

*The Obama Timeline – Part II*

*The Doomed Presidency*

*June 2014*

On June 1 the Taliban release a statement: “We heartily congratulate the whole nation, Mujahidin of the Islamic Emirate, particularly the kith and kin of the released ones that five heads of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan... who had been incarcerated for the last thirteen years in ‘Guantanamo Jail’ are released due to the benevolence of Allah Almighty and the sacrifices of the heroic and courageous Mujahidin of the Islamic Emirate. ...In the future too, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is determined to get all the Mujahidin prisoners released as soon as possible. In this regard, we expect all the legal and human rights societies particularly the United Nations to share and accelerate their efforts with Afghan people and the Islamic Emirate on the basis of human sympathy so that all the incarcerated people are freed and their basic legal and human rights are safeguarded and they could lead an independent and peaceful life of their own accord.” [59501]

At TheBlaze.com author Brad Thor writes, “For more than 200 years, the United States has had a policy of not trading prisoners for American hostages. That policy has been shredded and international travel to even cities like London, Paris, and Amsterdam will now pose an exceptional danger for Americans. And as Americans, we must all ask: at what price was Sgt. Bergdahl’s freedom purchased? ...Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl’s release raises many more questions than it answers. But will anyone in the mainstream media ask those questions? Will any of them discuss the recidivism rate of Gitmo detainees who, once released back into the wild, return to terrorism? How about the lives and limbs lost in the effort to capture those Gitmo detainees in the first place? What about the possibility that the Obama Administration may have directly funded a terrorist organization responsible for slaughtering American military personnel and countless innocent civilians? Only time will tell. For now, one thing is clear—it is open season on American civilians and American military personnel around-the-world. Where ...Obama failed to close Gitmo, America’s enemies may just do it for him. All they need to do is kidnap enough Americans, and they’ll have the place cleaned out in no time.” [59458, 59884]

Obama’s National Security Advisor, Susan Rice, appears on ABC’s *This Week*. Host George Stephanopoulos notes, “[T]his has been an almost five year effort to bring him [released U.S. soldier Bowe Bergdahl] home, the U.S. has gotten close before,” and asks, question, “What made the difference this time?” (The difference, of course, is that the Obama administration decided to cave in and release five hardened terrorists in exchange for Bergdahl’s release.) But Rice answers, “Well, George, things have come together, I mean, th... this has been something that th... the United States, we’ve been committed to getting him back as we’re committed to bringing every American, uh, taken on the battlefield back, and we never leave them behind, but this has been a process that has

extended off and on a period of, of almost three years, uh, toward the end of last year we had some indications that it might be possible, uh, to return, uh, Bowe Bergdahl, uh, those discussions, uh, mediated by the government of Qatar, uh, really, uh, came to fruition over the course of the last week, uh, but it really wasn't until yesterday morning, just before, uh, 10:30 eastern time that we knew for sure that he was back safely in American hands." (In other words, "I'm not going to give you the real answer, which is, 'We decided to cave in release the five terrorists the Taliban wanted all along.'") Stephanopoulos does not ask Rice why, if we never leave Americans behind, the Obama administration did nothing to rescue Americans in Benghazi. [59453, 59627, 59690]

Asked about criticism of the deal that allowed the release of Bergdahl because it breaks the tradition of not negotiating with terrorists and therefore puts more Americans at risk, Rice calls it "a very special situation, uh, Sergeant Bergdahl wasn't simply a hostage, he was an American prisoner of war, captured on the battlefield... [Whether Bergdahl was "captured on the battlefield" is debatable.] We have a sacred obligation that we have upheld since the founding of our republic to do our utmost to bring back out men and women... If for some reason, uh, we took a position now in the 21st century... that we would not do our utmost to bring our prisoners home, uh, that would break faith with the American people and with the men and women who serve in uniform, so regardless of who may be holding an American prisoner of war we must do our best to bring him or her back." (Rice twists the understood policy from, "We will do what it takes to bring U.S. soldiers home, but we will never negotiate with terrorists," to "We will negotiate with terrorists if that is what it takes." Interestingly, Rice emphasizes that Bergdahl is a prisoner of war, despite the fact that the Obama administration has done its best *not* to refer to terrorists held at Guantanamo as prisoners of war. To Obama, they are not prisoners of war; they are simply lawbreakers who deserve civilian trials in New York City, with all the rights he believes go with that classification.) [59453, 59486, 59507]

Stephanopoulos asks Rice about criticism that Obama violated the law by negotiating the release of Bergdahl without notifying Congress at least 30 days in advance of its deal, Rice argues that Obama had the "Constitutional authority to prioritize the health of Sergeant Bergdahl. We had reason to be concerned that this was an urgent and acute situation, that his life could have been at risk, we did not have 30 days to wait, and had we waited and lost him I don't think anybody would have forgiven, uh, the United States government." (Rice does not describe the health condition that supposedly threatened Bergdahl's life. Nor does she explain why his life had not been at risk at any time during the last five years. Some might assume that being tortured, shot, or even decapitated by the Taliban/Haqqanis was a definite possibility throughout Bergdahl's captivity.) [59453]

Rice claims the "risk has been substantially mitigated" that the five released terrorists will return to the battlefield and kill more Americans, but does not explain why anyone should trust Qatar to keep its promises. Rice says, "I can't get into the specifics of the understandings..." [59453]

Stephanopoulos brings up the issue of how Bergdahl was captured and whether he was absent without leave, and whether he will be disciplined by the Army if he did, in fact, go

AWOL. Rice replies, “Certainly, uh, anybody’s who’s been held in those conditions in captivity for five years has paid an extraordinary price, but that, that is really, uh, not the point. The point is that he’s back. He’s going to be safely reunited with his family. He served the United States with honor and distinction, and we’ll have the opportunity eventually to, to learn what has transpired in, in the past years, but what’s most important now is his health and well-being, that he have the opportunity, uh, to recover in peace and security and be, uh, reunited with his family, uh, which, uh, is why this is such a joyous day.” (Rice’s statement is immediately met with harsh criticism because there is evidence that Bergdahl did not, in fact, serve “with honor and distinction.” After sending his personal belongings back home to his parents, he voluntarily left his base with water, a compass, and a knife; several Afghan children claimed an American asked them where he could find the Taliban; and the day after his disappearance Bergdahl telephoned his Army base and stated that he had, in fact, deserted. A 2010 Pentagon investigation concluded that Bergdahl voluntarily walked away from his unit. At least six Americans were killed in operations to locate and retrieve Bergdahl: Staff Sergeant Clayton Bowen, Private First Class Morris Walker, Staff Sergeant Kurt Curtiss, Second Lieutenant Darryn Andrews, Staff Sergeant Michael Murphrey, and Private First Class Matthew Martinek.) [59453, 59462, 59465, 59470, 59481, 59512, 59528, 59591, 59595, 59633, 59926]

Despite the establishment of a select committee to investigate Benghazi, Stephanopoulos neglects to ask Rice even one question about the continuing interest in the scandal or her thoroughly discredited claims that a YouTube video prompted the terrorist attack. [59470, 59498]

On August 22, 2010 the Daily Mail reported, “A captured American soldier is training Taliban fighters bomb-making and ambush skills, according to one of his captors and Afghan intelligence officials. Private Bowe Bergdahl disappeared in June 2009 while based in eastern Afghanistan and is thought to be the only U.S. serviceman in captivity. The 24-year-old has converted to Islam and now has the Muslim name Abdullah, one of his captors told The Sunday Times.” [59565]

On *This Week’s* panel discussion of the Veterans Administration scandal, William Kristol says, “More veterans have come back and they’ve gone to college. And how have they gone to college? They got the G.I. bill. And you know what, there’s no crisis of veterans getting into college. The VA is flawed because it’s failed big-government bureaucracy. You can’t fire anyone. It’s gotten more money each year under ...Obama. Its rate of increase of funding has gone up faster than the number of people they’re serving. The VA needs to be fundamentally reformed. And one way it can be reformed is to in fact let people take a voucher and go to a hospital, the same hospital as we all go to, instead of having to go to the VA to get special services. I want to fundamentally reform the VA and reduce it just like we did with the G.I. bill. Do you think there needs to be a veterans university? And furthermore, I would keep some centers of excellence, research on special things that affect veterans. Some special treatment, that’s fine. [But] There’s no need for a huge sprawling Veterans Administration hospital.” Leftist Tavis Smiley charges, “[T]here are millions of Americans every day who are being failed by a health care system that the Republicans want to repeal every progress we’re making to serve

everyday people whether they're veterans or not [sic]." Kristol asks, "If they got a generous voucher to use to purchase the health insurance they need or the health care they need how would that be failing veterans?" [59460]

Susan Rice also appears on CNN's *State of the Union*, where moderator Candy Crowley asks, "Point blank, did the U.S. negotiate with terrorists for his [Bergdahl's] release?" Rice, following the same talking points she used on ABC's *This Week*, responds, "Candy, what we did was ensure that, as always, the United States doesn't leave a man or woman on the battlefield. It's very important for folks to understand, if we got into a situation where we said because of who has captured an American soldier on the battlefield, we will leave that person behind. We would be in a whole new era for the safety of our personnel and for the nature of our commitment to our men and women in uniform. Because it was the Taliban that had him did not mean that we had any less of an obligation to bring him back." Rice uses the excuse that the administration did not negotiate with terrorists: "We actually negotiated with the government of Qatar, to whom we owe a great debt." (Rice's argument is preposterous, and like claiming that a home buyer is not negotiating the sale price with the home seller because a real estate agent is the go-between.) [59487, 59499]

Rice says, "This opportunity is one that has been briefed to Congress when we had past potential to have this kind of arrangement. So, it wasn't unknown to Congress. [It was not unknown, but Rice fails to mention that Congress had objected.] The Department of Defense consulted with the Department of Justice. And given the acute urgency of the health condition of Sergeant Bergdahl, and given [Obama's] constitutional responsibilities, it was determined that it was necessary and appropriate not to adhere to the 30-day notification requirement, because it would have potentially meant that the opportunity to get Sergeant Bergdahl would have been lost." (Critics of the prisoner swap will be watching and waiting to learn the nature of Bergdahl's "health condition," and where in the U.S. Constitution can be found a "responsibility" to negotiate with terrorists.) "...When the deal was done and Sergeant Bergdahl was in U.S. custody is when we began making notifications to Congress." [59487, 59499]

Asked by Crowley if she worried that the prisoner swap would encourage terrorists to capture more Americans, Rice says, "You asked, did we worry? And I'm telling you that we prioritized, as we always have, bringing back our men and women from the battlefield to the greatest extent we can. This was the right thing to do, and we feel that it will in fact enhance not only Sergeant Bergdahl's life but, in fact, our larger security." Crowley: "And to any terrorist group or terrorist out there who says, 'You know what, we've got X, Y and Z sitting in Guantanamo Bay, we have U.S. troops in many, many places, if we grab one of them, we can work a deal with the U.S. government,' what's your message to them?" Rice: "I think the terrorists are intent on doing what they're going to do. But Candy, we have a commitment to close Guantanamo Bay. [Obama's] been very clear about that. The existence of Guantanamo Bay is itself a detriment to our national security, which is why [Obama's] prioritized closing it and why we intend to get that done." (Rice's response is both naive and absurd. It is patently obvious that the Taliban, al-Qaeda, and other enemies of the United States see the prisoner exchange as an

opportunity to obtain the release of even more terrorists simply by taking Americans hostage. Obama has signaled his willingness to deal, and it is ridiculous to believe no one will try to take him up on the offer. It is also ridiculous for Rice to suggest that closing the detainee center at Guantanamo would make any difference. The enemy does not care *where* its combatants are being held; it cares only that they *are* being held—and wants them released. Moving every terrorist in Guantanamo to a prison in the middle of Iowa would not make their fellow combatants want them released any less.) [59509]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) calls the five released terrorists “the highest high-risk people. Others that we have released have gone back into the fight. It’s been documented. It is disturbing that these individuals would have the ability to reenter the fight. They are big, high-level people, possibly responsible for the deaths of thousands.” Moderator Bob Schieffer responds, “The death of thousands?” McCain: “Absolutely. One of them was a chief intelligence person who killed a lot of Shiite Muslims. These are really the toughest of the tough.” [59494]

Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) states, “Six months ago, I was assured by the administration they would not consider the release of these senior Taliban leaders without consulting Congress. Today, they violated that commitment. The security assurances the United States has been given regarding these terrorists is feeble at best, and I fear it is only a matter of time before they resume their terrorist activities. These men are not soldiers; they are dangerous terrorists and ...Obama should be treating them as such.” [59499]

Former Congressman Allen West (R-FL) writes, “The Taliban has long demanded that the ‘Gitmo 5’ be released in order for peace talks to begin in earnest. The Obama administration has desperately sought to engage the Taliban as American forces are drawn down in Afghanistan, but those talks have gone nowhere to this point. You see, when you’re not comfortable talking in terms of war and victory, you lose the battle of ideas and resolve. I want no part of peace with savages who throw acid on and gun down young girls going to school. I would prefer to crush them and kill them wherever they exist. That’s not being a warmonger. It’s being a realist. The Weekly Standard reports that the freed detainees are among the Taliban’s top commanders in U.S. custody and are still revered in jihadist circles. Two of the five have been wanted by the UN for war crimes. And because of their prowess, Joint Task Force-Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) deemed all five of them “high” risks to the U.S. and its allies. The Obama administration wants to convince the Taliban to abandon its longstanding alliance with al-Qaida. But these men contributed to the formation of that relationship in the first place. All five had close ties to al-Qaida well before the 9/11 attacks. Therefore, it is difficult to see how their freedom would help the Obama administration achieve one of its principal goals for the hoped-for talks. ...If one of these five beasts ends up being responsible for the deaths of a single American, the blood will be clearly on ...Obama’s hands. Furthermore, there is a Marine Sergeant, Andrew Tahmooressi, who is just south of the border held illegally. Obama already freed some 36,000 criminal illegal immigrants—that should suffice as a trade to have SGT Tahmooressi come home. ...We are sending a very dangerous message. Welcome home SGT Bergdahl, but I am concerned about the five released and

why you abandoned your duty station.” (Members of the Mexican army frequently make improper crossings of the border and the U.S. government takes no action. Obama should tell Mexico that policy will change if Tahmooressi is not released.) [59463, 60639]

It is worth noting that in January 2012 *The Guardian* reported that the Obama administration “...has agreed in principle to release high-ranking Taliban officials from Guantanamo Bay in return for the Afghan insurgents’ agreement to open a political office for peace negotiations in Qatar, the Guardian has learned. According to sources familiar with the talks in the US and in Afghanistan, the handful of Taliban figures will include Mullah Khair Khowa, a former interior minister, and Noorullah Noori, a former governor in northern Afghanistan. More controversially, the Taliban are demanding the release of the former army commander Mullah Fazl Akhund. Washington is reported to be considering formally handing him over to the custody of another country, possibly Qatar. ...The Taliban are holding just one American soldier, Bowe Bergdahl, a 25-year-old sergeant captured in June 2009, but it is not clear whether he would be freed as part of the deal. ...Negotiations over the opening of a Taliban political office and the release of prisoners have been underway for more than a year in secret contacts in Germany and in the Gulf between US and Taliban officials, but have been continually held up by political obstacles on all sides.” In June 2014 there is outrage that Obama released key terrorists in exchange for Bergdahl. In January 2012 there should have been outrage that he was considering the release of key terrorists in exchange for nothing more than empty promises. (As noted previously in *The Obama Timeline*, a key Taliban negotiator is Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a jihad-promoting leader of the Salafi-Jihadi Muslim Brotherhood. Al-Qaradawi is one of the best known radical Islamists in the world, who has called on Muslims to obtain nuclear weapons, called jihad an Islamic moral duty, supported suicide bombings, referred to the Holocaust as a divine punishment for the Jews, and prayed for the chance to kill a Jew before he dies—and the Obama administration is willing to negotiate with him and trust him.) [17749, 17750, 17751, 17806, 17807, 17947, 17948, 17984, 17985, 27751, 27825]

AFP reports that Taliban leader Mullah Omar called the prisoner exchange of five Taliban members for Bowe “Abdullah” Bergdahl a “big victory.” (Some might consider the exchange the worst trade since the Chicago Cubs gave up Lou Brock for Ernie Broglio. Others might suggest it was when Senator Elizabeth “wampum” Warren’s (D-MA) ancestors traded Manhattan for \$26 worth of trinkets.) On *Meet the Press*, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel suggests the exchange could lead to a “new opening that can produce an agreement” between the United States and the Taliban. (Within a few hours, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid responds, “It won’t help the peace process in any way, because we don’t believe in the peace process.”) Hagel (whose predecessor Leon Panetta was opposed to a prisoner exchange for Bergdahl) also says, “[Obama] has made very clear he wants to close Guantanamo. We do have responsibilities that we don’t let anyone out of Guantanamo, and I will not sign off on any detainee coming out of Guantanamo unless I am assured, unless our government is assured, our country can be assured that we can sufficiently mitigate any risk to America’s security. We didn’t negotiate with terrorists. As I said and explained before, Sergeant Bergdahl is a prisoner of war. That’s a normal process in getting your prisoners back.” As did Susan Rice,

Hagel calls Bergdahl a “prisoner of war.” (That might be confusing to some, who recall the Obama administration arguing that the United States was not at war but was only engaged in an “overseas contingency operation.”) Also like Rice, Hagel claims, “We needed to get him [Bergdahl] out of there, essentially to save his life,” and also like Rice, Hagel does not explain the nature of Bergdahl’s life-threatening illness. [59466, 59493, 59497, 59499, 59508, 59548]

Hagel also argues, “I think America’s record is pretty clear on going after terrorists, especially those who take hostages, and I don’t think what we did in getting our prisoner of war released in any way would somehow encourage terrorists to take our American servicemen prisoner or hostage.” [59509]

