaten his opponents by having sealed documents just happen to be publicly exposed by anonymous sources. But not Obama. His records are always unavailable (and never leaked). Obama always seems to have powerful forces on his side.” [45569, 45595]

Root suspects, as does *The Obama Timeline*, that Obama was registered at Columbia as a foreign student: “The only photo of Obama from his Columbia days was in his off-campus apartment with a roommate described by USA Today as a Pakistani national, pot smoker, and cocaine abuser. If you’re a foreign student, you live in housing off-campus with other foreign students. That would also explain how he transferred to Columbia. Transferring into an Ivy League school is all but impossible. I did a little digging and found out only 3 transfer students in all of America were accepted into Columbia in the past academic year. Three students out of 315 million Americans. Yet those who knew Obama at Occidental called him a pot smoker and partier who rarely attended class.

You're telling me that a poor student, with that record, at an average college, was accepted for transfer into prestigious Columbia University? Only if he was an exotic Indonesian foreign student transferring into a college that desperately wanted to claim an ethnically and globally diverse student body." [45569, 45595]

Root wonders why no one remembers attending classes with Obama at Columbia, and writes about his interview with Professor Henry Graff, "perhaps the most legendary and honored professor ever at Columbia University. He was THE American History and Diplomatic History professor at Columbia for 46 years. And he is more emphatic than yours truly that there are no Obama footprints at Columbia. I was put on Professor Graff's trail by another Columbia classmate, skeptical about Obama's story. He told me that Professor Graff had been the speaker for the Class of '53 last weekend at Columbia. My friend was watching Graff answer questions from the crowd when he was asked about Obama at Columbia. Graff said, 'I have my doubts he ever went here. ...I'm very upset by the whole story. I am angry when I hear Obama called 'the first President of the United States from Columbia University.' I don't consider him a Columbia student. I have no idea what he did on the Columbia campus. No one knows him.'" Graff also states, "I taught at Columbia for 46 years. I taught every significant American politician that [sic] ever studied at Columbia. I know them all. I'm proud of them all. Between American History and Diplomatic History, one way or another, they all had to come through my classes. Not Obama. I never had a student with that name in any of my classes. I never met him, never saw him, never heard of him. ...None of the other Columbia professors knew him either." [45569, 45595]

The CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. reports, "Two Internal Revenue Service agents working in the agency's Cincinnati office say higher-ups in Washington directed the targeting of conservative political groups when they applied for tax-exempt status, a contention that directly contradicts claims made by the agency since the scandal erupted last month. ...Gary Muthert, an IRS agent there, said his local supervisor told him in March 2010 to check the applications for tax-exempt status to see how many were from groups with 'tea party' in their names. The supervisor's name was blacked out in the [interview] transcript. 'He told me that Washington, D.C., wanted some cases,' Muthert said of his supervisor." [45568]

According to a Gallup poll, 62 percent of adults disapprove of Obama's handling of the IRS targeting scandal, while 32 percent approve. [45583]

The Guardian reports that Obama "has ordered his senior national security and intelligence officials to draw up a list of potential overseas targets for US cyber-attacks, a top secret presidential directive obtained by the Guardian reveals. The 18-page Presidential Policy Directive 20, issued in October last year but never published, states that what it calls Offensive Cyber Effects Operations (OCEO) 'can offer unique and unconventional capabilities to advance US national objectives around the world with little or no warning to the adversary or target and with potential effects ranging from subtle to severely damaging.' It says the government will 'identify potential targets of national importance where OCEO can offer a favorable balance of effectiveness and risk

as compared with other instruments of national power.’ The directive also contemplates the possible use of cyber actions inside the US, though it specifies that no such domestic operations can be conducted without the prior order of [Obama], except in cases of emergency. ...Obama’s move to establish a potentially aggressive cyber warfare doctrine will heighten fears over the increasing militarization of the internet.” [45575, 45576]

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg states, “Facebook is not and has never been part of any program to give the US or any other government direct access to our servers. We have never received a blanket request or court order from any government agency asking for information or metadata in bulk, like the one Verizon reportedly received. And if we did, we would fight it aggressively. We hadn’t even heard of PRISM before yesterday.” Google CEO Larry Page states, “We have not joined any program that would give the U.S. government—or any other government—direct access to our servers. Indeed, the U.S. government does not have direct access or a ‘back door’ to the information stored in our data centers. We had not heard of a program called PRISM until yesterday.” (Both Zuckerberg and Page state that they do not allow “direct access” to their servers, which some believe suggests they allow “indirect access.” Of course, if Facebook or Google were participating in intelligence gathering it would be illegal—and a criminal offense—for their CEOs to admit it. Zuckerberg’s and Page’s statements are therefore meaningless.) [45578, 45625]

Asked by Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) what would prompt his resignation, Attorney General Eric Holder responds, “The tipping point might be fatigue. You get to a point where you might just be tired. When I get to the point that I’ve accomplished all the goals that I’ve set... I’ll sit down with [Obama] and we’ll talk about a new attorney general. When the time comes for me to step aside for my successor, I will do so.” [45580]

At AmericanThinker.com Bill Schanefelt examines “Two puzzling photos that do not bear close scrutiny [and which] were published in 2010 on the mybarackobama.com campaign website...” One photo shows “...Obama as a youth with his mother, [half-] sister, and grandfather. In the photo, his mother’s fist protrudes from under his arm, and the color of the fist exactly matches that of the young Mr. Obama’s arm.” Another photograph of “Obama sitting between his grandparents, and, in the photo, the hand of ...Obama’s grandfather mysteriously appears to float over ...Obama’s shoulder.” (*The Obama Timeline* previously questioned those doctored photographs shortly after they were first published. Whether AmericanThinker.com has only now discovered their anomalies or has decided that it is now “safe” to note them is not known.) [45614]

Former New York City Mayor Rudi Giuliani remarks, “The incompetence of this administration is... impossible to... catalogue and describe.” [45627]

Jay Leno jokes, “See, when I was growing up, we were always afraid of ‘big brother’ watching us. And now with Obama, we actually have a ‘brother’ watching us. See what I’m saying. We got a brother watching us. That’s right. And Attorney General Eric Holder said despite all these controversies, he has no intention of stepping down. Hey

Eric, I didn't either. Sometimes it just happens. Okay? Sometimes it just happens. Welcome to show business." [45567]

On June 8 NationalReview.com's Jim Geraghty reminds *Morning Jolt* readers that Obama's defense of the NSA spying operations contradicts his 2008 campaign statements: "Barack Obama believes that we must provide law enforcement the tools it needs to investigate, disrupt, and capture terrorists, but he also believes we need real oversight to avoid jeopardizing the rights and ideals of all Americans. There is no reason we cannot fight terrorism while maintaining our civil liberties. Unfortunately, the current administration has abused the powers given to it by the PATRIOT Act. A March 2007 Justice Department audit found the FBI improperly and, in some cases, illegally used the PATRIOT Act to secretly obtain personal information about American citizens. As president, Barack Obama would revisit the PATRIOT Act to ensure that there is real and robust oversight of tools like National Security Letters, sneak-and-peek searches, and the use of the material witness provision. ...Eliminate Warrantless Wiretaps. Barack Obama opposed the Bush Administration's initial policy on warrantless wiretaps because it crossed the line between protecting our national security and eroding the civil liberties of American citizens. As president, Obama would update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to provide greater oversight and accountability to the congressional intelligence committees to prevent future threats to the rule of law." [45549]

According to GlobalResearch.ca, Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton were spotted arriving at the annual Bilderberg Group "globalist" conference. [45607, 45608]

"Impeach Obama" protestors contribute to a traffic jam on a California highway. According to dailyCaller.com, "An overpass along Interstate 5 in Carlsbad was the site of a small tea party demonstration Saturday, for which one tea party organizer has been forced to apologize. Local media claim the protest backed up traffic for 10 miles, though video shows traffic moving normally in both north and south directions." [45635]

The State Department releases 97 pages of Benghazi-related documents to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Department spokesperson Jen Psaki states, "Unfortunately, the documents provided today will not advance the most critical goal we all share which is how to best protect the men and women working overseas to advance our foreign policy and strengthen our national security." [45579]

Obama says the NSA's domestic telephone surveillance program "strikes the right balance" between privacy and security. ... You can shout 'big brother' or 'program run amok,' but if you actually look at the details, I think we've struck the right balance. Nobody is listening to your telephone calls. That's not what this program is about." (Of course, Americans are not permitted to "look at the details" so they have no way of knowing what the government is doing, regardless of whether telephone calls are being monitored for content.) [45581, 45593]

Senator Jeff Merkley (R-OR) disputes Obama's claim that all members of Congress were briefed on the NSA's domestic telephone surveillance program: "I don't know how many

people knew about it in Congress, but I suspect a very small number on the Intelligence Committee, so when [Obama] says all members of Congress were briefed... well, I think a very small number of Senators in Congress had full details on these programs. ...I knew about the program [only] because I specifically sought it out. It's not something that's briefed outside the Intelligence Committee. I had to get special permission to find out about the program. It raised concerns for me. ...When I saw what was being done, I felt it was so out of sync with the plain language of the law and that it merited full public examination, and that's why I called for the declassification. ...The administration hasn't listened at all. We've asked for the rulings of the FISA court—the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act court—about how it interprets the laws Congress passes to be declassified so we can have a conversation with the American people about that. For example, the question is, how is scooping up your cellphone data, which tracks where you are, my cellphone data, related to an investigation? That's the plain language of the law: related to an investigation. Well, certainly anyone would hear that and think that's a certain hurdle that has to be met. That there's a crime or a potential crime or a potential national security threat that justifies scooping up your information and my information. Clearly the administration has not followed what an ordinary person would consider to be the standard of the law here, and has not been willing to release the opinion of the FISA court in how they're interpreting that language, despite repeated requests from Congress to do so. [45581]

On June 9 *The Guardian* reports, “The individual responsible for one of the most significant leaks in US political history is Edward Snowden, a 29-year-old former technical assistant for the CIA and current employee of the defence contractor Booz Allen Hamilton. Snowden has been working at the National Security Agency for the last four years as an employee of various outside contractors, including Booz Allen and Dell. The Guardian, after several days of interviews, is revealing his identity at his request. From the moment he decided to disclose numerous top-secret documents to the public, he was determined not to opt for the protection of anonymity. ‘I have no intention of hiding who I am because I know I have done nothing wrong,’ he said. Snowden will go down in history as one of America’s most consequential whistleblowers, alongside Daniel Ellsberg and Bradley Manning. He is responsible for handing over material from one of the world’s most secretive organizations—the NSA. ...Despite his determination to be publicly unveiled, he repeatedly insisted that he wants to avoid the media spotlight. ‘I don’t want public attention because I don’t want the story to be about me. I want it to be about what the US government is doing. He does not fear the consequences of going public, he said, only that doing so will distract attention from the issues raised by his disclosures. ‘I know the media likes to personalise political debates, and I know the government will demonise me.’” Snowden states he was disappointed by Obama, who “advanced the very policies that I thought would be reined in.” (Snowden is reportedly in Hong Kong, where the odds of his being extradited to face charges in the United States may be minimal if the Chinese government considers him worth protecting. Why Snowden, a low-level employee of a private contractor, had security clearance to the information he revealed is not known.) [45588, 45593, 45612, 45613, 45617, 45621, 45626, 45643, 45644, 45681]

At the White House web site, supporters of Edward Snowden start a petition calling for his pardon. (By mid-day June 10 the petition has 14,300 signatures.) [45619]

LATimes.com reports, “[T]he Obama administration is considering resettling refugees who have fled Syria, part of an international effort that could bring thousands of Syrians to American cities and towns. A resettlement plan under discussion in Washington and other capitals is aimed at relieving pressure on Middle Eastern countries straining to support 1.6 million refugees, as well as assisting hard-hit Syrian families.” (With millions of Americans unemployed and the number of food stamp recipients at an all-time high, Obama wants to allow thousands—or tens of thousands—of Syrians into the country, and it is a certainty that many of them will end up collecting welfare benefits rather than becoming productive taxpayers. Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com: “More of Obama’s immigration war on America. Obama supports the jihadist opposition in Syria—al Qaeda elements. And he is bringing those savages here? He has turned a blind eye to religious minorities that are being persecuted under Muslim rule. So it will be more Muslim immigration. Clearly, jihadist groups linked to al Qaeda pose a grave security concern. It’s another giant middle finger to the American people by the Obama administration, endangering national security. We have suffered the effects of importing whole Muslim communities from jihad regions (i.e. Somalia). ...Law enforcement officials have reported to Congress on the growing Somali Muslim threat. This will be worse. The growing concern... is a direct result of the huge influx of whole Muslim communities from jihad areas and nations into the US since 911. I strongly recommend Atlas readers contact their congressmen and tell them that we simply cannot afford the cost or the risk.”) [45728, 45729, 45766]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Hundreds of federal employees were given advance word of a Medicare decision worth billions of dollars to private insurers in the weeks before the official announcement, a period when trading in the shares of those firms spiked. The surge of trading in Humana’s and other private health insurers’ stock before the April 1 announcement already has prompted the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate whether Wall Street investors had advance access to inside information about the then-confidential Medicare funding plan.” HotAir.com comments, “Actually, there are two potential scandals here. One is HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] tossing around what was supposed to be sensitive information to a huge swath of employees in-house. The other scandal is who actually leaked it, assuming anyone did. It might not have come from HHS at all but rather from some old-fashioned Beltway congressional/lobbyist incest. As with most of the other Obama scandals, this story is less about O himself than about the foreseeable abuses that result as the federal whale grows. You can have bigger government or you can have more accountable government. The guy who signed ObamaCare into law has made his choice.” [45590, 45591, 45592]

On *Fox News Sunday* Senator Rand Paul; (R-KY) states, “We’re not talking about going after a terrorist. I’m all for that. Get a warrant, go after a terrorist or a murderer or a rapist. But don’t troll through a billion phone records every day. That is unconstitutional, it invades our privacy. And I’m going to be seeing if I can challenge this [NSA telephone

surveillance program] at the Supreme Court level. I'm going to be asking all the internet providers and all of the phone companies: Ask your customers to join me in a class action lawsuit. If we get 10 million Americans saying we don't want our phone records looked at, then maybe someone will wake up and something will change in Washington." In a separate statement, Paul observes, "The irony is that people voted for ...Obama hoping for something different. That's why a lot of people I think are disappointed in [him]. They're disappointed in him targeting reporters. There's just a lot to be disappointed about." [45593, 45620, 45623]

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal's* Sherman Frederick suggests, "Ponder this: In what historians consider one of the most unsuccessful presidential terms in modern history, Jimmy Carter still produced four times as much economic growth as Barack Obama. If that doesn't put it into perspective for you, nothing will. ...In an article for Investor's Business Daily, [the Pacific Research Institute's Jeffrey H.] Anderson writes: 'Prior to Obama, the second term of President Bush featured the weakest gains in the gross domestic product in some time, with average annual (inflation-adjusted) GDP growth of just 1.9 percent ...but average annual real GDP growth during Obama's entire first term was less than half as much at a pitiful 0.8 percent.' ...Obama's GDP growth is less than half as much as the worst president in the past 60 years. Let that process slowly. That means that if ...Obama could go back in time and find a way to double his GDP performance, he'd still hold the record for the worst [GDP growth] in the past 60 years.'" [45615]

The *Daily Mail* reports, "A group of intelligence officials were overheard yesterday discussing how the National Security Agency worker who leaked sensitive documents to a reporter [the *Guardian's* Glenn Greenwald] last week should be 'disappeared' [that is, assassinated]. Foreign policy analyst and editor at large of The Atlantic, Steve Clemons, tweeted about the 'disturbing' conversation after listening in to four men who were sitting near him as he waited for a flight at Washington's Dulles airport. 'In Dulles UAL lounge listening to 4 US intel officials saying loudly leaker & reporter on #NSA stuff should be disappeared...' he tweeted at 8:42 a.m. on Saturday. According to Clemons, the men had been attending an event hosted by the Intelligence and National Security Alliance. ...Clemons described the discussion on Twitter as 'bravado' and said he believed the disappearing comment was 'half joke half serious.' 'They were loud. Almost bragging. Lacked circumspection about comments & jokes,' he wrote about the conversation in the busy airport lounge." [45616]

CNSNews.com reports, "The number of American households on food stamps reached a new record high in March, according to new data released by the Agriculture Department. The March numbers the USDA released Friday reveal 23,116,441 households enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamps, each receiving an average monthly benefit of \$274.30." [45618, 45766]

In Washington, D.C. a federal action lawsuit against Obama, the National Security Agency, and the Department of Justice over the collection of telephone records of millions of Verizon customers becomes a class action lawsuit. Larry Klayman, founder of

Freedom Watch, states, “It’s a violation of our privacy rights, our freedom of association, our due process rights.” The CBS affiliate on Philadelphia reports, “Klayman originally filed the lawsuit last week as the sole plaintiff. On Sunday, Charles and Mary Anne Strange—a Philadelphia couple whose son Michael, a US Navy Seal, was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2011—joined the suit as a class action. ‘Somebody has to be held accountable for my son’s death. Thirty brave Americans, the biggest loss in the Afghan war. And that’s when I started asking questions, that’s when my phone got tapped.’ Strange said. Strange claims he heard tapping noises while on the phone and he says he started getting odd texts shortly after his son’s death. ‘I called Verizon, ‘I have a text 001 and 002’ and I called them up and I said ‘who’s this?’ and they said it’s somebody listening in from the United States, and someone from Afghanistan,’ Strange explained.” [45667, 45705]

On June 10 a June 19th “Audit the IRS” rally at the West Lawn of the Capitol Building is announced.

At CanadaFreePress.com the Northeast Intelligence Network’s Doug Hagmann reports on his latest conversation with his unnamed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) insider. The insider tells him, “If anyone thinks that what’s going on right now with all of this surveillance of American citizens is to fight some sort of foreign enemy, they’re delusional. If people think that this ‘scandal’ can’t get any worse, it will, hour by hour, day by day. This has the ability to bring down our national leadership, the administration and other senior elected officials working in collusion with this administration, both Republican and Democrats. People within the NSA, the Department of Justice, and others, they know who they are, need to come forth with the documentation of ‘policy and practice’ in their possession, disclose what they know, fight what’s going on, and just do their job. I have never seen anything like this, ever. The present administration is going after leakers, media sources, anyone and everyone who is even suspected of ‘betrayal.’ That’s what they call it, ‘betrayal.’ Can you believe the size of their cahones [sic; cojones]? This administration considers anyone telling the truth about Benghazi, the IRS, hell, you name the issue, ‘betrayal.’ ...[T]his is bigger than you can imagine, bigger than anyone can imagine. This administration is collecting names of sources, whistle blowers and their families, names of media sources and everybody they talk to and have talked to, and they already have a huge list. If you’re not working for MSNBC or CNN, you’re probably on that list. If you are a website owner with a brisk readership and a conservative bent, you’re on that list. It’s a political dissident list, not an enemy threat list.” [45584]

“[That] means that there will be censorship under the color of authority of anyone in the U.S. who is attempting to expose what’s going on in our name. It’s about controlling any damning information from reaching epidemic proportions. It’s damage control to the extreme. It’s about the upcoming censorship of the internet in the name of national security. The plans are already in place. These latest reports about ‘spying eyes’ have turned this administration and others connected to it into something very, very dangerous. They feel cornered and threatened, and I’m hearing about some plans they have to shut down the flow of information that is implicating them of wrongdoing. Time is short.

...First, they intend to use the Justice Department to silence journalists like in the [James] Rosen case, but they won't stop there. They will use a host of national security policies, laws, letters, whatever to take out the bigger threats. Next, they will use some sort of excuse, an external threat, and I believe it will be a combination of the economic collapse and a Mid-East war that will begin in Syria to throttle the information that is accessible on the Internet. And you know what? People will believe it! Based on what I've seen, most of which I should not have seen, the DHS is co-coordinating efforts with other federal agencies to begin to threaten American citizens with incarceration for non-compliance. You know the old talk of color coded lists? Well, this is what they will be using. People exposing the truth about Benghazi, killing the U.S. Dollar, even those questioning Obama's legal status and eligibility to be President are the current targets. And they've had five long years to get to this point. The ugly truth is that these policies and practices did not start under Obama, but long before. This is about the killing of our Constitutional Republic. The murder of our country and the stripping of our rights. While many have been preoccupied with one issue, few have seen the bigger issue. This is the 'end game,' for all the marbles." [45584]

The DHS insider continues, "Please, get this information out while you can. Tell people what I'm saying, that we don't have much time, that after the latest exposure of spying, Obama, [Valerie] Jarrett, [David] Axelrod, and others, including members of Congress, have put their plans into high gear. This is about the Marxist takeover of America. This is about our country being able to survive another July 4th holiday. This is about a world war about to break out that will kill millions of people, all because of the agenda of this administration. They are very dangerous and will do anything and everything to stop the onslaught of negative information that's being reported by the main stream media. But only about one quarter of the real information is being reported. The other three quarters will be the game changer. But first, tell people what I've said. Let them know that more will follow but get this information out right now while the internet is still relatively free. Do it today." [45584]

Mitt Romney calls for an independent special prosecutor to investigate the IRS targeting program. Romney tells Fox News Channel's Neil Cavuto, "Clearly, [Obama's] ability to manage the government of the United States, and the trust that Americans have for our government, have been very seriously eroded by the kinds of revelations that have come forward from the IRS. ...This is a very dangerous and troubling development, the idea that an agency that has our most personal information—I mean, they know how much money we make, what we make it in, what kind of assets we have, where all of our properties might be—they know all that about us financially. They have all that information, and they have used that information to pursue a political agenda. That should be a very frightening thing to people on both sides of the aisle. ...It may be worse than negligence. We don't know who all knew about it, who directed it. But it is a violation that the American people will not soon forget. It has to end. And in my view, we have to put in place a special prosecutor to understand who knew what, and how that information was used, and we also need to put in place a structure that says in the future, these audits and these inquiries by the IRS or other agencies that carry out various kinds

of audits, these things have to be viewed on a non-partisan, non-political basis, and assure that these institutions aren't pursuing a personal agenda of one kind or another." [45585]

"...This is what people across this country are afraid of: Big government becoming so large and so intrusive that no one can stop it from interfering in our lives, and punishing people without being required to go out into the public and demand that information on a legal basis. It's infuriating. ...Look, I've got to tell you, it's not fun to lose an election. But to hear that the government of the United States, and particularly an agency that has all the information about the American people, was using that power to help defeat me in one way or another is really quite upsetting, as you can imagine. ...[T]here's no question but that if some organization were being run through the mill, that they were less able to do the job that they put themselves in place to carry out, and therefore [it] had a chilling effect on their capacity to turn out voters, or to pursue the agenda that they might have. Of course that was the result. ...What's at stake is: Did the American people believe that the information they have is not being misused by our government, and that the government is not trampling on our rights as citizens of this country, and pursuing an agenda, a political agenda, at the expense of freedom in America." [45585]

Politico reports, "The Obama administration said Monday evening it would make the 'morning after' pill available over the counter to women of all ages and would drop its appeal of a court order. When finalized, the move would end a long-running dispute over the emergency contraceptive dating back to the early years of the George W. Bush administration. Justice Department lawyers said that the FDA invited the maker of 'Plan B' to submit new paperwork so federal health officials can move ahead with making the drug available without restrictions. 'We are pleased that women should soon be able to buy Plan B One-Step without the arbitrary restrictions that kept it locked behind the pharmacy counter when they needed it most urgently,' Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said in a statement."

CNSNews.com reports, "The IRS, currently in the midst of scandals involving the targeting of conservative groups and lavish taxpayer-funded conferences, is ordering surveillance equipment that includes hidden cameras in coffee trays, plants and clock radios. The IRS wants to secure the surveillance equipment quickly—it posted a solicitation on June 6 and is looking to close the deal by Monday, June 10. The agency already has a company lined up for the order but is not commenting on the details." (On June 12 CNSNews.com reports that the IRS "has cancelled its purchase order for surveillance equipment.") [45628, 45683]

On Current TV's *The Young Turks*, leftist host Cenk Uygur plays 2008 video of then-candidate Obama promising, "...no more illegal wiretapping of American citizens. No more national security [unintelligible] to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime. No more tracking citizens who do nothing more than protest a misguided war. No more ignoring the law when it is inconvenient. That is not who we are." Uygur says, "Well, that's not who we're supposed to be but that's exactly who Barack Obama is. That's who he is... He lied. It's not subtle... He lied. There *is* spying on all of us and

we're *not* suspected of a crime. Barack Obama is a liar. Can I make it clearer?" [45629, 45677]

Obama names Jason Furman to replace Alan Krueger as chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisors. According to FoxNews.com, "Furman was the key architect of many of the White House's domestic policy achievements, including the 2012 income tax deal, 2010's payroll tax cut and the 2009 stimulus package." In introducing Furman, Obama says, "Even though the economy is growing, too many middle class families still feel like they're working harder and harder and can't get ahead. Inequality is still growing in our society. Too many young people aren't sure whether they'll be able to match the living standards of their parents. We have too many kids in poverty in this country, still." [45630, 45642]

At NationalReview.com John Yoo writes, "The NSA leak case will reveal if the Obama administration really means what it said about its foolish and unconstitutional pursuit of the AP and Fox News in other leak cases. Recall that the Obama Justice Department claimed that Fox News reporter James Rosen was a co-conspirator in the alleged leak of classified intelligence. If the Justice Department truly believed what it told the courts when seeking a wiretap on Rosen, then it should indict the reporters and editors for the *Washington Post* and the *Guardian* newspapers who published information on PRISM. They clearly 'conspired' with [Edward] Snowden to publish classified information, information that was much more harmful to the national security than in the Rosen case (on North Korea's predictable response to sanctions). Personally, I think that the *Post* is protected by the First Amendment, but Holder's Justice Department clearly doesn't think so. So either the Justice Department will indict not just Snowden, but also the *Post* and *Guardian* reporters, or it will have been shown to have been untruthful to the courts in the Rosen case (which I think has become clear), in yet another demonstration of [Obama's] incompetence in managing the core functions of the executive branch or his willful abuse of its executive authorities." [45636]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "European leaders, describing themselves as stunned by revelations of an extensive U.S. surveillance program that included their citizens, moved Monday to demand more information from the U.S. government and said they would discuss ways to bolster their already stringent privacy laws. ... German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to raise the issue when she meets in Berlin with ... Obama next week, a spokesman said, and other German officials said they were concerned by the apparent monitoring of their citizens." [45638, 45639]

Democrat strategist Patrick Caddell writes at Breitbart.com, "The sordid revelations from the Obama administration are coming at a pace that can only be described as, well, fast and furious. So let's lay down some markers here, as a sort of road map for the months and years ahead: *First*, if the PRISM program and all the rest of the government's surveillance programs were so good and necessary, then why didn't the feds catch the Tsarnaev brothers, who earlier this year blew up the Boston Marathon? Or Major Hasan, the 2009 Fort Hood mass-murderer? Or the 'underwear bomber,' also from 2009, who nearly succeeded in blowing up the passenger jet flying into Detroit? *Second*, if and when

everything is revealed about PRISM and all the rest, it's likely that we will learn of important and inculpatory connections between the National Security Agency (NSA), on the one hand, and many civilian agencies, on the other. ...Moreover, since we know that the IRS was eagerly willing to share secret tax information with favored private groups, we shouldn't be surprised, in the end, to learn that NSA/PRISM material ended up in the hands of Obama friends and allies outside of the government. *Third*, we now know that Silicon Valley, and the telecommunications industry, are the key to the Obama strategy for total information awareness. In fact, the internet companies, and the phone companies, were the spearpoint for PRISM. No, wait, that's not the right image. Let's try this: These communications companies put peepholes into all of our private lives, through which Uncle Sam could sneak a peek. Every e-mail, every phone call, every text-message--the government knows about them all. It's now evident that all these wonderful digital services—many of them, such as Google's Gmail, given away for free—were, in fact, a kind of Trojan Horse. That is, on the outside, it all seemed like a good deal—but then the real truth comes tumbling out, and it's too late. Some might recall the rueful lesson of the Trojan War: 'Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.' The rueful lesson of our own time: 'Beware of geeks bearing gifts.'" [45645]

Caddell continues, "*Fourth*, it's not an accident that these Silicon Valley companies are supporters of Barack Obama. The greatest among these Obama supporters is Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of the largest of these companies, Google. ...Google and all the rest of the Silicon Valleyites say they didn't know about what was happening, and if you don't believe that, well, they will then tell you that they didn't provide 'direct access.' Oh, okay, not 'direct access'—just full access. ...*Fifth*, Eric Schmidt, in particular, seems on his way to becoming a major Democratic powerbroker, bringing Silicon Valley smarts—and who knows what else—into the realm of partisan campaigning. Schmidt is so into [Obama] that he snapped up the 2012 Obama campaign's data analytics team—hired the whole Chicago group—and has now launched them in a new company. The company, Civis Analytics, will work on various for-profit and non-profit projects, including helping the Obama administration dragoon young people into Obamacare. And oh yes, Civis will also work on political campaigns—but only for Democrats. ...*Sixth*, young Edward Snowden, the 29-year-old who leaked the PRISM information, is sort of a Zelig figure—if you remember your Woody Allen movies—for our own time. That is, the naive figure who ends up in the middle of great events, without fully understanding what is happening all around him. ...[H]e seems to have veered between sort of liking Obama and actually supporting libertarian candidates." [45645]

"...*Seventh*, as far as the American people are concerned, this domestic spying is a big deal. Yet revealingly, to the political class—that is, our leaders in Washington DC—it's not such a big deal. And there we see the central cleft in our politics today: the widening gap between the government and the governed. ...People know, in their bones, that unaccountable government is bad government; as Patrick Henry said more than two centuries ago, "The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them." So when Obama said, on Friday, 'I welcome this debate and I think it's healthy for our democracy,' we might ask

right back: ...if you welcome this debate so much, why didn't you begin the debate yourself? Why did you wait until PRISM was leaked? ...Only a few outsiders, such as Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)—who has retained his outsidership, even inside the club of the US Senate—are reading public sentiment correctly. Paul plans a class-action suit against the communications companies, inviting all Americans to join him. That's the sort of citizen-engagement effort that the insurgent and outsider-ish Obama campaign of 2008 would have loved, even if the arrogant and insider-ish Obama administration of 2013 hates it. In fact, those Americans whom Rasmussen categorizes as the 'political class'—that is, those connected to DC and governance—support PRISM by a 71 percent to 18 percent ratio. Meanwhile, the rest of the country opposes PRISM by a more than three-to-one ratio, 69 percent to 21 percent.” [45645]

Caddell concludes, “Something is going to have to give. We are on the cusp of some huge shift in power relations between the core and periphery, between the DC Beltway and flyover country. Right now, Washington has the upper hand, but an aggrieved population can always win—if it is willing to stand up and fight. In the minds of ordinary Americans, the fuse of outrage has been lit. Now this is the question: Can honest but responsible leaders, truly reflecting populist anger, find a way to force change in DC? Moreover, can this needed reform happen without tearing apart the country? Let's hope so. But we must know this for sure: One way or another, a revolution is coming.” [45645]