Pamela Geller writes, “Anyone in the Obama administration that cops out to ‘we don’t leave anyone behind’ as the reason why they traded an AWOL traitor for five GITMO Taliban leaders is lying. The Obama administration abandoned our people in Benghazi—heroes and patriots—when they needed us most. Obama’s contempt for our troops is nothing new. Taliban insider attacks spiked to unseen levels under Obama as he continued to sanction and reward the Taliban. Obama’s rules of engagement in Afghanistan was an invitation to murder—it was open season on US soldiers. The Washington Times recently reported that ‘the number of U.S. battlefield fatalities exceeded the rate at which troop strength surged in 2009 and 2010, prompting national security analysts to assert that coinciding stricter rules of engagement led to more deaths.’ Obama’s reception at West Point was icy for good reason. Obama has been a Taliban supporter for some time now—despite the slaughter, the insider attacks, the destruction of schools, the attacks on girls, etc. He strong-armed [Afghan] President [Hamid] Karzai into partnering with them. He supports the Taliban. He insisted that Karzai share power with the Taliban. He insisted that NATO recognize the Taliban. Karzai has said that the Obama Administration actually told him that the Taliban, which provided al Qaeda its base of support for September 11, was not an enemy of the U.S. ...Obama negotiated this ‘trade’ as a cover to release these jihad killers. Many called the AWOL convert to Islam, Abdullah Bergdahl, a traitor or a deserter. Company Commander at Fort Bragg, Stephen Kirouac, called Bergdahl a ‘dirtbag’ and ‘sympathizer.’ And it’s not just that, the soldier, who has converted to Islam, is alleged to have been teaching its fighters bomb-making skills. Bergdahl’s father praised Allah when the announcement of the trade was made. His father wants to see all the GITMO terrorists released.” [59466]

*The Obama Timeline* believes there is no possible way the Obama administration could not have known that Bergdahl was a deserter or that his father has Taliban sympathies. There is no possible way Obama could not have known that his failure to give Congress 30 days advance warning of the deal would create a firestorm. There is no possible way that Obama cannot realize that the five released terrorists will eventually return to the battlefield and probably kill more Americans. There is no possible way that Obama cannot know that his prisoner exchange will make it even more difficult for Democrats to retain control of the Senate. The absurdity of the situation suggests that Obama’s mental faculties are dangerously distorted. He is either unable to accept reality or he is unconcerned with the consequences of his ignoring reality. That no one in the

administration was able to say to Obama, “Excuse me, but I think this is a *big* mistake” indicates that everyone is afraid to contradict Obama (and Valerie Jarrett), or that all the key figures in the administration are equally delusional. Obama knows the Democrats will lose control of the Senate in November, so he is taking advantage of the rest of 2014 to do as much as he can to “fundamentally transform” the nation before he is stopped in his tracks. (Obama has already thrown Senate Democrats who are up for reelection under the bus. Whether they will return the favor remains to be seen.) [59466, 59704, 59922, 59923]

Not only did Obama violate the law by not giving Congress 30 days advance notice of the prisoner exchange, by releasing the five terrorists Obama “provided material support to a terrorist organization,” violating a far more serious statute. Obama violated 18 U.S. Code § 2339B, which states in part, “Whoever knowingly provides material support or resources to a foreign terrorist organization, or attempts or conspires to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both, and, if the death of any person results, shall be imprisoned for any term of years or for life. To violate this paragraph, a person must have knowledge that the organization is a designated terrorist organization..., that the organization has engaged or engages in terrorist activity..., or that the organization has engaged or engages in terrorism...” There is no exemption for elected officials in the law. It is clear that Obama violated that law. He certainly cannot argue that he “did not know” he was providing the Taliban with assistance by releasing five of their leaders, and he also cannot argue that the Taliban is not on the U.S. government’s list of terrorist organizations. If Obama were to be convicted, he could spend 15 years in prison—not that Attorney General Eric Holder would prosecute him. If “the death of any person” results from the release of the five terrorists—which certainly is likely—Holder would still not prosecute Obama. But the beat of the impeachment drums would be heard across the nation. (Obama had better hope the five terrorists take up nothing more than goat herding or taxi driving in Kabul.) [59922, 59923]

At a press conference in Boise, Idaho, Bowe Bergdahl’s father, Bob Bergdahl, says, “But most of all, I’m proud of how much you wanted to help the Afghan people, and what you were willing to do to go to that length. I’ll say it again: I’m so proud of how far you were willing to go to help the Afghan people. And I think you have succeeded.” (Obama has no comment.) [59468, 59523, 59595]

At an appearance in Denver, Colorado, Hillary “play it safe until election day 2016” Clinton is asked for her opinion of Obama’s Bowe Bergdahl release deal. She replies, “This young man, whatever the circumstances, was an American citizen—is an American citizen—was serving in our military. The idea that you really care for your own citizens and particularly those in uniform, I think is a very noble one. ... You don’t want to see these five prisoners go back to combat. There’s a lot that you don’t want to have happen. On the other hand you also don’t want an American citizen, if you can avoid it, especially a soldier, to die in captivity. I think we have a long way to go before we really know how this is going to play out.” [59555, 59556]



NationalJournal.com's Ron Fournier tweets, "'Don't Do Stupid Shit' Really? That's how Obama and his team privately describe his foreign policy vision? Out loud? With straight faces?" [59436, 59437, 59471, 59483]

In an interview with Aaron Klein Investigative Radio, former CIA director James Woolsey calls Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran "not only not the smartest thing, it is positively Chamberlain-esque. There is no chance that Iran is going to abide by limitations which keep it from moving very, very far along the road to having nuclear weapons. Might it stop a few weeks short for public relations purposes? Yes. Maybe. It doesn't matter." Iran is enriching uranium "and we have given it permission in the negotiations to do that, and it can be very, very close to having nuclear weapons, and everybody who analyzes this who is objective knows that. ...The Persians invented chess, and they are good at it. And one thing they are good at doing is messing around on one side of the board doing things that attract attention while very carefully on the other side of the board, when they get a chance, they are moving the pawn down to the king's row to convert it into a queen, the most lethal piece, the analogy being to nuclear weapons." [59469]

At WND.com Pamela Geller writes, "In a stunning rebuke to America's greatest leaders, our illustrious history and the very founding premise of this great nation, Barack Hussein Obama went to West Point last week and gave a speech that was the equivalent of trying to sell Harlem on the Confederacy. And his formula—the mega-watt smile, his calypso walk and his air of condescension—had few, if any, takers. These were real men and women, real patriots, and they weren't having it. In the speech, Obama lauded his surrender to the Taliban—congratulating himself on ending the war. Anyone can end a war by surrender. Winning a war, now that's a whole other thing. He congratulated himself on 'decimating' al-Qaida, when they are stronger than ever and waging jihad across Africa and the Middle East. He applauded the economy on the same day that it was widely reported that the economy actually shrank during the first quarter. ...He bloviated about America's strength, even though we have never been perceived as so weak. Even the New York Times has admitted this, and it has been Obama's best marketing team. ...He said that our military has no peer, but that is hardly thanks to him. He has decimated our military and put weak and feckless leaders at its helm, with a focus on gay sensitivity training. The Department of Defense apologizes to savages for an accidental Quran burning. The Department of Defense refuses to identify the ideology behind the war on America. When the Fort Hood jihadi slaughtered our soldiers in cold blood on our home soil, the DoD labeled it 'workplace violence'—despite the fact that Nidal Hasan was wearing the garb of the shaheed, was giving out Qurans the morning of his jihad and screamed 'Allahu akbar' as he mowed down our soldiers. The Army manual ordered soldiers not to criticize the Taliban. That's like telling those 250 kidnapped Christian girls not to criticize Boko Haram." [59551]

"...Continuing on with his nonsensical blathering, Obama said that 'today's principal threat no longer comes from a centralized al-Qaida leadership. Instead, it comes from decentralized al-Qaida affiliates and extremists.' Huh? That's a distinction without a difference. Jihad is jihad, from Manhattan to Mumbai, London to Lahore, Times Square

to Tiananmen Square, Fort Hood to Frankfurt, CAR to Cairo, Benghazi to Burma and beyond. Obama tried to recount his success against the unnamed enemy, except he hasn't any. And he pledged to fund this failure to the tune of \$5 billion—for a new 'Counter-Terrorism Partnerships Fund.' Rest assured that these funds will go to his 'partners' in the Taliban and al-Qaida in Syria, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Shariah PM Erdogan in Turkey and, lest we forget, his new Iranian buddies. And after all this, Obama's coup de grâce was his vow to go after the real enemy of freedom: climate change. You can't make this craziness up. He praised 'American exceptionalism' while damning it. Obama said, 'What makes us exceptional is not our ability to flout international norms and the rule of law; it is our willingness to affirm them through our actions.' Wrong, ...Obama. What makes us exceptional is individual rights, not 'international norms.' Individual rights is a refutation of international law. Individualism is a rebuke to international law. The United States of America is different from every other country in the world. It was the first government, the first moral government, founded on individual rights. Obama does not begin to understand that, and the little he does understand, he deplors. We are a country based on individual rights. Obama is a statist. Economic implementation of political freedom was capitalism. Obama is a socialist. He is everything America is not. I saw all this coming, and explained what was going to happen in my book, 'The Post-American Presidency: The Obama Administration's War on America.' My warning wasn't heeded when the book came out, early in Obama's first term. Since then, Obama keeps proving me right, again and again—to America's detriment." [59551]

CNN's Wolf Blitzer asks CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin, "You've looked at the law, you've looked at the signing statement, you've gone through it. Did [Obama] break the law?" To the chagrin of Blitzer, Toobin answers, "Oh, I think he clearly broke the law. The law says 30 days' notice. He didn't give 30 days' notice. Now it's true he issued a signing statement, but signing statements are not law—it's [merely a] president's opinion about what the law should mean. Now, it may be that the law is unconstitutional, a violation of his power as commander-in-chief, but no court has held that. The law is on the books and he didn't follow it." Blitzer "You realize, of course, you're accusing [Obama] of breaking the law." Toobin: "Well, I don't think [Obama] is too worried about what I think about this, but I do think his critics have a very good point here. ...It matters, whether people follow the law or not." (According to Byron York at Townhall.com, the law requires that the 30-day notification must include: "1) A detailed statement of the basis for the transfer or release. 2) An explanation of why the transfer or release is in the national security interests of the United States. 3) A description of any actions taken to mitigate the risks of re-engagement by the individual to be transferred or released... 4) A copy of any (review board) findings relating to the individual. 5) A description of the evaluation (of conditions in the country to which the individual would be transferred).") [59552, 59599, 59636, 59686, 60019]

Deputy National Security Adviser Tony Blinken telephones Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) for failing to give her advance notification of the prisoner exchange, calling it an "oversight." [59560, 59645, 59684]

Politico writes, “[Obama’s] political world is more and more beyond his command. Instead, it is driven by Republicans in Congress, potentially power-shifting Senate races in states where Obama isn’t welcomed to campaign, and to speculation centered on Hillary Clinton’s agenda—not his own. Obama tells anxious Democrats that there is only so much he can do beyond fundraising and better implementing the health care law. But he also has told allies that losing the Senate to Republicans would make his last two years in office unbearable.” [59674, 59702]

On June 2 White House press secretary Jay Carney appears on MSNBC’s *Morning Joe* and whines, “I think, you know, having watched these daily briefings over the days and the years, they’ve become more and more combative. There’s a certain element of theater to them. If you watch a briefing in its entirety, I think you’ll be struck about [sic; by] how often the same question is repeated even when they’ve [sic; it has been] been asked two minutes before or 10 minutes before.” (It apparently does not occur to Carney that reporters repeat questions because he doesn’t answer them the first time they are asked.) [59539]

Bob Bergdahl calls for the release of more terrorists, tweeting, “Ten years in Guantanamo: Tunisian families hope for loved ones’ release.” [59433, 59434, 59490]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Pentagon on several occasions had ground-level intelligence on where Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was being held captive at various times—down to how many gunmen were guarding him—but special operations commanders repeatedly shelved rescue missions because they didn’t want to risk casualties for a man they believed to be a ‘deserter,’ sources familiar with the mission plans said. Commanders on the ground debated whether to pull the trigger on a rescue several times in recent years, according to one of the sources, a former high-level intelligence official in Afghanistan, who said the conclusion each time was that the prospect of losing highly trained troops was too high a price to pay for rescuing a soldier who walked away from his unit before being captured by the enemy.” [59566, 59584]

“...[One “high-level” Congressional] aide said military officials in Afghanistan spent recent months pushing for a stronger deal than was ultimately struck, but were ‘superseded’ by the White House and State Department. The aide would not comment on what the parameters of a ‘stronger’ deal may have looked like, beyond saying they would have involved the Pakistani government. The former intelligence official who spoke with The Times corroborated that assertion but declined to offer further details, saying only that the deal turned out the way it did because ‘the administration wanted to close the door on this no matter what the price was.’ [A former intelligence] official said, ‘Military commanders were loath to risk their people to save this guy. They were loath to pick him up and because of that hesitancy, we wind up trading five Taliban guys for him. The mentality was, ‘We’re not going to lose more of our own guys on this.’ ... Both of the sources said military officials across the special operations community were appalled by the terms of the deal that ultimately got struck over the weekend between State Department-led negotiators and the Taliban, effectively securing Sgt. Bergdahl’s release

from Haqqani network custody in exchange for the release of five former Taliban commanders from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.” [59566, 59584]

CBSNews.com reports, “A U.S. military hospital in Germany says Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl is in ‘stable condition and receiving treatment for conditions requiring hospitalization’ after arriving from Afghanistan and five years of captivity. The Landstuhl Regional Medical Center says Bergdahl’s treatment ‘includes attention to dietary and nutrition needs after almost five years in captivity’ but declined to release further details about his medical condition due to patient privacy laws. ...National Security Adviser Susan Rice said Sunday he had lost considerable weight and faced an ‘acute’ situation. Yet she also said he appeared to be ‘in good physical condition’ and ‘is said to be walking.’ ...[Defense Secretary Chuck] Hagel, visiting troops in Afghanistan, was met with silence when he told a group of them in a Bagram Air Field hangar: ‘This is a happy day. We got one of our own back.’ It was unclear whether the absence of cheers and applause came from a reluctance to display emotion in front of the Pentagon chief or from any doubts among the troops about Bergdahl.” (Video of the event shows the troops applauding and welcoming Hagel when he was introduced. It was when he announced, “This is a happy day, we got one of our own back,” that the troops fell silent and no one applauded. CBS is intentionally distorting reality for Obama’s benefit. There was no “reluctance to display emotion.” The troops were displaying disgust with their lack of applause and cheering. *They already knew* Bergdahl was a deserter. Had they not, they would have applauded and cheered.) [59712, 59713, 59786]

Video on an Afghan news web site shows the five terrorists released by Obama arriving in Qatar. There is no sign of guards or limitations on their movements, and they appear to receive a “hero’s welcome.” (Pamela Geller writes, “Abdullah Bergdahl was a deserter. Soldiers who have served with him have gone on the record saying that his disappearance was ‘premeditated.’ He went AWOL. Abdullah Bergdahl should be court-martialed. And even if he hadn’t deserted, civilized men don’t negotiate with savages. We don’t negotiate with terrorists. This one single act is the culmination of Obama’s stunning betrayal of freedom, our troops ... America. And yet Obama released the most dangerous of all the GITMO terrorists—the equivalent of the Taliban’s Goering, Himmler, Goebbels, Ribbentrop, etc. Check out how they are ‘in custody.’ ...Obama makes my skin crawl.”) [59541, 59542, 59544]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri reports, “Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Monday practically blew his top when he discovered that five Taliban leaders captured in Afghanistan were freed from U.S. custody in a prisoner swap for an American Army sergeant, according to reports in the Middle East. Karzai reportedly said that ...Obama’s actions to retrieve Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl violated an agreement he had with the Obama administration. ‘Recently, five Afghan nationals were released in an exchange for Mr. Bowe Bergdahl, and have been transferred to Qatar, which was against a prior understanding with the Afghan government,’ Karzai said in his official statement released on Monday. According to Ahmad Shakaib Mustaghni of the Afghan Foreign Ministry, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry had promised Karzai during a telephone conversation that custody of the Taliban detainees exchanged for Bergdahl would be returned to

Afghan police custody. But now it was revealed to the world that these upper-echelon terrorists were instead turned over to Qatar, where supposedly they will be kept under close surveillance with their movements restricted for at least 12-months as per a Qatar brokered deal between the Obama White House and the Taliban. The statement issued by the Afghan government said ‘This [deal between Obama and the Taliban] is completely against all accepted international laws on human rights.’ ‘This venture by the Obama team might have been intended to make [Obama] look like a commander in chief, but instead it seems to have shown the world that Obama still thinks like a community organizer and not a military strategist,’ said a former police adviser who trained cops in Iraq and Afghanistan.” [59543, 59984]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) states, “[Obama] has violated the law here. The law is very clear. He must give congressional notification 30 days before any prisoner in Guantanamo is released. He failed to do that. Apparently the only person he told was [Senate Majority Leader] Harry Reid. He didn’t even tell the chairwoman of the intelligence committee, a Democrat, Diane Feinstein. ... This is a pattern of behavior by this White House. [Obama] believes somehow that he’s become a monarch or an emperor, that can basically ignore the law and do whatever he wants. And there’s a real, growing frustration—even among Democrats—at this sort of behavior.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes there is a possibility of Obama’s impeachment, but only if the Democrats believe his remaining in the Oval Office will hurt Hillary Clinton’s chances of winning the White House in 2016. The minute the Democrats sense he will cause them to lose the presidency, they will turn on him.) [59576]

Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, announces “We will be holding hearings” on the prisoner exchange. “I don’t know who they [in the administration] were talking to. I have not been a part of this and I’m the chairman of the committee. ... Now we’re 72 hours after the fact, and they still haven’t told us how they’re going to ensure that these five, top-level Taliban terrorists are not coming back into the fight. ... It really is ironic, because this is kind of playing out much like Benghazi, where they kind of do or don’t do something, and then kind of come up with a story afterwards of why they did or didn’t do something. [Obama] has a reputation, I think well-deserved, of deciding which laws he’s going to enforce and which laws he’s not going to enforce. We still haven’t heard the details. We don’t know what they’re doing about these five, how they’re going to keep them out of the fight. We just are in the dark. And this is a violation of the law, no matter what [National Security Advisor Susan Rice] said.” [59624, 59625]

On Facebook, Shannon Allen, wife of Sergeant First Class Mark Allen, writes, “Meet my husband, injuries directly brought to you by the actions of this traitor [Bowe Bergdahl]. He can’t give an account of what went down, because he can no longer speak. Now, which guy is a ‘hero’ again?!? Sick.” Accompanying Allen’s post is a photo of her with disabled Marine husband and their young daughter. According to the *Daily Mail*, “Mark Allen, who is from Loganville, Georgia, was injured when a sniper bullet pierced the armor in his helmet in Kabul, Afghanistan. The bullet entered through his frontal lobe, rendering him paralyzed. The injury occurred only one month after he arrived to

Afghanistan. Shannon Allen's comments add to the growing surge of public outcry over the circumstances surrounding Bergdahl's capture by Taliban forces, as well as his release." [59933, 59934, 59979]

BizPacReview.com reports, "Police are investigating what is being called a 'dummy' wearing [an Obama] mask found hanging from a bridge in Missouri early Monday. The dummy caused traffic to be shut down on I-70 when police suspected it had explosives attached to it, according to the local Fox affiliate. 'The item that we had, we thought possibly could have been explosive,' Sgt. Ronda Montgomery told Fox4KC. 'So we went ahead and shut down I-70 in both directions to ensure that if it was explosive there was nothing that was going to cause a hazard to any passersby, and once we removed that from the scene we opened up I-70 almost immediately.' Authorities are trying to determine if the stunt was intended as a threat against [Obama]." [59585]

The Obama administration announces 645 pages of new regulations to limit carbon emissions, targeting the coal industry and coal-burning power plants—and consumer wallets. The new regulations will require that power plants reduce their carbon output by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. (Because many plants will find it impossible to comply, they will be shut down. Obama does not explain where the electricity they used to produce will come from in the future. Approximately 39 percent of the nation's electricity comes from coal.) At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, "New regulations will kill 226,000 American jobs. New regulations will cost the U.S. economy \$51 billion per year. Even with new regulations, carbon is only expected to decrease by 1.8 percent by 2030. Despite EPA claims new regulations will reduce the cost of power, electricity rates are expected to go up." Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV) calls the regulations "devastating" and a "job killer." (The University of Oklahoma's David Deming writes that Obama's new "draconian regulations... will put most coal-burning power plants in the US out of business. The estimated cost to the US economy will be more than \$50 billion a year. The cumulative expense through the year 2030 is estimated to be \$859 billion. ...The net effect of the EPA regulations will be to reduce the mean global temperature in the year 2100 by less than 0.02 degrees Celsius. Yes, you read that correctly: it's all cost, no benefits.") [59440, 59478, 59489, 59496, 59504], 59505, 59506, 50515, 59516, 59626, 59705, 59792, 59795, 59881, 60382]

EPA administrator Gina McCarthy tries to frighten Americans into supporting the new regulations, saying, "If your kid doesn't use an inhaler, you should consider yourself a very lucky parent, because one in ten kids in the U.S. suffers from asthma. Carbon pollution from power plants comes packaged with dangerous pollutants, like particular matter, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide, and they put our children and our families at even more risk." (McCarthy does not mention that it was the Obama administration that outlawed the sale of inexpensive, over-the-counter asthma inhaler medications like Primatene Mist because they supposedly "damage the ozone layer.") McCarthy absurdly claims that because of the new regulations, the average consumer electric bill will decline by eight percent by 2030. "Critics claim that your energy bills will skyrocket," notes McCarthy. "Well, they're wrong. Shall I say that again? they're wrong." (She does not explain how making it more expensive to generate electricity will result in lower electric

bills.) McCarthy also manages to play the race card, saying, “This is also about environmental justice, because lower income families and communities of color are hardest hit.” [59440, 59478, 59489, 59496, 59504], 59505, 59506, 50515, 59516, 59626]

Alison Lundergan Grimes, the Democrat candidate for the U.S. Senate in Kentucky who is trying to unseat Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)—and who is doing so by pretending she is not a Democrat—issues a press release: “...Obama’s new EPA rule is more proof that Washington isn’t working for Kentucky. Coal keeps the lights on in the Commonwealth, providing a way for thousands of Kentuckians to put food on their tables. When I’m in the U.S. Senate, I will fiercely oppose [Obama’s] attack on Kentucky’s coal industry because protecting our jobs will be my number one priority.” (Grimes may as well abandon Obama, considering that with his EPA policy he has abandoned her—and the Democrat Senate candidate in West Virginia.) [59477, 59527]

The United Mine Workers of America responds to the new EPA regulations: “The proposed rule issued today by the Environmental Protection Agency will lead to long-term and irreversible job losses for thousands of coal miners, electrical workers, utility workers, boilermakers, railroad workers and others without achieving any significant reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. Our initial analysis indicates that there will be a loss of 75,000 direct coal generation jobs in the United States by 2020. Those are jobs primarily in coal mines, power plants, and railroads. By 2035, those job losses will more than double to 152,000. That amounts to about a 50 percent cut in these well-paying, highly skilled jobs. When a U.S. government economic multiplier used to calculate the impact of job losses is applied to the entire economy, we estimate that the total impact will be about 485,000 permanent jobs lost. This is simply a recipe for disaster in America’s coalfields, especially the eastern coalfields. That is where the hammer of this rule will fall the hardest. And it’s not just that these jobs will be lost, it’s that the ability of companies to continue funding pension and retiree health care benefits will be at great risk. That puts hundreds of thousands more—mostly senior citizens living on already-low fixed incomes—squarely in the crosshairs of this rule.” [59607]

“And no one—no one—can point to a significant reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions that is guaranteed to come from this rule. ...[T]he most likely scenario is that global emissions will actually rise as more industrial jobs are moved out of the United States to countries which do not and will not have any kind of emissions rules. This is happening already; this rule will just speed that process up. ...[W]hy on earth should we be willing to sacrifice the lives and livelihoods of thousands upon thousands of our fellow citizens on the naive bet that current and emerging economic competitors like China, India, Brazil, Russia and others will follow our lead? History shows that they will not. They will, instead, use this as an opportunity to take more of our jobs, more of our industrial base, more of our national wealth. ...The UMWA has not and does not dispute the science regarding climate change. Our dispute is with how our government is going about addressing it, and on whom the administration is placing the greatest burden in dealing with this challenge. Coal miners have been asked for 150 years to provide the means to energize America and make our nation the strongest on earth. We have always answered that call. We have done what our nation asked of us. But under this rule, our

reward is to be kicked to the curb, hopefully out of sight and soon forgotten. I assure you, if that is the choice before us, we will not go quietly. We will not be out of sight. We will not be forgotten. You will hear from us.” [59607, 59608]

“Global warming” notwithstanding, the National Weather Service in Marquette, Michigan posts a Twitter message: “Lake Superior ice survived to June. It’s very dangerous to climb onto any remaining ice.” (Obama has no comment.) [59691, 59692]

At Townhall.com Daniel Doherty reports, “A staggering 10.2 million adult males in the U.S. between the ages of 25–54 do not have jobs, according to a new study published by staffers under the supervision of Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Jeff Sessions (R-AL). Put differently, roughly 3 million more working-age men are unemployed and looking for work today—or are unemployed and have left the left the workforce altogether—than in 2007.” [59441]

Newsmax.com reports, “Nearly half of all unemployed Americans, 47 percent, say they have completely given up looking for a job, a new survey reveals. The survey was conducted by Harris Poll on behalf of the staffing firm Express Employment Professionals. Among the 47 percent who said they agree with the statement ‘I’ve completely given up looking for a job,’ those who ‘agree completely’ constitute 7 percent, another 7 percent ‘agree a lot,’ 15 percent ‘agree somewhat,’ and 18 percent ‘agree a little.’ ...The survey also found that 46 percent of the unemployed had not gone on any job interviews in the previous month, and among those out of work for more than two years, 71 percent had not gone on an interview in the prior month.” [59457]

At CanadaFreePress.com Judi McLeod writes, “You somehow know when ...Obama puts on a Rose Garden show to announce the trading of five Gitmo-jailed jihadis for one American soldier, complete with a bear hug to the father of soldier Bowe Bergdahl, who credits Allah for his son’s release, that something’s up. And it doesn’t take a conspiracy theorist to say that the ‘something up’ goes much further than Obama ignoring federal law which requires Congress to be notified before prisoners are transferred. It was with shades of ‘I killed Osama’ braggadocio on Saturday when Obama preened in front of the cameras to talk about how the deal went down between U.S. officials and 18 members of the Taliban.” [59467]

The city of Seattle increases the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tweets, “Today, the city of Seattle took a vital step towards progress & raised the minimum wage. Congress must follow suit & #RaiseTheWage for all!” Seattle Mayor Neal Karlinsky tells ABC, “If we want to regain our economic strength and be competitive in the nation, the minimum wage is going to have to raise [sic].” (According to Twitchy.com, “The first increase, to either \$10 or \$11 depending on the business, kicks in on April 1, 2015. By 2021, all businesses in Seattle will be required to pay at least \$15 an hour.” The number of jobs that are expected to be lost is not reported, but some might expect throngs of people who are not worth \$15.00 per hour to move to Seattle.) The Seattle-Tacoma airport, which had previously been forced to increase its minimum wage to \$15,00 per hour, responded by raising prices. The parking



garage, for example, adds a “Living Wage Surcharge” to its parking fees. One hotel near the airport has closed its restaurant and fired 15 workers because of the increase. Some hotel workers have also been let go. (Supporters of forced minimum wages fail to understand that the market determines wage. In Williston, North Dakota, where the economy is booming because of the oil industry, Walmart pays newly-hired cashiers \$17.40 per hour. To increase wages, the government should get out of the way of business rather than stand in its way. It is a shortage of workers that increase wages.) [59472, 59511, 59601, 59723, 59954, 59955, 60035, 60169, 60502, 60503, 60665]

Meanwhile, CNSNews.com reports, “A new analysis by the Employment Policy Institute (EPI) shows that unemployment among teens without a high school diploma is more than 50 percent in two of the largest U.S. cities. Using U.S. Census Bureau data from May 2013 to April 2014, the analysis reveals that in Riverside-San Bernardino area of Southern California, the unemployment rate for teens ages 16 to 19 years old who don’t have a high school diploma is 54.2 percent. In the Portland-Vancouver-Beaverton, Ore., metropolitan area, the unemployment rate from that population is 53.8 percent. ...[In Seattle] the rate of unemployment... for 16- to 19-year-olds without a high school diploma is 31.4 percent.” (That can be expected to increase with the rise in the minimum wage. Advocates of increasing the minimum wage should be asked to explain why being unemployed at \$15.00 per hour is better than being employed at \$7.25 per hour.) [59472, 59511, 59601, 59723]

At FoxNews.com James Rosen reports, “A senior official confirms to Fox News that the conduct of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl—both in his final stretch of active duty in Afghanistan and then, too, during his time when he lived among the Taliban—has been thoroughly investigated by the U.S. intelligence community and is the subject of ‘a major classified file.’ In conveying as much, the Defense Department source confirmed to Fox News that many within the intelligence community harbor serious outstanding concerns not only that Bergdahl may have been a deserter but that he may have been an active collaborator with the enemy.” Rosen writes, “Sources told Fox News that many officials in the Executive Branch are ‘quite baffled’ by the White House’s decision to allow the president to stand alongside Bergdahl’s father this past weekend, given the father’s history of controversial statements, emails and online posts.” [59473, 59484, 59554]

HotAir.com writes, “But if all [the reports of desertion and collaborating with the enemy are] true ...why was Bergdahl promoted in absentia to sergeant in 2011? Why would he be in line for another promotion, to staff sergeant, this month? And why would the White House let itself get within a thousand miles of the Bergdahl family with suspicions like these ready to bubble over? It’s one thing to do a deal to get an American back; it’s another to give away the terrorist farm as part of it; and it’s another still to give away the farm for a guy whom your own investigators think may be a Taliban sympathizer. Remember, the ostensible point of the prisoner exchange is to set a precedent so that Obama can release other detainees at Gitmo later this year and finally close the prison. The last thing you’d want to do in that case is trade five especially dangerous detainees for someone whose loyalty to the U.S. is in serious question even within the administration’s own ranks. It’s a political tornado in the making; if Bergdahl does end

up being proved a deserter or worse, Democrats will run screaming from future Gitmo prisoner releases. Just doesn't make sense. Maybe the White House has reason to believe that Bergdahl's getting a bum rap and really was taken against his will—but in that case, why isn't [White House press secretary Jay] Carney or anyone else pushing back hard with that information? What's going on here?" (A defense Department official has stated that because Bergdahl has not been officially designated a deserter, he is scheduled for a promotion to Staff Sergeant.) [59554, 59564]

Asked by CBS News' Mark Knoller, "Does the United States still regard the Taliban as a terrorist group?" White House press secretary Jay Carney replies, "We regard the Taliban as an enemy combatant." (Carney avoids the issue of "negotiating with terrorists" by simply claiming the Taliban is not a terrorist organization.) "This was the right thing to do because we, in the United States, do not leave men behind. If you look through our history, [there is] ample precedent for this decision. We don't leave men behind based on who's holding them." Carney says Bowe Bergdahl was not a "hostage," he was a "prisoner." Asked about the fact that Obama violated the law by not advising Congress of the prisoner exchange, Carney says, "This should not have been a surprise to Congress. Prisoner exchanges are hardly a new development. The executive branch must have the ability to act swiftly." Asked if Bergdahl served with "honor and distinction," as Susan Rice claimed, Carney refers reporters to the Defense Department. [59474, 59475, 59476, 59479, 59486, 59526, 59623]

CNN's Joe Johns asks Carney, "There have been a lot of questions about the legality of this—point blank, does [Obama] feel on this issue and this kind of issue that he is above the law?" Carney responds, "Absolutely not. To be clear, the 30-day notice requirements have appeared in NDAA bills and in other legislation in this and prior years, and we have repeatedly noted concerns with this requirement. In signing statements, he [Obama] has consistently made it clear that the executive branch must have the flexibility regarding negotiations with foreign countries and in circumstances of detainee transfers when necessary, and that was certainly the case here." (In other words, "Obama does not believe he is above the law, he simply thinks the law is whatever he believes it to be.") In 2013 Carney told reporters, "As we have long said, however, we would not make any decisions about transfer of any detainees without consulting with Congress and without doing so in accordance with U.S. law." [59537, 59561, 59620, 59769]

At TheDailyBeast.com Nathan Bradley Bethea, who served in the same battalion as Bowe Bergdahl and who "participated in the attempts to retrieve him throughout the summer of 2009," writes, "After we redeployed, every member of my brigade combat team received an order that we were not allowed to discuss what happened to Bergdahl for fear of endangering him. He is safe, and now it is time to speak the truth. And that the truth is: Bergdahl was a deserter, and soldiers from his own unit died trying to track him down. On the night prior to his capture, Bergdahl pulled guard duty at OP Mest, a small outpost about two hours south of the provincial capitol. ...The next morning, Bergdahl failed to show for the morning roll call. The soldiers in 2nd Platoon, Blackfoot Company discovered his rifle, helmet, body armor and web gear in a neat stack. He had, however, taken his compass. His fellow soldiers later mentioned his stated desire to walk from

Afghanistan to India. ...Make no mistake: Bergdahl did not 'lag behind on a patrol,' as was cited in news reports at the time. There was no patrol that night. Bergdahl was relieved from guard duty, and instead of going to sleep, he fled the outpost on foot. He deserted. I've talked to members of Bergdahl's platoon—including the last Americans to see him before his capture. I've reviewed the relevant documents. That's what happened." [59482, 59485, 59525, 59546, 59568]

Former Sergeant Matt Vierkant, a member of Bergdahl's platoon when he went AWOL on June 30, 2009, tells CNN, "I was pissed off then, and I am even more so now with everything going on. Bowe Bergdahl deserted during a time of war, and his fellow Americans lost their lives searching for him." Former Private First Class Jose Baggett, who served in a company that took part in the search for Bergdahl, says, "He walked off. He left his guard post. Nobody knows if he defected or he's a traitor or he was kidnapped. What I do know is he was there to protect us and instead he decided to defer from America [sic] and go and do his own thing. I don't know why he decided to do that, but we spend so much of our resources and some of those resources were soldiers' lives." CNN notes, "At least six soldiers were killed in subsequent searches for Bergdahl, and many soldiers in his platoon said attacks seemed to increase against the United States in Paktika Province in the days and weeks following his disappearance." [59491, 59492]

At Morning Jolt, Jim Geraghty writes, "If Obama had come out Friday afternoon and declared he felt betrayed by [VA head] Eric Shinseki, that he had trusted him to keep a close eye on his department, and that he never imagined such a distinguished veteran would prove so ineffective at combatting a culture of complacency and unaccountability ...those of us who aren't so enamored with him could at least believe [Obama] was learning some hard truths... Bureaucracies always tell you that they're making progress. They'll always spotlight circumstances of seeming or even genuine improvement, and downplay or hide inexcusable failures. They'll never tell you that they've screwed up royally, with catastrophic consequences, until it's on the front page. If you were Obama, wouldn't you be furious with Shinseki? Would you be mad at yourself? Mad at [Kathleen] Sebelius? Wouldn't failures this big prompt you to rethink how you approach these types of challenges? My suspicion—and fear—is that Obama can't do that. He can't have an honest reckoning of his increasingly disastrous [administration] because it would shake the foundation of his life's work. It would mean his critics were largely right all along."