Liz Sidoti, national politics editor for the Associated Press writes, “A series of mounting controversies is exposing both the risks of political promise-making and the limits of national-level governing while undercutting the core assurance Obama made from the outset: that he and his administration would behave differently. ...Collectively, the issues call into question not only whether the nation's government can be trusted but also whether the leadership itself can. All of this has Obama on the verge of losing the already waning faith of the American people. ...As with past presidents, people desperate to turn the page on the previous administration voted for the Obama they wanted and now are grappling with the Obama they got. ...Obama has waning opportunities to turn it around. He's halfway through his fifth year, and with midterm elections next fall, there's no time to waste. If he can't convince the American people that they can trust him, he could end up damaging the legacy he has worked so hard to control and shape—and be remembered, even by those who once supported him, as the very opposite of the different type of leader he promised to be.” (The Associated Press has been an Obama cheerleader since he first came on the national scene. Sidoti's column suggests that may be changing.) [45646]

NewsBusted's Jodi Miller quips, “...Obama insists that the NSA surveillance program does *not* listen to your phone calls—which marks the first time ...Obama claimed to have knowledge about *any* of his own programs. ...Obama did not resort to his standard policy of blaming George Bush or Congress; this time he blamed George Bush *and* Congress.” [45778]

At WND.com Lord Christopher Monckton, former advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, comments on Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Cold Case Posse

investigation of Obama's birth certificate and lead investigator Mike Zullo's recent "...briefing to the Constitutional Sheriffs' and Peace Officers' Association setting out just some of the evidence that the document must be a forgery. One of the many bombshells he dropped was the news that a certified document examiner with 20 years' experience had closely examined the "birth certificate" and had concluded that it was the most obvious forgery he had seen in those 20 years. The examiner was not making a party political point, for he is a registered Democrat. Mike Zullo's investigation has now continued for almost two years. He has amassed many thousands of pages of evidence. His draft investigation report is already more than 300 pages long, and he reckons it will be 700 pages before it is complete. [Disclosure: *The Obama Timeline* has provided Zullo with some information.] ...I asked one congressman why he had done nothing about the forgery. He replied: 'It is unquestionably a forgery. We all know that. But you, with your experience of what the left will do to the reputations of those who challenge it, know that if any of us were to raise this issue we would be subjected to the same hatred, vilification and organized reputational damage that you have had to endure because you challenged them on climate change. ...Scientifically and economically, your challenge was correct. But they didn't care about that. They did their level best to trash your reputation anyway. I value my reputation, and I dare not take the risk of having it destroyed.' So there is no media pressure to bring the matter to court, and no political pressure either. A state of such fear and funk now subsists in the United States that no one will touch the birth certificate issue." Monckton, who has compiled a report on the numerous errors in the Obama birth certificate, writes, "Here is my challenge to the Obots. Provide a rational explanation for the irregularities I have identified in my report." [45678, 45679]

TheDailyBeast.com posts an April 30, 2013 notice to employees from the Livonia, Michigan Department of Parks and Recreation, noting that because of ObamaCare "Effective immediately no at will part time employee in the Department of Parks and Recreation will be allowed to average more than 28 hours per week. ...Thank you for your cooperation and I apologize for any inconvenience that this law has mandated." [45718]

On June 11 WashingtonTimes.com reports, "The Ohio Department of Insurance predicts premiums in 2014 will rise by 88 percent, a direct result of ...Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The average cost of insurance premiums will stand about \$420, 'representing an increase of 88 percent' compared to 2013, the department reported, Forbes said. State officials aren't surprised. They've cautioned about the 'rate shock' since the early days of Obamacare, Forbes reported. 'We have warned of these increases,' said Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, in a statement reported by Forbes. 'Consumers will have fewer choices and pay much higher premiums for their health insurance starting in 2014.'" [45631]

DCClothesline.com reports, "While interviewing the fearless Pastor James David Manning on the Tea Party Power Hour, host Mark Gillar made this astonishing statement (beginning at 05:55 mark): 'There was someone within Fox News... who actually went to Sheriff [Joe] Arpaio and Mike Zullo [the leader of Arpaio's Cold Case Posse team investigating Obama's phony birth certificate and strange Connecticut-issued Social

Security number] and said: ‘I am very sorry. I have tried to get Fox News to tell the truth on this. I have looked at your evidence that you presented at your press conferences. I know you have the goods on ...Obama. I know that he has multiple cases of document fraud that can be proven in a court of law. I wanted Fox to run a story on that, and they said ‘Absolutely no way.’ So I am here to apologize to you because my network will not tell the truth.’” [45983]

Todd Jones, acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and Obama’s nominee to be given the position permanently, is questioned by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) states, “As we sit here today, there remains an open investigation by the Office of Special Counsel regarding Mr. Jones’ conduct as U.S. Attorney. ...In this case, there are allegations of gross mismanagement and abuses of authority in Mr. Jones’ office. And there is a complaint that Mr. Jones retaliated against a whistleblower. These are serious charges, and ones that are of particular concern to me. The public interest demands resolution of these issues.” Townhall.com’s Katie Pavlich notes, “Jones has been accused of creating a ‘climate of fear’ during his time as the U.S. Attorney in Minnesota according to complaints filed with the Office of the Inspector General. He has also been accused of threatening agents within the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.” (As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Jones was probably involved in Operation Fast and Furious from almost the beginning, and attended an early meeting of Attorney General Eric Holder’s “Southwest Border Strategy Group.” In July 2012 Jones issued a video message to all ATF employees in which he stated, “if you make poor choices, that if you don’t abide by the rules, that 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...” Some interpreted the message as a threat to Operation Fast and Furious whistleblowers.) [25324, 34532, 45632, 45633]

In Turkey, demonstrators protest the increasingly restrictive policies of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. According to CBS, “Protesters and Turkey’s prime minister both refused to back down Tuesday in what could become the final battle for Istanbul’s Taksim Square, the symbol of nationwide grievances against his government. Tens of thousands of protesters returned to the square in the evening, in a show of defiance met with tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons, hours after riot police had forced their way past improvised barricades to clear the square of protesters occupying the area for the past 12 days. ...The unrest has spread to 78 cities across the country, with protesters championing their objections to what they say is the prime minister’s increasingly authoritarian style and his perceived attempts to impose a religious and conservative lifestyle in a country with secular laws...” [45640, 45641]

Scandal-plagued ...Obama’s campaign rally for U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey tomorrow could prove more of an anvil than a catapult for the Democratic Senate candidate, who saw his lead against the GOP’s Gabriel Gomez drop in a new Suffolk poll out yesterday. And it wouldn’t be the first time Obama didn’t do a local Democrat a big favor by showing up. ‘It’s not unheard of in Massachusetts that a Democratic president can hurt a Democratic candidate,’ said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia’s Center

for Politics. ‘He sure hurt what’s her name [Martha Coakley] in 2010.’ ...The Suffolk University poll released yesterday shows Obama’s popularity sinking in the Bay State thanks to the multiple scandals bedeviling his administration, and Markey’s campaign has also been hurt. Obama’s job approval among 500 likely Massachusetts voters plummeted from 63 percent in a Suffolk poll in mid-May to 57 percent. His popularity is down from 67 to 60 favorable. His job disapproval is up from 32 to 37.” [45647]

The U.S. Senate votes 82–15 to stop a filibuster and proceed with the rewriting of the nation’s immigration laws. Meanwhile, Obama says we “owe” illegal immigrants a “pathway to citizenship.” “We owe it to America to do better. We owe it to the Dreamers to do better. ...[F]or immigration reform to work, it must be clear from the outset that there is a pathway to citizenship. If we’re asking everybody to play by the same rules, you got to give people a sense of certainty that they go through all these sacrifices, do all this, that there’s at the end of the horizon, the opportunity—not the guarantee, but the opportunity—to be part of this American family.” (Of course, those who entered the country illegally did not “play by the same rules” as those who entered legally.) [45648, 45666]

At Townhall.com Hector Barreto points out that Obama’s nominee for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Richard Griffin “is a defendant in an embezzlement and racketeering lawsuit. He is named in the portion of the suit dealing with a cover up.” *The Wall Street Journal* writes, “Mr. Griffin is named in a federal complaint filed in October by 10 members of IUOE [International Union of Operating Engineers] Local 501, out of Los Angeles, which describes a ‘scheme to defraud [the local] out of revenue, cost savings and membership,’ by means of kickbacks, bribery, violent threats and extortion. The suit names dozens of IUOE officials as defendants, and Mr. Griffin [IUOE’s chief counsel] is highlighted in a section describing an embezzlement and its subsequent hush-up.” *The Washington Free Beacon*, reports, “According to the lawsuit filed by 10 members of Los Angeles-based IUOE. Local 501, which represents workers in Southern California and Southern Nevada, Griffin participated in a conspiracy to manipulate the operation of Local 501 ‘through a pattern of racketeering activity.’ Griffin was served with the complaint and a court summons relating to the lawsuit at his Washington, D.C., home on Dec. 4, according to documents filed in court.” Fox News states, “The rap sheet for members of the International Union of Operating Engineers reads like something out of Goodfellas. Embezzlement. Wire fraud. Bribery. That’s just scratching the surface of crimes committed by the IUOE ranks. Public documents... show that more than 60 IUOE members have been arrested, indicted or jailed in the last decade on charges that include labor racketeering, extortion, criminal enterprise, bodily harm and workplace sabotage. In some of the more egregious examples, federal prosecutors alleged in February 2003 that the Genovese and Colombo crime families wrested control of two IUOE locals, and stole \$3.6 million from major New York area construction projects—including the Museum of Modern Art and minor league baseball stadiums for the Yankees and Mets in Staten and Coney Islands.” [45662]

Consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton fires Edward Snowden. The company states, “Snowden, who had a salary at the rate of \$122,000, was terminated June 10, 2013 for violations of the firm’s code of ethics and firm policy.”

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton tells *Newsmax* Edward Snowden is a “traitor” who has “committed an act of war against the United States. ... Treason is the only crime defined in the Constitution and it talks about waging war against the United States—which this is—and giving aid and comfort to our enemies, and God knows they’ve gotten a lot of aid and comfort from this release. Let me ask, who died and made him king? Who gave him the authority to endanger 300 million Americans? That’s not the way it works, and if he thinks he can get away with that, he’s got another think coming. ... If he gets a jail sentence it ought to be about five life terms running consecutively. ... The American people understand that we are threatened not just by terrorists but, for example, by China’s incredible cyberwarfare capabilities. ... Technology is a wonderful thing, but it has its upsides and downsides, and America needs to be defended. Here, the power of government is being used to protect innocent American civilians. ... This is a real failing of Barack Obama, who before becoming elected... had never managed anything bigger than a Senate office and it almost seems like he doesn’t even know where part of his federal government is. I’m wondering really if he understood or paid attention when he was being told about these various NSA programs.” [45649]

A June 1–4 Gallup poll shows former President George W. Bush’s approval/disapproval rating has entered positive territory: 49/46 percent. [45650]

WND.com reports, “The NSA is systematically monitoring the Internet posts and telephone conversations of U.S. military returning from Afghanistan, according to a civil-liberties attorney. ‘The FBI and the Secret Service are showing up to request an interview to question specific Internet posts the veteran has placed on websites such as Facebook,’ explained attorney John Whitehead, founder of the Rutherford Institute. Whitehead said the agencies are looking for ‘anti-Obama views that can be interpreted to reflect psychological problems of sufficient seriousness to disqualify the veteran from ever owning a firearm.’” [45651]

USNews.com reports, “Former Justice Department prosecutor Larry Klayman amended an existing lawsuit against Verizon and a slew of Obama administration officials Monday to make it the first class-action lawsuit in response to the publication of a secret court order instructing Verizon to hand over the phone records of millions of American customers on an ‘ongoing, daily basis.’ Klayman told U.S. News he will file a second class-action lawsuit Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia targeting government officials and each of the nine companies listed in a leaked National Security Agency slideshow as participants in the government’s PRISM program. According to the slideshow, the PRISM program allows government agents direct, real-time access to the servers of nine major tech companies, including AOL, Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, PalTalk, Skype, Yahoo! and YouTube. ... The class-action lawsuit against Verizon says the defendants violated customers’ ‘reasonable expectation

of privacy, free speech and association, right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures and due process rights.’ ‘This case challenges the legality of Defendants’ participation and conduct in a secret and illegal government scheme to intercept and analyze vast quantities of domestic telephone communications,’ says the lawsuit against Verizon, which also names as defendants ...Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, NSA director Keith Alexander and federal judge Roger Vinson, the FISA court judge who approved the leaked April order.” [45652, 45705]

In a letter to Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) writes, “Recent revelations [show] the National Security Agency has been keeping an ‘ongoing, daily’ log of every domestic phone call in the United States. I respectfully request your Committee subpoena the records of every phone call made from all public and private telephones of all IRS personnel to all public and private telephones of all White House personnel. If ...Obama is collecting such information, he certainly would want us to use it. If he has nothing to hide he has nothing to be afraid of.” Stockman tells reporters, “This case must be investigated fully, given admitted wrongdoing by the IRS, its potentially criminal implications and revelations the White House has been less than honest about what they knew and when. Obama says the PRISM program is perfectly legal, so there should be no problem whatsoever in providing the information on White House and IRS phone calls. The only possible scenario in which the administration refuses to comply would be if it would reveal unconstitutional or illegal behavior.” [45686, 45743]

According to *Egypt Independent*, nearly 15 million people have signed a petition to hold early presidential elections to replace President Mohamed Morsi. (Morsi, Obama’s Muslim Brotherhood buddy, received about 15 million votes when he was elected.) [45653]

U.S. Ambassador to Belgium Howard Gutman denies allegations of soliciting “sexual favors from both prostitutes and minor children.” Gutman states, “I am angered and saddened by the baseless allegations that have appeared in the press and to watch the four years I have proudly served in Belgium smeared is devastating. At no point have I ever engaged in any improper activity.” A spokesman for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton provides an excuse for her lack of leadership: “We learned of it from the media and don’t know anything beyond what’s been reported.” (Gutman is a Washington lawyer who was rewarded with the ambassadorship post for having raised more than \$500,000 for Obama’s campaign in 2008. Gutman once told a conference hosted by the European Jewish Union that Israel is to blame for anti-Semitism: “A distinction should be made between traditional anti-Semitism, which should be condemned, and Muslim hatred for Jews, which stems from the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.” In other words, “It is acceptable to hate Jews, but you need to use the proper, politically acceptable excuse: Israel refuses to turn over its land to the Arabs.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich responded that Obama “should fire his ambassador to Brussels for being so wrong about anti-Semitism.” White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporter, “Ambassador Gutman has expressed his regret, noting that he strongly

condemns anti-Semitism in all its forms... This administration has consistently stood up against efforts to delegitimize Israel and we will continue to do so.” The DC Morning asked, “What’s Yiddish for ‘nonsense and doublespeak?’” [356, 1583, 2966, 3270, 4039, 6329, 27022, 27023, 27047, 27089, 45664, 45665]

FoxNews.com reports that some Hollywood leftists are turning against Obama because of the NSA “data mining” scandal. “Actor and liberal activist John Cusack tweaked the administration, tweeting ‘Prism the name for electronic prison—all have to wear lojacks,’ in reference to the PRISM data mining program revealed in leaks by former NSA employee Edward Snowden last week. Cusack also re-tweeted ‘Obama is becoming the next Nixon.’ Prominent writer/director Judd Apatow of ‘Knocked Up’ fame also took to Twitter to blast the administration: ‘What is this, North Korea? We are so inundated with so much info and so many problems—we have given up caring.’ Apatow also drew attention to reports on the scandal, calling it ‘an outrageous breach of the privacy and rights of American citizens.’ Liberal filmmaker Michael Moore also hopped on the bandwagon, tweeting ‘the administration has now lost all credibility’ while spotlighting a 2007 Obama quote: ‘that means no more illegal wiretapping of American citizens. No more (spying) on citizens... No more tracking citizens...’” In contrast, comedian Bill Maher, a scathing critic of George W. Bush, says, “I’m okay with it [NSA spying] now that Obama is in office. I’m kind of trusting of him. We live in a world of nuclear weapons. And there are religious fanatics who would love to get one and set if off here... The fact that a city can be demolished in one second kinda [sic] tips the scale for me. I’m not saying to look into your emails is the right thing, I’m just saying, I’m not gonna pretend it’s ‘cause I’m brave, it’s ‘cause I’m scared.” (Maher was apparently not frightened during the Bush administration—which arguably suggests he subconsciously believed Bush could better protect the nation than Obama.) [45671]

Examiner.com reports that Tom Francois, an “outspoken critic of Barack Hussein Obama” who “has a robust Twitter presence,” was visited by the Secret Service on April 11, 2013. ...The Secret Service had a thick FBI file—filled with screenshots of hundreds of posts. Said Tom, ‘I flat out told them ‘I have NEVER threatened Obama’s life! Yes, I despise him as you can plainly see, but I have that right!’ They actually ADMITTED and agreed with me that I hadn’t threatened Obama.’ They had run a background check and discovered that Tom legally owned two guns—and they asked to see them. Tom showed them his firearms. They asked, ‘Are they loaded?’ Tom replied in the affirmative. ‘What good are guns if they aren’t loaded?’ ...So why harass Tom? ‘The Secret Service officers claimed that ‘they were concerned that since I have a large Twitter following, and the things I said could be acted upon by some nut case out there! What the hell? They turned my life upside down for THAT?’ ...When they left Tom’s house, one Secret Service Agent ‘advised’—‘Keep in mind, if you step over the line, we’ll come back for your guns.’” [45682]

Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase, tells a financial industry conference, “I think you all should be ready, because [interest] rates are going to go up.” The New York Times writes, “As investors brace themselves for a new era of higher interest rates, global markets in bonds, currencies and stocks have experienced spasms of turmoil. On

Tuesday, the catalyst for the market's volatility was disappointment over the Bank of Japan's decision not to take new steps to address rising bond yields. That heightened worries that other central banks—the Federal Reserve in particular—will soon pull back on pumping money into the financial system.” [45691, 46170]

On June 12 China expert Gordon Chang appears on *Fox & Friends* and says NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden is “...really thinking is that China is going to save him from being extradited and probably he's also going to think about trading information for refuge. ...He's saying to the Chinese, 'This is how valuable I am, so don't let the U.S. extradite me. ...He is intending to do something to give information to China so he can save himself.” [45681]

PPSimmons.blogspot.com notes that there is actually a place in Kenya called “Hawaii Dormitory,” located only a few miles from Hell's Gate National Park. “Are we saying we have found Obama's true birthplace? No. We are simply pointing out some seriously creepy connections here. Obama claims to have been born in Hawaii. Others say he was born in Kenya. Now we discover a place, called Hawaii, in Kenya, which sits right outside the Gates of Hell. This definitely isn't helping Obama shed his Antichrist image at all folks.” [45751, 45752, 45837]

SyriaReport.net reports, “More details of a massacre in Homs late last month have emerged following the global outcry of a massacre in Deir el-Zour yesterday. The massacre, carried out by Free Syrian Army militants reportedly targeted men, women and children in the Christian village of al-Duwayr/Douar close to the city of Homs and the border with Lebanon. The incident received little media attention, having occurred at the same time as thousands of Syrian troops converged on the insurgent-occupied town of al-Qusayr. According to sources, around 350 heavily armed militants entered the village, broke into homes and assembled residents in the main square of the village where they were executed. The final death toll is not known but photos show severe damage to property in the village. Syrian army sources said that they reached the village after the massacre, resulting in clashes with militants. Sources also reported that Turkish and Chechen extremists were among the perpetrators. Chechen militants are known to have kidnapped two Christian bishops in Aleppo earlier this year. ...Conditions for ethnic and religious minorities have been made increasingly worse as Free Syrian Army affiliated organisations including Jabhat al-Nusra increase ethnic and sectarian cleansing across Syria. Kidnappings, executions and assassinations are common.” (Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com, “For close to a year I have been warning about the genocide of Christians and Alawites if the jihadists ('rebels') came to power. Massive. Monstrous. There are two million Christians in Syria. Yet another Islamic genocide that will be ignored, scrubbed, sanctioned. This is not proprietary information. *Obama knows.*”) [45754, 45755, 45756]

Jonah Goldberg writes at Townhall.com, “...a man who came into office hell-bent on restoring faith in government is on the verge of inspiring a libertarian revival. There have always been (at least) two Barack Obamas. There is the man who claims to be a non-ideological problem-solver, keen on working with anybody to fix things. And there is

other: the partisan, left-leaning progressive-redeemer. ...The IRS scandal is a cancer because if you can't trust Obama to keep that agency from being politicized, you can't trust him to keep anything immune from politics—including health care and, more relevant, the National Security Agency. ...I have some sympathy for Obama in that his support of these vast data-mining programs might be a sign that he has matured in office. He naively denounced the 'false choice' of compromising our ideals for the sake of security in his 2009 inaugural speech. Now he's touting such trade-offs as essential. Or it could be that... Obama thinks there's nothing wrong with executive power when he's the executive. Either way, the NSA story undermines trust in both Obamas. In late May, [Obama] announced in a speech that the war on terror was essentially over. In early June, he's defending a data-mining operation that even Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI)—an author of the Patriot Act, which authorizes surveillance by the NSA—is denouncing as dangerous overreach he never intended. The idealist wants credit for ending the war, while the alleged pragmatist wants to keep a surveillance apparatus that has no justification if the war on terror is truly over. Maybe he's right on the merits. The problem is that fewer and fewer people are willing to take his word for it." [45658]

On C-SPAN's *Washington Journal*, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) comments on a briefing about NSA activities she and other legislators attended on June 11: "What we learned in there is significantly more than what is out in the media today. I can't speak to what we learned in there, and I don't know if there are other leaks, if there's more information somewhere, if somebody else is going to step up, but I will tell you that I believe it's the tip of the iceberg. ...I think it's just broader than most people even realize, and I think that's, in one way, what astounded most of us, too." TheHill.com writes, "The briefing was meant to convince lawmakers that the surveillance programs are legal and necessary in fighting counterterrorism—an argument ...Obama and other administration officials have made." [45720]

With interest rates on 10-year Treasury notes increasing 45 basis points, or about one-half percent, in May, Bloomberg.com notes "increasing speculation that the Fed [Federal Reserve], the largest holder of Treasuries with \$1.89 trillion, may begin to scale back its bond buying. It was the biggest jump since a 50 basis-point advance in December 2010. The central bank has increased its holdings of Treasuries by \$234.4 billion in 2013." Mortgage rates have also increased by about three-quarters of one percent over the same period—while the U.S. economy has shown essentially no growth. At Townhall.com Mike Shedlock writes, "As one might suspect this rapid rise in mortgage rates will wreak havoc on mortgage refinancing. And it did. I called a couple of my industry contacts and they state refinancings have plunged by 50% or more. One contact says there has been spillover into new home applications, another has not seen that 'yet.'" *The New York Times* observes, "The rising cost of a new mortgage has already pushed down the number of people refinancing old mortgages, putting a crimp on a recent source of extra income for many households. The looming question now is whether higher mortgage rates could stall the rally in home prices that has been taking place across the country." (On Fox Business, author Peter Schiff, CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, has warned, "I think we are heading for a worse economic crisis than we had in 2007. You're going to have a collapse in the dollar... a huge spike in interest rates... and our whole economy, which is

built on the foundation of cheap money, is going to topple when you pull the rug out from under it. ...The crisis is imminent. I don't think Obama is going to finish his second term without the bottom dropping out. And stock market investors are oblivious to the problems. ...The Fed knows that the U.S. economy is not recovering. It simply is being kept from collapse by artificially low interest rates and quantitative easing. As that support goes, the economy will implode.”) [45659, 45660, 45661, 45691, 45692, 45711]

At PJMedia.com Ozgur Yilmaz, a freelance writer and human rights activist in Istanbul, comments on the protests in Turkey: “Most of the supporters were well-dressed, well-spoken, decent people representing no particular political party, or ethnic or sectarian group. What had brought people from so many diverse backgrounds together? When you talk to protesters, you understand. They are secular-minded (yet almost exclusively Muslim) pacifists; their slogans and chants revolve around only one person: Erdogan. The anger and contempt felt for him is the common denominator. Secular people are rising up against [Prime Minister Recep Tayyip] Erdogan's style of governance. This must be puzzling from a Westerner's point of view, as the West [that is, the mainstream media] still portrays Erdogan's Turkey as a model for the Muslim world. To date, his Turkey had been put forward as a political and economic success story for Muslim countries to emulate. Turkey is a considerably more powerful country than it was ten years ago, but beneath the surface a different picture emerges. From the moment they took power in 2002, the Erdogan-led coalition of ex-Islamists... worked hard to convince the West and liberals that they had left their desire for an Islamic state behind [even though they had not]. ...[M]edia owners are brought into line with huge tax fines or with governmental contracts as reward, while journalists are being suppressed via threat of getting fired or getting jailed. Telephone tapping by the government-controlled police is a common practice. There are no checks and balances left in the Turkish state to stop this abuse of power. Critics say that the police, state prosecutors, and judges have all come under the control of Islamists, and that this setup is used to dismantle secularists from key posts in the Turkish state. In order to prevent any questioning or pressure from the West, they cunningly accuse the defendants of anti-democratic charges, *and portray them as anti-Western.*” [45670, 45693, 45694]

“The more power Erdogan gained,” continues Yilmaz, “the louder he railed against the secularists and their way of life. Unrivaled, Erdogan feels no pressure in revealing this. ...Restrictions on a secular way of life have increased, be it regarding alcohol, abortion, male-female relations, and TV content. The list goes on and on. ...Erdogan's fierce response to [the demonstrators]—which resulted in casualties—revealed two things: the protesters were right; and Erdogan lacks the key qualities needed to successfully manage the delicate national and international balance of new Turkey. His imbalance and incompetence to realistically assess the situation peaked when he threatened to unleash his supporters onto the field. Two weeks after his return from Washington, where he was warmly welcomed by ...Obama, he chose to suppress dissent by force and censorship. The West should see that the attitude of Erdogan and his apparatchiks is shaped by the power they have, not by liberal principles.” (The mainstream media has attempted to portray Erdogan as a moderate, pro-Western leader. He is not. Pamela Geller writes at AtlasShrugs.com: “The enemedia has falsely portrayed the initial riots in Gezi Park and

Taksim square (largely symbolic of secular Turkey) as a demonstration ‘against the removal of trees’... How insulting. More proof of the enemedia’s contempt for freedom-loving peoples. Who would pay attention to a tree protest? What it was, in fact, was world historic. The freedom loving Turks were protesting a plan to build a new mosque (with amenities) in Istanbul’s Gezi Park. The new mosque complex with shopping centre sparked a wave of protests in the Turkish city and beyond.” Peter Hitchens writes, “Erdogan is also a cunning and subtle Islamic fanatic, who knows he will get further if he pretends to be moderate, and in an unguarded moment said that democracy is ‘a tram you ride as far as you want to and then get off.’”) [45670, 45693, 45694]

In the June 9–11 national Gallup poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 45/47 percent. [45672]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) blocks a vote to amend the proposed immigration legislation to require six months of improved border security before legalization is granted to illegal immigrants. [45685]

Congressman James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), one of the authors of the Patriot Act, tells radio talk show host Laura Ingraham the Obama administrations excuses for NSA abuses are “a bunch of bunk,” and that Section 215 of the legislation “was originally drafted to prevent data mining.” Sensenbrenner also says “I don’t agree” with those who are calling Edward Snowden a traitor. [45684, 45687]

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden is interviewed by the *South China Morning Post*. He states, “I’m neither traitor nor hero. I’m an American. ...People who think I made a mistake in picking [Hong Kong] as a location misunderstand my intentions. I am not here to hide from justice; I am here to reveal criminality.” Snowden says, “We hack network backbones, like huge Internet routers, basically, that give us access to the communications of hundreds of thousands of computers without having to hack every single one. ...I have not spoken to any of my family. I am worried about the pressure they are feeling from the FBI.” [45669, 45680]

Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell announces his retirement, stating, “Whenever someone involved in the rough and tumble of Washington decides to move on, there is speculation in various quarters about the ‘real reason.’ But when I say that it is time for my family, nothing could be more real than that.” According to Politico, “Morell will be replaced by Avril Haines, currently deputy assistant to [Obama] and legal adviser to the National Security Council.” [45707]

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius pushes Obama’s \$75 billion federal plan for government schooling of pre-school toddlers, saying, “We’ve got to make sure that kids by the time they hit kindergarten aren’t so far behind that they don’t ever catch up, and by the third grade they may as well drop out because they’re never going to catch up.” (In other words, “Obama and I don’t trust parents to raise their children and want them indoctrinated by the government as early in their lives as possible—and if you don’t agree you are condemning your children to useless lives.”)