George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley tells CNN's Carol Costello that Obama did violate federal law with his prisoner exchange: "I don't think that the White House is seriously arguing that they're not violating federal law. And to make matters worse, this is a long series of violations of federal law that [Obama's] been accused of. ...This is going to add to that pile. I don't think there's much debate that they're in violation of the law." [59572, 59599, 59620]

HotAir.com comments, "There's no reason why the White House couldn't have complied with the statute and notified Congress months or even years ago of its intent to do a deal for Bergdahl involving the Taliban Five if/when the opportunity ever presented itself."

The reason they kept mum and did this on the sly, without notifying anyone first, isn't because they had to 'move quickly' or whatever, it's because they knew that advance notice to Congress would give hawks on both sides of the aisle time to build political pressure against the swap. Obama wants to empty Gitmo and make nice with the Taliban before we abandon Afghanistan to its fate, and complying with the law was an impediment to that. So he broke it. [That is] Par for the course, as [Jonathan] Turley knows only too well. ...It's true that when O signed the '30-day notification' rule into law, he issued a signing statement saying that he regarded that requirement as a violation of separation of powers. When he first ran for president in 2008, though, he and his team used Bush's habit of issuing signing statements as a paradigm example of executive power run amok. ...[Obama had] the balls to say he would never do something like that because he's taught constitutional law and knows how the Constitution works. That's the second campaign promise in as many weeks that he's utterly betrayed." [59620, 59621]

At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon reviews former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy's new book, *Faithless Execution: Building the Political Case for Obama's Impeachment*. Simon writes, "With measured, almost inexorable clarity, this book is an extraordinary call to legal—or, more precisely, Constitutional—arms. McCarthy begins with a basic history of impeachment, showing the provenance of the deliberately general 'high crimes and misdemeanors' from English law via Edmund Burke and how our Framers saw this as a way to preserve the separation of powers we all (I hope) learned about in school and prevent the emergence of a despotic presidency. ...The case McCarthy makes for Obama's impeachment is as airtight as it gets. By the time you arrive at the end when the author indeed writes out his version of 'The Articles of Impeachment,' you are prepared to read every word of the legalistic prose, stomping your fist on the nearest table as you move from paragraph to paragraph. ...This book has already put impeachment at the forefront of at least one person's mind where it hadn't been before (mine). Where it goes from here, I know not. Certainly the media, with its hive mind, would react to an impeachment possibility as if its queen were under attack. And then there is the matter of race, Obama's built in fail-safe mechanism. It's not simple. But the least we can all do is buy McCarthy's book and read it now. The Left has the late Saul Alinsky as a model. We have a rejoinder—Andrew McCarthy. The former seeks to subvert the rule of law, the latter fights every day to preserve it." [59500, 59503, 59536]

At Spectator.org Jed Babbin comments on McCarthy's book, first quoting *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution* published by the Heritage Foundation. "It says, 'Because 'High Crimes and Misdemeanors' was a term of art in English impeachments, a plausible reading supported by many scholars is that the grounds for impeachment can not only be the defined crimes of treason and bribery, but also other criminal or even noncriminal behavior amounting to a serious dereliction of duty.' McCarthy is one of those scholars, illustrating the point with references to an impeachment that was contemporaneous with the Constitutional Convention and debates among its members. The term 'high crimes and misdemeanors,' as McCarthy points out, '...is a concept rooted not on statutory offenses fit for criminal court proceedings, but in damage done to societal order by persons in whom great public trust has been reposed.' ...[I]f a president is guilty of

significant malfeasance or misfeasance in office he can be removed by impeachment. But will he be? Only if the nation's political mood demands it. The most important lesson Faithless Execution draws from those points is that impeachment is a political mechanism available to a political body—the Congress—that is separate and distinct from the judiciary. It's not a legal mechanism, and unless the political momentum across the nation is clearly in favor of impeaching a president, it cannot be done. ... Both presidents who were impeached, Clinton and Andrew Johnson, escaped conviction in their Senate trials. That's not to say they weren't guilty of everything charged. But it does say that the political momentum was in the president's favor and against impeachment. ... As McCarthy writes, the Republicans are so intimidated by Obama, and the media that is still so protective of him, that they'll never even try to impeach him. About half of McCarthy's book is devoted to a draft bill of impeachment against Obama. And this is where McCarthy's book becomes frustrating. The allegations are so compelling and clearly true that the reader is left to conclude that Congress has no choice but to act, though we know it won't. ... McCarthy's book is not the vessel containing our nation's political salvation. It is, on one hand, a measurement of how far Obama's malfeasance in office has gone and, on the other, a frank assessment that nothing will be done about it while he remains in office." [59788, 59789]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri writes, "It's understandable that with an inordinate number of scandals in his administration, ... Obama would seek something he could do that would garner praise and some adulation. But the 'fairy tale' story of the poor American soldier, Bowe Bergdahl, who was abducted by terrorists and after years in captivity is on his way home to his loving parents, just doesn't appear to 'pass the smell test,' according to former U.S. Marine and police detective Sidney A. Franes and others who were suspicious from the very beginning. Franes points to common knowledge that Bergdahl and his father are Muslims, something the Obama administration and his media sycophants all but ignore. Any questions about Sgt. Bergdahl are met with the White House talking points: 'Our first priority is assuring his well-being and his health and getting him reunited with his family. Other circumstances that may develop and questions, those will be dealt with later.' But questions have popped up about Bergdahl's background prior to joining the Army, his emails that allegedly show he held his own country in low regard, his ability to fluently speak Arabic, and his own claim that he joined the Army in order to help the people of Afghanistan. ... What angers his 'band of brothers' is the allegation that about six soldiers were killed while taking part in a search party. They also are quoted as saying that attacks in their region appeared to increase after Bergdahl was abducted or he deserted. But in order to plug up more leaks about Bergdahl's background and his years as a POW, according to Fox News Channel, his fellow soldiers and superiors in the military were allegedly forced to sign non-disclosure agreements." (The highly unusual non-disclosure agreements reportedly were to remain in effect only while Bergdahl remained in captivity. With his release, soldiers have come forward to reveal what they know about his activities.) [59514]

DCClothesline.com reports, "In late July of 2013 there was a release of 5 Guantanamo detainees as a good will gesture to the Taliban. In other words, they got five of their people back and we got the right to open peace talks with them. Do you find that the least

bit submissive? It was not widely reported, because compared to the news of that time it seemed relatively insignificant. I had somewhat forgotten about this release and stumbled upon it by accident in our site archives. But in light of the Obama Administration trading five very dangerous Taliban leaders for a traitorous American deserter who once told his father that he was ashamed to be an American, I think this is very important. Whether it supports the view of many, that Obama is a secret Muslim and terrorist sympathizer, or if it just proves that he is an incompetent idiot, the math is pretty clear. We released ten Taliban terrorists and got nothing but a liability in return.” [59573, 59574]

Not only did Obama release five terrorists in 2013, he did not even demand the release of Bowe Bergdahl as part of the deal. In July 2013 *The Obama Timeline* noted the report by YnetNews.com: “Without much publicity or official announcements, the United States released five Guantanamo Bay detainees as a nod of willingness to open peace talks in Afghanistan. After officials in Kabul expressed desire for negotiations, the Obama administration released five members of the Taliban who were detained at the US detention center. A top US official said that the prisoners were released under the condition that they will not engage in any violent activity. While it is clear that they are guilty of crime, the benefit in releasing them—the potential withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan by the summer of 2014—is greater than the risk. The US announced it will attempt to negotiate peace talks with the Taliban and Afghanistan government officials some months ago. ...Releasing the detainees from Guantanamo Bay serves another purpose for ...Obama: The more prisoners released from the camp, the likelier it is for Congress to approve shutting down the facility altogether—a campaign promise which Obama he has been trying to realize since first being elected in 2008.” At AtlasShrugs.com Pamela Geller wrote, “Want to score points with the Obama regime? Bomb schools, kill teachers, poison girls’ schools, strap bombs on to children, oppress and torture women, harbor jihad leaders like Osama Bin Laden—the more the better. Then you, too, will get on Obama’s favored status list. This is monstrous. Obama’s Ramadan gift to savages.” Even more monstrous is that the Taliban had previously offered to release an American soldier [Bowe Bergdahl] captured in 2009 in exchange for the five prisoners—yet Obama eventually released the five without getting the American freed. At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield wrote, “Well that solves that. We don’t negotiate with terrorists. We just rename them so they’re no longer enemies or terrorists.” (*The Obama Timeline* does not endorse negotiating with terrorists—and it most certainly does not endorse releasing them from captivity while their comrades are at war with the United States and Western civilization.) [46923, 46970, 46971, 47050, 47059, 59574]

U.S. Army Sergeant Josh Korder, who served with Bowe Bergdahl in Afghanistan, tells CNN’s Jake Tapper, “He is at best a deserter, and at worst a traitor. ...Any of us would have died for him while he was with us, and then for him to just leave us like that, it was a very big betrayal. ...As soon as he is able and as soon as he is fit, I do believe that he needs to be questioned, and basically tried [for desertion] if necessary. ...I don’t think that I could have continued to go on without being able to share with you and ...the people the true things that happened in this situation. Because if you guys aren’t made aware of it, it will just go on, and he’ll be a hero, and nobody will be able to know the truth.” [59590]

DailyCaller.com writes, “Here is the truth: The deal to trade five senior Taliban detainees to secure the release of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was political. It was publicly justified with lies, it breaks decades of U.S. policy, it breaks American law, it puts Americans at risk, it undermines the government of Afghanistan, and it passes responsibility on to the next administration. But first of all, it was political. ...Simply stated, it was because so long as Bergdahl remained in Taliban captivity in Pakistan, the Obama administration would never be able to close the chapter of the failed Afghanistan campaign it has owned since approving—and then under-resourcing—a surge of U.S. forces in the country. Bergdahl’s captivity served as a constant reminder of ...Obama’s strategic failures while U.S. forces prepare to withdraw from Afghanistan. That’s something the Democrats cannot allow going into 2014 and 2016 elections. So [Obama] agreed to an unprecedented deal in blatant violation of U.S. law and established precedent that undermines the safety and security of the United States and her citizens, once again choosing short-term political gain over long-term security interests.” [59575]

“Claims of new information on Bergdahl’s deteriorating health are simply false justifications. Bergdahl’s health was in no worse shape than should be reasonably expected of someone who had been a prisoner for five years. He walked without assistance into the waiting company of U.S. special operations forces, and then climbed aboard the waiting helicopter. He was mentally sound enough to recognize what was going on around him and to communicate with American forces. And none of the medical or psychological issues that he has displayed symptoms are life threatening. So this was just another example of the administration trying to justify its actions. Additionally, the decision breaks with a decades-old standing U.S. policy to never negotiate with terrorists. Bergdahl was being held by the Haqqani Network in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan. The Obama administration designated the Haqqani Network a terrorist organization just a few years ago. By negotiating with the Haqqani Network through the government of Qatar, the administration violated the policy. Though this is not how the Obama administration sees it.” [59575]

“When CNN’s Candy Crowley asked National Security Advisor Susan Rice if the U.S. had negotiated with terrorists, Rice once again proved she shouldn’t be allowed on Sunday shows when she said no, because the United States had negotiated the deal through Qatar. But a child can understand that the Qataris passing our messages to the Taliban—and vice versa—makes the Qataris no different than a telephone or email service. We were negotiating with the Haqqanis no matter how you try to spin it. And when asked why the administration failed to notify Congress about the Guantanamo Bay prison transfer despite U.S. law requiring the administration to notify Congress 30 days in advance of any transfer of prisoners from the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, she said it was because they were worried it would jeopardize the deal. So Rice and the administration were afraid that congressmen exercising their oversight might object to the release of five battle-hardened terrorists and suspected war criminals, or that the deal could leak. So instead, the administration chose to willfully violate U.S. law by not informing Congress. And as for fears of a leak, the administration informed members of Congress about the raid that killed Osama bin Laden before it took place—something far

more sensitive in terms of intelligence resources. Rice did, however, let us know that the administration had seen fit to consult with the Department of Justice about the deal.” [59575]

“The five detainees released were among the most senior members of the former Taliban government to be captured by the United States. ...As part of the deal, these five men must remain in Qatar for one year before they are permitted to return to Afghanistan. And in doing so, the administration is once again kicking the can down the road. In one year, the U.S. will have withdrawn all combat forces from Afghanistan—according to [Obama’s] These men will now become the Afghan government’s problem, and we can add them to the growing list of issues, including Iran, North Korea and Syria that [Obama] is passing the buck on. Finally, the administration failed to consult the government of Afghanistan before agreeing to this deal. In doing so, the Obama administration robbed Afghan President Karzai and his successor of potentially valuable bargaining chips in a larger reconciliation effort. This deal essentially took chess pieces off of the board for the Afghans at a time when they were needed most, and has left the Afghan government in a position where it looks weak, incompetent and untrustworthy to its ally. That is not a good signal to send to the nation or the world just before the U.S. withdraws its combat forces and begins the final transition of responsibility to the Afghanistan and they’re security forces. But all that is secondary in the Obama White House, where optics rule. And the show must go on.” [59575]

At TheDailyBeast.com Eli Lake reports, “Leaders of the U.S. intelligence community and military were opposed to freeing five senior Taliban commanders in exchange for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl when the White House first began exploring the prisoner swap in 2011 and 2012. The U.S. military wanted to bring Bergdahl home, but releasing [the five terrorist leaders] was seen as too dangerous at the time. James Clapper, the director of National Intelligence, according to three U.S. intelligence officials flat out rejected the release of the five detainees, saying there was too high a risk these Taliban commanders would return to the battlefield and orchestrate attacks against Americans. Clapper was not alone. Leon Panetta, who was then the Secretary of Defense, declined to certify that the United States could mitigate the risk to national interests of releasing the Taliban commanders. [Among those few who supported the swap was CIA director John Brennan, who reportedly converted to Islam while serving as CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia.] ...[C]urrent U.S. intelligence and defense officials who spoke to The Daily Beast on Monday say the process for exchanging Taliban for Bergdahl... was rushed and closely held, in some instances leaving little room for any push back against a policy clearly favored by the White House. ‘This was an example of forcing the consensus,’ one U.S. military official said. ‘The White House knew the answer they wanted and they ended up getting it.’ The White House did not even consult or inform Congress until after the prisoner release had begun. Dianne Feinstein, the Democratic chairwoman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, told The Daily Beast, ‘Should we have gotten advance warning? I actually think so.’ She added, ‘We had participated in a number of briefings some time ago [on a possible future deal] and there was considerable concern.’ At the end of the day, both Hagel and Clapper supported Obama’s decision.” (There was



no White House communication with Feinstein about a possible prisoner exchange after February 2012.) [59587, 59614, 59756]

At HotAir.com Mary Katharine Ham writes, “[O]ne must assume the White House thought this deal would bring an immediate political benefit, at least by wiping out the VA story for a couple days with a feel-good returned POW story. But how could they have miscalculated so badly what the reaction would be? Did they not know all of this information about Bergdahl’s conduct? We’re finding out, especially within the military community, very serious suspicions about Bergdahl were an open secret if not common knowledge. I will not put it past this White House to be ignorant of the intelligence community’s work on Bergdahl. I won’t even put it past them to be ignorant of the openly reported strange accounts of Bergdahl’s conduct on the night of this disappearance. I’m not convinced anyone who makes a decision over there is engaged even on the minimal level necessary to glean this information. I do think it’s possible this White House could be so detached from the military community as to overestimate the extent to which everyone would fall in line with the story of the glory of bringing one of our boys home. I think it’s entirely possible they could have underestimated the anger the men who claim they were betrayed would feel at having lost some of their friends in the search for an alleged deserter now getting a Rose Garden welcome. Surely this isn’t going the way the White House envisioned. Right?” [59599]

At TheDailyBeast.com Josh Rogin writes, “Republicans on Capitol Hill worry that the swap of these Taliban leaders for American hostage Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl is a prelude to a bigger move—the emptying out of Guantanamo entirely. In his 2014 State of the Union address, Obama promised to shutter the prison built on Cuban soil by the end of the year. Obama now has seven months to fulfill his latest promise to shut down Guantanamo—or come as close to it as he can. During that time, Congress will be unable to prevent the release of the 149 prisoners still there. ‘This whole deal may have been a test to see how far the administration can actually push it, and if Congress doesn’t fight back they will feel more empowered to move forward with additional transfers,’ said one senior GOP senate aide close to the issue. ‘They’ve lined up all the dominoes to be able to move a lot more detainees out of Guantanamo and this could be just the beginning.’ ... Now there’s growing concern on Capitol Hill that ... Obama intends to bypass Congress to fulfill his promise to close the prison by releasing scores of more Guantanamo prisoners with little public or even private debate. Lawmakers and staffers see the Bergdahl case as only the latest maneuver in a larger plan to cut Congress out of the Guantanamo issue; and they’re not exactly reassured by senior administration officials’ refusal to disclose what steps will be taken to mitigate the risk that these prisoners could become involved again in the Afghan insurgency.” [59628, 59629]

In contrast with his MSNBC co-workers, *Hardball’s* Chris Matthews expresses some doubts about the reasonableness of Obama’s prisoner exchange. Matthews questions Bowe Bergdahl’s father’s statement that he was “proud of how much [his son] wanted to help the Afghan people, and what [he] was willing to do to go to that length.” Matthews asks The Daily Beast’s Kim Dozier, “Do you have any idea what he meant there? Did he mean sort of leaving his post, leaving his rifle and uniform behind, heading off in the

direction of Pakistan, being picked up by the Taliban? What did he mean ‘helping the Afghan people’ and that process? I don’t quite get that. Is that the Afghan people they mean? ...[H]e wasn’t in uniform, he left the uniform behind. But he left his post and he said—this is what I don’t understand. Was he AWOL? And if not, why not? Why didn’t they declare him AWOL? ...I just wonder what that could possibly—women have to now be covered up, their faces have to be covered up, no more movies over there, they blow up buddhas again. Are we going back to crazy Taliban behavior? ...What kind of deal are we striking with these people? ...[D]idn’t he leave his unit behind? He left his uniform behind, he left his rifle behind and he told people if he didn’t like the mission he was headed to Pakistan. What was he doing?” [59753]

On *On the Record*, Greta Van Susteren reminds Senator John McCain (R-AZ) that Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey “at least publicly” supported the prisoner exchange. McCain responds that Dempsey has “become irrelevant to me in the whole scenario of talking about national security. ...These people [the five released terrorists] are hell-bent on killing Americans and destroying America.” [59794]

At a Boston fundraiser, Michelle Obama tells attendees to write a “big, fat check” to make Nancy Pelosi Speaker of the House again. [59583]

On June 3 Voice of the Persecuted reports, “Our Nigerian correspondent has confirmed another brutal attack by Boko Haram Islamic militants near the Cameroon border. They invaded Attagara village in Gwoza, a Local Government of Borno State killing over 80 Christians. The insurgents came in military Helux, disguised as Nigerian Military. They called the Christians to the church premises where over 45 Christians assembled, believing they were military personnel. Unfortunately all were killed at the church compound. According to an eye witness demanding anonymity, a group of the insurgents overcame 30 nursing mothers and killed 17 of the children. ‘I saw it with my eyes,’ the witness said. ...Sources who counted the Christians villages lamented that, ‘No single Christian’s house is left standing. All were brought down to ashes.’ They proceeded to nearby villages in Aganjara, Agamanchiya, Ngoshe, Angurva and also burnt down the churches and the houses. During the devastating attack, a group of insurgents numbering about 80 came through Ashigasha village with a truck full of petrol and explosive devices. They threw bombs at the churches, Christian’s homes and public buildings. Other insurgents chased down the remaining Christians and killed them. The operations lasted for a span [of] 5 hours. Almost everything in Attagara village has been destroyed. During the brutal killings, it was claimed that Muslims of the community were busy rejoicing and looting the valuable properties of the Christians.” (Pamela Geller writes, “A Muslim group allied with al Qaeda continues its bloody jihad on non-Muslims. But no worries: Obama say, al Qaeda is on the run.”) [59708, 59709]

Judge Andrew Napolitano appears on *Fox & Friends* and is asked if impeachment is a possibility because of the Bergdahl exchange. He responds, “In my view, it is a very, very valid argument people are going to start talking about. Look, the last time [a] president was impeached [Bill Clinton] it was a disaster and it was arguably over nonsense. This is *far, far more serious*.” Brian Kilmeade: “[W]here’s [Obama’s] political

benefit? I don't see any Democrat going, 'I'm so proud of [Obama] for getting a deserter back in exchange for five hardened killers.' Napolitano: "Brian, that is the head-scratcher as to why they did this. It doesn't make sense from their own point of view. Democrats will begin to flee from [Obama]. The Democrats already believe they're going to lose the Senate, and lose even more seats in the House. Now they'll probably not even going to want him to come into their districts and campaign for them. ...The only benefit for [Obama] is that the VA scandal is off the front page." (It may be that Obama simply believed that the American people would consider him a hero for bringing home an American prisoner of war, and naively believed that the circumstances of the transfer would not interest most people. The action by Obama helps support the theory that the Benghazi attack was a kidnapping gone wrong, and the plan was for Obama to exchange Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind sheik, for Ambassador Christopher Stevens. If that theory is correct, *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett came up with the idea. When it failed, Jarrett kept looking for another way to make Obama look like a hero, and pushed him to accept the Bergdahl trade. That Obama trusts Jarrett more than anyone else may be the fatal error that results in his impeachment.) [59538, 59889]

While in Warsaw, Poland, Obama defends his prisoner trade, telling reporters, the United States has "always had a pretty sacred rule and that is we don't leave our men or women in uniform behind and that dates back to the earlier days of our Revolution. ...Regardless of the circumstances, whatever those circumstances may turn out to be [Even if the five released terrorists engineer the poisoning of New York City's water supply and kill more than one million people?], we still get an American soldier back if he's held in captivity. Period. Full stop. We don't condition that. That's what every mom and dad who sees a son or daughter sent over to the war theater should expect, not just from their commander in chief but from the United States of America." Obama also argue that he had consulted Congress "for some time" about the possibility of a prisoner exchange for Bowe Bergdahl. (He does not mention that Congress objected to the release of the five terrorists when he brought the issue up in the past. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) has stated, "There was [sic; were] discussions that I heard way back as far back as two years ago to release these [five] people. There was a bipartisan opposition to that. There's no doubt they will reenter the fight.") "We saw an opportunity, we were concerned about Sergeant Bergdahl's health... and we seized that opportunity." (Obama does not explain what Bergdahl's health problems are. The media has reported that he appears to be in good health.) Remarkably, Obama admits that the five terrorists he released might someday return to the battlefield, but says, "I wouldn't be doing it if I thought it would be contrary to American national security. This is what happens at the end of wars. That was true for George Washington. That was true for Abraham Lincoln. That was true for FDR." (Some might imagine Ronald Reagan saying, "Barack, I knew Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt, and you're not fit to walk past their portraits in the White House.") "That's been true in every combat situation—at some point you try to get your folks back." (The problem with Obama's statement is that "at some point" means "after the war is over." Obama may believe the war is over, but the radical Islamists most certainly do not.) [59499, 59563, 59597, 59634]

Obama also says, “With respect to the circumstances of Sergeant Bergdahl’s capture by the Taliban, we obviously have not been interrogating Sergeant Bergdahl. He has been recovering from five years of captivity with the Taliban. He’s having to undergo a whole battery of tests and he is going to have to undergo a significant transition back into life. He has not even met with his family yet, which indicates I think the degree to which we take this transition process seriously.” [59571]

While in Poland, Obama takes time for a workout at a Warsaw gym—where someone records video of him “pumping iron.” (From the looks of the weights, however, “pumping tin” may be a more accurate description.) The *Daily Mail* notes, “U.S. security experts are trying to find out how the unauthorized snaps of [Obama] working out on his trip to Poland were secretly taken. It appears Mr Obama was in his 5-star Marriott hotel gym taking time out from his busy schedule in the capital Warsaw when it happened.” Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan tells the *New York Daily News*, “Hotel guests were not asked to leave the gym during this off-the-record movement, nor were they asked to refrain from taking pictures. [It is] no different than if [Obama] visited a restaurant off the record and other diners took pictures of him.” (Pamela Geller comments, “I’d say he works out like a girl, but methinks girls would be insulted. I just hope he didn’t break a nail. Are those 5 lb. weights he is struggling with? As for who leaked it—I am sure that it was done with Obama’s tacit approval. This unhinged narcissist probably figured we would all ooh and ah over his \*cough\* stealth moves. Although this did happen in Poland, and we know how they feel about this enemy of freedom. Remember when pix were released of Princess Di at the gym? She’s twice the man of this metrosexual.”) [59617, 59618, 59619, 59685, 59710, 59719, 59748, 59749, 59850]

On *Morning Joe*, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) states that Congress has not heard from the Obama administration about the possibility of a prisoner exchange to secure the release of Bowe Bergdahl since 2011. Rogers says, “I don’t know what [Obama] means by ‘consulted Congress for some time.’ In 2011 they did come up and present a plan that included a prisoner transfer that was, in a bipartisan way, pushed back. We hadn’t heard anything since on any details of any prisoner exchange. ...[T]heir public rhetoric does not match the facts on the ground. This notion that it was an acute health care [issue that prompted the quick action]—yesterday, we were informed that it wasn’t acute, they had no information that it was acute, I don’t know why you would say that. They said we had to work within a few days of notice—we understand that this happened weeks ago. ...The methodology is important here. I almost wish the administration would just stop talking about it and come up and meet their members of Congress and introduce themselves to the national security committees who do this work every day. That would be a good start.” Rogers notes, “It’s not just about one soldier. You have thousands of soldiers in the battle states today—and diplomats—who now believe that they’ve put a price on their head [with the prisoner exchange]. ...Some notion that this is some noble exchange across the bridge with two law-abiding parties is wrong. ...[T]hose [five] individuals are likely to re-engage in combat operations against U.S. soldiers the last 12 months that [Obama] said we are going to be there [Afghanistan]. I think that’s unconscionable.” [59567, 59635]

Reuters reports, “Qatar has moved five Afghan Taliban prisoners freed in exchange for a U.S. soldier to a residential compound and will let them move freely in the country, a senior Gulf official said on Tuesday, a step likely to be scrutinized by Washington. ... The Gulf official said the Taliban men, who have been granted Qatari residency permits, will not be treated like prisoners while in Doha and no U.S. officials will be involved in monitoring their movement while in the country. ‘Under the deal they have to stay in Qatar for a year and then they will be allowed to travel outside the country... They can go back to Afghanistan if they want to,’ the official said.” (There are no restrictions on communications with the Taliban in Afghanistan. The five terrorist leaders can therefore freely plan and organize attacks on U.S. troops.) Ben Shapiro writes at Breitbart.com, “According to the Director of National Intelligence in September 2012, just a few days before the Benghazi attacks, 28 percent of all detainees moved out of Gitmo [had] return[ed] to terrorism. ... As of September 2012, 168 out of the 602 released Guantanamo Bay detainees are suspected of returning to terrorism.” [59637, 59638, 59639]

Fox News’ Jennifer Griffin reports that Bowe Bergdahl “left behind a note renouncing American citizenship.” [59517, 59518, 59553, 59558, 59680]

*Mad* magazine comes up with a poster for a fictitious movie: “Trading Private Bergdahl.” The poster features a photograph of Obama, surrounded by the five terrorists he released, with the caption, “They got five Taliban leaders, we got one deserting weasel.” [59519, 59520, 59557, 59672]

Facebook and Twitter explode with criticisms and ridicule of Obama’s prisoner exchange, including. “This Bergdahl trade is worse than that time @SenWarren [Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)] got some beads for Manhattan.” [59521, 59522 ]

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) comments on the prisoner exchange: “I’m glad to get rid of these five people.” (Whether the United States has seen the last of the five released terrorists remains to be seen. But Reid—and Obama—can be certain that if they cause trouble anywhere in the world their faces will appear in Willie Horton-like political ads.) [59555, 59560, 59658, 59679]

NBC’s Andrea Mitchell asks deputy national security advisor Tony Blinken to justify Susan Rice’s claim that Bowe Bergdahl “served with honor and distinction. It was clear to the military as soon as he left what had happened, according to his former fellow soldiers.” Blinken dodges the question, saying, “Andrea, as [Joint Chiefs of Staff] Chairman [Martin] Dempsey said this morning, we need to give Sergeant Bergdahl an opportunity to tell his story. Right now we’re focused on bringing him back to the United States. He hasn’t even spoken to his family yet. There’s a whole transition process that goes on.” [59579]

Internet sleuths note that Bob Bergdahl has had Twitter exchanges with the leftist group Code Pink. (Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans, a friend of Jane Fonda, once met with the

Taliban on a trip to Afghanistan. At a fundraiser Evans presented Obama with a package of anti-war propaganda. Her co-founder Medea Benjamin once delivered to Obama a message from Hamas. Both Evans and Benjamin met with former Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he delivered a speech at Columbia University.) [215, 220, 395, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 59523]

Obama advisor David Plouffe tweets, “GOP ’14 msg [message] so far—attacking POW, attacking those getting health care, loving on Putin and running down economy. Inspired.” [59524]

At NationalJournal.com James Oliphant writes, “The carping is familiar. ...Obama has ‘overreached’ and abused his authority by releasing terrorist prisoners without notifying Congress and in promulgating new environmental rules. But, as usual, Republicans have few remedies beyond press releases and the promises of hearings. That’s the state of play in Washington: trench warfare that has lasted more than three years. Obama began 2014 vowing that he would no longer be sidelined by Republican obstructionists—and he appears to be making good on his threat. More executive actions are likely on the way, as [Obama] may well impose deportation curbs if the GOP won’t constructively work toward immigration-reform legislation. House Republicans should stop and consider it—not because of the political benefit the party might, maybe, enjoy by helping to broker an immigration solution. No, the better reason is this: If they truly fear the unchecked growth of presidential power, then their best option is to come to the table and force compromise. It’s the one sure way to keep Obama from going cowboy (or, in their minds, tyrant).” (In other words, “If you Republicans don’t want Obama to become an evil dictator, just give him half of what he wants and let him be happy being a half-evil dictator.”) [59759, 59760]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, “As amnesty talks between Democrats, Republicans and the White House heat up in Washington, 60,000 children have been dumped over the border between the U.S. and Mexico without an adult. Border Patrol and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agents are overwhelmed. Last week we saw reports of ICE dumping illegal immigrants from Texas at bus stops in Arizona with hopes they’d eventually show up to scheduled immigration hearings in the future. Now the problem is so out of control, FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency] is being called in to house children unaccompanied by adults.” (Housing the children will, of course, only lead to more of them crossing the border. The better the children are taken care of by the U.S. government, the more it encourages parents in Mexico to send their children north—hoping that that will make it easier for them to get permission to enter the United States as well.) Some reports claim that families in Central America are being encouraged to send children to the United States illegally because they are unlikely to be turned away. Residents of Central American countries know Obama will not enforce the border or immigration laws, and they are taking advantage of that fact. [59529, 59530, 59531, 59577, 59802, 59807, 59950, 59959, 59992]

One border patrol source tells Townhall.com, “A lot of the [border] agents are pissed just beyond belief because we realize these people, there’s no way they’re going back, they’re

going to be let go [in the United States] eventually. They're just trying to figure out how to do it right now. The problem is with ...Obama's deferred deportation program, they're not deporting any juveniles so they're not going to deport these people back to their home country, which would be the common sense thing to do. They're unaccompanied juveniles, meaning they didn't come with a parent or a relative so you can't just let them go on the street because they're a juvenile so now they're in a bind, going [sic; saying], 'What the hell do we do with all of these people?'" Another border agent says, "It's just chain-link cells so we have aliens sleeping all over the floor and they told us to probably expect another thousand over the next week, week and a half. We have these huge chain link cages, 20-feet tall with razor wire around them, this is inside a warehouse. They are probably 50 by 100 [feet] and there's probably 10 or 11 of these big cages like that and so there's probably 100-200 aliens in each cell, or cage and there's just park benches right down the middle, two rows of park benches and then they give them these little rubber mats, a little foam pad to lay on. We don't have enough blankets so they're issuing out those foil blankets, it's like a piece of tin foil and that's all they get. There are so many people crammed. The smell is just horrendous, horrendous." (The Obama administration, angry that agents leaked photos of the crowded and disgusting conditions of the holding facilities, issues a memo prohibiting the use of recording devices in detention centers. Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, "According to sources, agents have been threatened with firings if found to have leaked the photos to media. 'They are looking to fire any agents involved,' one source said anonymously for fear of losing their job. 'Apparently they are so ticked over these photos that they are going to fire the person that leaked them,' another source said.") [59807, 59948, 59951]

The GiveUsLiberty1776 blog announces an anti-Obama protest on June 14 at Anaheim, California's Angels Stadium, where Obama will address the graduating class of the University of California, Irvine. [59532, 59586]

Attorney Orly Taitz is on the ballot in the California primary, running for Secretary of State as a Republican. (Taitz is famous for her lawsuits challenging Obama's eligibility to serve as president.) [59533, 59534]

Time.com reports, "To pull off the prisoner swap of five Taliban leaders for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the White House overrode an existing interagency process charged with debating the transfer of Guantanamo Bay prisoners and dismissed long-standing Pentagon and intelligence community concerns based on Top Secret intelligence about the dangers of releasing the five men, sources familiar with the debate tell TIME. ...[O]fficials in the Pentagon and intelligence communities had successfully fought off release of the five men in the past, officials tell TIME. 'This was out of the norm,' says one official familiar with the debate over the dangers of releasing the five Taliban officials. 'There was never the conversation.' Obama's move was an ultimate victory for those at the White House and the State Department who had previously argued the military should 'suck it up and salute,' says the official familiar with the debate. ...The Obama administration first considered whether the five men were safe to release at the very start of his term..." [59561, 59562]

“In January 2009, Obama ordered a Justice Department-led review of all 240 Guantanamo Bay detainees. The five Taliban leaders were found to be high risks to return to the fight against Americans, confirming Bush administration assessments of the threat they posed, according to officials familiar with the group’s findings. ‘These five are clearly bad dudes,’ says a second source familiar with the debate over their release, adding that the detainees are likely to return to the fight. ...The question of the release of the five Taliban leaders was a recurrent subject of debate in the administration and was a key element of the behind the scenes effort by the State Department and the White House to negotiate a peace deal with the Taliban. The transfer of the five was discussed as a possible confidence-building measure to pave the way for a deal. The debates over their release were contentious, officials familiar with them say.” (In other words, even before Bowe Bergdahl was captured, Obama considered releasing the five Taliban leaders. He should be asked why he selected those five, and why he thought releasing enemy leaders during fighting was a good idea. It is almost beyond comprehension that Obama could have believed that releasing the five terrorists would have prompted the Taliban to lay down their weapons and negotiate with the United States. Obama is either incredibly naive or incredibly stupid.) [59561, 59562]