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan also follows the White House orders, pushing government pre-school and whining that "...sometimes you have a cultural piece where people are scared to put their kids in more formal care and they prefer, you know, to do the grandmother, the neighbor, whatever. And so how we communicate very directly with families and churches and non-profits to make sure if we build it they will come, there's some work we need to do there." (That is, "How dare parents trust grandparents to watch their children when the federal government wants that control!") Meanwhile, at a fundraiser for U.S. Senate candidate Edward Markey in Massachusetts, Obama says, "Government can help by establishing smart priorities, by... educating our children from the earliest years..." [45708, 45710, 45749]

At Politico, Glenn Thrush and Jennifer Epstein write, "'Trust me' is ...Obama's preferred mode of action in times of crisis—and his go-to comment to nervous staffers has always been some version of 'Relax, I got this.' But that message is an increasingly hard sell for Obama in his second term, following revelations that the man who once railed against the Bush administration over civil liberties abuses has himself surreptitiously quarterbacked the greatest expansion of electronic surveillance in U.S. history. Obama's call for trust, patience and near blanket secrecy is increasingly falling on deaf ears in his own party, spurring a backlash among Democrats who say it's time for the 'most transparent president in history' to provide the American people with a comprehensive explanation of a secret program that dragnets most phone records and much of the Internet. ...Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) says, "I'm not sure people are confident that the administration has this totally under control. It seems that there's something new every day... and that's giving people lack of confidence in government. ... This is the kind of stuff people used to only see in the movies, that the government can listen to everybody's calls." [45688]

Investors.com notes, "The White House assures that tracking our every phone call and keystroke is to stop terrorists, and yet it won't snoop in mosques, where the terrorists are. That's right, the government's sweeping surveillance of our most private communications excludes the jihad factories where homegrown terrorists are radicalized. Since October 2011, mosques have been off-limits to FBI agents. No more surveillance or undercover string operations without high-level approval from a special oversight body at the Justice Department dubbed the Sensitive Operations Review Committee. Who makes up this body, and how do they decide requests? Nobody knows; the names of the chairman, members and staff are kept secret." [45690, 45732]

Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) says Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) "...has Obamaphobia" for resisting the proposed amnesty legislation, and adds, "The reality is that it is the 'Gang of Eight' that came together—four Democrats, four Republicans—and said that we need a path to citizenship." Cruz responds on Twitter: "If supporting real immigration reform, not [a] path to citizenship is 'Obamaphobia' [then I am] guilty as charged. RT [retweet] if you're a fellow 'Obamaphobic.'" [45706]

At Spectator.org George Neumayr writes, "It takes a special brand of chutzpah to use one's own misdeeds as an occasion for 'debate' or 'updating' the law. Trust us to improve and reform the laws we are violating: that has been the essential message of the

Obama administration over the last few weeks as scandal has engulfed it. ...[Attorney General Eric] Holder and Obama are like drunk drivers who cause a pile-up and then stroll back innocently to see if they can 'help.' ...Obama wants Americans to rest easy knowing that the contents of their calls haven't been monitored. Yes, we are spying on you, he in effect said last week, but not as extensively as these irresponsible media reports would suggest. Yes, we are tracing your calls, but 'nobody is listening' to them. But, hey, if you still feel uncomfortable, we can always have a 'debate' about it. What an easygoing and thoughtful tyrant. This administration likes to shift attention from a present abuse of freedom by pointing to a greater abuse of freedom it hasn't committed yet. Americans are supposed to be grateful that Obama's NSA is only tracing their calls, not listening to them. Besides, said Obama, government is sure to handle this information with care. ...The Obama administration grants itself many such mulligans. One would think it might occur to the American people at some point that they can violate the law with the same casualness the Obama administration does. If the highest law contained in the Constitution isn't binding, why are lesser laws binding? Acts of civil disobedience are bound to multiply in a country where the first acts of treachery are committed by government." [45717]

In Nairobi, Kenya, Muslims toss a hand grenade or a home-made bomb into a church and injure 15 people. (Obama has no comment.) In Manchester, England, a Muslim gang attacks non-Muslim girls at a bus stop. (Obama has no comment.) In France, two Muslims attack a man because he was eating a ham sandwich. (Obama has no comment.) At a meeting with Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi and others, chairman of the Islamic Labor Party Magdi Ahmad Hussein—unaware his comments are being recorded and televised live—says, "I'm very fond of battles. With the enemies, of course, with America and Israel, but this battle must be waged with maximum judiciousness and calm. Even though this is a secret meeting, we must all take an oath not to leak anything to the media, unless it is done officially..." (Obama has no comment—but signed off on a \$1.3 billion check to Egypt.) [45564, 45695, 45696, 45699, 45839]

TheBlaze.com reports, "The Muslim Lawyers Association (MLA) in Johannesburg has submitted a 600-plus page document to the Office of the National Director of Public Prosecution calling for the arrest and prosecution of ...Obama when he visits South Africa later this month. The submitted document calls for authorities to 'arrest Obama when he visits.' The group says Obama has ordered drone strikes that killed innocent civilians, warranting a formal investigation. 'The complaint, dubbed the 'Obama Docket' encourages South Africa to take seriously its domestic and international obligations and to act against International War Criminals lest they consider South Africa a safe haven and travel here freely with impunity,' the Muslim group announced in a press release. Obama, who is scheduled to visit South Africa on June 29, can technically be prosecuted under the Rome Statute, which gives the country authority to prosecute a war criminal on its territory. Though even the Muslim Lawyers Association has to know the odds of [Obama] being arrested and prosecuted overseas are infinitely small." [45727]

Obama attends three fundraisers; one in Boston for U.S. Senate candidate Edward Markey and two at private homes in Miami. [45668]

On June 13 CNSNews.com reports, “The White House is threatening to veto a House defense spending bill if it contains provisions protecting religious liberty, keeping the Guantanamo Bay prison open, cutting the Pentagon’s green energy program and other provisions that ...Obama opposes.” [45709]

TheDailyBeast.com reports, “The former host of ‘Erotica Night’ at a Baltimore bookstore will be the first-ever female No. 2 official at the CIA.” On July 12 “...Obama nominated Avril Danica Haines to be the deputy director of the CIA, replacing Michael Morell, who twice served as acting director of the agency but took much of the blame for editing the highly controversial talking points around the 2012 attack on the consulate in Benghazi. As a lawyer in the White House Counsel’s office, Haines oversaw the approval process for the CIA’s covert actions, acting as a vital link between the CIA and [Obama]. But 20 years ago, Haines opened and co-owned Adrian’s Book Café in the Baltimore waterfront neighborhood of Fells Point. She opened Adrian’s after dropping out of a graduate program in physics at Johns Hopkins University. The store featured regular ‘Erotica Nights,’ including dinner and a series of readings by guests of published work or their own prose, according to a 1995 report in the Baltimore Sun; couples could attend for \$30, while singles paid \$17.” (After word of Haines reading dirty novels out loud for a living spreads, Obama withdraws her nomination. Whether Bill Clinton or former Congressman Anthony Weiner plans on giving Haines a position is not known.) [46293, 46294, 46295]

WashingtonPost.com reports that Obama’s upcoming trip to Africa may cost the taxpayers as much as \$100 million—the most expensive trip ever taken by an Oval Office occupant. “Military cargo planes will airlift in 56 support vehicles, including 14 limousines and three trucks loaded with sheets of bullet-proof glass to cover the windows of the hotels where the first family will stay. Fighter jets will fly in shifts, giving 24-hour coverage over [Obama’s] airspace, so they can intervene quickly if an errant plane gets too close. ...The first family is making back-to-back stops from June 26 to July 3 in three countries where U.S. officials are providing nearly all the resources, rather than depending heavily on local police forces, military authorities or hospitals for assistance. ...Among the 56 vehicles for the trip are parade limousines for [Obama and his wife], a specialized communications vehicle for secure telephone and video connections, a truck that jams radio frequencies around the ...motorcade, a fully loaded ambulance that can handle biological or chemical contaminants and a truck for X-ray equipment. The Secret Service transports such vehicles, along with bulletproof glass, on most trips, including those inside the United States, White House officials said. But with quick stops in three countries, the agency will need three sets of each, because there is not enough time to transfer the equipment, according to the planning document. One hundred agents are needed as ‘post-standers’—to man security checkpoints and borders around [Obama]—in each of the first three cities he visits. Sixty-five are needed to meet up with Obama in Dar es Salaam. ...In addition, 80 to 100 additional agents will be flown in to work rotating shifts, with round-the-clock coverage, for Obama’s and his family’s security details, counterassault teams and logistics coordinators.” (For the record, Obama could hold conversations with foreign leaders via Skype at no cost to the taxpayers.) [45970, 45971]

Politico reports, “Dozens of lawmakers and aides are so afraid that their health insurance premiums will skyrocket next year thanks to Obamacare that they are thinking about retiring early or just quitting. The fear: Government-subsidized premiums will disappear at the end of the year under a provision in the health care law that nudges aides and lawmakers onto the government health care exchanges, which could make their benefits exorbitantly expensive. ...Sources said several aides have already given lawmakers notice that they’ll be leaving over concerns about Obamacare. Republican and Democratic lawmakers said the chatter about retiring now, to remain on the current health care plan, is constant. ...[ObamaCare contains] a provision known as the Grassley Amendment, which said the government can only offer members of Congress and their staff plans that are ‘created’ in the bill or ‘offered through an exchange’—unless the bill is amended. Currently, aides and lawmakers receive their health care under the generous Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. The government subsidizes upward of 75 percent of the premiums for the health insurance plans. In 2014, most Capitol Hill aides and lawmakers are expected to be put onto the exchanges, and there has been no guidance whether the government will subsidize those premiums. This is expected to cause a steep spike in health insurance costs.” Congressman John Larson (D-CT) says it is “simply not fair” to force legislators and staffers to abide by ObamaCare’s rules. (Larson voted for the legislation.) [45712, 45733, 45761, 45762]

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) warns that amnesty for illegal immigrants is Obama’s “number one political agenda item, because he knows we will never again have a Republican president, ever, if amnesty goes into effect. We will perpetually have a progressive, liberal president, probably a Democrat, and we will probably see the House of Representatives go into Democrat hands and the Senate will stay in Democrat hands.” [45713]

TheBlaze.com reports, “Seventy House Republicans are planning a politically risky showdown with Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) to try to force additional debate on an immigration bill they say will mean amnesty for illegal immigrants and have dire consequences for the country. The 70 members are petitioning for a special Republican conference meeting on the bill, a ‘highly unusual move to go head-to-head with the speaker, according to Reps. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Steve King (R-IA) and Louie Gohmert (R-TX), who are serving as spokespersons for the group. Bachmann, King and Gohmert told TheBlaze the group is invoking the Hastert Rule: requiring support from a majority of the majority to bring a bill forward.” Boehner responds to the challenge by caving in to the conservatives, telling reporters, “My goal is always to bring bills to the floor that have a strong Republican majority. Immigration reform—it’s a very difficult issue, but I don’t intend to bring an immigration reform bill to the floor that violates what I and what members of my party—what our principles are.” (In other words, the 70 Congressmen reminded Boehner of those principles. Obama hopes to get the House to pass the amnesty legislation with Democrat votes and some Republican votes—but that will not happen if conservatives can block a vote from taking place.) [45769, 45770, 45771]

Obama hosts an LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual] Pride Month reception at the White House. He states, “We’ve become not just more accepting; we’ve become more loving, as a country, and as a people. Hearts and minds change with time. Laws do, too. Change like that isn’t something that starts here in Washington, but it’s something that has the power that Washington has a great deal of difficulty resisting over time. ...I’ll continue to support marriage equality and states’ attempts to legalize it, including in my home state of Illinois. We’re not giving up on that. ...In 34 states, you can be fired just because of who you are or who you love. That’s wrong. We’ve got to change it. There’s a bipartisan bill moving forward in the Senate that would ban discrimination against all LGBT Americans in the workplace, now and forever. We need to get that passed. I want to sign that bill. We need to get it done now.” (Obama, who opposed gay while campaigning in 2008, now not only supports men marrying men and women marrying women, but men dressing as women at the office without fear of getting fired.) [45750]

Politico reports, “The White House announced Thursday that the Obama administration has concluded that the Assad regime has used chemical weapons ‘multiple times’ in Syria in the last year, resulting in the deaths of 100 to 150 people. The White House also announced that in response it would ‘increase the scope and scale of assistance that we provide to the opposition.’ ‘Following a deliberative review, our intelligence community assesses that the Assad regime has used chemical weapons, including the nerve agent sarin, on a small scale against the opposition multiple times in the last year,’ said Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes in a statement. Referring to ...Obama’s warning of chemical weapons use crossing a ‘red line,’ Rhodes said ‘he has said that the use of chemical weapons would change his calculus, and it has.’ As for a further response, ‘The United States and the international community have a number of other legal, financial, diplomatic, and military responses available. We are prepared for all contingencies, and we will make decisions on our own timeline.’” (Interestingly, the chemical weapons announcement comes from advisor Rhodes, rather than from Obama himself. That suggests that an indecisive Obama was reluctant to take action and did so only because of complaints from Bill Clinton and Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham.) [45744, 45745, 45746]

According to *The Washington Post*, an upcoming (June 26–July 3) trip to Africa for Obama and his family “...could cost the federal government \$60 million to \$100 million based on the costs of similar African trips in recent years, according to one person familiar with the journey, who was not authorized to speak for attribution. The Secret Service planning document, which was provided to The Post by a person who is concerned about the amount of resources necessary for the trip, does not specify costs.” Obama’s “deputy national security advisor for strategic communications,” Ben Rhodes, tells reporters, “The infrastructure that accompanies [Obama’s] travels is beyond our control. The security requirements are not White House-driven, they are Secret Service-driven.” The *Post* reports, “Military cargo planes will airlift in 56 support vehicles, including 14 limousines and three trucks loaded with sheets of bullet-proof glass to cover the windows of the hotels where the [Obama] family will stay. Fighter jets will fly in shifts, giving 24-hour coverage over [Obama’s] airspace, so they can intervene quickly if an errant plane gets too close. ...A Navy aircraft carrier or amphibious ship, with a fully

staffed medical trauma center, will be stationed offshore in case of an emergency.” [45715, 45716]

NationalReview.com reports that that the IRS may have fired Holly Paz, director of Rulings and Agreements, on June 7. Paz “served as the first line of management in Washington, D.C., that oversaw both the tax-law specialists who provided guidance to agents in Cincinnati reviewing tea-party applications and the Determinations Unit in Cincinnati charged with processing those applications. Paz has served in that position since January 2011, reporting directly to Lois Lerner... If Paz has indeed been let go, she would be the first employee fired by the IRS in connection with the targeting of conservative groups. Others have either retired or been placed on administrative leave...” (Paz, an Obama campaign donor, reportedly sat in on 36 of 41 interviews with IRS employees conducted by the Inspector General in its investigation of discriminatory treatment of conservative organizations.) [45112, 45113, 45119, 45123, 45128, 45202, 45222, 45299, 45721, 45825]

On Twitter, Congressman Steve King (R-IA) states, “20 brazen self professed illegal aliens have just invaded my DC office. Obama’s lawless order gives them de facto immunity from U.S. law.” [45722]

Actor and comedian Albert Brooks tweets, “Before we go to Syria to arm the rebels should we at least find out who they are?” [45735]

Showbiz411.com reports, “Hillary Clinton is busily writing her new book, due from Simon & Schuster probably on June 1, 2014 according to an amazon.com entry. The book will cover her time as [Obama’s] Secretary of State, no doubt including the events of Benghazi. The goal is to clear the air and have everything in place for her 2016 campaign for president. So who’s writing Hillary’s book? Or ghost-writing it? I can confirm that the person doing the heavy lifting is Edward “Ted” Widmer, 50, a former speechwriter for Bill Clinton with some heavy credentials. It’s still unclear how he will be billed.” [45725]

The White House web site adds a section with documents from the Founding Fathers with the title, “The Papers of the Founding Founders Are Now Online.” The heading is later corrected to read “Funding Fathers.” (In his speeches Obama has frequently used the term framers” or “founders,” rather than “Founding Fathers”—perhaps to be politically correct and not offend any mothers.) [45739, 45740, 45741]

CNN.com reports on the “sticker shock” Americans will face with the cost of health care under ObamaCare’s state-based exchanges. “Each state will offer four levels of coverage: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. Platinum plans come with the highest premiums, but lowest out-of-pocket expenses, while bronze plans carry lower monthly charges but require more cost-sharing. Gold and silver fall in the middle.” For Californians, the average monthly premium for the “silver” plan will be \$321, but added costs include a \$2,000 annual deductible, \$45 primary co-pay, \$65 specialty co-pay, \$250 emergency room payment, and a \$25 generic medication co-pay. The maximum out-of-pocket per

individual will be \$6,400. (That is, coverage will be 100 percent *after* the individual has paid \$6,400 out-of-pocket for the year.) CNN reports, “For those in need of frequent medical care, the platinum or gold plans would reduce out-of-pocket costs for treatment. These plans have no deductible, and doctors’ visits and medication are cheaper. But the trade-off is that they have higher monthly premiums. California has not yet released the premium range for these tiers. On the flip side, a young man who never visits the doctor and wants to minimize his monthly charge could opt for a bronze plan. A 40-year-old enrolling in this plan could pay as little as \$219 a month. But, if he did get sick, he’d get socked with a \$5,000 deductible, \$60 co-pays for primary care visits and a \$300 emergency room charge.” (Faced with the high costs of coverage, many uninsured Americans will simply go without insurance and pay the annual penalty of \$95 or, if greater, one percent of family income.) [45726]

In *Taitz v. Astrue*, a Washington, D.C. District Court Judge Royce C. Lambeth allows attorney Orly Taitz to file 74 pages of motions and exhibits related to Obama’s use of a stolen Social Security number. (Michael Astrue was the head of the Social Security Administration when the lawsuit was filed.) Taitz notes, “This is significant, as the motions... show that Barack Obama is using a stolen Social Security number of Harrison J. Bounel, born in 1890, immigrant from Russia, who is presumed to be deceased. At the time the case was originally filed and heard, the plaintiffs did not have new information that became available recently. Such information includes recently released census data which shows Harrison J. Bounel being born in 1890, recent disclosure to the public of the 120 year SSA rule, which requires release of SS-5, Social Security original application of ‘extremely aged individuals,’ meaning individuals of 120 years old or older without a consent of such individual and without a death certificate or any other proof of death, as well as recent report from Merlins Information Systems showing Barack Obama using both Bounel’s name and Social Security number in connection to his property at 5046 Greenwood in Chicago as late as 2009. All of this information placed Obama in the corner and with no way out... [Attorney General Eric] Holder... has until 06.27.2013 to file an opposition on behalf of the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, however at this time Social Security Administration cannot provide any justification or opposition. Holder, Obama and Carolyn W. Colvin, new Commissioner of SSA have to produce the application, which was filed by Harrison J. Bounel and which would be sufficient evidence not only for an impeachment of Obama, but also for criminal prosecution of Obama.” [45757, 45758]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer comments on the claim that the Syrian government has used chemical weapons on rebels who are fighting the Assad regime: “I think what we need to happen is for Obama to make a decision. If he wants to stay out, he should say so. And then there will be others, perhaps the French who are the mandatory colonial power in Lebanon and Syria in the past and sort of a historical connection with the Maronites in Lebanon, feel an obligation. Perhaps the French will intervene or the British. There are others in the Gulf who are really very upset about the way Iran, Hezbollah, Syria have this axis now with the Russians behind them who have opposed them and dominate them. So, they are allies. Everybody waits on the United States. When the Gulf War happened in 1990 and the invasion of Kuwait, nobody acted. But the

minute America said we are going to react with allies or without, everybody else joined the coalition. So, nothing happens until he says. But he has to say and unless he does, I think it's going to be a 'Hamlet' performance and you know what happens at the end of 'Hamlet'—everybody dies.” [45737]

On June 14 CBS News spokeswoman Sonya McNair states, “A cyber security firm hired by CBS News has determined through forensic analysis that [investigative reporter] Sharyl Attkisson’s computer was accessed by an unauthorized, external, unknown party on multiple occasions late in 2012. Evidence suggests this party performed all access remotely using Attkisson’s accounts. While no malicious code was found, forensic analysis revealed an intruder had executed commands that appeared to involve search and exfiltration of data. This party also used sophisticated methods to remove all possible indications of unauthorized activity, and alter system times to cause further confusion. CBS News is taking steps to identify the responsible party and their method of access.” Attkisson responds, “This wasn’t any ordinary malware of a phishing attempt. I assume someone wanted to see what I was working on. The privacy and security of every American citizen in his own home, not to mention the work of a journalist, is sacrosanct. The idea that an unknown party could come into your home electronically is upsetting and disturbing. .??. People should be disturbed that a reporter would be spied on and intimidated this way. I do feel that this was an attempt to make me feel intimidated.” (At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich notes, “Attkisson has led the way in exposing and covering Operation Fast and Furious, Solyndra and Benghazi. Again I ask the question: How many reporters and outlets was the Department of Justice secretly monitoring? I guarantee it doesn’t stop with the Associated Press and Fox News.”) [45700, 45701]

At TheDailyBeast.com Democrat consultant Kirsten Powers writes, “Hell hath no fury like the Washington establishment scorned. Since Edward Snowden came forward to identify himself as the leaker of the National Security Agency spying programs, the D.C. mandarins have been working overtime to discredit the man many view as a hero for revealing crucial information the government had wrongfully kept secret. Apparently, if you think hiding information about spying on Americans is bad, you are misguided. The *real* problem is that Snowden didn’t understand that his role is to sit and be quiet while the ‘best and the brightest’ keep Americans in the dark about government snooping on private citizens.” The excoriation of Snowden “is backward,” observes Powers. “It’s the institutions that need to demonstrate respect for the public they allegedly serve. If Snowden or any other American is skeptical of institutional power, it is not due to any personal failing on their part. The lack of respect is a direct outgrowth of the bad behavior of the nation’s institutions, behavior that has undermined Americans’ trust in them.” [45714]

“...When one major institution (the Washington media establishment) so seamlessly partners with another (the U.S. government) in trashing a whistleblower, it’s not hard to understand why Americans might be jaded. ...Apparently we are supposed to ‘respect institutions’ so much that we never feel entitled to information about how they operate, even when it involves our private communications. Only because of Snowden do we know that our government is storing records of our phone data that can be mined for God

only knows how long. ...Director of National Intelligence James Clapper blatantly lied to Congress about the activity of the NSA, and there seems to be no ramifications. Yet the Washington establishment wants to put Snowden in jail and throw away the key for telling the truth. We are told to blindly respect an institution that persecutes whistleblowers for leaks of overclassified government information while watching the Obama administration's leaking of secret government information to aggrandize [Obama] during his reelection campaign. So, please tell us more about how we should have more respect for our institutions." [45714]

While the Obama administration arms Syrian rebels, USA Today.com notes that one of their group's "April pledge of allegiance to al-Qaeda's replacement for Osama bin Laden suggests that the terrorist group's influence is not waning and that it may take a greater role in the Western-backed fight to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad. The pledge of allegiance by Syrian Jabhat al Nusra Front chief Abou Mohamad al-Joulani to al-Qaeda leader Sheik Ayman al-Zawahri was coupled with an announcement by the al-Qaeda affiliate in Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq, that it would work with al Nusra as well." (No reasonable person endorses Syria's president, Bashir al-Assad, but Obama's support for the rebels will not simply help remove Assad—it will help insure the establishment of an anti-American Syria controlled by al-Qaeda or the Muslims Brotherhood. Obama, either wittingly or unwittingly, is playing with fire. There is minimal public support in the United States for intervening in Syria, but Obama's claim that Syria has used chemical weapons, or "WMDs," helps boost that support by a small amount.) [45723, 45730, 45746, 45753, 45759, 45760, 45767]

CNSNews.com reports, "The IRS is looking to hire a 'diversity and inclusion' specialist, with a minimum salary of \$123,758 a year. The opening for a full-time 'Supervisory Diversity and Inclusion Specialist' at the agency's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. was announced on June 11 and is open until June 24. The Diversity Specialist will 'serve as a change agent to provide strategies, solutions, training, tools, resources and thought leadership on diversity and foster inclusion' across the workplace and 'build internal awareness' for diversity and inclusion throughout the agency." [45748]

FBI director Robert Mueller appears before the House Judiciary Committee and is questioned by Congressman Louie Gohmert (R-TX) about the agency's failure to prevent the Boston Marathon bombers. Gohmert states, "...You said the 'FBI did an excellent job, did a thorough job, don't know what else we could have done,' and according to the Russians, there's a great deal more that could have been done... The FBI never canvassed Boston mosques until four days *after* the April 15th attacks. If the Russians tell you that someone has been radicalized and you go check and see the mosques that they went to, then you get the articles of incorporation, as I have for the group that created the Boston mosques where these Tsarnaevs attended, and you'll find... the name Alamoudi which you'll remember because while you were FBI Director, this man who was so helpful to the Clinton administration with so many big things, he gets arrested at Dulles Airport by the FBI and he's now doing over 20 years for supporting terrorism. This is the guy that started the mosques where your Tsarnaevs were attending *and you didn't even bother to go check about the mosques?* And then when you have the pictures, why did no

one go to the mosque and say, who are these guys? ... Why was that not done since such a thorough job was done?" [45724, 45731]

Mueller responds, "Uh, your facts are not altogether well found—" Gohmert: "Point out specifically—" Mueller: "May I finish my—" Gohmert: "Point out specifically... sir, if you're going to call me a liar, you need to point out specifically where any facts are wrong." Mueller: "We went to the mosque prior to [the] Boston [bombing]." Gohmert: "Prior to Boston." Mueller: [raising his voice] Prior to Boston happening we were in that mosque talking to the imam several months beforehand as part of our outreach efforts." Gohmert: "Were you aware that those mosques were started by Alamoudi?" Mueller: "I've answered the question, sir." (AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller writes, "Outreach is a euphemism for submission. The masquerade of 'outreach' achieved its goal of deceiving and 'subduing' the dhimmi FBI. Americans were murdered in cold blood, but the FBI's 'outreach' with the terror mosque was successful." Imams at many mosques in the United States have specifically told followers *not* to cooperate with the FBI or other law enforcement agents.) [45724, 45731]

Iranians elect Hassan Rouhani as their next president. Reuters reports, "The 50 million eligible voters had a choice between six candidates to replace incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Having been vetted by Iran's electoral authorities, none is seen as a challenge to the Islamic Republic's 34-year-old system of clerical rule." (The White House later calls Rouhani's victory "a potentially hopeful sign," and the mainstream media in the United States laughably portrays Rouhani as a moderate. CNSNews.com writes, "Many [in the media] favored 'moderate,' some 'reformist,' others 'centrist' or 'reformist-backed.' Further labels ranged from 'pragmatic' (*New York Times*) to 'moderate conservative' (BBC), while the *Washington Post* described Rouhani as 'more cautious than reformist.'" Rouhani is none of those, and will take his marching orders from Iran's "supreme leader," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei—whose hand-picked committee approved all six candidates.) [45734, 45742, 45777, 45791, 45843]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) continues his harsh criticism of the Obama administration, telling the Faith and Freedom Coalition's "Road to Majority" Conference, "Using the machinery of government to target your political enemies is wrong. It was wrong when Nixon did it, and it's wrong now. ... We have to protect our constitutional rights and our Fourth Amendment rights as law-abiding citizens. And security should not be an excuse for the federal government to violate the constitutional rights of American citizens." Asked by DailyCaller.com his opinion of NSA leaker Edward Snowden, Cruz responds, "It depends on what the facts are. It depends what specific policy it is. It also depends on who Mr. Snowden, who he is, what his motives are, and what exactly his conduct was. If it is the case of the administration having place a program that is violating the constitutional rights of American Citizens, Mr. Snowden drew that to everyone's attention—then he may well have done an important public service. At the same time, if it is the case that he was operating from malicious motives, if it's the case he defects to a foreign nation as there has been some press speculation that he might, if it is the case that his disclosure have damaged US national security—then there are consequences violating the law. And I think we should not rush to judgment until we know what the facts are. I

think we need to determine what exactly the Obama administration's policy has been. We don't know. There have been a lot of questions raised by this so called whistle-blower. And right now, the Obama administration is essentially saying, 'Trust us.'" [45736]

On the Internet radio program, TruNews, Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-SC) is asked by host Rick Wiles, "While you guys are rounding up and deporting the illegal immigrants, any chance the House may actually pursue Barack Obama's phony identification papers? ...That's the original scandal, congressman." Duncan responds, "People should have voted against him in November. I'm afraid that that wouldn't get to the Supreme Court where it ought to get." Wiles: "But if we know they're lying about all these other things, why not go back and say, 'well maybe the first scandal was a lie, too?'" Duncan: "There you go. I'm all with you. So let's go back and revisit some of these things because Americans have questions about not only the IRS scandal but also about [Obama's] validity." [45802, 45803, 45832, 45838]

On HBO's *Real Time*, host Bill Maher comments on Obama's decision to arm Syrian rebels: "Obama made a speech a couple of weeks ago—remember that speech he made about the war on terror, that wars have to end? He quoted James Madison. He said, 'No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.' And now we have to get into another one? Can't we sit one of them out? Does every time the bat signal go off we have to answer it? ...[Obama] looks more like a pussy doing it [his late response to Syria's 'crossing the red line' with chemical weapons, only after Bill Clinton embarrassed him into doing something]. When a guy says you don't do something, you're a wuss and then the next day you do it, it's like your mother coming to school and beating up bullies. ...[W]e're basically arming al-Qaeda. I don't understand this... But haven't we learned—isn't the lesson we learn in the Middle East wars, the easy part is getting rid of the bad guy, it's what happens next [that's often the greater problem]?" (That is, the thugs who replace Syrian President Bashir al-Assad may be worse than Assad himself.) [45765, 45767, 45812, 45909, 45946]

On June 15 Sarah Palin addresses the Faith and Freedom Coalition conference, condemning the Obama administration's policies and calling them "Orwellian." Palin states, "You don't marginalize everyday, average Americans. Those who are part of the Tea Party, that want to protect the constitution. [Yet] the IRS can't figure out how it spent \$4 million dollars on a training conference because it lost its receipts... really?" Commenting on the NSA spy scandal, Palin notes that Director of National Security Intelligence James Clapper said he had merely used the "least untruthful statement" in telling Congress that the NSA was not capturing data on millions of Americans. "Now, where I come from," says Palin, "that is called a lie. Yes, the officials lied and government spied—and in Benghazi government lied and Americans died. ...Our government spied on every one of your phone calls, but they couldn't find two pot-smoking deadbeat Bostonians with a hotline to terrorist central in Chechnya. And it's built an apparatus to sneak into all of the good guy's communications, but whoopsie daisy, it missed the Fort Hood mass murder of our troops despite this Islamic terrorist declaring his ideology in numerous army counseling sessions and even on his own business cards." With regard to Syria, Palin says, "We're taking on more new

interventions? In these radical Islamic countries that are not even respecting basic human rights—where both sides are slaughtering each other as they scream over some arbitrary red line, ‘Allahu Akbar.’ I say until we have someone who knows what they’re doing, I say let Allah sort it out.” [45738]

HuffingtonPost.com’s Arianna Huffington tells radio host Brian Maloney, “Well, actually, we had a cover, ‘George W. Obama,’ where we see, you know, the far-reaching extension of what President Bush started in terms of the surveillance state under Obama. And the fact that many Democrats don’t feel as worried because they trust Obama shows that blithe assurances that the government can be trusted because we like the person who’s in the White House are absolutely meaningless. I mean, this is about principle. [Obama’s] statement that... we can’t have 100 percent security and 100 percent privacy and zero inconvenience, is just absurd. I mean, we cannot have 100 percent security no matter what we do and clearly haven’t had it. I mean, look at what has happened during the last few months.” [45914, 45915]

The Times reports, “Three hundred US Marines have been deployed to northern Jordan to pave the way for the West to arm Syrian rebels. A Patriot anti-aircraft missile system, designed to protect Jordanian territory from attack by Assad missiles, has also been moved into the area. The deployment, seen by *The Times* north of Al-Mafraq, has been put in place under cover of a military training exercise being held this week, but it will remain there for months.” [45753]

CNET.com reports, “The National Security Agency has acknowledged in a new classified briefing that it does not need court authorization to listen to domestic phone calls, a participant said.” Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) “...disclosed on Thursday that during a secret briefing to members of Congress, he was told that the contents of a phone call could be accessed ‘simply based on an analyst deciding that.’ If the NSA wants ‘to listen to the phone,’ an analyst’s decision is sufficient, without any other legal authorization required, Nadler said he learned. ‘I was rather startled,’ said Nadler, an attorney and congressman who serves on the House Judiciary committee. Not only does this disclosure shed more light on how the NSA’s formidable eavesdropping apparatus works domestically, it also suggests the Justice Department has secretly interpreted federal surveillance law to permit thousands of low-ranking analysts to eavesdrop on phone calls. ...Because the same legal standards that apply to phone calls also apply to e-mail messages, text messages, and instant messages, being able to listen to phone calls would mean the NSA analysts could also access the contents of Internet communications without going before a court and seeking approval. ...The NSA declined to comment to CNET.” (Nadler later reverses himself and states, “I am pleased that the administration has reiterated that, as I have always believed, the NSA cannot listen to the content of Americans’ phone calls without a specific warrant.”) [45768, 45776, 45786]

According to Engadget.com, “AT&T has begun rolling out Wireless Emergency Alerts updates for iPhone 4S and 5, so you won’t be the last folks to know if the entire northern hemisphere is about to be covered in ice à la *Day After Tomorrow*. You’ll receive a notification from the carrier when your update is ready, but only if you’re using iOS 6.1

or higher. Once installed, AMBER and Emergency alerts are automatically sent to your phone unless you switch them off via Settings, but you can't disable [Obama] alerts." [45772, 45773, 45797]

On June 16, Father's Day, the White House "tweets" a photograph of Obama and his younger daughter playing with toy guns. [45775]

Townhall.com's Guy Benson reports that an ObamaCare "loophole" will "hammer low-wage workers." Although medium and large-sized companies will be required to provide "affordable" health insurance to full-time workers, many of those employees will hardly be able to afford the policies—partly because ObamaCare prohibits "no-frills" coverage that is more reasonably priced. As a result, employers will avoid penalties by providing coverage, but workers who cannot afford the premiums for that coverage will face penalties for not buying the insurance that is offered. Benson writes, "Basically, major employers of low-wage workers can technically satisfy the law's requirement that they offer 'affordable' coverage to full-time employees, even if the new rates aren't actually affordable in reality. Unable to pay the premiums being offered by their employers, and ineligible for taxpayer subsidies to obtain coverage on their own (because they're 'choosing' not to accept their 'affordable' employer options), many of these workers will determine they have no choice but to remain uninsured—and will pay the anti-middle class Obamacare mandate tax for the privilege of doing so." (The ObamaCare legislation considers insurance "affordable" if it costs no more than 9.5 percent of the employee's income. If an employee earns \$25,000 per year, ObamaCare considers that employee able to afford insurance premiums of up to \$2,375 per year.) [45733, 45747]

On *Face the Nation*, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough says the Obama administration is not rushing to war in Syria, although its assistance to the rebels will "expand." "Why are we doing that? We're doing that because we want to make sure that Syrians who want to take charge of their own country have the ability to do that." [45790]

On CNN's *State of the Union*, Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, says, "I can't tell you how strong we need to make this clear. The NSA is not listening to Americans' phone calls, and it is not monitoring their emails. If it did, it's illegal. It's breaking the law. ... I could go get a warrant on a criminal case, yes, absolutely, but that's very, very different. And I think they think that there's this mass surveillance of what you're saying on your phone call and what you're typing in your emails. That is just not happening. And it's important, I think, for people to understand because there's all this misinformation about what these programs are. That's why I hope coming out and talking about how they've disrupted plots in this very narrow, very tight program will show Americans, hey, listen, they protected our privacy, they followed the rule. They have a court order. I mean, they're doing this right, and it is protecting the United States from terrorist attacks being plotted from overseas. This is an important program to continue." (Rogers does not explain how capturing data from communications between Americans within the United States protects the nation from overseas plots.) [45780]

On *Fox News Sunday* former Vice president Dick Cheney says, “The problem is the guy [Obama] has failed to be forthright and honest and credible on things like Benghazi and the IRS, so he’s got no credibility.” Cheney calls the IRS targeting program “one of the worst abuses of power imaginable. It clearly was used for political purposes to go after a particular category of organizations. That is the kind of gross abuse of power that everybody is legitimately concerned about. I have trouble believing that two guys in Cincinnati dreamed this scheme up. I just don’t think that’s true.” On Obama’s choice of Susan Rice to be his next national security advisor, Cheney says, “She appears to have been part of the cover-up. She went out and peddled the party line that had been put together at the State Department. I question... someone’s judgment who was so flawed that they took what was apparently very bad information and peddled it as aggressively as she did. I think what she did was a huge mistake.” [45774, 45781]

WND.com reports that Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) “is ripping” Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) “and other Republicans for facilitating the Democratic approach to immigration reform and deceiving the American people about what’s in the legislation. Rubio stated repeatedly in recent weeks that effective border security was essential to getting his vote for the final version, despite his role in drafting the original bill. Earlier this week, however, Rubio told a Univision audience, in Spanish, that the effort to legalize the millions of illegal immigrants in the U.S. was the top priority. ‘Let’s be clear,’ Rubio said. ‘Nobody is talking about preventing the legalization. The legalization is going to happen. That means the following will happen: First comes the legalization. Then come the measures to secure the border. And then comes the process of permanent residence.’” Rohrabacher states, “This is just a lot of weasel words that Rubio and these people are throwing in. They’re going to legalize the status of people here illegally. Once they do that, that is an amnesty. And once they do that, there will be no border security improvements. It’ll all be a façade. ... We have been in an era of massive propaganda and pressure on each and every one of us, from the big-moneyed interests in our districts who want cheap labor to the liberal news media that want to further the cause of the liberal left. They’ve been pushing, pushing, pushing. ... I would consider [a House vote on the Senate bill] a betrayal of the Republican members of the House and a betrayal of Republicans throughout the country. “If Speaker [John] Boehner moves forward and permits this to come to a vote even though a majority of Republicans in the House oppose whatever is coming to a vote, he should be removed as speaker.” [45806, 45807]

In London, Russian President Vladimir Putin criticizes both sides in the Syrian conflict, although he supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Putin objects to providing aid and arms to the rebels, saying, “I believe you will not deny the fact that one hardly should back those who kill their enemies and, you know, eat their organs and all that is filmed and shot. Are these the people you want to support? Is it them you want to supply with weapons? So, in this case, it has hardly any relation to the communitarian and cultural values that Europe has been professing for centuries. In Russia, we cannot imagine such things happening.” (The comment is a thinly-veiled criticism of Obama, who is arming Syrian rebels without really knowing who they are—unless he knows they include fighters who, during training at an al-Qaeda camp, sing, “We destroyed America with a

civilian airplane. The World Trade Center was turned into rubble. The World Trade Center was turned into rubble. If they call me a terrorist, I will consider it an honor. Our terror is blessed, a divine call. Our terror is blessed, a divine call.” “You can see,” says Putin, “there are very big differences between the analysis we have of what happened in Syria and who is to blame, but where there is common ground is we both see a humanitarian catastrophe; we both see the dangers of instability and extremism; we both want to see a peace conference and a transition.” [45789, 45792, 45801, 45808, 45830, 45836]

On June 17 Obama and his family arrive in Belfast, Ireland. Obama attends the G8 summit. According to the *Irish Independent*, “No expense has been spared in catering for the comforts of Mrs. Obama and her party. It is understood she will stay in the luxurious €2,500-a-night [about \$3,300] Princess Grace suite. [The Obama daughters stay in an adjoining suite.] It is understood a total of 30 rooms in the five-star, 265-bedroom hotel, have been booked for the visit of Mrs. Obama and her entourage. During their stay in Dublin, Mrs. Obama and her daughters will visit Trinity College where they will view the Book of Kells. ...Sources are playing down the prospect of Mrs. Obama going on an unplanned sightseeing and shopping trip in Dublin due to security considerations.” (The 30 rooms are for Michelle Obama and her “support staff” and do not include accommodations for her husband and his entourage.) [45784, 45808, 45815, 45853, 45894]

Obama makes an absurd comparison between the fighting in Syria and the Catholic-Protestant conflict in Ireland. Obama says, “Beyond these shores right now in scattered corners of the world there are people living in the grip of conflict, ethnic conflict, religious conflict, tribal conflicts. And they are groping for a way to find a way to discover how to move beyond the heavy hand of history—to put aside the violence... And they’re wondering perhaps if Northern Ireland can achieve peace we can too. So you’re their blueprint to follow.” (Syrians would be wise to ignore Obama’s advice—unless the decades of conflict in Ireland is a “blueprint” that appeals to them.) Obama says of Northern Ireland’s politicians, “You’re proof of what is possible—because hope is contagious. They’re watching to see what you do next.” [45814]

Obama also says, “If towns remain divided—if Catholics have their schools and buildings [that is, churches] and Protestants have theirs, if we can’t see ourselves in one another and fear or resentment are allowed to harden—that too encourages division and discourages cooperation.” The remark prompts outrage from the Catholic Church, with *Catholic World News* writing, “Ironically, ...Obama made his comments just as Archbishop Gerhard Müller, the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, told a crowd in Scotland that religious education upholds the dignity of the human person. Archbishop Müller said that Catholic schools should promote ‘all that is good in the philosophies of societies and human culture.’” Father John Zuhlsdorf states, “Another example of what this man [Obama] wants: total isolation of any religious values in the private sphere alone. ...Obama is working either to intimidate or legislate or even TAX religious freedom out of the public square. Off the top of my head, I can’t think of a foreign visit to an Islamic nation where he told people on his arrival that they shouldn’t

have madrasas. Can you? Did he, when visiting... Israel, say, 'You Jews shouldn't have synagogue schools and you Muslims shouldn't have mosque schools.' I can't remember. Did he?" (Obama apparently believes all schools should be run by the government—except perhaps Muslim schools—and his remark suggests that he did not even consider that anyone would disagree with him. He may just as well have said, "How dare Catholics have Catholic schools!" At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod reminds readers of Obama's anti-Catholic stance, writing, "Anyone... who doesn't feel a shiver down the spine when recalling that Obama successfully had authorities at Notre Dame cover all religious symbols when he made his 2009 commencement speech there, isn't awake.") [45874, 45888, 45893, 45897, 45906, 45912, 45919, 45932]

In a pre-recorded PBS interview, Obama tells host Charlie Rose, "What I can say unequivocally is that if you are a U.S. person, the NSA cannot listen to your telephone calls, and the NSA cannot target your emails—" Rose interrupts, "And have not?" Obama: "And have not. They cannot and have not, by law and by rule, and unless they... go to a court, and obtain a warrant, and seek probable cause." (Obama's use of "U.S. person" would be considered strange by most Americans, who would say, "U.S. citizen." Obama is perhaps being mindful of millions of illegal immigrants, who he apparently believes should be treated as though they are U.S. citizens.) [45905]

Obama says the NSA spy program "is transparent. That's why we set up the FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] court. The whole point of my concern, before I was [in the White House]—because some people say, 'Well, you know, Obama was this raving liberal before. Now he's, you know, Dick Cheney.' Dick Cheney sometimes says, 'Yeah, you know? He took it all lock, stock, and barrel.' My concern has always been not that we shouldn't do intelligence gathering to prevent terrorism, but rather are we setting up a system of checks and balances? So, on this telephone program, you've got a federal court with independent federal judges overseeing the entire program. And you've got Congress overseeing the program, not just the intelligence committee and not just the judiciary committee—but all of Congress had available to it before the last reauthorization exactly how this program works." (HotAir.com comments, "Regardless of whether you like or dislike the NSA's programs, can't we all concede it and the secret FISA court of secret rulings that govern it are not 'transparent?' It'd be a more honest argument for [Obama] to say they can't be transparent in order to work correctly, but that the FISA checks and balances are sufficient. To claim they're 'transparent' just sounds silly.") [45805, 45819, 45822]

Rose: "So I hear you saying, I have no problem with what NSA has been doing." Obama: "Well, let me, let me finish, because I don't—so, what happens is that the FBI, if, in fact, it now wants to get content; if, in fact, it wants to start tapping that phone, it's got to go to the FISA court with probable cause and ask for a warrant." Rose: "But has FISA court turned down any request?" Obama: "The... because... the... first of all, Charlie, the number of requests are surprisingly small. [That is] Number one. Number two, folks don't go with a query unless they've got a pretty good suspicion." (According to Salon.com, "In 2012, the government made 1,789 applications to the court—one was withdrawn by the government and 40 were modified by the court, but 'the FISC [Foreign

Intelligence Surveillance Court] did not deny any applications in whole or in part,' the report [to senior members of Congress] states. In 2011, there were 1,676 applications, of which two were withdrawn and 30 modified, but once again, 'The FISC did not deny any applications in whole, or in part.' In 2010, there were 1,511 applications, of which five were withdrawn and 14 modified, but 'The FISC did not deny any applications in whole, or in part.'" At Morning Jolt, *National Review's* Jim Geraghty later points out, "Remember, in a FISA court, there is no equivalent of a defense attorney speaking on behalf of the person being investigated. It is not an adversarial court. Nobody speaks for you, Joe Citizen. The government makes its case, and the judge either says, 'okay,' or 'no, I'm not convinced.' Take a guess at how that works out..." [45805, 45819, 45822]

Obama continues, "We're going to have to find ways where the public has an assurance that there are checks and balances in place; that their phone calls aren't being listened into; their text messages aren't being monitored, their e-mails are not being read by some big brother somewhere. ... And what I want to do is to set up and structure a national conversation, not only about these... programs, but also the general problem of data, big data sets, because this is not going to be restricted to government entities." (Obama does not explain why "big data sets" even exist if the information is not being captured by the government. Nor does he explain why legislation related to *foreign* surveillance allows the government to record *any* information about communications between U.S. citizens within their own country. Additionally, millions of Americans simply believe Obama is lying when he claims their communications are not being monitored. Many of them also certainly recall that, as a Senator, he criticized President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney for the very programs he now says are not a threat to anyone's privacy.) [45805, 45822]

DailyCaller.com reports, "The White House is playing a larger role in developing the Gang of Eight's immigration bill than its supporters publicly admit, according to a forthcoming article in *The New Yorker*. 'No decisions are being made without talking to us about it,' the official said of the Gang of Eight negotiations... 'This does not fly if we're not O.K. with it,' a senior Obama official told author Ryan Lizza for the pending article. White House officials also believe the emerging bill will be a huge success for ...Obama. ...Obama met with four top Democrats pushing the bill on Thursday, and a White House spokesman said earlier that White House lawyers are participating in the drafting of the bill. But Obama and White House officials have kept a low profile to avoid deterring GOP cooperation. However, they expect to seize the credit from Latinos once a bill is signed, the *New Yorker* article said. 'We're not worried about short-term political credit. We'll get plenty of it if it gets signed,' the official told *The New Yorker*. ...The 1,077-page bill is expected to provide amnesty to at least 11 million illegal immigrants, bring in another 20 million people over the next decade, accelerate the future inflow of immigrants' relatives, increase the supply of agricultural laborers and boost the annual inflow of blue-collar and professional guest-workers above 1 million." [45779, 45796]

Obama's approval rating plummets to 45 percent in a CNN/ORC International poll—a drop of eight points since mid-May. A majority, 54 percent, disapprove of Obama's job

performance—up nine points. Among independents, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 37/61. CNN.com notes, “The poll indicates that for the first time... half of the public says they don’t believe [Obama] is honest and trustworthy. And Americans are split on the controversial National Security Agency anti-terrorism program to record metadata on U.S. phone calls, but they support the NSA program that targets records of Internet usage by people in other countries. That doesn’t mean they necessarily like what is going on: Just over six in 10 believe that government is so large and powerful that it threatens the rights and freedoms of ordinary Americans. ...Six in 10 disapprove of how Obama is handling government surveillance of U.S. citizens, which is higher than the 52% who disapproved of George W. Bush on the same issue in 2006, when government surveillance was also in the headlines. ...The number of Americans who think [Obama] is honest has dropped nine points over the past month, to 49%. Fifty-seven percent of those questioned say they disagree with [Obama’s] views on the size and power of the federal government, and 53% say he cannot manage the government effectively.” [45782, 45783, 45785, 45827]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Supreme Court ruled Monday that states cannot on their own require would-be voters to prove they are U.S. citizens before using a federal registration system designed to make signing up easier. The justices voted 7–2 to throw out Arizona’s voter-approved requirement that prospective voters document their U.S. citizenship in order to use a registration form produced under the federal ‘Motor Voter’ voter registration law. Federal law ‘precludes Arizona from requiring a federal form applicant to submit information beyond that required by the form itself,’ Justice Antonia Scalia wrote for the court’s majority. ... Arizona officials say they should be able to pass laws to stop illegal immigrants and other noncitizens [sic] from getting on their voting rolls. The Arizona voting law was part of a package that also denied some government benefits to illegal immigrants and required Arizonans to show identification before voting.” (The ruling effectively means that an individual can fill out a postcard and register to vote without providing proof of citizenship.) [45787, 45795, 45798]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) responds to the Supreme Court ruling by stating he will propose an amendment to the immigration legislation that would allow states to require presentation of valid identification before registering a person to vote. [45813]

Fox News also reports, “A Washington-based IRS supervisor acknowledged she was personally involved in reviewing Tea Party applications for tax-exempt status as far back as 2010... a detail that further challenges the agency’s initial claim that the practice of singling out those groups was limited to a handful of employees in Ohio. Congressional sources confirmed to Fox News that Holly Paz, who until recently was a top deputy in the division that handles applications for tax-exempt status, told congressional investigators she reviewed 20 to 30 applications. Some requests languished for more than a year without action. The account undercuts the narrative that senior officials only learned of the practice after it had already started in the Cincinnati office. ...Paz said dozens of tea party applications sat untouched for more than a year while field agents waited for guidance from Washington on how to handle them.” Remarkably, Paz claims she thought “Tea Party” meant any political group with an application for tax-exempt status, telling

Congressional investigators, “Since the first case that came up to Washington happened to have that name, it appeared to me that’s why they were calling it that as a shorthand.” [45788, 45825]

The House of Representatives votes unanimously to approve an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 that would prohibit any funding meant to implement the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty—a treaty Obama supports, even though it infringes on the Second Amendment rights of all Americans. [45889]

Donald Berwick, Obama’s former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, announces he is running for governor in Massachusetts. (Berwick is a supporter of socialized medicine and has praised the National Health Service (NHS) system in Great Britain. In 2008 Berwick said in a speech, “...any health care funding plan that is just, equitable, civilized, and humane must, *must* redistribute wealth from the richer among us to the poorer and the less fortunate. Excellent health care is by definition redistributive [sic]. ...Britain, you chose well. ...I am romantic about the NHS; I love it. All I need to do to rediscover the romance is to look at health care in my own country. ...I cannot believe that the individual health care consumer can enforce through choice the proper configurations of a system as massive and complex as health care. That is for leaders to do.” (In other words, Berwick believes that Americans are too stupid to purchase health insurance and choose doctors on their own and need the government making those decisions for them.) [11177, 11178, 11212, 11287, 11345, 11346]

The Associated Press reports, “The head of Homeland Security’s immigration enforcement agency is leaving his job after more than four years. John Morton, director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, says in a note sent to ICE employees Monday that he’s leaving his job at the end of July and to take a position at a private company. He did not identify the company.” (Morton is perhaps hoping to find a job where he will be expected to follow and enforce, rather than ignore, the rules, regulations, and laws.) [45793]

At NationalReview.com Eliana Johnson reports, “Applications of pro-Israel groups for tax-exempt status are routinely routed to an antiterrorism unit within the Internal Revenue Service for additional screening, according to the testimony of a Cincinnati-based IRS agent. Asked whether Jewish or pro-Israel applications are treated differently from other applications, Gary Muthert told House Oversight Committee investigators that they are considered ‘specialty cases’ and that ‘probably’ all are sent to an IRS unit that examines groups for potential terrorist ties. Muthert, who served as an application screener before transferring to the agency’s antiterrorism unit, was interviewed in connection with the committee’s investigation into the IRS’s discrimination against conservative groups. As a screener, Muthert flagged tea-party applications and passed them along to specialists for further scrutiny.” [45794]

NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden answers questions online at the website of *The Guardian*, the British newspaper that broke his story. Snowden says, “Being called a traitor by Dick Cheney is the highest honor you can give an American, and the more

panicked talk we hear from people like him... the better off we all are. This is a man who gave us the warrantless wiretapping scheme as a kind of atrocity warm-up on the way to deceitfully engineer a conflict that has killed over 4,400 and maimed nearly 32,000 Americans, as well as leaving over 100,000 Iraqis dead. ...All I can say right now is the U.S. government is not going to be able to cover this up by jailing or murdering me. Truth is coming, and it cannot be stopped.” Snowden also says, “[The] NSA likes to use ‘domestic’ as a weasel word... for a number of reasons. The reality is that due to the FISA Amendments Act and its section 702 authorities, Americans’ communications are collected and viewed on a daily basis on the certification of an analyst rather than a warrant. They excuse this as ‘incidental’ collection, but at the end of the day, someone at NSA still has the content of your communications. Even in the event of ‘warranted’ intercept, it’s important to understand the intelligence community doesn’t always deal with what you would consider a ‘real’ warrant like a police department would have to. The ‘warrant’ is more of a templated [sic] form they fill out and send to a reliable judge with a rubber stamp. ...If I target, for example, an email address... under FAA 702, and that email address sent something to you, Joe America, the [NSA] analyst gets it. All of it. IPs, raw data, content, headers, attachments, everything. And it gets saved for a very long time—and can be extended further with waivers rather than warrants.” [45799]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “A new 253-page Obamacare rule issued late Friday requires state, federal and local agencies as well as health insurers to swap the protected personal health information of anybody seeking to join the new health care program that will be enforced by the Internal Revenue Service. Protected health information, or PHI, is highly protected under federal law, but the latest ruling from the Department of Health and Human Services allows agencies to trade the information to verify that Obamacare applicants are getting the minimum amount of health insurance coverage they need from the health ‘exchanges.’ ...The new ruling surprised some congressional critics. ‘This sounds as if HHS [Health and Human Services] will have access to [my] protected health info...’ said one top Hill aide worried about how well the administration will protect that information. ...PHI includes an individual’s medical history, test and laboratory results, insurance information and other data.” [45800]

PatriotAction.net posts an interview with former navy SEAL Ben Smith, who asks, “Is it not the Crusades? That’s how they [radical Islamists] see it. The Crusades never stopped in their eyes. In our eyes this is just a war on terror... Do you still think we won the cold war when [Obama] is a ...socialist and communist [as are] the people he puts around him? It’s a chess board where they’ve got the king and we’re just the pawns on the board...” [45804]

CNSNews.com reports, “[T]he federal government spent \$138.732 billion more in May than it took in through tax revenues...” [45829]

Reuters reports, “Seven students, two teachers and two insurgents were killed when suspected members of Nigerian Islamist sect Boko Haram attacked a school in the northeastern town of Damaru, the military said. Groups like Boko Haram and the al Qaeda-linked Ansaru have become the biggest risk to stability in Nigeria, Africa’s top oil

producer and second-largest economy. ...Boko Haram, which roughly translates as 'Western education is sinful,' has attacked several schools in the past." (The Obama administration has refused to designate Boko Haram a terrorist organization.) [45844, 45845, 45846, 46074, 46094]

ForeignPolicy.com's The Cable reports, "The State Department investigator who accused colleagues last week of using drugs, soliciting prostitutes, and having sex with minors says that [the department] is now engaged in an 'intimidation' campaign to stop her. Last week's leaks by Aurelia Fedenisn, a former State Department inspector general investigator, shined a light on alleged wrongdoing by U.S. officials around the globe. But her attorney Cary Schulman tells The Cable that Fedenisn has paid a steep price: 'They had law enforcement officers camp out in front of her house, harass her children and attempt to incriminate herself.' ...Kerry Howard says she was bullied, harassed and forced to resign after she exposed US Consul General Donald Moore's alleged security-threatening shenanigans in the Naples, Italy, office. 'It's cover-up after cover-up. It's absolutely hideous,' she told The Post. 'When our diplomats disrespect the Italians by hiring and firing them because they have seen too much—or use them for 'sex-ercise'—we have to question why we have diplomats abroad at taxpayer expense.'" [45822, 45823]

Jed Babbin writes at Spectator.org, "The Obama administration has reached the unenviable stage in which it's almost impossible to determine where one scandal ends and another begins. The most recent case in point is ...Obama's decision to kinda sorta intervene in the Syrian civil war that is now in its third year. ...Some on the right are saying that Obama is wagging the dog, creating a phony military conflict to take the media's attention off the scandals in which his administration is awash. But that's not what he's doing. It's much worse than that. ...Obama didn't bother to engineer any drama over Syria. There was no speech, no bombs fell. He's not even bothering to try to wag the dog. ...It's impossible to say what outcome [the administration] seek[s] because [Obama] is evidently writing off any prospect of affecting the outcome. Which probably doesn't matter much because the Syrian rebellion is about nothing more than which bunch of terrorists rules that country for the foreseeable future. ...So what are we really trying to do... in this less-than-half-hearted manner? ...Obama's mini-intervention in Syria is driven by the same sort of domestic political considerations, not by a foreign policy agenda. Obama is bombarded daily by John McCain who wants to do a lot more in Syria than Obama does. McCain wants to risk American pilots' lives by establishing a no-fly zone against Assad's forces. McCain has been to Syria, met with some of the rebels, and returned to demand more support for them. Even Bill Clinton reportedly said that Obama would look like a 'total fool' if he proceeded cautiously on Syria. We don't know which of Obama's advisors were exerting the 'heavy pressure' to act on him that the Times reports, or what their motivations may be. (Samantha Power, Obama's nominee for UN ambassador, is more of an interventionist than McCain. This pointless, irrelevant action sounds like something she'd advocate.) ...Neither Assad nor Putin, far less the ayatollahs in Tehran, will be very upset with Obama's actions. (In response to Obama's tiptoeing into the conflict, Iran reportedly is sending 4,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps troops to fight for Assad.) They know, better than he, that arming and training the rebels with light weapons isn't going to change anything.

...Obama has rendered America irrelevant to what is happening in the Middle East. The path for Russia, Iran, and others—including China—is clear for them do anything they'd like." [45908]

Some prominent liberals agree with the criticism of Obama over Syria. In a radio interview with Bill Press, former New York governor Eliot Spitzer says, "You know, the problem that [Obama] has on this one is that, first, he's been sort of making incremental tactical easy decisions or hard decisions but the small decisions along the way, he says, 'Assad must go, this is genocide, there's a red line with chemical weapons.' And yet each time that the red line is crossed, Assad is still there, chemical weapons we now acknowledge have been used, and we're sending them [Syrian rebels] a few BB guns. And so, the reaction has not been commensurate with the magnitude of the violation on their part. And the reason they—look, [Obama] could very easily have said early on, this is a civil war which will have horrific consequences but it's not our battle, we cannot get pulled into it. If he had done that, then he would at least have had an articulable [sic] and consistent position and perhaps we would be looking on with horror but it wouldn't be, every time, now what are you doing, [Obama]? ...Instead, by saying we're getting incrementally involved but we don't do anything, he's looking both weak and irresolute and it's a bad situation." (NewsBusters.org comments, "Put another way, Obama's been in over his head since day one and a growing number of liberals are belatedly starting to notice.") [45903]

On *Special Report*, Fox News senior political analyst Brit Hume observes, "...Obama's handling of the deteriorating situation in Syria follows a pattern traceable through much of his political career. When the issues are difficult and the options unappetizing, he tends simply to go away. Recall his history of voting present in the Illinois legislature. But when you're [in the Oval Office] you can't simply vote present. Eventually, you have to decide. So he often decides but says as little about it as possible. His decision to send small arms to the Syrian insurgents was announced by a junior White House aide. We've heard nothing since. When the NSA phone number database blew up into headlines, Mr. Obama answered a question about it in passing, but then went silent. It has fallen to members of both parties in Congress and to the likes of Dick Cheney to mount a public defense of the program. But none of them has the platform or the megaphone commanded by [Obama]. He, though, apparently feels that to use it on such issues as Syria and the NSA would only call attention to policies his allies on the left are already upset about. Which raises the question of whether Mr. Obama's decision to both do and say as little as possible on the fateful night in Benghazi, Libya last September sprang from the same political impulse. But foreign policy and defense are the one area in which the federal government and the executive branch have sole responsibility. Silence may be a way to duck but it is not a way to lead." [45870]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, CBS investigative Sharyl Attkisson discusses the hacking of her computers, stating she assumes it was "related to what I was working on" such as reports on Operation Fast and Furious, "some green energy debacle... stimulus spending stories [Solyndra]," and "the Benghazi stories." Attkisson says, "I think I know [the identity of the hacker]. But I'm just not prepared to go into that. We're continuing our

investigations. There are multifaceted looks at what to do next. ...Let me just say, whoever did it, to come into a private citizen's home, whether I'm a journalist or not, and look in my family's computer and look into my work computer. ...Well, it's outrageous." [45809, 45820, 45824]

On June 18 General Keith B. Alexander, Director of the National Security Agency, tells the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence that the agency's phone record program has stopped more than 50 terrorist attacks around the world since September 11, 2001, including 10 in the United States. Deputy Attorney General James Cole tells the committee, "We don't get any content, we don't listen in on anybody's calls." (Cole does not explain how the program was able to thwart terrorist attacks if NSA employees "don't get any content" or "listen in on anybody's calls.") Deputy FBI Director Sean Joyce states, "The program is not intentionally used to target any U.S. citizens. The program is key in our counter terrorism efforts." (Joyce's lawyerly statement, of course, implies that the program is used to unintentionally spy on U.S. citizens.) [45810, 45847]

Liberal author Noam Chomsky is interviewed by Laura Flanders at GrifTV.org. Commenting on the NSA spy program, Chomsky says, "If we had anything like a free press, there would be headlines saying this is a bad joke." On drone policies, he says, "The Obama administration is dedicated to increasing terrorism. As a matter of fact, it's doing it all over the world. Obama, first of all, is running the biggest terrorist operation that exists, maybe in history. The drone assassination campaigns, which are just part of it, special forces operations and so on, all of these operations, they are terror operations." [45972, 45973]

Liberal journalist Michael Hastings is killed in an automobile accident in Los Angeles. PJMedia.com notes, "Hastings, 33, was best known for writing the *Rolling Stone* story that ended in Gen. Stanley McChrystal's resignation as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. Hastings' final story, 'Why Democrats Love to Spy on Americans,' was a searing take on the NSA snooping scandal, which Hastings described as 'North Korea-esque.' Hastings pulled no punches as he linked the NSA scandal to the Department of Justice's spying on reporters and the IRS abuse scandal. Hastings built a case that the same Democrats who turned Bush-era anti-terrorism techniques into wedge issues that helped them capture Congress and the White House in 2006 and 2008 were now defending much worse and more widespread spying on American citizens by the Obama administration. ...Hastings died in a fatal single-car crash at 4:25 on Tuesday morning. A witness said his car 'suddenly jackknifed' before crossing the median and hitting a tree, causing a ferocious explosion that reportedly threw the engine block of the brand new Mercedes Hastings was driving 30 or 40 yards from the car. Mercedes engine blocks typically weigh between 290 and 540 pounds. It would take tremendous speed or force to throw one nearly half the length of a football field. 'It sounded like a bomb went off in the middle of the night,' another witness told the TV station. 'The house shook, my windows were rattling.' Hastings' body was burned 'beyond recognition,' according to reports." [45916, 45917, 45929, 45934, 45955, 46120, 46604, 46715]

ClashDaily.com asks if Hastings was “murdered for his scathing NSA story?” *The Telegraph* reports, ““Michael Hastings contacted WikiLeaks lawyer Jennifer Robinson just a few hours before he died, saying that the FBI was investigating him. ... So what is WikiLeaks trying to say...? Is it simply priming us for a revelation about why Hastings was being investigated? Or is it trying to imply that there’s some link between Hastings contacting Jennifer Robinson and the journalist’s death? If so, we might have—in the words of Michael Moynihan—a peg for yet another kind of truther.” At Townhall.com, Derek Hunter later compares the media’s reporting of the death of liberal journalist Hastings and the death of conservative journalist Andrew Breitbart. Hunter writes, “Calling it liberal media bias is too easy, and too small. For all their talk of ‘rebels’ and ‘speaking truth to power,’ the one thing the media culture values more than anything is conformity. Not Conformity of clothes, of hairstyles, tattoos or anything superficial, but the most dangerous and damaging type—conformity of thought. ... Matt Taibbi, a despicable waste of human flesh, wrote a glowing memorial of Hastings the day after news of his death broke. It was filled with praise for a man he admits he didn’t know well, but that didn’t stop him from writing, ‘For him it was all about getting the story, and at the terribly young age of 33 he was obviously already a master at that.’ Taibbi was a fan of Hastings because he agreed with Hastings. Not as a result of anything Hastings wrote, but in the concept before it was written. They were of the Left. When leftists ‘speak truth to power’ it’s because they weren’t being ‘Left enough.’ On the other hand, Taibbi published a piece at 3:10 pm the day Andrew Breitbart died, before many of his friends had even heard the news of his death, entitled, ‘Andrew Breitbart: Death of a Douche.’ Less than 24 hours after the man was gone, this vapid partisan ended his opening paragraph with ‘I couldn’t be happier that he’s dead.’” (It is worth noting that Breitbart died shortly after announcing he was about to release damning information about Obama, and Hastings died while investigating the Muslim-convert CIA Director John Brennan. Hastings’ widow, Elise Jordan, vows to “take down whoever did this.”) [45916, 45917, 45929, 45934, 45955, 45964, 46076, 46077, 46120, 46604, 46715]