TheHill.com reports, “Republicans are raising questions about whether Hillary Clinton knew about the White House plan to release senior Taliban commanders in exchange for the last U.S. prisoner of war. ...Obama met with his former secretary of State for lunch on Thursday [May 29], two days before it was announced that Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl had been released from captivity in exchange for five high-profile Taliban prisoners. Republicans are furious that they were not told of the deal in advance and argue that this broke U.S. law. They are also suspicious Obama might have informed Clinton, the likely Democratic front-runner for the White House in 2016. The White House has said it would not give a read out of Obama’s lunch with Clinton, calling it a private event. But that has only made Republicans more curious about the timing between the lunch, and the controversial prisoner swap. ‘If Mrs. Clinton remains politically active, people will want to know what her advice was on the subject,’ said Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), a senior Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee.” [59569, 59596]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “Two former comrades of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl have confirmed to MailOnline that their former platoon-mate walked away from his post in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009 with the intention of reneging on his military oath. ‘I’m positive that he’s a deserter, and that it was all premeditated,’ said Gerald Sutton, a 31-year-old Michigan college student who left the military in September 2012 and said he was ‘a good friend’ of Bergdahl when they were deployed to the Middle East. ... ‘He wasn’t out on some patrol one day and got captured by the Taliban, and nobody smuggled him off of the base,’ explained Cody Full, a 25-year-old former infantryman who spoke with MailOnline from Houston, Texas. Full, too, was in Bergdahl’s unit. And he’s anguished at the thought that at least six soldiers died on missions to find him in the early, frantic months after he went missing. ‘This soldier knew what he was doing,’ Full said. ‘He left us. He willingly and premeditatedly deserted his comrades. And he put his team, his squad, his platoon, his company, and thousands of other American soldiers in Afghanistan at a very high risk trying to find him. If he didn’t desert, and he was still in



the platoon, those soldiers would not have been in the locations where they were killed ...because they wouldn't have been out there looking for him.'" Full also relates that Bergdahl "He wouldn't drink beer or eat barbecue and hang out with the other 20-year-olds. He was always in his bunk. He ordered Rosetta Stone [computer software] for all the languages there, learning Dari and Arabic and Pashto." (Avoiding alcohol and pork could indicate that Bergdahl was following Islamic food laws.) [59570, 59582, 59656]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday the Army may still pursue an investigation into the conduct of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was recently freed after nearly five years of being held captive in Afghanistan. Gen. Dempsey told the Associated Press that U.S. military leaders 'have been accused of looking away from misconduct' but said 'it's premature' to assume they would do so in Sgt. Bergdahl's case. ...[T]he questions about this particular soldier's conduct are separate from our effort to recover ANY U.S. service member in enemy captivity. This was likely the last, best opportunity to free him." On Facebook, Dempsey writes, "When he [Bergdahl] is able to provide them, we'll learn the facts. Like any American, he is innocent until proven guilty. Our Army's leaders will not look away from misconduct if it occurred." [59571, 59595, 59644]

DailyCaller.com reports that Obama is considering Dr. Delos 'Toby' Cosgrove, who heads the Cleveland Clinic, to head the Veterans Administration. Cosgrove believes ObamaCare will eventually lead to a single-payer system (that is, socialized medicine). "The first ones [to drop employee insurance coverage] will be the small companies," Cosgrove told *The Wall Street Journal*. "Every CEO I've talked to knows how much he'd save between insuring his people and paying the federal penalty. The first time some big player does that, it's going to fall like dominoes. What that does is drive everybody to the exchanges." (Obama's intention, of course, is to drive all insurance companies out of business, leaving the federal government to be the sole provider of health care—with hospitals owned and operated by the government, and all physicians and nurses becoming federal employees.) [59578]

Robert Andrews tells Reuters, "Basically, my son died unnecessarily, hunting for a guy that we shouldn't even have been hunting for." (Andrews' son, Darryn, was killed in Afghanistan during a manhunt to find and rescue Bowe Bergdahl.) Darryn Andrews' mother, Sondra Andrews, tells *Army Times*, "It gets really hurtful when I think, this guy [Bergdahl] was worth my son's life? My son who was patriotic? Who was a true soldier? Who defended his country with his life? That guy was worth that? I don't think so." She adds, "I bet you anything there were soldiers killed or wounded capturing those five guys [that Obama released]. So what does that do for their sacrifice? They sacrificed for nothing, because they turned right around and let them go." [59588, 59589, 59622]

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, 51 percent of Americans approve of the establishment of the select committee to investigate Benghazi, while 42 percent disapprove. The *Post* writes, "Those supporting the new investigation include 72 percent of Republicans (not surprisingly), but they also include 31 percent of Democrats and a majority—52 percent—of political independents. The reason Americans want an

investigation? Because they don't believe Democrats when they say that all the questions have been answered. In fact, the number of Americans who think the Obama administration has covered things up (58 percent) is even larger than the number who want the investigation (51 percent). Americans say 58 to 32 percent that Obama has covered things up rather than being honest about what happened. That's a bigger gap than last year, when it was 55 to 33 percent (though the shift is not statistically significant). They also don't think former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton is anywhere close to blame-free. The poll shows 50 percent of Americans disapprove of Clinton's handling of the situation, with just 37 percent approving." The poll also shows that 79 percent of Americans believe Obama deserves some blame for the Veterans Administration scandal. [59593, 59594, 59683]

At TheWeek.com, Ed Morrissey writes, "It's not often that the recovery of a captured American soldier turns into a political embarrassment for the White House. But the Obama administration has so needlessly bungled the case of Bowe Bergdahl that not a single aspect of his release from captivity remains untouched by controversy. ... *The Washington Post* reported on Monday that a 2010 investigation concluded that he had 'walked away,' in what amounted to a de facto desertion. After a sweeping search-and-rescue operation that led to the deaths of at least six soldiers, the Pentagon took the unusual step of requiring soldiers from Bergdahl's unit to sign nondisclosure agreements about his disappearance, his capture, and the consequences that followed. But the story got out anyway; in 2012, the late Michael Hastings reported in detail about Bergdahl's disappearance for *Rolling Stone*, and raised the core question: Would his alleged desertion put the Pentagon in the position of leaving a man behind as the Obama administration worked to wind down the Afghanistan War? That was, and is, undoubtedly a tough question. What price would America pay to regain its only POW? For some, no price would be too high regardless of the circumstances of the POW's capture. For others, the possibility of desertion—and the lives it cost—make any significant price unthinkable. ... Most Americans probably fall somewhere in the middle, and would have had sympathy for those who had to make the call—had they approached the issue honestly." DCClothesline.com writes, "Michael Hastings got Bowe Bergdahl's fellow soldiers to speak upon conditions of anonymity while disobeying the 'gag orders' of their superiors. Many in the alternative media community believe that Michael Hastings did not simply die in a car accident on June 18, 2013. They believe that accident was the result of sabotage. However, the prevalent theory has been that, if he was targeted, it must have had something to do with the NSA. ... For the FBI to launch an investigation into a *Rolling Stone* article about a military deserter would seem to open up a whole line of potential questions, but it can be simplified with just one. Why?" [59598, 59842, 60367]

"Instead, the White House has continued its track record for disingenuous behavior and flat-out false rationales. It started with the announcement of the release itself, made from the Rose Garden by ... Obama on Saturday with Bergdahl's parents in attendance. Obama declared that we have 'an ironclad commitment to bring our prisoners of war home' that defines 'who we are as Americans.' What else defines who we are as Americans? The rule of law, and in this case the White House seems to have forgotten that commitment.

Congress passed a statute as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, signed by Obama, that requires the president to provide 30 days' notice to appropriate congressional leadership of any transfers of detainees from the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. Even by Monday, the White House had not bothered to notify the chair of the House Armed Services Committee of the release of the five Taliban figures and the security arrangements to keep them from rejoining the fight in Afghanistan, despite a pledge made last year that Congress would be consulted on any release. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel argued that 'exigent circumstances' prevented the White House from notifying Congress—but those same circumstances somehow didn't keep Obama from getting the Bergdahls into the Rose Garden from Idaho.' [59598, 59842, 60367]

“The White House’s nonchalance about the five Taliban detainees also had people scratching their heads. Press secretary Jay Carney tried arguing that they presented no threat to the U.S., but two of them have been charged with mass murder by the United Nations, and the Taliban celebrated their release as a ‘big victory’ over the U.S. One detainee, Khairullah Khairkwa, was a confidant of Osama bin Laden, while Abdul Haq Wasiq served as deputy intelligence minister to the Taliban. Despite this, Carney argued that the Obama administration had determined that they posed no risk. Carney also refused to discuss any of the ‘mitigation’ terms that would keep the men from leaving Qatar during their one-year exile, creating even more questions about the deal. The biggest deception, however, came when the administration attempted to justify the Bergdahl deal on the basis of his service. In 2012, talking with *Rolling Stone’s* Hastings, the White House had been both blunter and smarter about the issue. ‘Frankly, we don’t give a shit why he left,’ one official told Hastings. ‘He’s an American soldier. We want to bring him home.’ That explanation would probably suffice for most Americans. Unfortunately, the White House tried to rewrite history. Susan Rice, who infamously fronted the false narrative on the Benghazi attack, appeared on ABC’s *This Week* and arguably did it again. When George Stephanopoulos pressed her on the lopsided trade in the context of his apparent desertion, Rice instead insisted that Bergdahl had ‘served the United States with honor and distinction.’” [59598, 59842, 60367]

“That came as news to the men who served with Bergdahl and had attempted to find him after he walked away from the base. Multiple members of his unit went public after the announcement, despite the nondisclosure agreements, to denounce Bergdahl as a deserter. One set of parents who had been told that their son died while attempting to capture a high-ranking Taliban commander instead discovered that he had been killed trying to find Bergdahl. Even worse, James Rosen at Fox News reported that Bergdahl’s disappearance became the subject of an investigation by U.S. intelligence, which produced a ‘major classified file’ on the question of desertion—or perhaps even collaboration. Had Obama and the White House followed protocol, engaged Congress on the swap, and stuck with the core principle of bringing back captured Americans no matter how they ended up in enemy hands, they would have avoided much of the controversy. Instead, they once again exhibited arrogance toward Congress and tried finessing the narrative in a way that could not possibly stand up to scrutiny. The administration ended up with egg on its face, looking both incompetent and dishonest rather than torn on a legitimately tough call.” [59598, 59842, 60367]

Former Army Sergeant Evan Buetow tells CNN's Jake Tapper, "[Bowe] Bergdahl is a deserter, and he's not a hero. He needs to answer for what he did." According to Buetow, teams monitoring radio chatter and cell phones intercepted a message reporting that "The American is in Yahya Khel [a village]. Two miles away. He's looking for someone who speaks English so he can talk to the Taliban." Buetow says, "I heard it straight from the interpreter's lips as he heard it over the radio. There's a lot more to this story than a soldier walking away." On the night he disappeared, Bergdahl was reportedly in his tent prior to his turn to take guard duty. When someone went to awaken Bergdahl, he was gone. A call then went out on the radio. Buetow states, "I'll never forget that line, 'Has anyone seen Bergdahl?'" Bergdahl left behind his weapons, bullet-proof vest, and night-vision gear. "I immediately knew. I said, 'He walked away. He walked away.'" Buetow was then involved in searches for Bergdahl: "Immediately as we left the base, two small boys walked up to us, and they told us that they saw an American crawling in the weeds by himself. ...For 60 days or more, I remember, just straight, all we did was search for Bergdahl, essentially chasing a ghost because we never came up with anything. ...Following his disappearance, IEDs [improvised explosive devices] started going off directly under the trucks. They were getting perfect hits every time. Their ambushes were very calculated, very methodical." [59606, 59655]

Reporter Lucas Tomlinson asks State Department spokesperson Marie Harf, "Does the State Department consider Sergeant Bergdahl to be a deserter?" Harf replies, "The State Department—no, Lucas. Look, what we said is we are going to learn the facts about what happened here. We said very clearly in a statement from the Secretary on Saturday that Sergeant Bergdahl was a member of the United States military who volunteered to serve his country. We don't know the facts about what happened yet on that day." Reporter: "...[A]ccording to those around him, his platoon mates, his squad mates, company mates, they said he walked off the base." Harf: "Lucas, some of them, other, there are conflicting reports out there about this. Look..." Reporter: "Are there?" Harf: "There are. Go Google it on the web and you'll find a ton of conflicting reports. The fact is we're still establishing a fact pattern about what happened, how he ended up in Taliban captivity. So when he is able to share those, as [Joint Chiefs of Staff] Chairman [Martin] Dempsey said today, he will. He also said, like any American, he is innocent until proven guilty. Our army's leaders will not look away from misconduct if it occurred. In the meantime, we will continue to care for him and his family. So I think people need to be really careful about believing every second or third-hand report out there, and also what [Obama], what the Secretary [of Defense Chuck Hagel], what Chairman Dempsey have said: Regardless of how he went missing, it is our responsibility to him to bring him home, period." [59603, 59644, 59747]

Reporter: "And when you say second- and third-hand reports, when his squad mates who served with him overseas said he walked off the..." Harf: "Lucas, I'm sure some of them—I mean, look, there's a lot of rumor and telephone game that's being played here about what happened. Not all—" Reporter: "So you're saying that the guys on television last night—his squad mates, platoon mates—were not correct?" Harf: "I'm saying we don't know the fact pattern yet here. We don't. Nobody knows exactly what happened

that night. As the facts emerge, as he's able to discuss them with the Department of Defense, we will see where that takes us." Reporter: "Going back to..." Harf: "That happened five years ago. This is a situation..." Reporter: "So you've had all this time, five years, to determine whether he was a deserter or not. That's a long time." Harf: "He's been in captivity, Lucas. I think he's probably the person who knows best what happened on that night." Reporter: "But, well, I think that his squad mates have the best indication what happened that night." Harf: "I don't think that that's the case." (Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton later says of the exchange, "I think children are wonderful, but I don't think they should be in charge of foreign policy. ...It's humorous in a sense because it is so inane, but I think it's going to be increasingly serious because it is part of what seems to be part of an Obama White House campaign to impugn the soldiers who are trying to explain what happened when Bergdahl walked off the base. If the prison guards at Guantanamo had let these guys walk out of the front gate, they would be court-martialed for incompetence, and yet that's what [Obama] did. He gave away five killers and essentially got Bergdahl back in return. It's not a good trade.") [59603, 59876]

At WND.com Aaron Klein writes, "Published excerpts of the Benghazi chapter in Hillary Clinton's forthcoming book, 'Hard Choices,' contain misleading statements about the deadly attack and the then-secretary of state's personal role in the decision-making process, WND has found. While the full 34-page chapter will not be available until the book is released June 10, Politico last week unveiled tidbits that raise major questions about the accuracy of Clinton's claims. Denying a personal role in the decision-making process regarding security of the compound, Clinton writes that she did not see the cables requesting additional security. She claims cables related to the security at the compound were only addressed to her as a 'procedural quirk' and didn't actually land on her desk. Clinton writes: 'That's not how it works. It shouldn't. And it didn't.' However, the Senate's January 2014 report on the Benghazi attack reveals lawmakers found that the Benghazi facility required special waivers to be legally occupied, since it did not meet the minimum official security standards set by the State Department. Some of the waivers could only have been signed by Clinton herself." (Clinton will peddle the "I knew nothing" excuse as long as the mainstream media allows.) [59641]

Clinton also writes in her book of her vote, as a Senator, to authorize the war in Iraq: "I should have stated my regret sooner and in the plainest, most direct language possible. In our political culture, saying you made a mistake is often taken as weakness when in fact it can be a sign of strength and growth for people and nations. That's another lesson I've learned personally and experienced as Secretary of State." Jonathan Allen, author of HRC: State Secrets and the Rebirth of Hillary Clinton, tells HuffingtonPost.com, "The only possible reaction to that is: 'Oh, please.' Of all the things she wrote in the book, that is probably the one that is most difficult to reconcile with the average person's willingness to stomach political spin." (What Clinton did was simply maintain her position until the political tide turned, and then scurried to get in front of the first wave. She is a political opportunist, and nothing more.) [60092]

USNews.com reports, “Several military law experts tell U.S. News it’s possible, albeit not necessarily likely, that Bergdahl will face charges. Lisa Schenck, a former military attorney and judge, says it’s likely an investigation was conducted after his disappearance and possible that a charge sheet listing alleged crimes may already be prepared. The AP reports a 2010 Pentagon investigation found ‘incontrovertible’ evidence Bergdahl voluntarily left base. Schenck, now a professor at the George Washington University Law School, says the first step in military criminal cases comes when a relatively low-level company commander submits an investigative report to their battalion commander recommending charges. As the severity of punishment associated with charges increases, higher-level officers must approve prosecution, Schenck says. The secretary of defense cannot decide whether or not charges should be filed, but can raise the decision-making level. The penalty for desertion in times of war can be death, but such severe penalties require pre-court martial approval from a relatively high-level officer. ‘Death is still a lawful sentence for desertion in a time of war, I’m not suggesting that’s not in the realm of possibilities for a case like this ...there could be significant punishment, significant confinement,’ says Victor Hansen, a former military prosecutor and defense attorney who now teaches at the New England School of Law. The last soldier to be killed for desertion, Eddie Slovik, was tied to a post and shot in 1945, 69 years ago and about 80 years after the second most recent desertion execution. The military hasn’t executed one of its members for any other offense since the early 1960s. There are two kinds of desertion: intending to permanently remain away and quitting your unit to avoid hazardous duty. Schenck says based on media reports regarding his disappearance it’s possible Bergdahl could be charged with both, and she notes commanders often want to make an example of alleged deserters. Schenck says Bergdahl’s captivity and his limited time in the military before leaving lead her to believe he will probably avoid a court martial. ‘That doesn’t mean he’s going to get an honorable discharge,’ she says.” [59642]

Ann Coulter writes, “Unlike Bowe Bergdahl, who deserted his unit, according to the accounts of his comrades, [Eddie] Slovik never actually deserted. He also didn’t call America a ‘disgusting’ country or say he was ‘ashamed to be an American.’ Slovik was just a chicken. In October 1944, as Allied forces were sweeping through France, Slovik left his position on the front lines, walked to the rear of his unit and handed a note to the cook, confessing his desertion. The letter explained that he was ‘so scared’ that he had already abandoned his unit once, and concluded: ‘AND I’LL RUN AWAY AGAIN IF I HAVE TO GO OUT THERE.’ Slovik was like Bradley Manning minus the lipstick and eyeliner. ...Contrast Slovik’s story with the beloved troop whose return just cost us the release of five of the most dangerous terrorists in the world. Three days before he walked off his base, Bergdahl emailed his parents: ‘I am ashamed to be an american.’ ‘The US army is the biggest joke ...it is the army of liars, backstabbers, fools and bullies.’ ‘These [Afghani] people need help, yet what they get is the most conceited country in the world telling them that that they are nothing and that they are stupid.’ ‘The horror that is america is disgusting.’ ...The overwrought soldier’s father, Bob, emailed back: ‘OBEY YOUR CONSCIENCE!’ And then... Bergdahl ‘decided to walk away.’ ...During the Vietnam War, POW Navy Vice Admiral James Stockdale disfigured himself so that he could not be used in a propaganda video. He slit his wrists to avoid being tortured for information. When captured Navy aviator Jeremiah Denton was forced by the North Vietnamese to

make a propaganda video, he blinked the word T-O-R-T-U-R-E in Morse code, over and over again... These men—and many more—had limbs torn from their sockets, their legs and backs shattered by the North Vietnamese. As Denton said of the repeated torture, he'd rather lose an arm than his honor. When right-wingers get choked up about 'the troops,' these are the sort of men we're thinking of. Not Bowe 'America is disgusting' Bergdahl. But to Obama, Bergdahl was the picture of American manhood and military honor. He released five of the most dangerous terrorists in the world—captured at great cost to our military—in order to give Bergdahl an exit plan from his Great Adventure.” [59660]

It is worth noting the differences between being absent without official leave (AWOL) and desertion. A soldier who is AWOL does so without any intent to permanently remain away from his post or base, such as a soldier who gets drunk off base and as a result shows up late for duty the next morning. A deserter is one who leaves his post or base with the intention of avoiding hazardous duty or important service, or who intends to leave permanently, or who leaves when the presence of all hands is critical to the mission. Based on that criteria, Bergdahl would appear to be guilty of desertion. Not only was Bowe Bergdahl absent without official leave, he disappeared immediately before he was due to report for guard duty in a battlefield environment. Further, he contacted his unit the next day to tell them he had deserted, and had previously sent his personal belongings home to his parents. Those actions suggest Bergdahl's intention was to leave his unit permanently. Obama believed he would be praised for engineering the release of a prisoner of war. Instead, he is being excoriated for releasing five key Taliban leaders in exchange for a soldier who, at the very least, went AWOL, or, worse yet, deserted in time of war, or, at the very worst, collaborated with the enemy by providing information that made it easier for them to target and kill U.S. troops. Even if the reality of the situation was desertion or collaboration, Obama will try to protect himself by doing whatever he can to make it appear as the Bergdahl “only” went AWOL. The simple truth is that the more serious the charges against Bergdahl are, the worse it will be for Obama. Trading five terrorists for a “mixed up kid who went AWOL” is bad enough, but trading them for a deserter or enemy collaborator is far worse.