It is worth noting that Hastings’ final email to friends stated, “Subject: FBI Investigation, re: NSA—Hey (redacted names)—the Feds are interviewing my ‘close friends and associates.’” Also, according to SanDiego6.com, “Another significant detail pointed out by some members of law enforcement, is the intensity of the fire inside the car. It’s highly unusual since gasoline generally doesn’t burn that hot. Reviewing video footage from the scene, the intensity of the fire resembles a ‘thermite’ burn.” In 2010 former Marine Gordon Duff described a technique “in which ‘drive by wire’ cars, specifically a Mercedes Benz, can be manipulated remotely to simulate an out-of-control accident” which, as happened in Hastings’ crash, somehow manages to leave no skid marks on the highway. More suspiciously, one witness states that he heard explosions *before* the car crashed. Lastly, in his book, *The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America’s War in Afghanistan*, Hastings wrote of a death threat he received from a member of General Stanley McChrystal’s staff: “We’ll hunt you down and kill you if we don’t like what you write.” [46604, 46605, 46715]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “As the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act moves to the floor of the House for a vote ... Obama is already taking cues from

feminist groups to veto the legislation and is again letting his true pro-abortion, pro-infanticide stances show. H.R. 1797 bans abortions after 20 weeks. Some babies have survived as young as 21 weeks. Babies can hear things from inside the womb as early as 16 weeks.” The White House has issued a veto threat, claiming the legislation is “an assault on a woman’s right to choose,” “a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*,” and “shows contempt for women’s health and rights.” (The bill passes the House by a vote of 228–196, largely along party lines. Obama’s veto threat is meaningless because the Senate will not pass the legislation.) [45811]

The Congressional Budget Office claims that the pending illegal immigrant amnesty legislation would reduce the federal budget deficit by \$175 billion over 10 years, and \$700 billion in the subsequent 10 years. The CBO also states, “The increase in the number of legal residents stemming from the bill would boost direct spending for federal benefit programs; direct spending for enforcement and other purposes also would rise. [But] Under the bill, federal revenues would be higher as well, mostly because of the larger size of the labor force.” (The CBO believes that income taxes paid by illegal immigrants who receive amnesty will more than offset the increase in federal spending on welfare, food stamps, Medicaid, and other benefits. (Many Americans will find the claim laughable.) [45834]

According to a CNN/ORC International poll, 47 percent of Americans believe the White House was involved in the Internal Revenue Service’s discriminatory actions against conservative organizations; 49 percent believe the IRS agents acted without direction from Washington, D.C. According to a Rasmussen poll, 70 percent believe the decision to target conservatives was made in the nation’s capitol. [45816, 45821, 45831]

In Dublin, Ireland, Michelle Obama and her daughters have lunch with entertainer Bono. (WhiteHouseDossier.com notes, “Michelle’s special visit to Dublin—departing from the itinerary of her husband, who is in Northern Ireland at the G-8 Summit—has had all the trappings of a vacation and has come at significant cost. It appears Air Force two was specially dispatched to Ireland to ferry her around, at a price of more than \$10,000 an hour to fly. Irish newspapers have described a massive security operation designed to protect her on the ground in Dublin. ‘No expense is being spared when it comes to this sort of visit,’ a ‘senior source’ in Ireland told the Herald [Dublin’s *The Evening Herald*.” [45817, 45818]

On MorningCommute.TV, long-time Obama pal and domestic terrorist William Ayers gives Obama a “failing grade.” Asked if Obama should be put on trial for war crimes, Ayers responds, “Absolutely. Every president in this century should be put on trial. Every one of them... goes into office, an office dripping with blood, and then adds to it.” (Katie Pavlich notes at Townhall.com, “To be fair however, Ayers did call for every president in American history to be tried for the same thing.”) [45826, 45848, 45852, 45858]

Asked if he wrote *Dreams From My Father* for Obama, Ayers responds, “Yes, I wrote that. I... I’ve written many books for many Hyde Parkers (residents of Hyde Park in Chicago), but that one I wrote, and it didn’t take long. I had a few interviews and then I

wrote, I wrote it up in about four months, and, um, I loved nautical imagery which I also used in *Fugitive Days*. Now, if you guys can help me prove this, I'll split the royalties with you, um, because I haven't gotten a nickel from my effort. ...I destroyed the notes. That was part of the contract... I destroyed the contract along with the notes... There's been a book written—I can't remember the guy's name [Jack Cashill]—but he wrote a book [*Deconstructing Obama*] comparing phrases from *Dreams From My Father* and phrases [from *Fugitive Days*], so he's proven it kind of but... I'm still not getting any royalty checks.” [45871, 45872]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Undercover video shot in May by a conservative activist shows two corporate distributors of free cell phones handing out the mobile devices to people who have promised to sell them for drug money, to buy shoes and handbags, to pay off their bills, or just for extra spending cash. The ‘Obama phone,’ which made its ignominious YouTube debut outside a Cleveland, Ohio presidential campaign event last September, is a project of the Federal Communications Commission’s ‘Lifeline’ program, which makes land line and mobile phones available to Americans who meet low-income requirements. ...The phones’ legitimate purposes include poverty-level job applicants’ use as contact numbers for job interviews and emergency contacts for children of single parents. But when James O’Keefe, whose Project Veritas is a perennial thorn in the side of progressive policymakers, sent an undercover actor into a Stand Up Wireless location in Philadelphia, the man’s stated purpose was to buy drugs. ‘Once you guys give me this phone, it’s my phone?’ he asked an employee inside a Philadelphia brick-and-mortar Stand Up Wireless location. ‘I can, like, sell it and stuff?’ ‘Whatever you want to do with it,’ the worker replied. ‘So I’m [going to] get some money for heroin,’ he offered. The employee coolly responded, ‘Hey, I don’t judge.’” [45828]

The Senate votes 54–49 to reject an amendment to the illegal immigrant amnesty legislation that would require building 700 additional miles of fencing along the border with Mexico. According to *WashingtonTimes.com*, Senator John Thune (R-SD) “proposed the border fence amendment, which would have prevented the administration from granting any illegal immigrants legal status under the bill until at least 350 miles of double-tier fencing has been erected, and would withhold full citizenship rights until 700 total miles have been built.” [45835, 45857]

AtlasShrugs.com reports that “Obama-backed Syrian jihadists” beheaded a boy and a woman. Pamela Geller writes, “I swear these crimes are getting worse and worse every day and there are still some supporters on this forum who claim that there are moderates amongst barbaric savages... even some claim I’m delusional. My question is am I delusional for hating these people or are the people who support and do these things delusional? SHAME ON OBAMA shame on European leaders.” [45841]

Geller also comments on the report that the Obama administration “will meet with the Taliban in Doha for ‘peace talks.’ The Taliban continue to orchestrate insider attacks, killing our soldiers. They continue to poison girls’ schools across Afghanistan, kidnap Red Cross workers, enforce the most brutal and extreme ideology on the face of the earth (the Sharia), and call for the defeat of American and coalition forces. These jihadists

behead Afghan children, slaughter Afghans who dare to attend a party where dancing takes place, and mean to run Mullah Omar for president, despite the fact that there is still a \$10-million-dollar reward on his head. Omar sheltered Osama bin Laden prior to the 9/11 attacks; he had a hand in the 9/11 attacks; and he has directed the Taliban's ongoing war against U.S.-led NATO forces. On what basis could a peace conference move forward? It is, in fact, a surrender. The Taliban have done nothing to move towards peace. They are savages, and you cannot make peace with savages. A 'political settlement' is Obama-speak for surrender to jihad. The Obama Administration may insist that the Taliban break ties with al-Qaeda and end the violence, but they have given absolutely no indication that they are prepared to do that. If anything, just the opposite. The number of green-on-blue attacks has skyrocketed, now accounting for over fifteen percent of coalition deaths. Our troops are being sacrificed to the politically correct refusal to state the truth about Islam. These are senseless murders that are only possible because the Obama administration refuses to acknowledge the motive and ideology of jihadist doctrine. How are our soldiers supposed to distinguish the jihadists from people on our side? ...Obama loves these savages. The Taliban are on the vanguard of the tsunami of Islamic supremacist movements that Obama empowered, armed and supported. Their resurrection, after Bush decimated them, is due to Obama's support and sanction. And now he is about to hand them final victory." (In all likelihood Obama does not trust the Taliban, but he needs an excuse to get out of Afghanistan—something he promised to do during the 2008 campaign. Pretending the Taliban can be trusted is his only way to exit—while he hopes that Americans will not notice that they lost a war.) [45842]

At a seminar in Cairo, Obama's ambassador to Egypt, Anne Patterson, criticizes upcoming planned protests against President Mohamed Morsi and his authoritarian Muslim Brotherhood regime: "Some say that street action will produce better results than elections. To be honest, my government and I are deeply skeptical. Egypt needs stability to get its economic house in order, and more violence on the streets will do little more than add new names to the lists of martyrs." (The Obama administration, which welcomed demonstrations against the moderate former president Hosni Mubarak in 2011, suddenly opposes them in 2013—with a radical anti-American heading the Egyptian government.) [46195]

On June 19 Tea Party members and other conservative activists gather in the nation's capitol to protest the IRS discrimination scandal. Speakers at the "Audit the IRS" rally include Congressmen Steve King (R-IA), Louie Gohmert (R-TX), and Michele Bachmann (R-MN) and Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Ted Cruz (R-TX), and radio talk show host Glenn Beck. Paul calls for the elimination of the IRS and an immediate end to big government abuses. Cruz tells the crowd, "We need to abolish the IRS, and together, we can get it done. ...And I've got a second idea: we need to take every one of those IRS agents and out them on our southern border. Now, that's mostly a joke, but I've got to admit [that] if you were coming over illegally and you crossed the [Rio Grande] river and saw an army of IRS agents, you'd turn around and go home." Paul states, "I'm like most Americans, horrified that my government has gotten out of control and is persecuting people for their religious and their political beliefs, and it needs to end and it needs to end

now.” Ken Hoagland, chairman of Restore America, tells the crowd that Bob Bauer, top lawyer for the Democrat National Committee and former White House counsel, was behind the IRS targeting of conservative groups that applied for tax-exempt status. (Bauer, who is married to Obama’s former communications director Anita “I love Chairman Mao” Dunn, was Obama’s lead attorney in various eligibility challenge lawsuits.) The mainstream media largely ignores the protest. [45840, 45855, 45866, 45873, 45882, 45890, 45930, 45935]

Despite sequestration budget cuts and outrage over its targeting scandal, the IRS plans to hand out \$70 million in bonuses to its union employees. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) states, “The IRS always claims to be short on resources, but it appears to have \$70 million for union bonuses. And it appears to be making an extra effort to give the bonuses despite opportunities to renegotiate with the union and federal instruction to cease discretionary bonuses during sequestration.” [45849]

Yahoo News reports, “The producers of an upcoming documentary on TWA Flight 800—which exploded and crashed into the waters off Long Island, N.Y., on July 17, 1996, killing all 230 people on board—claim to have proof that a missile caused the Paris-bound flight to crash. And six former investigators who took part in the film say there was a cover-up and want the case reopened. ‘There was a lack of coordination and willful denial of information,’ Hank Hughes, a senior accident investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, said on Wednesday during a conference call with reporters. ‘There were 755 witnesses. At no time was information provided by the witnesses shared by the FBI.’ Jim Speer, an accident investigator at the time of the crash for the Airline Pilots Association, who sifted through the recovered wreckage in a hangar, said he discovered holes consistent with those that would be formed by a high-energy blast in the right wing. He requested it be tested for explosives. When the test came back positive, he said, he was ‘physically removed’ from a room by two CIA agents.” (*The Obama Timeline* has long believed that the “official story” of a fuel tank explosion was a cover-up by the Clinton administration, which wanted no hint of terrorism hurting Clinton’s reelection chances or Atlanta’s Olympic games. *Timeline* readers may be interested in *First Strike: TWA Flight 800 and the Attack on America*, by Jack Cashill and James Sanders.) [45850, 45851, 45854, 45918]

Behind bulletproof glass during a speech to Berliners at the Brandenburg gate, Obama quickly manages to make his remarks about himself by unnecessarily reminding everyone that he is half-black: “As I’ve said... I don’t exactly look like previous German and American leaders...” He warns about climate change and says, “Peace with justice means refusing to condemn our children to a harsher, less hospitable planet. In the United States, we have recently doubled our renewable resources, like wind and solar power. We are doubling fuel efficiency in our cars. Our dangerous carbon emissions have come down. We know we have to do more and we will do more. ...With a global middle class consuming more energy every day, this must now be an effort of all nations, not just some, for the grim alternative affects all nations. ...More severe storms, more famine and floods, new waves of refugees, coastlines will vanish, oceans will rise. This is the future we must reverse. It is the global threat of our time. For the sake of future generations, our

generation must move forward on a global [scale] to confront a changing climate. That is our job. That is our task. We have to get to work.” (The crowd is estimated at between 4,500 and 6,000—a far cry from the estimated 200,000 who heard Obama speak in Berlin in 2008. Additionally, everyone in the 2013 audience is an invited guest. Whether most in the audience agree with Obama’s claim that climate change is “the global threat of our time” is not known. Obama’s “peace with justice” line is stolen from John F. Kennedy’s famous “ich bin ein Berliner” speech to 450,000 Germans on June 26, 1963.) [45859, 45863, 45903, 46342]

Obama also says, “When we respect the faiths practiced in our churches and synagogues, our mosques and our temples, we’re more secure. When we welcome the immigrant, with his talents or her dreams, we are renewed. When we stand up for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters and treat their love and their rights equally under the law, we defend our own liberty as well. We are more free when all people can pursue their own happiness. ...When Europe and America lead with our hopes instead of our fears, we do things that no other nations can do, no other nations will do. So we have to lift up our eyes today and consider the day of peace with justice that our generation wants for this world. I suggest that peace with justice starts with the example we set here at home. We know from our own histories that intolerance breeds injustice, whether it’s based on race or religion, gender or sexual orientation, that we are stronger when all our people, no matter who they are or what they look like are granted opportunity and when our wives and our daughters have the same opportunities as our husbands and our sons.” [45860]

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews, disappointed by Obama’s speech, blames a sunny sky that made it difficult for him to read his teleprompter. “So his usual dramatic wind-up was ruined,” complains Matthews. (Some might argue that the small audience made it more difficult for Obama to get “fired up.”) [45861, 45862, 45902]

At a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Obama states, “We know of at least 50 [terrorist] threats that have been averted” because of the NSA spy program. (About 10 of the 50 were reportedly in the United States.) Obama also calls on Russia and the United States to reduce their nuclear arsenals, saying, “After a comprehensive review I have determined that we can ensure the security of America and our allies, and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent, while reducing our deployed strategic nuclear weapons by up to one third. I intend to seek negotiated cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures. ...These are steps we can take to create a world of peace with justice.” [45856, 45867]

Merkel tells reporters, “I made clear [to Obama] that although we do see the need for gathering information, the topic of proportionality is always an important one and the free democratic order is based on people feeling safe. That’s why the question of balance and proportionality is something we will continue to discuss and where we have agreed [to] further exchange of information between the German Interior Ministry and the authorities concerned in the United States.” [45877]

Republicans quickly react to Obama's call for a weapons draw-down. Senator James Inhofe (R-UT) says, "Our experience has been that nuclear arsenals—other than ours—are on the rise. A country whose conventional military strength has been weakened due to budget cuts ought not to consider further nuclear force reductions while turmoil in the world is growing." Senator Bob Corker (R-TN) says, "Maintaining a strong nuclear deterrent is vital for our nation's security and that of our allies around the world. While the administration has assured me that no further reductions will occur outside of treaty negotiations and the advice and consent of the Senate, [Obama's] announcement [today] without first fulfilling commitments on modernization could amount to unilateral disarmament. [Obama] should follow through on full modernization of the remaining arsenal and pledges to provide extended nuclear deterrence before engaging in any additional discussions." [45867]

FBI director Robert Mueller admits to the Senate Judiciary Committee that the bureau uses unmanned drones within the United States, but says they are "...very seldom used and generally used in a particular incident when you need the capability. It is very narrowly focused on particularized cases and particularized needs." [45864, 45868]

Humorist Andy Borowitz writes at The Borowitz Report, "Supporters of the United States' twelve-year quagmire in Afghanistan cheered the news today that the U.S. would strive to achieve a seamless transfer of that quagmire to Syria, effective immediately. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sought to reassure those who were concerned that the U.S. withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan signalled a wavering of the nation's commitment to being mired in open-ended military muddles. 'I can tell you, right here and right now, that the U.S. is every bit as determined to engage in an ill-defined, ill-advised and seemingly interminable mission in Syria as we were in Afghanistan,' Gen. Dempsey said. 'All that's changing is the Zip Code.' General Dempsey said that the same tribal hatreds, sectarian violence, and untrustworthy alliances that made Afghanistan a quicksand-like morass are very much in evidence in Syria: 'I am confident that we could be involved in Syria for many, many years before figuring out why we are there.' Harland Dorrinson, executive director of the National Quagmire Institute, a think tank dedicated to promoting the United States' involvement in intractable conflicts around the globe, said he found General Dempsey's words about Syria reassuring: 'I felt a lot better after hearing what he had to say, and I know a lot of defense contractors felt the same way.'" [45865]

At the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Associated Press president Gary Pruitt slams the Obama administration for accessing telephone records of its reporters, saying the Department of Justice "acted as judge, jury and executioner in private, in secret. ... What I learned from our journalists should alarm everyone in this room and should alarm everyone in this country. The actions of the DOJ against AP are already having an impact beyond the specifics of this particular case. Some of our longtime trusted sources have become nervous and anxious about talking to us, even on stories that aren't about national security. And in some cases, government employees that we once checked in with regularly will no longer speak to us by phone, and some are reluctant to meet in person. This chilling effect is not just at AP, it's happening at other news organizations as

well. Journalists from other news organizations have personally told me it has intimidated sources from speaking to them. Now, the government may love this. I suspect they do. But beware the government that loves secrecy too much.” [45869]

At WhiteHouseDossier.com Keith Koffler writes, “...Obama’s speech at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin today was a stage director’s nightmare. [Obama] was sweating profusely—you could see the outlines of his undershirt. There were ghostly reflections off the protective glass in front of him. And instead of heaving throngs of admirers, Obama addressed 6,000 or so invited guests. And something was wrong with TOTUS [Teleprompter of the United States]! Obama was peering down at his script instead of using his trusty teleprompter. We’re not accustomed anymore to seeing our leaders glance toward the lectern to read, so [he] came off looking as if he couldn’t remember his lines and kept having the check. ...Europe back [in 2008] thought Obama was who he said he was—a new kind of politician who would make omelettes for everyone without breaking any organic eggs. Obama found out after being elected that part of his job was to do what’s necessary to protect the United States. Europe, which long ago stopped taking its own preservation seriously, doesn’t like this and is crestfallen that Obama isn’t as ‘enlightened’ as they thought. And so we got invited guests instead of reveling masses. But at least the White House could have made him seem less like a sweaty dude reading his book report to the class. Very surprising. UPDATE: A senior administration official said the teleprompter was not working.” [45875]

The Ulsterman Report comments on Obama’s Berlin performance: “Sweating profusely in front of a relatively small crowd as his teleprompter failed him, Barack Obama looked every bit the stumbling and mumbling individual some close to him have long whispered he truly is... Obama repeated lines, his voice wavered, he looked confused, the crowd’s response was tepid, and he was clearly sweating through his clothes. It was among [his] worst public performances...” [45876]

FoxNews.com reports, “Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he will refuse peace talks with the Taliban in a new office in Qatar unless only Afghans are involved and violence stops, after the militant group claimed responsibility for an attack that killed four American troops. On Tuesday, after months of delays, the Taliban opened an office in Doha, Qatar, where representatives from the U.S. and the Taliban will hold peace talks on Thursday, senior U.S. administration officials and a Taliban spokesman said. Karzai’s High Peace Council was expected to follow up with its own talks a few days later, but it is now unclear whether or not those talks will happen. Karzai is making the moves to protest the way the U.S. is reaching out to the Taliban in efforts to find a political solution to the war.” Meanwhile, despite Obama’s claims that al-Qaeda is “on the run,” a U.S. counterterrorism official tells FreeBeacon.com’s Bill Gertz, “From Africa to Pakistan, [the al-Qaeda threat] is spreading systematically.” [45878, 45879, 45880, 45925, 45926]

Karen Lewis, head of the Chicago Teachers Union, asks an audience at the City Club of Chicago, “When will there be an honest conversation about the poverty, racism and inequality that hinders the delivery of a quality education product in our school system?”

...When will we address the fact that rich, white people think they know what's in the best interest of children of African Americans and Latinos—no matter what the parent's income or education level." Not surprisingly, Lewis calls for more money to be spent and blames racism for a shortage of funding—ignoring the fact that, according to Breitbart.com, "The average salary for Chicago teachers is \$76,000 per year, making them the highest-paid teachers in America." (It is worth noting that the Chicago Teachers Union has for decades been relatively successful in receiving what it has demanded in contract negotiations. The union therefore shoulders more than its share of responsibility for the sorry state of public education in Chicago. Obama has no comment and, despite Lewis' racist remarks, does not call for a "beer summit" to set her straight. [45881, 45891])

TheHill.com reports, "...Obama's visit to the Group of Eight summit has created a political row in Ireland after an outspoken liberal lawmaker on Wednesday denounced the U.S. president as a 'war criminal' for his drone use and his decision to arm the Syrian rebels. Parliamentarian Clare Daly said her country's government had showcased the country 'as a nation of pimps, prostituting ourselves in return for a pat on the head,' *The Irish Times* reports. The 'unprecedented slobbering' during Obama's two-day visit to Northern Ireland, she said, had even led to speculation that 'you were going to deck the Cabinet out in leprechaun hats decorated with a bit of stars and stripes to really mark abject humiliation.' ...This is the man who is in essence stalling the Geneva peace talks [scheduled for next month] by trying to broker enhanced leverage for the Syrian opposition by giving them arms—and to hell with the thousands more who'll lose their lives, or the tens of thousands who will be displaced,' Daly said. 'This is the man who has facilitated a 200 percent increase in the use of drones which have killed thousands of people, including hundreds of children.'" Daly also stated, "It's really hard to know which is worst, whether it's the outpourings of the Obamas themselves or the sycophantic falling over them by sections of the media and the political establishment. We've had separate and special news bulletins by the State broadcaster to tell us what Michelle Obama and her daughters had for lunch in Dublin, but very little questioning of the fact that she was having lunch with Mr. Tax Exile himself [entertainer Bono]." [45883, 45884, 45885, 45886, 45943, 45958, 46051, 46081]

Chairman Ben Bernanke announces that the Federal Reserve will—at least for the short-term—continue to buy \$85 billion worth of mortgage-backed securities and Treasury securities each month, in an effort to stimulate the economy. (That \$85 billion created out of thin air every month may or may not stimulate the economy, but will certainly result in price increases.) Bernanke suggests the bond-buying will be scaled back later in the year if the economy improves—which prompts a 353-point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average the next day, as investors worry that without the Federal Reserve's money-printing the economy will slow down again. [45892, 45921, 45928, 45931]

TheHill.com reports, "Senate Republicans say they are 'troubled' by the Obama administration's move to increase the economic benefits of carbon regulations and fear the new formula will be used to justify climate change rules. The administration quietly raised the figure for the 'social cost' of carbon—which assigns a monetary value to

health, property and other damage associated with carbon pollution—in May to \$36 per ton of carbon dioxide emitted, up from \$22. Officials cited new information on extreme weather and rising sea-levels as among the reasons for the change. GOP members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee said the increase should have been debated thoroughly in public before being implemented.” (Burying it in a rule about microwave ovens, the Obama administration arbitrarily decided that the “social cost” of creating carbon dioxide should be substantially increased. The change makes it easier for Obama to put coal-fired power plants out of business.) [45898, 45899]

Reuters reports that secular rebels in Syria are increasingly difficult to find because their groups are being “dismantled by a rival band of revolutionaries—hardline Islamists. ...During a 10-day journey through rebel-held territory in Syria, Reuters journalists found that radical Islamist units are sidelining more moderate groups that do not share the Islamists’ goal of establishing a supreme religious leadership in the country...” (Meanwhile, Obama is providing the rebels with arms. He is either incredibly naïve and is not aware that the rebels are essentially radical Islamists—or he does not care that he is providing America’s enemies with weapons.) [45900, 45901]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer states, “Obama is continually amazing. Of all the issues on earth, you’ve got Syria ablaze, Jordan is reeling, Iran is going nuclear, Egypt is under the sway of the [Muslim] Brotherhood, you’ve got, you know, all of these crises in the world, and what is the least important issue on the planet? Nuclear arms reduction. There is zero chance nuclear war between the United States and Russia, it is not even an issue. We already are in a nuclear balance. The idea that we could be any safer if we have a thousand rather than 1,500 warheads is absurd. So why is [Obama] doing this? Number one, he has been obsessed with nuclear weapons and reducing them ever since he was student at Columbia and thought that the freeze, which was the stupidest strategic idea of the ’80s wasn’t enough of a reduction. And second, because I think that’s all he’s got. He has the famous reset with Russia, which has been a disaster. Russia is helping Iran, it is helping [Syria’s] Assad, it’s working against us on all of the fronts. And so he thinks he can actually distract the world, perhaps produce a treaty, which will mean nothing as a way to say I did something. I find it rather amazing that he would even try it because it is not going to work.” [45904]

On June 20 the Associated Press reports, “The Taliban proposed a deal in which they would free a U.S. soldier held captive since 2009 in exchange for five of their most senior operatives at Guantanamo Bay, while Afghan President Hamid Karzai eased his opposition Thursday to joining planned peace talks. The idea of releasing these Taliban prisoners has been controversial. U.S. negotiators hope they would join the peace process but fear they might simply return to the battlefield, and Karzai once scuttled a similar deal partly because he felt the Americans were usurping his authority. The proposal to trade U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for the Taliban detainees was made by senior Taliban spokesman Shaheen Suhail in response to a question during a phone interview with The Associated Press from the militants’ newly opened political office in Doha, the capital of the Gulf nation of Qatar. The prisoner exchange is the first item on the Taliban’s agenda before even starting peace talks with the U.S., said Suhail, a top Taliban

figure who served as first secretary at the Afghan Embassy in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad before the Taliban government's ouster in 2001. ...The Obama administration was noncommittal about the proposal, which it said it had expected the Taliban to make. 'We've been very clear on our feelings about Sgt. Bergdahl and the need for him to be released,' State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. 'We have not made a decision to ...transfer any Taliban detainees from Guantanamo Bay, but we anticipate, as I've said, that the Taliban will all raise this issue.'" [45895, 45896]

Meanwhile, the administration plans to scrap thousands of tons of military equipment in Afghanistan because, reports *The Washington Post*, it "would be too costly to ship back home." (The *Post* does not explain why the equipment was not too costly to ship to Afghanistan in the first place.) More than 77,000 metric tons of equipment has already been destroyed. [46083]

At the leftist web site DailyKos.com, a former Obama fan who donated thousands of dollars to his campaign writes, "I bought the boohoo story of those meanie Republicans obatructing [sic; obstructing] everything. I bought the story that we 'won' with the ACA [ObamaCare] passing and broadended [sic] gay rights, but had to give up \$800 billion of our hard earned money to bank crooks and let them drive away in their Bentleys to their 20 room mansions because he just couldn't do anything about it—too big to fail. While us [sic] peons were left to fall. They hoard and hide over \$32 Trillion of wealth in the Caymans to avoid contributing to the society that helped them enrich themselves and they cry 'SOCIALISM' when poor mothers and kids need help to find some modicum of GMO-made, cancer-inducing, diabetes-creating, cancer-causing suppliment [sic] food. It's all a grand game, an act, a nation-sized con job. There's no Republican or Democrats folks. Just a giant stage on which a play of deception is played on the American people to believe we still live in a Democracy. What it really is, is a game of Masters and Serfs. ...This country is so sick, run by psychopaths who worship the holy god of wealth. They run our academic centers, our government, our churches, our media. And Obama, after promising straight-talk and a man-for-the-people assurances if he could just get our cash and votes, now turns out to be just another puppet. Unable to change what is really diseased about our institutions. So it's only two possibilities: he's an impotent [leader], or one who is complicit in the game. You know I seem to remember a recent village idiot president [presumably George W. Bush] who got everything he wanted, when he wanted it regardless which party had what majority. If his decisions made some corporate entity shitwads of money, it got done. And Obama? Those same entities making even bigger shitwads of cash than even Village idiot. Follow the money, that's the answer to every question you have about politics and the US government. OBAMA IS A FUCKING FRAUD—you heard me NSA scumbag?" [46036]

Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Bob Corker (R-TN) introduce an amendment to the amnesty legislation that will require a strengthening of border security before 11–20 million illegal immigrants can pursue green card status. The requirements include completing 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexico border, adding 20,000 border patrol agents, and implementing an E-verify program to prevent illegal immigrants from getting jobs. Corker states, "Some people have described this as a border surge, and the

fact is we are investing resources in the border that have never been invested before. The American people have asked us, if we pass an immigration bill on the Senate floor, that we do everything we can to secure the border.” According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “Some Republicans will likely oppose the plan because even though it sets a trigger before immigrants can move to permanent legal status, it does not require security enhancements to be in place when most of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States are granted an initial, six-year legal status. Under the Gang [of Eight] scenario, that would happen within months of the bill becoming law, long before the new security measures are required to be completed.” (Of course, once the illegal immigrants are given legal status there will be no incentive for the Obama administration to act on the border enforcement requirements of the legislation. Additionally, the Corker-Hoeven amendment allows immigrants who overstay their travel or work visas to apply for citizenship, and does not provide for the hiring of additional border agents until 2017.) [45923, 45924, 45950, 45976, 45977]

At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey comments on Obama’s “religious schools encourage division” remark: “He’s speaking in terms of Northern Ireland, but pretty explicitly calling for that to be a model for the rest of the world. His argument makes two very large assumptions, which is that the conflict in Northern Ireland was about religion, and that parochial schools make people inclined to violence. The first is a gross oversimplification; the conflict in recent times was political, dealing with ethnic conflict and sovereignty issues, with religion used more for tribal identification than a core of the conflict. The second is just absurd. Catholics and Protestants have thousands of schools in the US, and we don’t have warfare in the streets in the US between the sects. The issue wasn’t the schools, nor the belief systems of Catholics and Protestants that such schools teach. However, this makes a handy mechanism to call for the displacement of private education and religious instruction from education, with nothing left except state-controlled schools that indoctrinate children into whatever norms the governing/ruling class deem acceptable.” [45897]

While many citizens of Ireland are angry that Obama criticized them for having separate Protestant and Catholic schools, they are also likely to be less than thrilled about the cost of providing security for the Obama family visit—which *The Irish Times* estimates at “between €3 million and €4 million [about \$5 million].” [45910, 45911]

American Catholics for Religious Freedom responds to Obama’s separate schools comment: “Secular progressives like ...Obama ignore the truth that faith-based education is a component of the Religious Freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. He can’t bear the thought that Catholic and parochial schools not only teach important values but consistently produce better educational results at lower cost than America’s failing public schools. [Obama’s] troubling values are showing here in a way that demonstrate just how dangerous this Administration is and how committed it is to eroding the rights of all people of faith. ...It’s time Americans stood up for Religious Freedom, for the U.S. Constitution and against ...Obama’s radical views about the place of faith in American life.” [45912]

Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) and three other senators introduce a bi-partisan bill that would stop “the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities” from “supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Syria by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.” Paul states, “[Obama’s] unilateral decision to arm Syrian rebels is incredibly disturbing, considering what little we know about whom we are arming. Engaging in yet another conflict in the Middle East with no vote or Congressional oversight compounds the severity of this situation. The American people deserve real deliberation by their elected officials before we send arms to a region rife with extremists who seek to threaten the U.S. and her allies.” [45936]

The \$1 trillion farm bill fails to pass the House of Representatives. The vote is 195–234. Opposition from some Republicans is based primarily on the tremendous cost, while most Democrats want even more spending on the ballooning food stamps program (which is part of the farm bill because it is administered by the Department of Agriculture). The Senate had already passed the legislation by a vote of 66–27. [45940, 45941, 45948]

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) tells Newsmax.TV, “I spoke to this issue a year ago at the American Enterprise Institute... and pointed out the abuses of the IRS that were happening already. I’d been getting complaints from Tea Party groups about the difficulty of getting their tax-exempt status, which they’re entitled to under the law. I pointed out efforts to intimidate groups into not buying television advertising that were being proposed over at the Federal Communications Commission, and other examples of executive branch efforts to quiet the voices of their critics. So I’m going to go back to the AEI tomorrow with what could best be described as the ‘I told you so speech,’ because the [Inspector General] at the IRS has confirmed that these groups were, in fact, being targeted. Now an investigation is underway in the House of Representatives and we’ll find out who did it and who ordered it. ...It started when [Obama] shook his finger at the Supreme Court during the State of the Union a few years ago, and basically he has lectured them about the [Citizens United] decision they made that relates to political free speech. It’s not surprising. Not only did [Obama] single out individuals in the country for a special tax, you had the Democratic members of the U.S. Senate writing to the IRS suggesting they do exactly what they ended up doing. There’s no question that after the Democrats lost the Congress in November 2010, they turned to the bureaucracy to try to quiet their critics. We see it at the FEC, the SEC, at the Department of Health and Human Services. This was a fairly rampant effort encouraged by the most prominent Democratic elected officials in the country. And so it’s not really surprising. I’m not suggesting here that [Obama] picked up the phone and called IRS official Lois Lerner, but all she had to do was read the newspaper or turn on the TV to know what [Obama] and his allies were hoping the bureaucracy would do to quiet the voices of his critics. ...I don’t think we need to pass anything [new]. We need to stop doing what we’re doing in trying to intimidate American citizens. [Obama] needs to accept the fact that not everybody’s going to applaud what he’s doing, that being criticized is part of public life, and efforts to quiet the voices of your critics always backfire, and this has backfired on him as well.” [45920]

DCClothesline.com posts a video that examines various anomalies in photographs of Obama and his family and "...shows, step by step, how many of Obama's family pictures from his youth are Photoshopped images. ...The video also makes a visually compelling case that the real biological father of [Obama] (who was born in 1961) may be Malcolm X (1925–1965), the black Muslim political activist who, on February 21, 1965, at age 39, was assassinated by three members of the Nation of Islam (NOI). Less than a year before he was killed, Malcolm X had left the NOI." [45922]

HuffingtonPost.com reports that Obama "repeatedly called British finance minister George Osborne 'Jeffrey' at the G8 summit... [Obama] said three times that he agreed fully with 'Jeffrey' during his presentation on G8 host Britain's plans to crack down on tax avoidance, leaving Osborne red-faced. Realising his blunder afterwards, Obama joked that he had mistaken Britain's chancellor for the US soul singer Jeffrey Osborne, The Sun and the Financial Times reported. 'I'm sorry, man. I must have confused you with my favourite R and B singer,' Obama was quoted as saying." [45920]

The Telegraph's Nile Gardiner comments on Obama's Berlin speech: "In stark contrast to that of his presidential predecessors, Barack Obama's message on Wednesday was pure mush, another clichéd 'citizens of the world' polemic with little substance. This was a speech big on platitudes and hopeless idealism, while containing much that was counter-productive for the world's superpower. Ultimately it was little more than a laundry list of Obama's favourite liberal pet causes, including cutting nuclear weapons, warning about climate change, putting an end to all wars, shutting Guantanamo, ending global poverty, and backing the European Project. It was a combination of staggering naiveté, the appeasement of America's enemies and strategic adversaries, and the championing of more big government solutions. There was little in this speech that advances US interests, or makes the world a safer place. Completely missing from Obama's address was a call for the West to stand up to the rising threat of Islamist militancy, the defence of Christians facing huge levels of persecution and intimidation in the Middle East, strong condemnation of Iran and North Korea's nuclear ambitions, and any criticism of growing authoritarianism in Russia. [Obama] paid lip service to the NATO alliance, which has proved critical in preserving Europe's security for over 60 years, but made no call for the alliance to be strengthened in the wake of waning support and investment in Europe." [45937]

Blogger Ace of Spades writes, "But what about [Obama's Berlin] speech? I think the best we can say is that it wasn't as harmful as it could have been, but only because it was so utterly empty. ...So why give this speech at all? If he had nothing much to say—and it appears he did not—why go through the motions? In asking that question, let's remember Obama's equally-gaseous, equally-empty Speech Made In Front of an Impressive Array of Flags on May 23. Even the liberal Daily Beast thought it was okay to snark on it, noting that the speech could be easily digested into 248 seconds. But even in that abbreviated form, I don't see any policy initiatives or major statements. What I see is only Obama whining that his job is hard and that he still really really wants to close Guantanamo. ...What I see is two speeches empty of new ideas. If there is no policy

component to them, then they only have a political component—that is, for Obama to remind people Hey remember you once liked me, back when I was the rock star of Europe? But I see it also as having a psychological component [like the] need for the comfort of past glories. I think Obama gave these speeches largely for himself, to convince himself that he’s still the Rock Star of 2008. But if he was seeking comfort that he still had his Magic and Mojo, it looks like searched in vain.” [45938]

In *The Washington Post* George Will adds to the criticism of Obama’s dud of a speech in Berlin, writing, “Before Berlin, Obama set his steep downward trajectory by squandering the most precious post-election months on gun-control futilities and by a subsequent storm of scandals that have made his unvarying project—ever bigger, more expansive, more intrusive and more coercive government—more repulsive. Then came Wednesday’s pratfall in Berlin. ...[H]e spoke an almost meaningless sentence that is an exquisite example of why his rhetoric cannot withstand close reading: ‘We may strike blows against terrorist networks, but if we ignore the instability and intolerance that fuels extremism, our own freedom will eventually be endangered.’ So, ‘instability and intolerance’ are to blame for terrorism? Instability where? Intolerance of what by whom ‘fuels’ terrorists? Terrorism is a tactic of destabilization. Intolerance is, for terrorists, a virtue. ...Obama said ‘we can ...reject the nuclear weaponization that North Korea and Iran may be seeking.’ Were Obama given to saying such stuff off the cuff, this would be a good reason for handcuffing him to a teleprompter. But, amazingly, such stuff is put on his teleprompter and, even more amazing, he reads it aloud. Neither the people who wrote those words nor he who spoke them can be taken seriously. North Korea and Iran may be seeking nuclear weapons? North Korea may *have* such weapons. Evidently Obama still entertains doubts that Iran is seeking them. ...Obama’s vanity is a wonder of the world that never loses its power to astonish, but really: Is everyone in his orbit too lost in raptures of admiration to warn him against delivering a speech soggy with banalities and bromides in a city that remembers John Kennedy’s ‘Ich bin ein Berliner’ and Ronald Reagan’s ‘Tear down this wall?’ With German Chancellor Angela Merkel sitting nearby, Obama began his Berlin speech: ‘As I’ve said, Angela and I don’t exactly look like previous German and American leaders.’ He has indeed said that, too, before, at least about himself. It was mildly amusing in Berlin in 2008, but hardly a Noel Coward-like witticism worth recycling. His look is just not that interesting. And after being pointless in Berlin, neither is he, other than for the surrealism of his second term.” [45945]

KCENTV.com reports, “A group of [U.S.] soldiers are preparing for their deployment to Egypt with riot training on post [Fort Hood, Texas]. They’re planning ahead for violent protests or riots and the possibility of protecting the country’s border with Israel. Soldiers encountered Molotov cocktails and other dangerous items in the training.” (Most Americans are no doubt unaware that the Obama administration is sending U.S. troops to back President Mohamed Morsi’s radical Muslim Brotherhood regime—or perhaps even to fight Israelis. About 400 soldiers are to be stationed in Egypt for a nine-month “peacekeeping mission.”) [45953, 45954, 46082, 46103]

On *Special Report*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer says, “Obama gave a speech in Germany this week. Was it, (a) a stirring defense of the United States and the concept of liberty, a la Reagan and Kennedy, (b) mediocre, mush, a platitude or, (c) the worst presidential speech on foreign affairs in memory? Empty, self-indulgent, anachronistic and adolescent. ...It doesn't even reach the level of mush. (C) is the correct answer.” [45887]

In a video address to liberal activists and bloggers at the annual Netroots Nation conference, Obama says, “I need you to put pressure on members of Congress and make your voices heard just like you've always done. We won't always agree on everything. And I know you'll tell me when we don't. But if we work together, then I'm confident we'll keep moving this country forward. ...We've done [many] things together. But we've got more work to do, because for all the progress we've made, too many middle-class families still aren't seeing their hard work rewarded. That's why our goal has to be rebuilding the true engine of America's economic growth: a rising, thriving middle class. ...Already we've seen Republicans try almost 40 times to repeal the law so many of you worked so hard to pass [ObamaCare], but if we stay focused, by next year, tens of millions of Americans will have access to better, more affordable healthcare... . We need you to help more Americans understand what this law means for them, to push back against the lies and misinformation, and to tell people why it's important to sign up if they don't have health insurance.” [45947]

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) also appears at the Netroots Nation event and is booed when she criticizes NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden and states, “we have to have the balance between security and privacy...” LATimes.com reports, “[T]he crowd [gave] Pelose [sic] a standing ovation at the beginning of her remarks. But when the discussion turned to the surveillance controversy, tensions rose immediately. As she began describing the need to balance privacy with freedom, Mark Perkel of Gilroy stood up and interrupted: ‘It's not a balance. It makes us less safe.’ As security guards led him away, he yelled, ‘It's unconstitutional! No secret courts! No secret law!’” Others shout, “Leave him alone!” and “That's what a police state looks like right there!” [45960, 45999]

On June 21 Obama nominates James Comey, a former Department of Justice official in the George W. Bush administration, to head the FBI. Comey, notes Politico, is “a registered Republican and veteran prosecutor... is best known for rebuffing pressure from the Bush White House to approve the reauthorization of a terrorist surveillance-related program in 2004.”

Politico reports that Obama “was behind the effort” to scuttle the border security amendment of Senator John Cornyn (R-TX), and “refused to accept the idea of a 90 percent trigger.” (Illegal immigrants would not be granted U.S citizenship unless at least 90 percent of all illegal border crossings are stopped.) Obama's attitude is a clear indication he has no intention of enforcing the border and seeks only to create as many new Democrat voters as possible. [45933]

LATimes.com reports that “CIA operatives and U.S. special operations troops have been secretly training Syrian rebels with anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons since late last year, months before ... Obama approved plans to begin directly arming them, according to U.S. officials and rebel commanders.” [46012]

Federal prosecutors file a sealed criminal complaint against NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, charging him with espionage, theft, and conversion of government property. [45944]

Breitbart.com reports, “The latest Pew poll finds that one-word impressions of Obama are turning negative more often than they have in the past. Until now, Pew says, these wholly negative one-word impressions were ‘rare.’ The survey finds that the one-word impressions people have of Obama have changed a great deal [since he entered the White House]. Terms like incompetent and liar now are among the most frequently used words to describe Obama. In April 2009, when his job approval was at 63%, these words were rare. Pew also found that the word ‘socialist’ is used in nearly the same proportion as it has been used since he first took office, showing that [Obama] has not succeeded in knocking down the perception that he is a socialist.” [45949]

According to a Yahoo News analysis of statements by White House press secretary Jay Carney, he has responded to reporters’ questions, “I don’t have the answer” 1,905 times. Other common responses include, “I would refer you to someone else” (1,383 times), “You already know the answer” (1,125 times), “I’m not going to tell you” (939 times), “Not that I know of” (927 times), “I won’t speculate” (525 times), “No comment” (429 times), and “Obama won’t tell me” (117 times). [45951]

TheBlaze.com reports, “The IRS sent more than \$46 million in tax refunds to 23,994 ‘unauthorized’ alien workers who all listed the same address in Atlanta, Ga., in 2011, according to an audit report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). However, the Atlanta address that received millions of dollars in refunds was not the only address apparently housing thousands of ‘unauthorized’ aliens. In fact, it wasn’t even the only address in Atlanta that was claiming such a situation. The TIGTA audit report, published last year at the request of members of Congress, revealed 10 addresses in the U.S. that were issued anywhere from 1,846 to 23,994 tax refunds each. Four of those 10 addresses were located in Atlanta.” (Some might argue that IRS manpower used to discriminate against Tea Party groups should instead be used to crack down on immigrants scamming the system.) [45956, 46001]

WhiteHouseDossier.com lists the “Top Ten Thoughts Obama Had During his Berlin Speech.” “1. Hey, where is everybody? 2. Damn Krauts turned up the heat. 3. Uh oh. My potato dumplings are reversing course. 4. At least they still love me in Bangladesh! 5. Hey Germans, see that Brandenburg Gate? You didn’t build that! 6. I wonder if anyone can see me sweating. Nahh. 7. Teleprompter, are you okay? Something’s wrong with teleprompter! Call a doctor! 8. Boy, Merkel sure looks mad. I definitely shouldn’t have told her she has the personality of Hitler. 9. Why do these Germans keep opening their

mouths as wide as possible? Must be some cultural thing. Oh, wait a second, they're yawning. 10. Ich bin... outta here!" [45957]

On June 22 Rasmussen reports that Obama has fallen to a 44 percent approval rating in its daily poll of likely voters. "Eighty-three percent (83%) of Democrats approve, and 87% of Republicans disapprove. Among voters not affiliated with either major party, 35% approve, and 63% disapprove." [45939, 45942]

A cargo ship carrying U.S. arms for Syrian rebels breaks in half and sinks in the Indian Ocean. [46000]

In his Saturday Internet and radio address, Obama announces that on June 25 he will release his "climate change" plan, in which he will "lay out my vision for where I believe we need to go—a national plan to reduce carbon pollution, prepare our country for the impacts of climate change, and lead global efforts to fight it." [45997]

WND.com reports, "In an article published online Friday, Rachel Rose Hartman of Yahoo! News lamented that ...Obama's upcoming trip to Africa would not include a stop in Kenya, 'the country of his birth.' ...[W]ithin 90 minutes of the story's publication, Yahoo! News added the following: 'Correction: An earlier version of this story incorrectly identified [Obama's] birthplace.' The wording of the story was then changed from referencing Kenya as 'the country of his birth' to 'his ancestral homeland.'" (Meanwhile, many Kenyans are outraged that Obama is visiting Africa but skipping his ancestral home—and perhaps his birthplace.) [45952, 45975, 46020]

Breitbart.com reports on several black state legislators who have switched from the Democrat to the Republican Party. Louisiana State Senator Elbert Guillory calls the Democrat Party "the party of disappointment" and "the party of Jim Crow," that uses programs like food stamps to "control the black community." "Our self-initiative and our self-reliance," states Guillory, "have been sacrificed in exchange for allegiance to our overseers who control us by making us dependent on them." [45959]

Blogger John Gaultier posts a copy of Stanley Ann Dunham's Form SS-5, the document filled out when requesting a Social Security number. The form, obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request, was signed by Dunham and dated May 22, 1959, when she was still 16 years old. But the form has a "Revised 7-65" notation on the bottom—which means it is a forgery. (Obama's mother certainly could not have signed a form *six years before that version existed*. The 1959 and 1965 versions of the forms are almost identical, which may explain why the forger made the mistake.) [45961, 45962]

France24.com reports, "The US military has expanded its presence in Jordan to 1,000 troops, officials said Friday, in a show of force amid a raging civil war in neighboring Syria. 'The total comes to about 1,000,' up from about 250 personnel that have been in place for months, a US defense official told AFP on condition of anonymity." (At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller writes, "US troops in Egypt to crush the freedom

movement, and now 1000 troops in Jordan. What's next, Israel? Remember, Samantha Power called for a US military invasion of Israel. What was once unthinkable is now more than possible. How is this happening without Congressional approval or national debate? Where is the enemedia's anti-war Bush putsch? Where is the media? There is but this tiny mention in France 24. What is the objective of troops in Egypt, Jordan, across the Middle East and Africa if Obama is siding with the jihadists?" [45963]

DailyDot.com reports that Obama "will now be forced to weigh in on the public's desire to pardon PRISM whistleblower Edward Snowden, despite a carefully crafted effort to neither praise nor condemn him. A We the People petition titled 'Pardon Edward Snowden' reached the requisite 100,000 signatures Saturday morning. By the Obama administration's own rules, any petition that reaches that threshold will receive a formal response from the White House, though there's no formal timetable for the official comment." [45965]

A whistleblower from the Higher Education Services Corporation in Albany, New York comes forward to tell eligibility-challenge attorney Orly Taitz that Obama was registered in college as a foreign student from Indonesia and given financial aid on that basis. The whistleblower states that she personally reviewed Barack Obama's financial aid information. (*The Obama Timeline* has long believed that Obama has kept his school records secret precisely because he maintained his Indonesian citizenship and was registered as a foreign student.) [45979]

At NYPost.com Jonathan M. Trugman writes, "There will be no fireworks for bond investors when they open up their second-quarter statements in early July. That's because the boom-and-doom I have warned about has appeared in a bond bubble bust. The most actively traded Treasury bond, ETF (TLT), is down a staggering 12.6 percent since Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke started his tapering talk in May. With just one week of trading remaining in the quarter, this will go down as one of the worst routs ever. Through no fault of their own, American families will now be faced with steep losses, engineered by the Federal Reserve. The Fed preached all of the benefits of its artificial and excessive bond-buying binge—trillions of dollars were required just to keep this dog of an economy from rolling over—but the Fed never highlighted the specific risks to bond buyers. ...[T]he unassuming middle-class Americans who have endured earning next to nothing on their savings for almost five years now thanks to Bernanke's strategy are facing massive losses from supposedly safe bond funds. By the time small investors figure it out, they could be down 20 percent or more, which would be the first time that the Federal Reserve has caused losses for ordinary citizens/investors while making a profit for itself." (*The Obama Timeline* has predicted a collapse of the bond market and believes it will ultimately be a disaster of epic proportions. The Federal Reserve cannot continue to expand the money supply without eventually causing price increases and interest rate increases. When that happens, the stock market will drop dramatically and bond prices will collapse.) [46004]

On June 23 NewsmaxWorld.com reports, "Fugitive former U.S. spy agency contractor Edward Snowden is seeking asylum in Ecuador, the Quito government said on Sunday,

after Hong Kong let him leave for Russia despite Washington's efforts to extradite him on espionage charges. In a major embarrassment for the Obama administration, an aircraft thought to have been carrying Snowden landed in Moscow, and the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks said he was 'bound for the Republic of Ecuador via a safe route for the purposes of asylum.'" (Laughably, dozens of reporters trying to follow Snowden board a flight from Moscow to Havana, Cuba mistakenly believing he was on board.) [45966, 45985, 45998, 46007]

At NaturalNews.com editor Mike Adams writes, "Ten days ago, I publicly stated my belief that the NSA had used its spy apparatus to gather dirt on Supreme Court Justice John Roberts, then used that leverage to force him to change his vote on Obamacare. See the original article here. Five days later, I also predicted the NSA was using its spy powers to surveil [sic] members of Congress and the U.S. Senate. ... Suddenly, new revelations prove this to be true. Russ Tice, a Bush-era NSA analyst-turned-whistleblower has sounded the alarm on the true depth of the NSA's surveillance abuses. In an interview on the Boiling Frogs Podcast, Tice stated: 'They went after—and I know this because I had my hands literally on the paperwork for these sort of things—they went after high-ranking military officers; they went after members of Congress, both Senate and the House, especially on the intelligence committees and on the armed services committees and some of the—and judicial... They went after lawyers and law firms. All kinds of—heaps of lawyers and law firms. They went after judges. One of the judges is now sitting on the Supreme Court that I had his wiretap information in my hand. Two are former FISA court judges. They went after State Department officials. They went after people in the executive service that were part of the White House—their own people.' ... With its massive spy grid system in place for years, the NSA has gathered dirt on everyone in a position of power. Anyone with a secret is now compromised and can therefore be controlled. This even includes ... Obama, who can be safely assumed to be nothing more than a charismatic puppet." Adams observes, "[T]he only people who are still left standing and telling the truth are people who the NSA could not corner with compromising dirt." (Tice charges that Obama himself was subject to wiretapping in 2004 when he was running for the U.S. Senate in Illinois.) [45967, 45968]

On *Meet the Press*, leftist host David Gregory interviews Glenn Greenwald, the Guardian journalist who broke the Edward Snowden whistleblower story, and asks, "To the extent that you aided and abetted Snowden... why shouldn't you... be charged with a crime?" Greenwald answers, "I think it's pretty extraordinary that anybody who would call themselves [sic] a journalist would publicly muse about whether or not other journalists should be charged with felonies. The assumption in your question, David, is completely without evidence: the idea I've aided and abetted him in any way. The scandal that arose in Washington before our stories began was about the fact that the Obama administration is trying to criminalize investigative journalism by going through the e-mails and phone records of AP reporters, accusing a Fox News journalist of the theory that you just embraced, being co-conspirator in felonies for working with sources. If you want to embrace that theory, it means that every investigative journalist in the United States who works with their sources, who receives classified information, is a criminal. And it's precisely those theories and precisely that climate that has become so menacing in the

United States. It's why the *New Yorker's* Jane Mayer said investigative reporting has come to a standstill... as a result of the questions you just mentioned." A defensive Gregory, not used to being challenged by a guest (even though such as response is frequently warranted) responds, "The question of who's a journalist may be up for debate, in regards to what you're doing. Anybody who's watching this understands that I was asking a question. That question has been raised by lawmakers, as well. I'm not embracing anything. But obviously I take your point." (Greenwald later sends a Twitter message: "Who needs the government to criticize journalism when you have David Gregory to do it?") [45969, 45993]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) slams the Obama-Democrat illegal immigrant amnesty legislation: "This bill grants amnesty first and a mere promise of enforcement in the future, even with the Corker-Hoeven amendment, all of which has been put in now on a 1,200 page [bill] we'll vote on Monday afternoon that no one has read... These promises of 20,000 agents won't take place and are not required until 2021... It [even] has a specific provision that says [DHS Secretary Janet] Napolitano does not have to build a fence if she chooses not to... And CBO concludes that the legal immigration will be dramatically increased... Why would any member of Congress want to vote for a bill, at a time of high unemployment [and] falling wages, to bring in a huge surge of new labor that can only hurt the poorest among us the most?" Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) sees the issue differently and says on CNN's *State of the Union* that the fight for amnesty for illegal immigrants "...has the potential of becoming the next major civil rights movement. ...I could see a million people on the mall in Washington, on the platform would [be] ...the leaders of business, the leaders of the evangelical movement, the leaders of high tech..." [45981, 45991, 45994, 46002, 46010]

Although the amnesty legislation will almost certainly be passed by the Senate, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) appears on *Fox News Sunday* and says, "It's dead on arrival in the House." [45984, 46005]

AtlasShrugs.com posts a photograph of a Syrian child chained to her bed while being forced to watch the murder of her Shia Muslim parents by Sunni Muslim rebels—members of the Obama-supported "Free Syrian Army." [45986]

AtlasShrugs.com also reports, "Fresh on the heels of Obama's declaration of submission to the Taliban, the devout Muslim group slaughtered 10 tourists (including one American). They took the money and passports from the tourists and then gunned them down, said the official. The Obama Administration announced that it will meet with the Taliban in Doha for 'peace talks' while the Taliban continued to orchestrate insider attacks, killing our soldiers. They continued to poison girls' schools across Afghanistan, kidnap Red Cross workers, enforce the most brutal and extreme ideology on the face of the earth (the Sharia), and call for the defeat of American and coalition forces. These jihadists behead Afghan children, slaughter Afghans who dare to attend a party where dancing takes place, and mean to run Mullah Omar for President, despite the fact that there is still a \$10-million-dollar reward on his head. Omar sheltered Osama bin Laden prior to the 9/11 attacks; he had a hand in the 9/11 attacks; and he has directed the

Taliban's ongoing war against U.S.-led NATO forces. On what basis could a peace conference move forward? It is, in fact, a surrender." (Meanwhile, Obama's imbecilic Secretary of State, John Kerry, calls for the Taliban to get peace talks "back on track.") [45987, 45988, 46014]

In Turkey, police fire water cannons and tear gas at a crowd gathered to honor those who were killed or injured in recent demonstrations against Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. [45989]

TheLastGreatStand.com reports that "suspicious activist and whistleblower deaths [are] on the rise" and urges readers to "spread the word of warning." [46043]

On June 24 Politichicks.TV's Morgan Brittany writes at Townhall.com, "When the news came down last week that the IRS, while still under Congressional scrutiny was going to receive \$70 million dollars in employee bonuses, I thought that I was listening to a late-show comedian telling a good joke. ...Interesting timing don't you think? Could the fact that upset agents who were only doing what they were told to do started spilling to Congress the names of higher ups? Did a call go out to the union that perhaps a bit of a bonus for 'a job well done' would cause them to be less forthcoming? ...I know this sounds conspiratorial, but with the outright lies and deception about Benghazi, [Operation] Fast and Furious, the targeting of James Rosen and the AP and the NSA spying scandal, one can't help but wonder to what lengths this administration will go to in order to hold on to its power and continue its path toward the fundamental transformation of America." [45990]

DailyPaul.com provides a "who's who" of former executives of Booz Allen Hamilton, the company which employed NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. "Booz Allen Hamilton is a government contractor, with 99% of its revenue coming from the US government. Not only does it receive money from the NSA, but also the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Marine Corps, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and ...the IRS. In addition, Booz Allen is heavily connected to the CIA. Among the individuals involved in running the company, we have: James Clapper—current Director of National Intelligence (DNI), head of NSA, the man who lied to Congress about the fact that NSA is actively spying on Americans, is a former executive. Mike McConnell—a current executive of the company, had Clapper's job (DNI) during George W. Bush's administration... James Woolsey—former CIA Director, current executive... Melissa Hathaway - former executive, also worked for McConnell during the Bush administration. Ian Brzezinski—former executive, son of Zbigniew Brzezinski, co-founder of the Trilateral Commission with David Rockefeller, central figure in the NWO crowd, and mastermind of Operation Cyclone [Ian is also the brother of MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski.]. ...Given all their connections and government contracts, here's an interesting question: Booz Allen Hamilton has not only been involved in spying via the NSA, but they have also received no-bid contracts from the IRS. What do they know about the American people via the IRS? ...So folks, what you are not being told in the media about Edward Snowden's former company is that it is not only spying on you, but it is probably checking out your tax returns, too, and also

receiving some of your tax money in government contracts, which it then funnels to CIA-connected/Military Industrial Complex-connected/NWO-connected individuals and organizations.” [46301]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “The Obama administration is asking professional sports leagues, including the National Football League, for help in promoting new health-care coverage that millions of uninsured Americans can sign up for beginning Oct. 1. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday that she has spoken with NFL officials, describing them as ‘actively and enthusiastically engaged, because they see health promotion as one of the things that they think is good for them and good for the country.’” Greg Aiello, the NFL’s senior vice president of public relations, states, “The NFL, NBA, and others were contacted by the administration. We have made no commitments nor discussed any details with the administration. We are in the process of clarifying what it is the administration would ask of us.” Congressman Steve Scalise (R-LA) tells WeeklyStandard.com, “I don’t think any private organization should be pressured to help promote a law the administration is admitting isn’t even ready. The NFL and the NBA shouldn’t be put in this position—it’s unethical for the administration to even ask. Secretary Sebelius needs to withdraw any requests she’s made.” [46105, 46106, 46107, 46108, 46119, 46122, 46161]

While Sebelius attempts to persuade the NFL to push ObamaCare, the movie industry is learning that complying with the health care legislation will be expensive. According to HollywoodReporter.com, “Determining the exact nature of the new laws has been difficult, given that many [ObamaCare] terms have yet to be worked out. Hollywood productions, for instance, might find it irksome simply trying to categorize employees as full- or part-time, seasonal or variable, and it’s important that they get the classifications right lest they face hefty fines. ...One of the unintended consequences, say some industry insiders, is that it could lead to productions running to foreign countries, given that [ObamaCare] doesn’t apply to U.S. citizens working abroad. Some also say the number of production days in the U.S. are likely to be cut... because there’s a 90-day waiting period before productions must either pay a penalty or offer health insurance to full-time workers. That rule provides big incentives for a production to wrap in less than three months.” [46105, 46106, 46107, 46108, 46119, 46122]

At FoxNews.com Richard Grenell writes, “Despite two years of inaction ...Obama has now pledged increased military and humanitarian support for the Syrian rebel forces. After nearly 100,000 casualties, mostly civilian, the administration has finally been moved enough to intervene, going as far as extending the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Syrian Refugees to allow 9,000 undereducated and poverty-stricken Syrians into the U.S. The Obama administration’s move will have little to no effect on the two-year plus Syrian refugee disaster, and further, makes no sense in the context of our country’s current immigration crisis. More than 40,000 high-skilled applicants are denied entry into the U.S. every year due to caps on the H1B visa, the visa designed for highly skilled laborers. And according to a recent survey by the Manpower Group, 39 percent of U.S. manufacturers have job openings for which they cannot find a qualified applicant. These caps prevent American companies from harnessing talent abroad and

hamper their ability to expand and create jobs in the U.S. So why is Obama bringing unskilled labor into the U.S. while denying entry to the highly skilled workers?" [46059]

Donald Trump comments on government leaks: "The only thing we don't seem to get are the records from [Obama]. Isn't that interesting?" [46003]

DailyCaller.com reports, "In advance of a critical vote Monday on a border security deal offered by Republican Sen[ators] Bob Corker and John Hoeven, the president of the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement union urged senators to vote 'no' on the amendment. National ICE Council President Chris Crane issued an aggressive statement calling on lawmakers to vote 'no' on the amendment to the Senate's immigration reform bill and called out Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio [R-FL] for misleading law enforcement on promises of more interior enforcement. 'Senator Corker—a lead sponsor of the 1,200 page amendment being voted on today—has admitted that needed interior enforcement provisions are absent. Senator Rubio, who promised ICE officers and Sheriffs that he would take steps to repair the bill's provisions that gut interior enforcement, has abandoned that commitment,' Crane said. 'He directly misled law enforcement officers.' On Thursday, Corker said that he had wanted to add more interior enforcement but was unable to, Politico reported, speculating that objections from Democratic senators and the White House might have prevented it." [45992]

The U.S. Supreme Court announces that it will hear a lawsuit over Obama's illegal, "non-recess" recess appointments. (Two federal appeals courts have already ruled against Obama on the issue.) [45995, 45996]

Obama's approval rating falls to 45 percent in the Gallup poll, with his disapproval rating increasing to 49 percent. [46006]

Obama says he is "following all the appropriate legal channels" to apprehend Edward Snowden.