*The Obama Timeline* suspects that, behind the scenes, Obama will be pushing for Bergdahl to be found guilty of nothing more than being AWOL and for punishment no more excessive than a dishonorable discharge and a suspended sentence no greater than the time he spent in captivity. But what Obama wants and what the Army does may be two different things. The manner in which Obama has treated military top brass and overridden their recommendations over the years (from “don't ask, don't tell,” to troop strength levels, to dangerous battlefield rules of engagement, to “stand down” orders in Benghazi) will not put them in a particularly cooperative mood. Obama has no legal authority to interfere in the case of a court martial, and the Bergdahl case may give the Army a chance to give Obama a taste of his own medicine. Obama can commute a sentence or issue a pardon after the verdict, but he cannot (legally) influence the verdict.

At AmericanThinker.com Russ Vaughan writes, “If our Pentagon weren't currently occupied by the perfumed princes of political correctness, we might be seeing some

courageous generals and admirals falling on their swords and exposing this failure of leadership instead of enabling it. Those ambitious cowards should ponder the reality that neither ‘I was only doing my duty’ nor ‘I was only following orders’ is a viable defense. It is this failure of courage by our military leaders that has allowed this dilettante [Obama] and his inept staff to make one unwise military decision after another, with a compounding effect of weakening and endangering America’s forces around the world. The latest example is this political stunt of releasing five high-level terrorists in exchange for one American soldier who most likely is a treasonous deserter who should be in Gitmo himself. ...There is no way that the White House could have pulled off this ‘wag the dog’ stunt without considerable acquiescence from the highest levels of our military leadership. ...[O]ur vaunted military leaders went along with this administration’s foolish stunt that now will endanger yet more of our warriors by encouraging kidnapping by terrorists. What is truly disheartening is that not a single one of the perfumed princes had the courage or honor to resign in protest. ...Let us hope there are some braver souls in Congress looking at Obama’s unlawful action as the basis for yet another indictment in a growing body of charges to support articles of impeachment. And yes, I’m fully aware that there is virtually no chance that Obama could be both impeached [by the House] and convicted [by the Senate], but the reality is, he can be impeached. It would be a significant repudiation and disgrace for both him and his party.” [59793]

“Should this country regain enough political sanity to elect a Republican president in 2016, high on that president’s list of things to do should be a clean sweep of the Pentagon, starting with the service secretaries, then the Joint Chiefs, the service chiefs of staff, their staffs, and then all the generals and admirals advanced to major commands around the world appointed by this corrupt Obama administration. They should then be replaced with warfighters who recognize that their sworn loyalty is to the Constitution, not the tenets of political correctness. Pick leaders who fully comprehend that the primary mission of our military is to defend our nation, not to be an incubator of socialist experimentation. The process should be dubbed *Operation Spinal Implant*. At this moment, while writing, I am listening to this traitorous deserter, Bergdahl, being applauded as a hero, which truly sickens me. And even now, as this is happening, not one of our military leaders has the courage to step forward with the truth and prevent the liar in the White House and his Democrat loyalists from foisting another huge fraud on the American people. Thank goodness the troops are speaking out, undeterred by the spinelessness of their leadership. One has to wonder if there’s mandatory neutering for these former dogs of war upon being assigned to lapdog duty in that five-sided kennel of cowardice.” [59793]

At WesternJournalism.com B. Christopher Agee writes, “According to multiple experts, the Obama administration’s actions in facilitating the release of American prisoner of war Bowe Bergdahl was an obvious violation of law and could ultimately result in his impeachment proceedings. ...Aside from the fact that Bergdahl has since been accused of being an Army deserter who expressed his shame about being a soldier and an American, the administration’s handling of his return has become a controversy in itself. ...The Daily Mail cites a White House insider who was stunned by the public backlash against the move, noting administration officials expected ‘a January 1981 moment’ of



celebration, as with the release of 52 Americans being held hostage in Iran. White House sources contended that fears for Bergdahl's health made his release a priority; however, Press Secretary Jay Carney would not confirm that assertion in a recent press conference." Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy "is far more concerned about the release of five dangerous terrorist suspects than in the administration's failure to give adequate notice to Congress. He said that 'because high crimes and misdemeanors are not statutory offenses but political wrongs that endanger the United States, the return of senior terrorists to the Taliban while we still have soldiers in harm's way is, in my view, a 'high crime and misdemeanor.'" The latest scandal is just one more piece in a puzzle that adds up to [Obama] deserving of impeachment, he explained. 'If it was a standalone, I would never impeach based solely on it,' he said; 'but I would add it to a larger indictment.'" (That is, there is no one action that might prompt Obama's impeachment, but his multiple improper actions add up to monumental evidence of incompetence and disdain for the U.S. Constitution.) [59643]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) states, "More than two years ago, Members of Congress were briefed on the possibility of such an exchange [for Bowe Bergdahl], and the chairmen at the time and I raised serious questions to the administration. Unfortunately, the questions and concerns we had were never satisfactorily answered and they remain today. At the time, the administration deferred further engagement because the prospects of the exchange had diminished. ... There was every expectation that the administration would re-engage with Congress, as it did before, and the only reason it did not is because the administration knew it faced serious and sober bipartisan concern and opposition." [59647]

At WND.com Garth Kant reports, "As the scuttlebutt grows on Bowe Bergdahl, the soldier just exchanged for five Taliban leaders, an explosive new charge is emerging—that his fellow soldiers had orders to shoot him on sight as a deserter. A number of damning charges against Bergdahl come apparently from soldiers who served with him. Some have been posted on a Facebook page called 'Bowe Bergdahl is a Traitor.' The soldiers are writing anonymously, saying the Pentagon had them sign nondisclosure statements after Bergdahl disappeared from his post in Afghanistan in 2009. Some say they are still on active duty. ... Afghan intelligence officials also believed Bergdahl was 'cooperating with the Taliban' and advising fighters at a base in Pakistan. A comment posted by a soldier who says he served with Bergdahl confirms the charge. 'What you have is pretty well spot on,' the post says. 'All I know is that our orders were kill on contact and then we came back and it was covered up. I've personally been threatened a few times that discussing it in half the detail you already have was considered an act of treason.' Another post makes clear the army considered Bergdahl was not just a deserter but a defector. 'My battalion took over the AO from 25th. The story of Bergdahl being a defector is exactly what was briefed to us and I also read the debrief report about the situation. The story is 100% correct. I've personally been on a few missions following up on Bergdahl's location but we never found anything. I currently live an hour away from his family's location. Hailey, Idaho is a [ski] resort town frequented by movie stars, etc. They typically side with the anti-war side of politics in that area and is a perfect spot for him to live in solitude." [59648]

At CommentaryMagazine.com Peter Wehner writes, “Even I, a consistent and at times quite a harsh critic of ...Obama, have been taken aback by the latest turn of events. ...My response to what has occurred is not just intellectual but visceral. I consider what occurred, when everything is taken into account, to be substantively indefensible and morally dishonorable. [Obama], in my estimation, has rendered a great service to our enemies, and they know it. (Mullah Omar, the head of the Taliban, hailed the release of the top five Taliban commanders from Guantanamo as a ‘great victory’ for the mujahideen of Afghanistan.) [Obama’s] decision may well endanger American lives down the road. And his administration has elevated an apparent deserter—one whose actions were reported on in the past (see this 2012 Rolling Stone article by Michael Hastings) and who is responsible for the death of fellow soldiers who tried to rescue him—into a hero. This strikes me as morally grotesque. Yet for Mr. Obama and some of those in the progressive movement, the events of the last few days count as a fantastic achievement, one worth venerating and exalting. Years ago John Gray wrote a book called *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*. In this case, it’s [Obama] and I who occupy different worlds, including different moral worlds. Mr. Obama is proud of a series of acts that I would think he would, after careful reflection, feel regret for and even (when it comes to his administration lionizing Sgt. Bergdahl) some shame. At times individuals interpret the same events at such different angles of vision that their actions are nearly incomprehensible one to another. I will confess that more than I ever imagined, I have that feeling with [Obama].” [59649, 60367]

Examiner.com reports, “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli officials, and U.S. lawmakers on Monday night slammed ...Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry over their stated goal of working with the new Palestinian unity government that includes Hamas, a group designated by the United States and Israel as a terrorist organization. ‘We are deeply disappointed by the comments made by the State Department regarding working with the Palestinian unity government,’ Israeli officials said in a press statement. ‘The Palestinian government is backed by Hamas, a terrorist organization committed to [the] destruction of Israel. If the U.S. administration wants to advance peace, it should be calling on Abbas to end his pact with Hamas and return to peace talks with Israel. Instead, it is enabling Abbas to believe it is acceptable to form a government with a terror organization.’” [59640]

Obama’s approval/disapproval rating falls to 43/55 in a CNN poll. Among independents, the numbers are dismal 34/63. Obama’s numbers based on issues are: economy, 38/61; health care, 36/63; foreign affairs, 40/57; budget, 31/67; immigration, 35/61; helping the middle class, 40/58; Afghanistan, 42/56; VA medical facilities, 37/58; Ukraine, 38/53. Obama is underwater on *every issue*. (Meanwhile, Obama’s approval rating has shot up—in the Middle East. Downtrend.com reports, “People were polled in seven Arab countries, including Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Palestinian territories. Since 2011, support for [Obama’s] policies have soared in Egypt (from 3% to 24%), in Jordan (from 3% to 25%), and in the UAE (from 8% to 38%). ...Views of Obama in Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Lebanon have also increased between 7 and 24 percentage points.”) [59650, 59651, 59675, 59700]

Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), who on June 1 told Fox News' Chris Wallace, "We saved this man's [Bowe Bergdahl's] life, [Obama] acted within his constitutional authority, which he should have done, I'm very proud that we have no POWs left in Afghanistan and [Obama] should be proud of it also," changes her tune. On June 3 she says, "I'm not going to comment until I look at the brief. I'm not going to comment until I look at the brief [a June 4 meeting with the administration]." According to WeeklyStandard.com, "McCaskill was not alone in her reluctance to support the deal. More than a dozen Democratic senators questioned by TWS [*The Weekly Standard*] Tuesday afternoon declined to defend it. 'I just don't know enough about it. I really don't,' said Dick Durbin of Illinois, the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate. 'It's very disturbing,' said Joe Manchin of West Virginia. 'Everything you hear. I'm going to reserve judgment until after we have a secured briefing tomorrow.' 'You know, I think, um, let me hold off on that,' said Bernie Sanders of Vermont. 'All I've heard is what I've read in the press,' said Vermont's senior senator Pat Leahy. 'I don't have enough information at this point in time,' said Jon Tester of Montana. 'I do think getting our boys 'back home, that's a good quality. I do have some issues about whether [Bergdahl] deserted or not.' ... 'Everything affects the calculus,' said Carl Levin of Michigan. 'It's an excruciating decision [Obama] has to make, that decision as to whether he would do it. Would you use a nuclear weapon to get back a soldier? I mean, no.' 'It depends on all the facts and circumstances of the case,' Levin added. 'I'm not going to give you a conclusion in the case because I don't know all the circumstances.' Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York declined to comment when asked if it was a good deal. In addition, Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Chris Coons of Delaware, and Mark Begich of Alaska said they're reserving judgment." [59667, 59668, 59678, 60954]

Breitbart.com reports, "Tuesday on NewsMax TV, former U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North said U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was not a prisoner of war because he was actually being held 'hostage' by the Haqqanis, a terrorist group separate from the Taliban and associated heavily with al Qaeda. North said he knew there was at least a \$1 million dollar ransom being demanded for Bergdahl some time ago so he estimated the price paid to release the hostage must be close to \$5-6 million now. 'Someone paid a ransom,' North said. 'Whether the Qataris paid it, or some big oil sheik, or somebody used our petrodollars, but there was a ransom paid in cash for each one of them, my guess somewhere in the round numbers of \$5 or 6 million to get Bergdahl freed. I know that the offer that was on the table before was close to a million.'" (Congressman David Stockman (R-TX) later demands that the White House confirm whether it paid a ransom for Bergdahl. Michael Rubin, a former Middle East advisor to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, believes a ransom was paid to the Haqqanis who were holding Bergdahl, and a "senior intelligence official" tells *The Washington Times*, "We just funded them [the Haqqanis] for the next 10 years is my guess." National Security Staff spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden responds, "The United States did not provide money in return for Sgt. Bergdahl"—which does not exclude the possibility that gold or silver or something else was not paid, by the United States or Qatar or some other entity.) [59695, 59752, 59766, 59799, 59800, 59889, 59925, 60005]

At NationalReview.com retired Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters writes, “Congratulations, Mr. [Obama]! And identical congrats to your sorcerer’s apprentice, National Security Adviser Susan Rice. By trying to sell [Bowe Bergdahl] as an American hero, you’ve turned a deserter already despised by soldiers in the know into quite possibly the most-hated individual soldier in the history of our military. I have never witnessed such outrage from our troops. ...I actually believe that Ms. Rice was kind of sincere, in her spectacularly oblivious way. In the best Manchurian Candidate manner, she said what she had been programmed to say by her political culture, then she was blindsided by the firestorm she ignited by scratching two flinty words together. At least she didn’t blame Bergdahl’s desertion on a video. [Obama], too, appears stunned. He has so little understanding of (or interest in) the values and traditions of our troops that he and his advisers really believed that those in uniform would erupt into public joy at the news of Bergdahl’s release—as D.C. frat kids did when Osama bin Laden’s death was trumpeted. ...Our media elite—where it’s a rare bird who bothered to serve in uniform—instantly became experts on military justice. Of earnest mien and blithe assumption, one talking head after another announced that ‘we always try to rescue our troops, even deserters.’ Uh, no. ‘Save the deserter’ is a recent battle cry of the politically indoctrinated brass. For much of our history, we did make some efforts to track down deserters in wartime. Then we shot or hanged them. Or, if we were in good spirits, we merely used a branding iron to burn a large D into their cheeks or foreheads. Even as we grew more enlightened, desertion brought serious time in a military prison. At hard labor.” [59782]

“This is a fundamental culture clash. Team Obama and its base cannot comprehend the values still cherished by those young Americans ‘so dumb’ they joined the Army instead of going to prep school and then to Harvard. Values such as duty, honor, country, physical courage, and loyalty to your brothers and sisters in arms have no place in Obama World. (Military people don’t necessarily all like each other, but they know they can depend on each other in battle—the sacred trust Bergdahl violated.) ...Obama did this to himself (and to Bergdahl). This beautifully educated man, who never tires of letting us know how much smarter he is than the rest of us, never stopped to consider that our troops and their families might have been offended by their commander-in-chief staging a love-fest at the White House to celebrate trading five top terrorists for one deserter and featuring not the families of those soldiers (at least six of them) who died in the efforts to find and free Bergdahl, but, instead, giving a starring role on the international stage to Pa Taliban, parent of a deserter and a creature of dubious sympathies (that beard on pops ain’t a tribute to ZZ Top). How do you say ‘outrageous insult to our vets’ in Pashto?” [59782]

“Our military leaders need to rediscover their moral courage and honor our traditions, our regulations, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We need a fresh, unprejudiced 15-6 investigation (the military equivalent of a grand jury). We already know, as the military has known since the first 24 hours after Bergdahl abandoned his post, that sufficient evidence exists for a court-martial, but it’s important to do this by the numbers. It’s hard to believe that the resulting court-martial would not find Bergdahl guilty of desertion (although there will be heavy White House pressure to reduce the charge to Absent