By a vote of 67–27 the Senate advances the Corker-Hoeven amendment to the illegal immigrant amnesty legislation. Every Democrat votes to proceed, along with more than a dozen Republicans—including Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). Among the Senators voting against proceeding are Rand Paul (R-KY) and Ted Cruz (R-TX). [46008, 46011]

Senator Pete Sessions (R-AL) releases some background information on the Corker-Hoeven amendment and the immigration legislation: "Immediate amnesty before enforcement; Guts legal requirement for biometric exit-entry system; millions of green cards (permanent residency) before enforcement—debunking another false claim from sponsors; No border surge. Agents aren't required until 2021. It will never happen; No fence requirement. DHS retains discretion in the bill that preempts the call for a fence in ten years. Litigation also provides an escape hatch to never build the fence. The fence won't happen; Legalization for gang members and convicted criminals; Amnesty for future visa overstays (in other words, a prospective amnesty for future illegal

immigrants); Guaranteed welfare access for illegal immigrants; Undermines interior enforcement, prompting ICE officers to warn: ‘There is no doubt that, if passed, public safety will be endangered and massive amounts of future illegal immigration—especially visa overstays—is ensured’; Expands non-merit chain migration—less than 10 percent of future flow is merit-based; Doubles the number of guest workers and triples the number of immigrants granted lawful permanent residency—reducing wages for U.S. workers and driving up unemployment.” [46018]

Sarah Palin writes at Facebook: “It’s beyond disingenuous for anyone to claim that a vote for the [amnesty] bill is a vote for security. Look no further than the fact that Senator [Marco] Rubio and amnesty supporters nixed Senator [John] Thune’s amendment that required the feds to finally build part of a needed security fence before moving forward on the status of illegal immigrants who’ve already broken the law to be here. ...And if shooting down the border fence wasn’t proof enough, they blew another chance by killing Senator [Rand] Paul’s ‘Trust But Verify’ amendment, which required the completion of a fence in five years and required Congress to vote on whether the border is actually secure before furthering any immigration measures. ...Now the Senate’s pro-amnesty crowd is offering a fig leaf to security via the Corker-Hoeven Amendment, but this is really nothing more than empty promises. It’s amnesty right now and border security ...eh, well, someday.” [46026]

Breitbart.com reports, “US threats that China and Russia face ‘consequences’ if leaker Edward Snowden evades capture may prove just hot air, experts say, with Washington powerless in a game of cat-and-mouse. Left red-faced after Snowden brazenly waltzed out of Hong Kong bound for Moscow at the weekend even after his passport was apparently canceled, US officials have angrily called on Russia to hand him over for trial. ...On Monday, US Secretary of State John Kerry, who has branded Snowden a traitor, warned of consequences to US-Sino and US-Russian ties saying it was ‘deeply troubling’ if requests for his extradition were ignored. But in reality, experts say there is little that Washington can do to force Moscow to return Snowden or even to persuade Ecuador and Venezuela, both possible places of refuge, to deny him shelter. ...With major international problems from Syria to Iran on the global agenda, the US might just be unwilling to see the Snowden affair explode into a full-blown diplomatic crisis.” (For more than four years Obama has shown to the world that he is indecisive and unwilling to act if his declared “red lines are crossed.” Neither China nor Russia fear threats from Obama. Russian President Vladimir Putin brushes off Obama with his press secretary telling reporters, “Overall, we have no information about him [Snowden].”) [46009, 46015]

FrontPageMag.com reports, “Late last Sunday night, a 23-year-old woman in Oscarshamn [Sweden], a town of 17,000 people that’s about halfway between Mecca and Medina—sorry, I mean Stockholm and Malmö—was on her way home when she was stopped by three young [Muslim] men of foreign origin. ‘Are you Swedish?’ they asked her. When she said yes, they hit her so hard that she fell to the ground. Then, looking down at her, lying there at their feet, they said: ‘Welcome to Sweden. It’s our country now, not yours.’” (Obama has no comment.) [46013]

Germany's *Der Spiegel* reports, "The situation in Afghanistan is becoming so precarious that Afghan diplomats no longer want to return to their homeland. Up to 100 foreign service employees set for rotation back to Kabul from assignments abroad have now defected. A total of 105 Afghan diplomats were meant to report for duty at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul on Saturday. They were being rotated out of their foreign postings as scheduled, and it was time to return to headquarters. Yet just five of them have resurfaced. The others have apparently remained in the countries where they had been posted, among them several employees of the Afghan Embassy in Berlin."
(AtlasShrugs.com's Pamela Geller calls the defections "More of the poisonous fruit from Obama's surrender to the Taliban..." Many Afghans believe their nation will descend into chaos once U.S. forces leave, and with Obama eager to negotiate with the Taliban the result may be even more chaotic and violent.) 46017]

The Guardian reports that Obama will face protests when he visits Africa: "Obama should not expect red-carpet treatment from all South Africans, despite the historic affinity between the civil rights and anti-apartheid movements. Workers, students and Muslim groups are among those determined to give Obama a bumpy landing when he descends on Africa's biggest economy. 'NObama' is the cry from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the South African Communist party, which have called for 'all workers' to join mass protests including a march on the US embassy in Pretoria on Friday. Academics and students have vowed to boycott the University of Johannesburg's award of an honorary law doctorate to Obama. The Muslim Lawyers' Association has called for [Obama] to be arrested as a war criminal. ...Bongani Masuku, Cosatu's international relations secretary, said: 'Obama is perpetuating American foreign policy. The US is an empire run on behalf of multinational companies and the ruling class of America. US foreign policy is militarising international relations to sponsor and make their own weapons. ...I'm not disappointed [by Obama] because I didn't expect anything. It's not about the individual; it's not about the race he came from. It's about the class he represents. It's like he's the gatekeeper for white monopoly capital. He promised things we knew he wouldn't be able to do.'" (In Dakar, the capitol of Senegal, businesses anticipate losing millions of dollars because of Obama's visit. One newspaper writes, "The Americans are imposing extreme measures," and "The Americans take over Senegal. ...I don't think this is what Obama, who views himself as well-liked around the globe, had in mind when he planned the family vacation to the African continent.") [46020, 46044, 46078]

On June 25 Joseph Klein writes at FrontPageMag.com, "Where Edward Snowden will finally end up is anyone's guess at this time. Let's hope the U.S. government will find a way to get him back to the United States. However, this whole episode has humiliated the United States which, like so many other foreign policy disasters, has occurred on Obama's watch. With all of its technical prowess, U.S. intelligence services still allowed this unprecedented leak to happen. Now we are being made to look helpless by China and Russia, as they have stood in the way of the United States being able to rapidly bring Snowden back to his home country to stand trial before he does more lasting damage." [46016]

While Secretary of State John Kerry hops around the Middles East believing he has the extraordinary ability to negotiate a lasting peace treaty between Israel and the Arab world, Ismail Haniyeh, prime minister of the terrorist group Hamas, says, “We had two wars in which hundreds of people died, and thousands of acres of land were destroyed, but Palestinians did not and will not recognize Israel.” (Michael Rubin, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, tells DailyCaller.com, “Kerry would have an easier time convincing Greenpeace to dine on whale steak and spotted owl than in brokering peace between Israel and Palestinians. Egypt is imploding, and Turkey is going south fast. Antagonism between Europe and America is at an all-time high. China is bullying U.S. allies in Southeast Asia. And what is Kerry doing? Off tilting at windmills.”) [46207, 46282]

Obama decides “climate change” suddenly requires more of his attention than working to create jobs for more than 20 million unemployed and underemployed Americans. In a speech at Georgetown University—a speech which is largely ignored by the mainstream media and telecast in full only by the Weather Channel—Obama announces plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by enacting strict regulations on power plants. (Some suspect that Obama has shifted to climate change because he cannot get the rest of his agenda through Congress yet wants desperately to accomplish something for his “legacy.” Climate change allows him to use the Environmental Protection Agency to implement strict new rules without the consent of Congress. Obama knows some legislators will complain about new job-killing regulations that cause utility bills to skyrocket, but he also knows they will not have the numbers to stop him.) Obama also takes the coward’s way out on the Keystone XL pipeline decision, saying he will approve it only if it can be proven not to increase greenhouse gas emissions. (A State Department study has already confirmed that the pipeline would have no major impact on carbon emissions, largely because failing to approve it would mean transporting oil by rail or truck. Obama, pressured by leftist environmentalists, is simply using “climate change” as an excuse not to make a decision on the pipeline.) [46019, 46021, 46024, 46027, 46033, 46050, 46058, 46098, 46109, 46118]

The Wall Street Journal later comments on the global warming speech: “...Obama’s climate speech on Tuesday was grandiose even for him, but its surreal nature was its particular hallmark. Some 12 million Americans still can’t find work, real wages have fallen for five years, three-fourths of Americans now live paycheck to check, and the economy continues to plod along four years into a quasi-recovery. But there was [Obama] in tony Georgetown, threatening more energy taxes and mandates that will ensure fewer jobs, still lower incomes and slower growth. ...Mr. Obama’s ‘climate action plan’ adds up to one of the most extensive reorganizations of the U.S. economy since the 1930s, imposed through administrative fiat and raw executive power. He wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17% by 2020, but over his 6,500-word address he articulated no such goal for the unemployment rate or GDP. ...The higher costs will ripple through the energy chain, which is precisely ...Obama’s goal. Only by artificially raising the cost of carbon energy can he make even heavily subsidized ‘renewables’ competitive. (In others words, Obama wants to force price increases on “regular” energy

in order to make the cost of alternative energy systems appear more affordable. That is tantamount to imposing a \$50,000 tax on a Ford Focus in order to encourage the purchase of Cadillacs.) [46068]

DailyCaller.com reports that the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7–1 decision, vacates and remands the lower court ruling in the affirmative action case *Fisher v. Texas*, saying the state “failed to demonstrate that affirmative action was necessary to achieve a diverse student body—a requirement of the *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision in 2003. It was a win for foes of affirmative action—albeit one that won’t actually end the practice.” Justice Clarence Thomas states, “I would overrule *Grutter v. Bollinger* and hold that a State’s use of race in higher education admissions decisions is categorically prohibited by the Equal Protection Clause. ... The University asserts... that the diversity obtained through its discriminatory admissions program prepares its students to become leaders in a diverse society. The segregationists likewise defended segregation on the ground that it provided more leadership opportunities for blacks. ... There is no principled distinction between the University’s assertion that diversity yields educational benefits and the segregationists’ assertion that segregation yielded those same benefits. ... The Fourteenth Amendment views racial bigotry as an evil to be stamped out, not as an excuse for perpetual racial tinkering by the State.” [46022, 46025]

In a 5–4 decision, the Supreme Court nullifies Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act, arguing that the requirement that certain states “pre-clear” any changes to their voting procedures with the Department of Justice is outdated. (The Obama administration has repeatedly used the law to hinder states in their efforts to require photo identification for voting.) Obama says he is “deeply disappointed,” and, “As a nation, we’ve made a great deal of progress towards guaranteeing every American the right to vote. But, as the Supreme Court recognized, voting discrimination still exists. And while today’s decision is a setback, it doesn’t represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination.” Media leftists are, of course, outraged by the Court’s decision. DailyCaller.com posts a few responses: “Damn, that citizenship thing was so great for a while” (MSNBC’s lispng Melissa Harris-Perry); “I am slightly surprised by how physically enraged I find myself” (MSNBC’s Christopher Hayes); “The Voting Rights Act works so well we have to maim it, just to check its awesome powers” (Slate.com’s Jessica Winter); “Yeah, undoing a major civil rights landmark is a pretty good day’s work” (*The New Republic*’s Alec MacGillis). Breitbart.com conservative Ben Shapiro writes, “Anyone contending that striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Acts will return us to 1965 is a moron, pure and simple. [46023, 46045, 46053, 46055]

At FrontPageMag.com author and Middle East expert Raymond Ibrahim reports that on June 17 Obama’s ambassador to Egypt, Anne Patterson, met with Coptic Christian Pope Tawadros II and “asked him to urge the Copts not to participate” in demonstrations against President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. “The Pope politely informed her that his spiritual authority over the Copts does not extend to political matters.” Ibrahim writes, “[M]any Egyptian activists are condemning Patterson for flagrantly behaving like the Muslim Brotherhood’s stooge. Leading opposition activist Shady el-Ghazali Harb said Patterson showed ‘blatant bias’ in favor of Morsi and the

Brotherhood, adding that her remarks had earned the U.S. administration ‘the enmity of the Egyptian people.’ Coptic activists like George Ishaq openly told Patterson to ‘shut up and mind your own business.’ And Christian business tycoon Naguib Sawiris—no stranger to Islamist hostility—posted a message on his Twitter account addressed to the ambassador saying ‘Bless us with your silence.’” [46028, 46029, 46030, 46074, 46175, 46195]

Ibrahim asks, “...So why is the Obama administration now asking Christians not to oppose their rulers—in this case, Islamists—who have daily proven themselves corrupt and worse, to the point that millions of Egyptians, most of them Muslims, are trying to oust them? What’s worse is that the human rights abuses Egypt’s Coptic Christians have been suffering under Muslim Brotherhood rule are significantly worse than the human rights abuses that the average Egyptian suffered under Mubarak—making the Copts’ right to protest even more legitimate, and, if anything, more worthy of U.S support. ...[D]espite the fact that if anyone in Egypt has a legitimate human rights concern against the current Egyptian government, it most certainly is the Christian Copts, here is the U.S., in the person of Ms. Patterson, asking them not to join the planned protests. In other words, and consistent with Obama administration’s doctrine, when Islamists—including rapists and cannibals—wage jihad on secular leaders, the U.S. supports them; when Christians protest Islamist rulers who are making their lives a living hell, the administration asks them to ‘know their place’ and behave like dhimmis, Islam’s appellation for non-Muslim ‘infidels’ who must live as third class ‘citizens’ and never complain about their inferior status.” [46028, 46029, 46030, 46074, 46175]

Russia’s President, Vladimir Putin, thumbs his nose at the Obama administration, telling reporters he cannot extradite Edward Snowden because he is not technically on Russian soil—he is in the international area of the Moscow airport. (Even if Snowden were to leave the airport and wander the streets of Moscow, the United States does not have an extradition treaty with Russia.) Putin says, “It is true that Snowden has arrived [in] Moscow, and it really came as a surprise for us. He arrived as a transit passenger, and didn’t need a [Russian] visa, or any other documents. As a transit passenger he is entitled to buy a ticket and fly to wherever he wants. ...We can only extradite any foreign citizens to such countries with which we have signed the appropriate international agreements on criminal extradition. ...Snowden is a free person. The sooner he chooses his final destination, the better it is for him and Russia. ...In any case, I would like not to deal with such issues [leaker Snowden and Wikileaks founder Julian Assange] because it is like shearing a pig: there’s lots of squealing and little fleece.” [46031, 46032, 46047]

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden states, “We agree with President Putin that we do not want this issue to negatively impact our bilateral relations. While we do not have an extradition treaty with Russia, there is nonetheless a clear legal basis to expel Mr. Snowden, based on the status of his travel documents and the pending charges against him.”

Meanwhile, TheDailyBeast.com reports, “As the U.S. government presses Moscow to extradite former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, America’s most

wanted leaker has a plan B. The former NSA systems administrator has already given encoded files containing an archive of the secrets he lifted from his old employer to several people. If anything happens to Snowden, the files will be unlocked. Glenn Greenwald, the *Guardian* journalist who Snowden first contacted in February, told The Daily Beast on Tuesday that Snowden ‘has taken extreme precautions to make sure many different people around the world have these archives to insure the stories will inevitably be published.’ Greenwald added that the people in possession of these files ‘cannot access them yet because they are highly encrypted and they do not have the passwords.’ But, Greenwald said, ‘if anything happens at all to Edward Snowden, he told me he has arranged for them to get access to the full archives.’” [46034]

RedFlagNews.com reports, “Did anyone notice that this amnesty bill decriminalizes: ‘Falsely representing or knowingly using a Social Security Number obtained with false information’ ‘Falsely claiming citizenship on Form I-9’ ‘Knowingly altering a Social Security Card’ ‘Document fraud to prove eligibility for employment’ If you believe the allegations of Social Security, foreign student and birth certificate fraud by Obama, don’t you find it incredibly convenient that the list above just happens to be exactly what Obama is guilty of? Ramming the amnesty bill through is not only essential to preventing Americans from reading the actual bill, much like Obamacare, but it also seems to have the goal of heading off any legal challenge to Obama’s identity theft, fraud, etc. Just say’n...” [46035]

FoxNews.com reports, “A Louisiana lawman is livid over the federal government’s decision to cut off funds for two programs to help troubled young people, all, he says, because he refused to sign a pledge to bar prayer or any mention of God at their meetings. Julian Whittington, the sheriff of Bossier Parish, La., told Fox News the Department of Justice Office of Civil Rights defunded \$30,000 for their Young Marines chapter as well as a youth diversion program. Federal officials objected to a voluntary student-led prayer in the department’s youth diversion program and an oath recited by the Young Marines that mentions God, according to Whittington, who blasted what he considers the government’s ‘aggression and infringement of our religious freedoms.’ ‘We were informed that these are unacceptable, inherently religious activities and the Department of Justice would not be able to fund the programs if it continued,’ Whittington told Fox News. ‘They wanted a letter from me stating that I would no longer have voluntary prayer and I would also have to remove ‘God’ from the Young Marine’s oath.’ The DOJ and the Office of Civil Rights are aware of the controversy but did not return phone calls seeking comment.” [46037]

In a Fox News poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 43/51 percent. [46038]

By a vote of 97–1 the Senate confirms Penny Pritzker as Obama’s new Secretary of Commerce. (At HotAir.com Mary Katherine Ham notes that Obama calls Pritzker “an entrepreneur and a businesswoman because she’s a Democrat who raises gobs of money for him. If she were a Republican male, she’d be corporate devil out of touch with Main St. heading an investment firm for the obscenely rich with the money in her trust funds, which are by the way in offshore accounts to avoid paying her fair share. ...Pritzker made

\$53 million from her family's offshore trusts last year, is one of the Forbes' richest 400 Americans, and has more than \$250,000 in debt on an American Express card, according to her financial disclosures. Did I mention her family was deeply involved in pioneering subprime lending that sunk a Chicago area bank in 2001 and she understated her income by \$80 million on those disclosure forms? To be fair, who among us? We're spared an all-out class war over these stats, or even anything more than passing curiosity about them during her confirmation hearing, because Obama thinks she's keen.") [46110]

Democrat Congressman Edward Markey wins the special election in Massachusetts to fill the U.S. Senate seat of John Kerry.

WesternJournalism.com reports, "A lawsuit seeking the return of \$43 trillion (with a 't') and an audit of all the TARP programs by an independent receiver has been filed against senior members of the Obama Administration and the New York group known as the 'Banksters.' The Wall Street Journal's MarketWatch is reporting that the Spire Law Group, LLP has moved its mass tort action into the federal court in Brooklyn, New York. In this District Court lawsuit (Case No. 12-cv-04269-JBW-RML), the Spire Law Group, LLP is acting on the behalf of homeowners across the country seeking to halt all foreclosures nationwide until the return of the \$43 trillion. The independent audit the lawsuit is seeking of the TARP Program stems from a report by the former Inspector General of the bailout program, Neil Barofsky, who is countering the claims made by ...Obama both publicly and privately to Congress that the money has been paid back. Mr. Barofsky asserts that none of the money advanced by the Treasury has ever been paid back by the recipients of the program. The Plaintiffs have established the location of the \$43 trillion of laundered money in a criminal racketeering enterprise participated in by the following individuals: Eric Holder, Tony West, Kamala Harris, Jon Corzine, Robert Rubin, Timothy Geitner [sic; Geithner], Vikram Pandit, Valerie Jarrett, Anita Dunn, Robert Baueras [sic; probably Robert Bauer]." [46039]

AmmoLand.com reports, "In the final push toward the Senate gun control vote on April 17 2013, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) admitted Democrats were flying Newtown families into [Washington] DC to break a Republican filibuster—he also admitted that those families did not know they were going to be used for that purpose until the plane carrying them was already in the air. The families thought they were coming to DC to oppose 'high capacity' magazines. But according to The New York Times, once the families were in the air aboard Air Force One, Murphy let them know they would used 'to get a vote on a vote.' Here's how Murphy put it: 'They thought they were coming down here to argue for a ban on high capacity magazines and universal background checks, and we told them they were coming to argue to avert a filibuster and allow us to debate. And that was really heartbreaking and deflating for some of them. But they rose to the occasion, and it was wonderful to see them at the end of the trip feeling like they had made a difference.'" (In other words, legislators shamelessly lied to and manipulated the families of shooting victims for political purposes.) [46040, 46041]

Organizing for Action—apparently unaware that the election is over—runs a contest in which the winner gets to “meet ...Obama backstage at an event this summer.” (Entering the contest leads to a web page that asks for donations.) [46042]

Sarah Palin calls for primary challenges to Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) for supporting amnesty legislation. Palin tells Breitbart News, “Conservatives are getting ready for the 2014 and 2016 primaries. We have long memories, and there will be consequences for those who break campaign promises and vote for this amnesty bill. Competition makes everyone work harder, be better, and be held accountable. This applies to politics, too. No one is ‘entitled’ to anything. Rigorous debate in competitive primaries allows candidates the opportunity to explain their flip-flops. So think of contested primaries as a win-win for politicians and their voters.” (Former Congressman Allen West has indicated he may challenge Rubio.) [46046, 46069]

CNSNews.com reports, “The Senate immigration bill as it currently stands will allow an illegal alien with two convictions ‘for driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated’ to be granted legal status in this country. If the alien is not then convicted of a third DUI after passage of the bill and before he is naturalized, he will remain eligible to eventually become a U.S. citizen. And, even if an alien has been convicted of three or more DUIs, the bill allows the secretary of homeland security to waive the 2-DUI limit for illegal aliens seeking legalization if she believes it is ‘for humanitarian purposes, to ensure family unity, or if such a waiver is otherwise in the public interest.’” Additionally, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) notes, “Under the bill only those who forge, alter, and possess three or more passports will have committed a crime, and not only those who use any official material to make 10 or more passports will have committed a crime.” (Apparently the United States should welcome with open arms illegal immigrants who are only willing to possess two forged passports.) [46049, 46052]

DailyCaller.com reports, “An Islamic scholar who serves as vice president of an organization that supports the terrorist group Hamas and whose president sanctioned the killing of American soldiers in Iraq met with senior Obama administration officials at the White House earlier this month. In a posting on his website, brought to The Daily Caller’s attention by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah revealed that he met at the White House on June 13 with Gayle Smith, senior director of the National Security Council, and Rashad Hussain, ...Obama’s special envoy Organization of the Islamic Conference, among other officials. The posting also initially stated that the ‘national security adviser’ was at the meeting, without naming him directly, though that part of the post was removed shortly after TheDC contacted the White House to see if National Security Adviser Tom Donilon was in fact at the meeting.” (Bin Bayyah is vice president of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, a group founded by and headed by radical Egyptian cleric Yusuf Qaradawi. Qaradawi is banned from entering the United States, but his henchmen are apparently welcome at the Obama White House.) [46054, 46096, 46103, 46139]

Addressing the Conservative Party of New York State's 51st Annual Dinner, former Florida governor Jeb Bush says, "...Obama has many gifts, but one thing he doesn't seem to understand is basic economics. He has this almost naive view that America's economy is so strong he can do anything to it and nothing bad will happen. You can nationalize healthcare... raise taxes and fees, regulate with abandon... \$1 trillion deficits annually, demonize small-business owners and successful investors—and in Barack Obama's world, it doesn't even leave a mark. ...More than four years after the end of the 2008 recession we're still several million jobs short of where we were. We are more than \$6 trillion further in debt. We have 8 million Americans who have given up looking for work. We've had more than four years to see what Barack Obama knows about economics, and the truth is, with all due respect, he is an utter and complete failure. ...Will America continue to be the best hope for freedom and opportunity on the face of the earth? Or will it go down the path of diminished expectations? Let's be really blunt. ...Obama isn't making good choices. On energy, he waffles. On immigration, he hasn't led. On foreign policy, he doesn't lead, even from behind. On the [issues of] family, he is captive to the special interests of the left." [46062]

On June 26 The Heritage Foundation's Morning Bell lists some of the "things that will cost more under Obama's climate change plan." They include "heating and cooling your home," "buying a car and driving," turning on the lights," and "washing and drying clothes." Arguably, Obama's scheme will "increase the price of just about everything. Whether it's regulating appliances or eliminating coal from the nation's energy diet, Obama's plan has the same effect: hiking the cost of living. Think through your day. Everything you buy, everything you eat, everything you wear... it was all produced using energy. ...What will it mean for ...Obama's war on coal to hike natural gas prices by 42 percent? ...Forthcoming research from ...Heritage experts shows that Obama's anti-coal policies will cause a family of four to lose more than \$1,000 in annual income." [46048]

In a decision on *Windsor v. United States*, the Supreme Court rules the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. WashingtonTimes.com reports, "In a pair of landmark rulings, a closely divided U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a ban on married gay couples seeking benefits from the federal government, and effectively cleared the way for gay marriage to resume in California. Gay rights groups cheered the two 5-4 rulings, but lamented that the high court stopped short of invalidating laws and constitutional bans in the dozens of states where gay marriage remains illegal. Traditional marriage groups condemned the rulings, but vowed to keep up the fight against gay marriage at the state level. The decision in the California Proposition 8 case—which said the private group defending the 2008 voter initiative didn't have standing to appeal it to a federal appellate court—also fell short, because the high court didn't address the issue of marriage-equality rights. ...Justice Anthony Kennedy, the court's traditional swing vote, wrote the sweeping decision striking down the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), backed by the court's four more liberal justices. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion in the Prop 8 case, in a ruling that scrambled the court's usual ideological divide." [46056, 46057, 46060, 46061, 46067, 46117]

WorldTribune.com reports, “Congress has been mulling legislation that would halt U.S. military intervention in Syria. Several members of the Senate have been lobbying for a bill that would prevent the administration... from ordering U.S. military action in Syria. The legislation would prevent the Defense Department and the intelligence community from spending any funding approved by Congress for operations in Syria.” [46063]

Obama telephones the lesbian couple who filed the lawsuit that resulted in the Supreme Court’s ruling on California’s Proposition 8, and tells them, “[W]ell, we’re proud of you guys [they are women, not “guys”] and we’re so glad that, uh, in California and, and in a growing numbers of states across they country because of your leadership people are getting their equal rights. So, you guys should be very proud of today and, uh, you know, your... your... your through your courage, you’re helping out a lot of people everywhere.” MSNBC’s Chris Matthews remarks, “God, it was like Nixon talking to the astronauts.” (HotAir.com comments, “This is one of the most grating things about the movement towards legalizing gay marriage, even for someone like me who supports it: Too many proponents seem too willing to grant each other rhetorical carte blanche after ‘evolving,’ no matter how long they opposed SSM [same sex marriage] before and no matter how nasty they might get now with people who hold the same stance in opposition that they used to. If you go to bed on Monday opposed to gay marriage and wake up on Tuesday in favor, there’s no issue, it seems, with calling opponents ‘bigots’ and ‘h8ers’ on Tuesday afternoon. O[bama] was a fraud for years on this subject, for selfish reasons, and reversed himself last year only after he’d decided that the road to reelection was by rallying and turning out his liberal base. If he thought his only chance was by holding onto some social conservative votes, he’d be anti-SSM even now. And yet all that’s forgotten; suddenly he’s the leader of the gay-marriage spirit squad, with duly admiring coverage from his fans at MSNBC. It’s good to be the king.”) [46066]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells House Republicans he will not move forward the Senate’s amnesty legislation for a vote. (The House will eventually pass *something* related to immigration reform, but it will likely not resemble the Senate bill. If Boehner were to bring up the Senate bill for a vote his position as Speaker would very likely be challenged by conservative Congressmen.) [46069, 46073, 46092]

The government lowers its estimate of first quarter economic growth to an annual rate of only 1.8 percent. (The original estimate was 2.5 percent.) Economist and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman writes, “We’re still very much living through what amounts to a low-grade depression.” [46070, 46097]

The Obama administration exempts American Indians from the ObamaCare requirement that all citizens must have healthy insurance or pay a fine. [46072]

The White House and Michelle Obama begin using the Internet’s photo sharing web site, “Instagram.” [46089]

On June 27 Obama and his family leave for a trip to Africa. [46064]

In Senegal, Obama tells reporters that although he expects other nations to cooperate and allow NSA leaker Edward Snowden to be extradited to the United States, if they do not do so he is “not going to be scrambling jets to get a 29-year-old hacker.” (Technically, Snowden is not a “hacker” as he presumably obtained NSA information legally, but he may be a spy or a traitor.) Asked if he had contacted Russian President Vladimir Putin about Snowden, an annoyed Obama responds, “I shouldn’t have to.” (Rather than admit that he is incapable of doing much about Snowden, Obama instead unconvincingly argues that Snowden is not important.) Obama also says the Supreme Court erred in its decision to strike down an outdated section of the Voting Rights Act, but applauds its gay marriage ruling. [46064, 46065, 46104, 47632]

While in Senegal Obama visits Gorée Island where, notes Colin Freeman at The Telegraph, “a crumbling fort is said to have been the key departure point for millions of slaves shipped across the Atlantic. Yet as [Obama] toured the 18th century building and later spoke of how the visit had allowed him to ‘fully appreciate the magnitude of the slave trade,’ historians pointed out that it was probably never used for that purpose at all. Pictures on Thursday showed Mr. Obama standing with his wife Michelle at Gorée’s so-called Door of No Return, a dark passageway from where the fort’s human cargo is said to have been loaded via gangplanks onto ships. However, despite the claims that millions of slaves passed through the door, its most likely use is now thought to have been for disposing of rubbish. Likewise, the waters it overlooks are too rocky and shallow for a slave ship to have used it as a loading bay. ‘There are literally no historians who believe the Slave House is what they’re claiming it to be, or that believe Gorée was statistically significant in terms of the slave trade,’ said Ralph Austen, a professor at the University of Chicago who has researched the subject.” [46113]

On *Fox & Friends*, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) says that Obama’s proposal to impose strict regulations on power plants is “...really a war on America. When you look at it from that standpoint, 8 billion tons of coal is being burned in the world as we speak. The United States of America consumes about 1 billion tons. Now what’s going to happen to the other 7 billion tons? What’s going to happen to the countries that are consuming and using 7 billion and it’s increasing rapidly? Nothing’s being done there. ... We’re caught in between right now. We have older [power] plants, coal plants that can be retrofitted, but if they try and retrofit them they have to meet standards that are unattainable. ... Well, it’s just ridiculous. This is just ridiculous. I should not have to be sitting here as a U.S. senator fighting [Obama] and fighting my own government. That’s ridiculous. I want to work with them. I’ve reached out; I will continue to reach out, but I need a partner here. I don’t need an adversary; I need a partner and an advocate.” [46091]

Obama’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen “no fetus left alive” Sebelius, celebrates “National HIV Testing Day” by urging all Americans to be tested for HIV/AIDS: “HIV testing is so important because it gives you the information you need to make good decisions about your health. If you test negative, you can take steps to stay that way. ... If you have HIV, there are medications that will help you stay healthy and live longer. These medications... also make it significantly less likely that you might pass the virus to someone else.” (Sebelius does not explain why Americans who are

essentially at zero risk of contracting HIV/AIDS—those who are not sexually promiscuous and who do not use intravenous drugs—need to be tested.) [46071]

WeeklyStandard.com reports that as “Obama and his family continue their tour of Africa, the White House put out a Fact Sheet entitled ‘U.S. Support for Strengthening Democratic Institutions, Rule of Law, and Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa.’ One of the first items highlighted by the White House is a \$53 million program in Kenya that helps young people ‘obtain National identification cards, a prerequisite to voter registration.’” (Obama opposes photo ID requirements for voting in the United States but supports such rules in Kenya.) [46084]

Congressman Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) announces that he will introduce a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman. “This would trump the Supreme Court,” he explains. (Huelskamp faces an uphill battle: winning the approval of two-thirds of the House and the Senate, as well as three quarters of the 50 states.) Meanwhile, supporters of polygamy applaud the Supreme Court’s rulings related to gay marriage, believing that if marriage is no longer restricted to one man and one woman it should then be legal for someone to have multiple spouses. [46085, 46086, 46101, 46126]

The Environmental Protection Agency announces new “Energy Star” rules for appliance manufactures which, effective September 15, 2014, include optional “connected features” that would allow power companies to control refrigerators and freezers. According to CNSNews.com, “The connection feature [would] allow the utility provider to regulate the appliances’ power consumption, ‘including curtailing operations during more expensive peak demand times.’” (That is, on the hottest days of the summer, when the demand for power for air conditioning is high, the power company could turn off refrigerators by remote control in order to save electricity. The EPA does not explain what consumers should do with melted ice cream and thawed vegetables.) [46223]

By a vote of 68–32, illegal immigrant amnesty legislation passes the U.S. Senate. (Fourteen Republicans, including Florida’s Marco Rubio, join 14 Democrats and socialists in the majority.) Obama responds to the vote: “Now is the time when opponents will try their hardest to pull this bipartisan effort apart so they can stop common-sense reform from becoming a reality. We cannot let that happen.” According to Breitbart.com, the immigration legislation is loaded with “pork,” such as a \$1.5 billion youth jobs program and tax breaks for Las Vegas casinos. [46087, 46088, 46095, 46100, 46115]

Congressman Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) reacts to the Senate’s passage of amnesty legislation: “Just like all the senators, I haven’t read it yet.” Congressman Mike Mulvaney (R-SC): “[We in the House should] fold it up into a paper airplane and throw it out the window. Oh, is that not the right answer?” Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX): “The Senate is, at this point, irrelevant.” Congressman Devin Nunes (R-CA): “[T]hat is idiotic. Anyone who pushes [the Senate bill in the House] is just ultimately trying to kill immigration reform.” Congressman Peter Roskam (R-IL): “[Passing the Senate bill in the House] just won’t happen. It is a pipe dream to think that that bill is going to the floor and

be voted on.” Jonathan Strong writes at NationalReview.com, “The single biggest criticism about the Senate bill is on its relatively toothless trigger structure. Almost all House Republicans say they want legislation that demonstrably enforces the law before legalization is given to millions of illegal immigrants. The Senate bill legalizes everyone at the start and then includes relatively soft triggers on enforcement in order for the path to *citizenship* to commence. ...If you’re rooting for the Senate bill, about the best you’ll get out of a Republican member of the House is that it does create *some* pressure for the House to pass its *own* bill, which probably won’t include a path to citizenship.” (Obama and his fellow Democrats are eager to see the legislation passed in its Senate form because large Hispanic populations would allow them to turn Arizona, Texas, and Florida into reliable Democrat strongholds for presidential elections.) [46092]

The Senate confirms Anthony Foxx as Obama’s new Secretary of Transportation.

NewsOK.com reports, “A federal appeals court in Denver sided with Hobby Lobby Stores Inc. on Thursday in its legal battle against part of the Affordable Care Act [ObamaCare]. The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals moved to reverse a lower court’s decision to deny Hobby Lobby Stores Inc.’s quest for an injunction against part of the Affordable Care Act that requires it to cover the cost of emergency contraceptives for some of its employees. ...The ruling is a blow to the federal government’s argument that as for-profit corporations, the companies cannot claim that the health care law is a violation of constitutionally protected religious freedoms.” (Absent the ruling, Hobby Lobby would have to begin paying expensive Obamacare fines on July 1, 2013.) [46111, 46112, 46114]

On *Special Report*, columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama’s response to a question about Edward Snowden: “So he doesn’t speak to the head of Russia and China because he doesn’t have to. It’s beneath him, you see. The mere sheer radiance of Obama ought to be enough to persuade them to turn over Snowden, and that apparently hasn’t worked yet. I mean, the arrogance that he’s of such Olympian stature, and then pretends that, of course, it’s just a 29-year-old hacker, when as you showed earlier in the show the Secretary of State said that this could cost lives, and the head of the NSA had said it’s extremely damaging. So, I mean, obviously he’s trying to save face, but it’s making it worse. And then at the end, he says the other reason I didn’t is because I don’t want to make this important enough that springing him becomes an issue on which I have to wheel and deal with the Russians and the Chinese. Well, has Obama ever been accused of wheeling and dealing successfully with anyone? How is the wheeling and dealing over the reset gone well over Syria, Iran, and other issues? You know, he says he doesn’t want to be overtaxed. He’s got other stuff to do as he tours Africa.” [46099]

On June 28 TribLive.com reports that millions of Egyptians plan to protest on June 30 against President Mohamed Morsi and his regime of Muslim Brotherhood thugs. “Opposition leaders hope to send millions of demonstrators into the streets and to collect 15 million signatures on petitions demanding Morsy’s resignation. ...In Luxor, protests erupted last week when Morsy named Adel Al Khayat, a leading Gama’a Islamiyya figure, as the local governor; Al Khayat withdrew when residents barred his office door

and burned tires in the street.” (In 1997, members of Gama’a Islamiyya “charged a 3,400-year-old mortuary temple in Luxor” and killed 58 tourists and four Egyptians. The Obama-backed Morsi apparently believed it was not unreasonable to name a terrorist as governor.) [46093]

DailyCaller.com reports, “The man in charge of policing waste, fraud and abuse at the federal government’s third-largest department has been accused of suppressing a politically sensitive report, violating anti-nepotism laws and misusing agency resources, according to a letter from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security. Charles Edwards, deputy inspector general at the Department of Homeland Security and de facto head of the office, was ordered by Missouri Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill and Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson to provide sixteen separate document sets related to the allegations by July 19. ...The letter claims Edwards intentionally changed and withheld information from both the public and internal reports on the solicitation of prostitutes by U.S. Secret Service personnel in Cartagena, Colombia last year. Johnson believes the suppression may have been done at the direction of political appointees at the Department of Homeland Security, raising doubts about the office’s independence from the agency it’s tasked with investigating. Numerous other allegations came from over a dozen current or former employees and vary widely. Whistle-blowers claim that Edwards illegally employed his wife as an auditor within his office, obtaining improper benefits for her in the process. ...He also stands accused of misusing federal funds by traveling regularly to Fort Lauderdale, Florida under the guise of conducting routine inspections of a local inspector general’s office. In reality, whistle-blowers allege that Edwards was attending Ph. D classes at Nova Southeastern University, billing airline tickets, car rentals and hotel fees to the federal government.” [46150]

At Townhall.com Donald Lambro writes of the continuing poor state of the U.S. economy: “Forget everything you’ve been told by ...Obama about the economy getting ‘stronger’ or heard on the nightly news about the ‘solid’ recovery. The economy is slowing down and getting weaker, and millions of Americans, as a result, are suffering. ...Slower growth means fewer jobs created, that the unemployment rate will remain at very high levels for the foreseeable future, and that businesses large and small will be struggling to survive. It’s not going to get better under this administration’s anti-growth policies. ‘Many analysts think growth has slowed in the April–June quarter to an annual rate of 2 percent or less,’ the Associated Press reported this week. ...Nearly 90 percent of the decline in the national jobless rate, by some estimates, is due to the millions of long-term unemployed workers who’ve stopped looking for a job and are no longer counted among the unemployed. We see that in the labor force participation rate that has dropped precipitously under this administration's watch. The ratio of adult workers between the ages of 25 and 54 who are employed plunged from 80 to 75 percent in the recession and remains essentially unchanged.” [46097]

“All of this,” observes Lambro, “is the result of Obama’s policies. Businesses are reluctant to invest in new equipment or hire workers because of the higher health care costs mandated under Obamacare that will kick in next year. ... ‘With the economy lagging in the past few years, 39 percent of adults ages 18 to 34 say they have had to

move in with their parents in recent years,' the *Washington Post* reported Thursday, citing a study by the Pew Research Center. The study found that 'more adults are now living in multi-generational households than at any time since the 1950s.' Even more disturbing has been the sharp increase in suicides among middle-aged Americans, with the highest rise among largely jobless men in their 50s, according to data released in May by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their suicidal rate increased by nearly 50 percent. The economic downturn is cited by experts as one of the key factors behind this little-reported human tragedy in the Obama economy." [46097]

CNSNews.com reports, "The Department of Health and Human Services today released the final text of the final adjustments to the Obamacare regulation that requires virtually all health-care plans to provide cost-free coverage for sterilizations, contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs. Catholics and Evangelical Christians have objected to the regulation, arguing that it violates their First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion. The Catholic Church teaches that sterilization, contraception and abortion are all intrinsically immoral. Evangelical Christians believe that abortion takes an innocent human life and is thus wrong. The final regulation issued today provides no accommodations at all for individual Catholics and other Christians who morally object to the mandate. It also makes no accommodations for private for-profit employers who morally object to the mandate. Catholic and other Christian individuals in the United States will now be forced by the Obama administration to buy insurance coverage that pays for sterilizations, contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs—whether they want that coverage or not and even though it forces them to act against their faith. ...The Obama administration now says to Catholics and other Christians who oppose sterilization, contraception and/or abortion: You are not free to exercise your faith. You must act against its teachings. You must do what we say, not what your conscience says." [46116]

CNSNews.com later notes, "The final version of Obamacare's 'preventive services' regulation... discriminates against faithful members of the Roman Catholic Church by effectively barring them from owning and operating health-insurance companies. This is because the regulation orders health insurance companies to provide sterilizations, contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs to all female beneficiaries except those insured by 'religious employers'—which, according to the regulation, includes only actual 'houses of worship' (n.b. parish churches), their immediate auxiliaries, associations of houses of worship and the 'exclusively religious activities of any religious order.' ...Under the final regulation, even Catholic organizations such as Catholic hospitals, universities and charities are not counted as 'religious employers.' Thus, if a Catholic university wanted to seek out and do business with a health-insurance company whose owners ran their company wholly in keeping with Catholic teachings, the university would not be allowed to do so because all insurance companies providing health insurance to Catholic universities will now be required to pay for sterilizations, contraceptives and abortion-inducing drugs for the employees of those universities." [46191]

Eric Rassbach, deputy general counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, responds to the ObamaCare regulation: “Unfortunately the final rule announced today is the same old, same old [sic]. As we said when the proposed rule was issued, this doesn’t solve the religious conscience problem because it still makes our non-profit clients the gatekeepers to abortion and provides no protection to religious businesses. The easy way to resolve this would have been to exempt sincere religious employers completely, as the Constitution requires. Instead this issue will have to be decided in court.” WND.com reports, “According to the organization, the final rule fails to fix the HHS employer mandate’s fundamental problems: non-profit religious employers are still dragooned into acting as gatekeepers to abortion; self-insured religious groups must hire administrators that pay for abortifacients and contraceptives; and religious business owners still have to provide abortion-inducing drugs or pay up to millions of dollars in fines.” Belmont Abbey, a private Catholic college in Belmont, North Carolina represented by the Becket Fund, was the first institution to sue the government over ObamaCare’s requirement to cover abortions. The college’s president, William K. Thierfelder, tells WND.com, “We cannot go against our faith, and we are not going to do it. We will never accept something that is antithetical to what we believe. I think all of us have to have the commitment the martyrs [had]. Not that we are going to be martyrs, but we have to have that kind of commitment. Sometimes the faith is bolstered by persecution. ...Our [health insurance] plan renews January 2014. We have to comply [with ObamaCare], and we won’t. We will not offer abortifacients and contraceptives ever, ever, ever.” [46140, 46163]

The final ObamaCare abortion regulations declare, “Covering contraceptives also yields significant cost-savings. A 2000 study estimated that it would cost 15 to 17 percent more not to provide coverage in employee health plans than to provide such coverage, after accounting for both the direct medical costs of pregnancy and the indirect costs, such as employee absence.” (While it is true that providing free abortions will result in fewer employees taking time off from work for pregnancies, it is also true that hiring a hit-man to kill one’s spouse means not taking time off to go to divorce court. But neither scenario provides a moral justification for subsidizing the killing of fetuses or spouses.) [46164]

Politico reports, “The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee voted 22–17 Friday that embattled IRS official Lois Lerner waived her Fifth Amendment rights during a hearing last month on the agency’s tea party targeting scandal. The party-line vote paves the way for the committee to haul Lerner back to Congress and force her to answer questions from lawmakers. The resolution before the committee said that by reading an opening statement proclaiming her innocence at the outset of a May 22 hearing, Lerner—who led the IRS division that singled out tea party groups applying for a tax exemption—relinquished her constitutional right to avoid self-incrimination.”

Attorney Orly Taitz reports that in *Taitz v. Michael Astrue, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration*, the federal government has “failed to furnish an opposition or a response to the motion for reconsideration seeking SS-5, Social Security application for Social Security number 042-68-4425 which was assigned to Harrison J. Bounel and which Obama is fraudulently using.” (Using the Freedom of Information Act, Taitz

requested Obama's Form SS-5, the document completed by individuals filing for a Social Security number. Without justification, the government has refused to provide the document. One theory is that no Form SS-5 for Obama exists because he has used multiple stolen Social Security numbers.) [46121]

BizPacReview.com reports, "Family members of some Navy SEAL Team VI members killed when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan in 2011 have filed suit in federal court against Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, seeking more than \$200 million in damages. The complaint charges that disclosures of classified information by Biden and Panetta that the elite unit was responsible for the killing of Osama bin Laden placed a 'target on the backs' of the now fallen heroes, as reported by the Wall Street Journal. The Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Afghan President Hamid Karzai were also named in the suit. Karzai is alleged to have tipped the Taliban off about the coordinates of the helicopter carrying SEAL Team VI. ...The families have questioned much about the operation, known as 'Extortion 17,' and think the U.S. government is 'as much responsible for the deaths of their sons as is the Taliban.' Many feel SEAL Team VI was set up and flew unsupported into a waiting ambush." [46125]

DailyCaller.com quotes an article by former New York Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman calling for "the impeachment of the president over revelations of massive government surveillance of ordinary citizens. ...Nothing less is necessary to protect our constitutional system and preserve our democracy. ...[I]t wasn't until the most recent revelations that [the president] directed the wiretapping of hundreds, possibly thousands, of Americans, in violation of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)—and argued that, as Commander in Chief, he had the right in the interests of national security to override our country's laws—that I felt the same sinking feeling in my stomach as I did during Watergate. As a matter of constitutional law, these and other misdeeds constitute grounds for the impeachment. A President, any President, who maintains that he is above the law—and repeatedly violates the law—thereby commits high crimes and misdemeanors, the constitutional standard for impeachment and removal from office. ...It now appears that thousands of calls were monitored and that the information obtained may have been widely circulated among federal agencies. ...[The president] has been guilty of such gross incompetence or reckless indifference to his obligation to execute the laws faithfully as to call into question whether he takes his oath seriously or is capable of doing so. ...An energized public must in turn bear down on Congress. Constituents should request meetings with their Senators and Representatives to educate them on impeachment. They can also make their case through e-mail, letters and phone calls." (Holtzman's article is from the January 30, 2006 edition of The Nation. Although it refers to President George W. Bush's actions, it can easily be read as though it were written in June 2013. It is assumed, however, that Democrat Holtzman is probably not willing to apply her Bush standards to Obama, as she has not yet called for his impeachment.) [46145, 46146]

On June 29, in Johannesburg, Obama meets with the family of 94-year-old former president of South Africa, socialist Nelson Mandela. According to the Associated Press,

Obama also “held a town hall [meeting] with young people in Soweto, an area of Johannesburg that was a center of the youth-driven movement to fight against South Africa’s apartheid government. ...Outside the event, protesters under police watch demonstrated outside the university against Obama’s record on surveillance and foreign policy. Protesters from a range of trade unions and civil society groups chanted, ‘Away with intelligence, away,’ holding posters depicting Obama with an Adolf Hitler moustache.” (Some observers expect widespread violence by blacks against whites when Mandela—who is being kept alive by a breathing machine—dies. Obama does not comment on a YouTube video that shows Mandela joining others in a song about killing white people.) [46075, 46079, 46080, 46275, 46277, 46310]

During the town hall event, Obama says, “Ultimately, if you think about all the youth that everybody has mentioned here in Africa, if everybody is raising living standards to the point where everybody has got a car and everybody has got air conditioning, and everybody has got a big house, well, the planet will boil over—unless we find new ways of producing energy.” (Obama does not offer to turn down the air conditioning in the White House or trade in his armored limousine for an electric vehicle, but his remedy for what he believes to be a problem—“global warming”—is apparently for the standard of living of most “non-elite” human beings to be drastically reduced.) Meanwhile, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average price of electricity in the United States reached a record high 13.1 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of May. (The price was 8.4 cents in 1984, when such data was first recorded.) [46147, 46192, 46193]

In Soweto, South Africa, riot police fire stun grenades and rubber bullets at demonstrators protesting Obama’s visit. According to Ahram.org, “Demonstrators burned US flags and portraits of Obama, who is on a three-nation tour of Africa, chanting: ‘Arrest Obama, not us!’ and ‘Whose country is this?’ ...Members of the South African Communist Party and anti-Israel groups held up posters depicting Obama with a moustache like that of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. ‘The message is clear. We want him to honour the promises he made when he became president, including things like the closing of Guantanamo Bay,’ 30-year-old protester Firoz Osman told AFP.” [46128, 46129]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “A day after an American student from Maryland was killed during protests in Cairo ...Obama said Saturday his most urgent priority is protecting U.S. diplomatic posts in Egypt. ‘Our most immediate concern with respect to protests this weekend have to do with our embassies and consulates,’ Mr. Obama told reporters in South Africa, where he is in the midst of a weeklong tour. ‘We have been in direct contact with the Egyptian government.’” [46123]

In Barstow, California, police arrest 36-year-old Jose Luis Aguilar after he reportedly raped and killed his girlfriend’s nine-month-old daughter and attempted to escape to Mexico. (Obama has no comment. Whether Aguilar will be allowed to become a voting U.S. citizen under the Senate-approved amnesty legislation is not yet clear.) [46098]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating in the June 27–29 Gallup poll is 45/47 percent. [46124]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Los Angeles school system reportedly plans to use a state grant to promote ObamaCare, in part by teaching students to become ‘messengers’ for the law. The Heartland Institute first reported on the grant, one of \$37 million in state grants announced in May by Covered California, the state’s health insurance exchange. Of that, \$990,000 was awarded to The Los Angeles Unified School District. A brief synopsis of the grant says it would be used for ‘outreach calls’ to families and ‘adult-student class presentations.’ But it also states as an objective: ‘Teens trained to be messengers to family members.’ According to The Heartland Institute, a spokeswoman for Covered California said the group has ‘confidence’ the Los Angeles program ‘will be successful in reaching our target population, which includes family members of students.’” (IN other words, tax dollars will be used to train students to push ObamaCare on their parents and other family members.) [46160]

On June 30 Millions of Egyptians demonstrate against President Mohamed Morsi—and against Obama’s support of him. Protester Ghada Ahmd charges, “A year, he did nothing for this year. He is not even trying. He is doing everything for his Muslim Brotherhood group. Not for Egypt, not for Egyptians. He is ignoring everything.” (In The Daily Debate, Robert Tracinski writes, “Brotherhood leader Mohammed Morsi’s rule has become increasingly authoritarian, and at the same time he has done nothing no revive the nation’s collapsing economy, to establish public order and the rule of law, or to rein in rampant corruption. Egyptians have begun to fear they’re getting the same old regime, but in an even more restrictive, Islamist version.”) Twenty-two million Egyptians have signed a petition demanding the ouster of Morsi—who received 13 million votes in the election. AtlasShrugs.com’s Pamela Geller notes that Obama did his part, sending Morsi 140,000 canisters of tear gas to use against his fellow citizens. “They won’t soon forget,” observes Geller. “Obama’s legacy. History will not be kind to the Muslim Brotherhood stooge in the White House.” (In general, the mainstream media can be expected to downplay the protests until it is issued the appropriate “narrative” by the White House. CNN viewers tuning in to see a report on the protests instead see Yoko Ono.) [46134, 46148, 46151, 46162, 46168, 46169, 46174]

At Breitbart.com blogger Ace of Spades writes, “Hey, remember when the media covered the Tahir [sic; Tahrir] Square uprising as if it were the most important democratic event since the fall of the Soviet Union? The Egyptian military estimates the demonstrations as ‘several million’ strong. Why is there none of that Present at the Dawning of a New Age urgency to the media’s coverage this time? Is it because only Obama can bless an Arab Spring? Is it because the protests against the Muslim Brotherhood government—a government which Obama supported and continues to support—would be taken as an affront to Dear Leader? Is it because the thrill of democracy was only thrilling to the media last time because it could be portrayed as vindicating Obama’s very-much-implied Messianic power to change the world? Why is a democratic, reformist, more secular movement not exciting to the media now? Some reports say that seventeen million have taken to the streets to protest Morsi’s Islamist, repressive, backwards, corrupt, and thuggish government; where is the media interest in the democrats? ...Is the Muslim Brotherhood terrorist clown show the best we can hope for? When there are millions of

Egyptians pleading for something better, is our government going to turn its back on them, as they turned their backs on the abortive Green Revolution in Iran? And a similar uprising has occurred in Turkey, against another Obama ally, the Islamist Tayyip Erdogan. Coincidentally enough, the American media also didn't think that protest was terribly interesting. After all, Obama didn't give a speech about it. These are very positive, very hopeful, and potentially very momentous events. These protests might mark the real beginning of the Arab Spring, as people turn from the promises of an Islamist Paradise on Earth towards a more realistic and mature concept of self-government and democracy. Is the American media really so provincial and so hopelessly partisan that they can't find any interest in covering them unless they somehow can be cast as Vindications of The One? I already know the answer, of course. For all the American media's pretensions and claims of professionalism, they truly are a vile, childish, unserious and unprofessional bunch of provincial rubes compared to their counterparts in the European press. The foreign press sure seems to think this is a big deal. They seem to think it's an important story in its own right, without any concern of 'how it makes Obama look.'" [46157]

AtlasShrugs.com reports that "Obama-backed jihadists" in Gassanieh, Syria beheaded Catholic priest Francois Murad as the crowd chanted "Allahu Akbar." (At Townhall.com John Ransom later writes, "...Obama has made a mess of things. U.S. foreign policy is a disaster and Syria is just the latest symptom. If I told you 30 years ago that the United States in 30 years would be arming Islamic rebels against Christian populations with Russia acting as benefactors to Christianity, you would have called me crazy.") [46137, 46138, 46143, 46188]

Newsmax.com reports, "Many small businesses are holding off on hiring or are even shedding jobs due to fears of higher costs resulting from the implementation of Obamacare, a new poll reveals. The Gallup poll was commissioned by the law firm Littler Mendelson, which specializes in employment law, and surveyed more than 600 owners whose businesses have less than \$20 million in yearly sales. More than four in 10 of the businesses surveyed—41 percent—disclosed that they have frozen hiring because of Obamacare. And 19 percent said they had reduced their number of employees 'as a specific result of the Affordable Care Act.' Another 38 percent of the small business owners said they have 'pulled back on their plans to grow their business' because of the ACA. ...The poll found that 18 percent of businesses surveyed have reduced the hours of employees to part-time to avoid the fine. Other results of the poll include: 48 percent of owners believe Obamacare will be bad for their bottom line, compared to 9 percent who say it will be good for business. 55 percent of owners say the ACA will lead to higher healthcare costs, while just 5 percent believe it will lower costs. 52 percent expect Obamacare to reduce the quality of healthcare. 24 percent say they may go so far as to drop insurance coverage due to Obamacare." [46127]

At the University of Capetown in South Africa—one day after telling people in Johannesburg they can't have the electricity they want because of global warming—Obama pledges a \$7 billion aid package to provide Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania with more electricity. He says, "I'm calling for America to up our

game when it comes to Africa. We want to unleash the power of entrepreneurship and markets to create opportunity here in Africa.” (Obama is apparently unconcerned about the massive federal deficit and the fact that Americans don’t have \$7 billion to give to Africans, nor does he seem to be bothered by the fact that he seems more concerned about employment prospects for Africans than Americans.) Obama makes the speech about himself, patting himself on the back for selflessly getting involved in politics after watching Nelson Mandela standing up for equality in South Africa: “My own government in the United States was not standing on their side. That’s why I got involved in what was known as the divestment movement in the United States. It was the first time I ever attached myself to a cause. I know now that something inside me was stirring at that time, something important, and that was the belief that I could be part of something bigger than myself, that my own salvation was bound up with those of others.” According to WashingtonTimes.com Obama also tells reporters, “If somebody says they want to come build something here, are they hiring African workers? If somebody says that they want to help you develop your natural resources, how much of the money is staying in Africa? ...Don’t just assume that folks come here and they’re automatically benefiting Africans. And that includes the United States. Ask questions in terms of what we do.” (Rather than another “apology tour,” Obama is engaging in a “don’t trust Americans but take their money” tour.) [46130, 46147, 46155]

At a community health center run by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa, Obama is greeted by signs that read, “Thanks PEPFAR.” (Pepfar is the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, started by President George W. Bush. Its budget has been cut by Obama.) *The Washington Post* writes, “Obama has been widely applauded for distinguishing himself from Bush’s policies, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. But across this continent, many Africans wish Obama was more like Bush in his social and health policies, particularly in the fight against HIV/AIDS—one of the former president’s signature foreign policy aid programs. Bush poured billions of dollars into the effort to combat the spread of the disease that once threatened to consume a generation of young Africans, and as Obama has spent two days touring South Africa, the shadow of his predecessor has trailed him. ...For Obama, the success of Bush’s program has proved a tad awkward, as he has been mindful to praise his predecessor even as he tries to push forward on his administration’s own plans for new programs based on private investment from U.S. businesses. Flying to South Africa from Senegal this weekend, Obama told reporters that Bush ‘deserves enormous credit’ for the fight against HIV/AIDS, acknowledging that the program likely saved millions of lives.” [46158]

Der Spiegel reports, “Germany’s Federal Prosecutors’ Office confirmed... that it is looking into whether systematic data spying against the country conducted by America’s National Security Agency violated laws aimed at protecting German citizens. A spokeswoman at the Federal Prosecutors’ Office, which is responsible for domestic security issues, told SPIEGEL that all available and relevant information about the Prism, Tempora and Boundless Informant spying programs is currently being reviewed by the agency. The spokeswoman said the office was seeking to form a reliable understanding of the facts. However, the agency has not indicated when or if it will launch a formal investigation. Nevertheless, the spokeswoman said that ‘criminal complaints’ relating to

the scandal appear 'likely.' ...According to the content of documents viewed by SPIEGEL, spying by the American National Security Agency (NSA) has been far more widespread than previously believed. Secret NSA documents show that authorities systematically monitored and saved a large share of Internet and telephone connection data. Internal NSA statistics show that around 500 million communications connections in Germany are monitored monthly by the agency. The NSA also classifies Germany as a 'target' for spying. In addition, SPIEGEL reported this weekend that the NSA has bugged European Union diplomatic offices in the United States for eavesdropping purposes and that it has infiltrated EU computer networks. The revelations come from material about the NSA's Prism and Britain's Tempora programs compiled by whistleblower Edward Snowden." Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes tells reporters, "I can't comment" on the charges—meaning, "Yes, we have been spying on our allies." 46131, 46135, 46144]

Reuters reports, "The European Union has demanded that the United States explain a report in a German magazine that Washington is spying on the group, using unusually strong language to confront its closest trading partner over its alleged surveillance activities. A spokeswoman for the European Commission said on Sunday the EU contacted U.S. authorities in Washington and Brussels about a report in Der Spiegel magazine that the U.S. secret service had tapped EU offices in Washington and Brussels and at the United Nations. 'We have immediately been in contact with the U.S. authorities in Washington D.C. and in Brussels and have confronted them with the press reports,' the spokeswoman said. 'They have told us they are checking on the accuracy of the information released yesterday and will come back to us,' she added in a statement." European Union Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding states, "Partners do not spy on each other." European Parliament President Martin Schulz says he is "deeply worried and shocked about the allegations of U.S. authorities spying on EU offices." Elmar Brok, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in European Parliament, states, "The spying has reached dimensions that I didn't think were possible for a democratic country. Such behavior among allies is intolerable. ...[The United States] is suffering from a security syndrome. They have completely lost all balance. [1984 author] George Orwell is nothing by comparison." Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Green Party floor leader in European Parliament, states, "A simple note of protest is not enough anymore. The EU must immediately suspend negotiations with the US over a free trade agreement. First, we need a deal on data protection so that something like this never happens again. Only then can we resume [free-trade] negotiations." [46136, 46142, 46144]

At Facebook, former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) writes, "This week we'll celebrate the 237th anniversary of our independence. But are we a free people? SCOTUS [Supreme Court of the United States] made an ill-conceived ruling believing the choice of sexual behavior should trump the peoples's [sic] referendum. We are free to love anyone or anything we desire in America, but that does not correlate to rights beyond the unalienable ones Jefferson articulated 237 years ago. In California we have a state-funded grant for the Los Angeles Unified School District to abuse the concept of public education by turning public schools into indoctrination factories, forcing children to spout the joys of ObamaCare. The district listed as a primary outcome for its project, 'Teens

trained to be messengers to family members.’ Covered California spokeswoman Sarah Soto-Taylor said staff have not questioned this goal. She stated, ‘We have confidence that the model LA Unified brought to the table will be successful in reaching our target population, which includes family members of students.’ LA Unified will also use tax-paid staff to promote ObamaCare through phone calls to students’ homes, in-class presentations, and meetings with employees eligible for ObamaCare’s taxpayer-covered healthcare, the grant award says. Obama said he would fundamentally transform America. The time draws near to teach this usurper and charlatan the lesson our forefathers taught King George III. We will not be ruled by arrogance and edict.” [46132, 46133]

On ABC’s *This Week*, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange says NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden—apparently still in Russia—has more information to reveal: “Look, there is no stopping the publishing process at this stage. Great care has been taken to make sure that Mr. Snowden can’t be pressured by any state to stop the publication process. ...[Snowden] is a hero. He has told the people of the world and the United States that there is mass unlawful interception of their communications, far beyond anything that happened under Nixon. Obama can’t just turn around like Nixon did and say, ‘It’s OK if the president does it.’” [46142, 46152, 46167]

Radical activist professor Cornel West, who happens to be black, gives radio host Tavis Smiley (also black) his impression of the focus on gay rights: “We’re living in an age where we black folk are just being pushed to the back of the bus in terms of our visibility in terms of our suffering in terms of the intensity of our exclusion, especially our poor black youth, especially with... the new Jim Crow and so on. And we have to be honest about that. Again this has something to do of course with what history books will say. The irony of the age of Obama in which black folks found themselves pushed to the back our gay brothers and lesbian sisters more and more pushed to the center.” [46197, 46198]