Without Leave, or AWOL, status, a lesser offense). If he is convicted, I for one do not want him to go to prison. I'm sure he has paid and paid for betraying his comrades, quite possibly suffering brutal sexual violence. But if he is found guilty, he needs to be formally reduced to the rank of private, stripped of all privileges and entitlements (the taxpayer should not pay for a deserter's lifelong health care—Bergdahl's book and film deals can cover that), and he should be given the appropriate prison sentence, which would then be commuted by [Obama]. Thereafter, let Mr. Bergdahl go home and live with himself. As for ...Obama, how about just one word of thanks to the families of those fallen soldiers you sent out to find Bowe Bergdahl?" [59782]

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)—a 36-year incumbent—fails to win the Mississippi primary but will face a run-off election because the first place finisher, State Senator and Tea Party candidate Chris McDaniel, falls short of 50 percent of the vote. (McDaniel gets 49.6 percent.) The Cochran campaign team is reportedly encouraging Democrats who did not vote in their party's primary to vote for him in the run-off election. (Cochran is known mostly for "bringing home the pork"—rather than standing up for conservative principles.) [59592, 59666, 59677, 59688, 59762, 59790, 59944, 59963, 59978, 60165]

Joni Ernst wins the GOP primary race for the U.S. Senate in Iowa. The Democrat Senatorial Campaign Committee calls her ' the Sarah Palin of Iowa.' (HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey writes, "Gee, do all Republican women *look alike* to the DSCC? More seriously, do they expect that a Palin comparison will actually do damage to Ernst at this point, or at all in any context in Iowa? That looks like a boiler-plate Beltway perspective on flyover country that speaks volumes about the problems Democrats face in middle America this November.") Ernst's Democrat opponent in November, Ed Braley, has already shot himself in the foot, bragging that he is an attorney and ridiculing Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) as "a farmer from Iowa who never went to law school, never practiced law, serving as next chair of Senate Judiciary Committee, because if Democrats lose the majority, Chuck Grassley will be the next chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee." (Braley would be wise to learn that Iowa is full of farmers who might not be too fond of trial lawyers.) [59600, 59816, 60018]

Despite having been endorsed by corpulent propaganda filmmaker Michael Moore, Sandra Fluke comes in second in a primary race in California for a state senate seat. Because frontrunner Ben Allen failed to win 50 percent in the multi-candidate race, he and Fluke will have a run-off election. (Remarkably, in another California district State Senator Leland Yee received 288,000 votes—despite having dropped out of the race after being indicted on arms trafficking and corruption charges.) [59681, 59689, 59761]

On CNN, Anderson Cooper asks White House press secretary Jay Carney, "Were you aware that, that Bergdahl's father would speak Arabic and Pashto in his remarks?" Not expecting the question, Carney responds, "But, I, I, uh, I'm not sure that, of, of the relevance of that question. Is that a reason not to, uh, be happy for a father, uh, that his son who has been held in captivity by a brutal enemy is being returned to him and the United States? Uh, I mean, I think that's, uh, uh, I think entirely beside the point. Uh, my, you know, he's, he's an, he's, he's, Sergeant Bergdahl is an American, he's an American

soldier, his parents, uh, have been, uh, concerned, very concerned about, uh, his circumstances over these past five years, uh, and it was entirely the right thing to do, uh, to bring him home, and, and, bring him home, and now, uh, as Chairman Dempsey and Secretary Hagel have said, uh, uh, provide him the opportunity, once he's, uh, able to, uh, to explain, uh, what happened from his perspective and only he can do that." (Whether Carney's successor, Josh Earnest, will be as entertaining—and hard to transcribe—as Carney remains to be seen.) [59631]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, host Bill O'Reilly asks retired Army Colonel David Hunt, "Was Sergeant Bergdahl a deserter?" Hunt replies, "Yeah, he was. ...He called his unit the day after he deserted to tell them that he had deserted. ...Bill, we lost 14 soldiers, killed, searching for a deserter... [Others claim six soldiers were killed in the hunt for Bergdahl.] ...He left his unit in combat. ...He wandered away, we don't know yet whether he joined the Taliban or not, but there's no question that he deserted." [59657]

On *The Kelly File*, Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), ranking member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, tells host Megyn Kelly the classified file on Bowe Bergdahl he was shown did not include any reference to the soldier's having left a note about abandoning his unit—even though it has been reported that he did. Chambliss says, "This article in *The New York Times* shocked me." (*The New York Times* reported that a "retired officer [possibly Special Operations Major Rusty Bradley] insisted that he remembered reading a field report discussing the existence of such a letter in the early days of the search and was unable to explain why it is not mentioned in the final investigative report.") "This note that he supposedly left that indicated that he was sympathetic to the Taliban and unsympathetic to the American interest in this conflict was not included in that file, and I'm very surprised by that. Normally those classified files are pretty informative, but, I don't know, I was pretty shocked by it. ...There was nothing in that file in regards to statements [fellow soldiers] from those individuals as to what they saw that night, and there's just a lot of unanswered questions." (Chambliss, a member of the intelligence committee, was shown a file that had apparently been scrubbed of some damaging information. Intentionally withholding information from Congress in order to cover up an ill-advised prisoner exchange deal can probably be added to the list of items to be included in the Articles of Impeachment.) [59612, 59613, 59831]

Also on *The Kelly File*, Judge Andrew Napolitano says, "In my view, [impeachment] is a very, very valid argument people are going to start talking about. Look, the last time [a] president was impeached [Bill Clinton] it was a disaster and it was arguably over nonsense. This is far, far more serious." Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters tells host Megyn Kelly, "This is an example of a very deep cultural divide, between Team Obama, that knows nothing about the military and cares less, and those who actually serve, and I think when you really listen to Susan Rice and Obama, they think that desertion is kind of like skipping class, you're hung over Monday morning so you don't want to go to Gender 101. It is the second gravest sin in the military catechism, right behind turning your weapon on your brother soldiers." [59662, 59665, 59671]

On MSNBC, leftist Rachel Maddow, desperately seeking a way to turn the Bergdahl issue away from criticism of Obama to an attack on conservatives, notes the case of Private Jessica Lynch—who had to be rescued after a wrong turn in Iraq in 2003. Maddow asks, “Should that rescue not have happened? Should Jessica Lynch have been left there? ... Seriously, is that what we think about these things now? ... Maybe the U.S. special forces who rescued her and the other Americans held in that hospital, maybe shouldn’t have bothered. After all, maybe it was sort of their own screw-up that got them ambushed and hurt and captured in the first place. Is that how we think about these things now? Because that kind of a case—that obscenity of a case that maybe some Americans might deserve to be left behind—that is the new cause celebre on the American Right right now. That the American POW Bowe Bergdahl, he did not deserve to be freed. That the U.S. government working to free him—succeeding in freeing him—that was a shame somehow, because sure he was an American soldier, but he was a bad one.” (Maddow apparently does not understand the difference between rescuing a soldier in battle, and trading five enemy leaders for a deserter.) [59670, 59744]

On June 4 former Army Specialist Josh Fuller, who served with Bowe Bergdahl, appears on *Fox & Friends* and says, “[T]he sentiment that everybody knew was that he walked off the base in the middle of the night, left all his gear there, and went—just walked off the post. So, we had all known that it was—that he had deserted his post, and there was never anything about him getting captured or [being] a POW until a little while later whenever it came down from the chain of command that we needed to keep quiet and not say anything, and ‘We’re going with the narrative that he was captured.’” Host Brian Kilmeade: “So, they basically told you... not to tell the truth.” Fuller: “Yes, sir.” Fuller states that Taliban attacks against the base became more directed and precise after Bergdahl went AWOL: “The ambushes we use, the certain tactics we use, the Taliban was picking up on those things... You could tell it was from somebody on the inside that had that info.” [59602, 59603]

On the *Today* program, Chuck Todd reports, “Every [White House] aide I’ve talked to said they expected there to be controversy involving the decision to release five members of the Taliban from Gitmo, and the fact that this would then escalate that debate, which has been simmering for a good five years, which is what to do with those detainees, how do you release them, where do you release them. They did not expect this backlash on Bergdahl himself. I’ve had a few aides describe it to me as, ‘We didn’t know that they were going to ‘swift boat’ Bergdahl.’ And that’s a reference to that political fight back in 2004 over John Kerry’s military service, so there’s some fighting words there.” (In other words, the White House is accusing Bergdahl’s fellow soldiers of lying about his going AWOL. There is no incentive for them to lie, however; but there is an incentive for the Obama administration to lie.) [59604, 59605, 59682]

HotAir.com comments, “‘Swift-boating,’ as you may recall, is when critics tell the truth about someone’s military service when the truth is unhelpful to Democrats. Consider this the beginning of phase three of the Bergdahl fallout. Phase one was when soldiers from Bergdahl’s unit caught the White House off-guard by publicly accusing him of desertion. ... Phase two was the White House desperately searching for someone, anyone, from

Bergdahl's unit who'd stand up in front of the media and vouch for his character. That's happening entirely out of public view, but rest assured, it's happening. ...The State Department is so bereft of third-party support that they were forced last night to tell reporters to trust Bergdahl himself over his squad mates, as if a repatriated deserter wouldn't have an incentive to lie about why he went missing upon his return. ...So now, phase three: Start discrediting the soldiers who've accused him. It'll have to be done subtly and tactfully. If they go dumpster-diving on these guys for things like substance-abuse problems or financial trouble, the nastiness of it might backfire on the White House and make their Bergdahl problem even worse. Babbling about "swift-boating" is a good way to get the ball rolling, at least among liberals who are grasping for ways to defend Obama and have come up empty thus far. ...To protect a guy who allegedly served dishonorably, the White House and the left now have no choice but to go after the honorable ones." [59605]

The Taliban releases a 17-minute video showing the May 31 release of Bowe Bergdahl. The *Daily Mail* writes, "As a tense-looking Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was handed over to US forces, one of his Taliban captors warned him: 'Don't come back to Afghanistan. You won't make it out alive next time.' Then, the American soldier, wearing traditional loose-fitting Afghan trousers and a long tunic, was led away to a US military helicopter, where he was patted down for explosives or other weapons before he was allowed to climb aboard. ...A thin-looking Bergdahl, his head shaved, blinks frequently and looks tense as he peers out of the truck. At one point, he wipes his eye as if to get rid of some dust. A Black Hawk helicopter then lands, and two Taliban fighters, one carrying a white cloth tied to a stick, lead Bergdahl, now wearing a gray shawl and carrying a plastic bag, halfway toward the chopper. Three apparent members of U.S. special operations forces approach the group, shake hands with the two Taliban fighters and lead Bergdahl toward the helicopter." ("Don't come back" is a Taliban message to Obama, warning him to keep U.S. troops out of Afghanistan.) [59714, 59715]

On CNN, former Navy SEAL Brandon Webb comments on the fact that Bergdahl was beardless in the release video: "They have a Pashtun saying [in Afghanistan] that 'boys are for pleasure, women are for babies,' and the way that Bergdahl was presented, very clean shaven and effeminate is another insult, a purposeful insult to America in the hand-off. ...In the Afghan culture, in the Pashtun culture, to grow facial hair... is to be very manly. It's very effeminate to present Bergdahl as very clean shaven his head shaven... and this is a very effeminate look in that Pashtun society and so to present him in this way is, I think, another insult and part of the propaganda during the handover." CNN's Wolf Blitzer absurdly suggests "these Taliban guys might be more sophisticated" than that and "they were cleaning him up... to make him look healthier, better to show, 'Yeah, we had him for five years but we really, you know, kept him in pretty good shape, so we're gonna shave him, that's what the west likes.'" [59716, 59755]

BuzzFeed.com reports that the Obama administration has been "been holding secret back-channel talks with Hamas over the last six months to discuss their role in the newly formed unity government, according to two senior diplomatic sources with direct knowledge of the talks. The meetings were held between U.S. intermediaries and Hamas'



leadership, which lives outside the Gaza Strip in third-party countries ranging from Egypt to Qatar and Jordan. Topics included the ceasefire agreement with Israel and the recently formed unity government between Hamas and Fatah. During the talks, Hamas gave assurances that allowed the U.S. to support the unity government, despite heavy pressure by the Israeli government for them to condemn it, the diplomatic officials—one American and one Palestinian—said. They said those assurances including a commitment to maintaining a ceasefire with Israel. ...State Department deputy spokesman Marie Harf denied the talks. ‘These assertions are completely untrue,’ Harf told BuzzFeed. ‘There is no such back channel. Our position on Hamas has not changed.’” (Pamela Geller comments, “The rogue Obama administration has been holding talks with the US-designated terror group Hamas for the past six months. Clearly, the Obama administration was directly involved in the formation of the unity government of Hamas and Fatah. It is not coincidence that the Obama administration said they would work with the terror ‘administration.’ It was all by design. No longer the force in the world for good, the United States now sanctions and supports evil. The Obama administration did not require Hamas or Fatah to recognize Israel. The Obama administration did not require Hamas to change its charter, wherein the first paragraph calls for the annihilation of Israel in the cause of Allah. The failure of Obama’s policy of submission and sanction of our most vicious enemies is evident in the chaos and savagery we see in Benghazi, Libya; Syria; Iraq; Egypt; Gaza; and Israel.”) [61225, 61226]

The Associated Press reports, “A huge new paperwork headache for the government could also be jeopardizing coverage for some of the millions of people who just got health insurance under [ObamaCare]. A government document provided to The Associated Press indicates that at least 2 million people enrolled for taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance have data discrepancies in their applications that, if unresolved, could affect what they pay for coverage, or even their legal right to benefits. The final number affected could well be higher. ...For consumers, a discrepancy means that the information they supplied, subject to perjury laws, does not match what the government has on record. For example, someone who underestimated his income, and got too generous a subsidy as a result, could owe the Internal Revenue Service money next year.” Townhall.com adds, “It also looks as though nearly half of the affected cases pertain to immigration and citizenship status.” (That is, many of the 8 million ObamaCare enrollees are not actually eligible for the coverage.) [59609, 59610, 59611, 59731]

ClimateDepot.com reports, “According to the RSS satellite data, whose value for May 2014 has just been published, the global warming trend in the 17 years and 9 months since September 1996 is zero. The 213 months without global warming represent more than half the 425-month satellite data record since January 1979. No one now in high school has lived through global warming.” [60636, 60686, 60687, 60688]

Reuters reports, “It is increasingly unlikely that six world powers and Iran will meet their July 20 deadline to negotiate a long-term deal for Iran to curb its nuclear programme in return for an end to economic sanctions, diplomats and analysts say. In theory, an extension to the high-stakes talks should not be a problem if all sides want it. But ...Obama would need to secure Congress’ consent at a time of fraught relations between

the administration and lawmakers.” [56915, 59616]

TheBlaze.com reports, “Speculation around the circumstances of then-Private Bowe Bergdahl’s disappearance rose to new heights today after TheBlaze received an unconfirmed tip that video evidence exists of the recently released prisoner of war walking off base. During Tuesday’s edition of *The Buck Sexton Show* a caller, going by Alex from Michigan, described in detail his responsibilities and participation in part of the rescue missions for Bergdahl, and said he was part of a security briefing that showed Bergdahl walking away from the post on surveillance video. It’s a claim we took to the government to see what they had to say. ...The caller, who did not reveal his last name to the show, said he guarantees the video ‘isn’t out yet or unclassified’ but that each FOB [forward operating base] had video cameras taping the security check points. ‘All FOBs will have video cameras somewhere on the base, videos monitoring the entrances and exits of the base,’ Alex said. He noted that the timing was ironic, because he had gone through his old ‘military gear and found his notebook regarding this mission briefing.’ Alex said the report details that Bergdahl walked off the base, was picked up by three men driving a Toyota Corolla hatchback and they placed a tarp over his head, and was eventually forced to dress in women’s clothing for a time. ‘I’m not sure how this information came about, it was just during my mission briefing that I received,’ Alex said. He emphasized that merely walking off the base, even if Bergdahl didn’t have the intent to permanently leave, was a dangerous idea.” [59632]

Retired Army General William “Jerry” Boykin tells WND.com that Bowe Bergdahl is a deserter who should be imprisoned. “We know for sure that he is a deserter. In fact, the 15-6 investigation that was conducted immediately after his departure from his base concluded that he had deserted, and I think all the evidence supports that conclusion, particularly given the fact that he had asked a series of bizarre questions of his teammates. He also left a very revealing message explaining how he was ashamed of being an American and wanted to help the people of Afghanistan. This guy’s a deserter. ...The fact that [National Security Adviser] Susan Rice went on television and said that served honorably is just another example of why she needs to be removed and replaced, because this is the second time, Benghazi being the first, where she has gone on television and openly lied to the American public. This administration knows he deserted. They knew how people felt about him, and she went out there and called his service honorable. If that’s the case, then you tell me what the concept of honorable service is for this administration. ...Desertion in combat—and I emphasize in combat, which means you are in a combat zone and routinely engaged with the enemy—is punishable by death. That should give you some indication as to how serious this is taken. When a man walks off and leaves his post in combat, he jeopardizes everybody else. ...This was about emptying out Guantanamo. This was a backdoor deal. The reasons for it, the details of it will probably never come out in its entirety, but this is an ugly story. ...It was really bad form for [Obama] not to at least call in the chair and ranking member of the intel or armed services committee and tell them what he was about to do with regard to the release of these prisoners. It’s an example of how [Obama] only obeys the laws and follows the policies that he wants to. In our Constitution, it falls under the category of high crimes and misdemeanors, where you just selectively obey certain laws and ignore

others.” [59646]

Boykin continues, “[Bergdahl had] a tremendous amount of information, which would be very useful to the enemy. Whether he was a collaborator or not is yet to be determined. My guess is that he was. Even if he was not a deliberate collaborator, the interrogation techniques of these people is such that he probably provided an awful lot of very useful, valuable information to the enemy. ...They should do an Article 32 investigation immediately. It should be ongoing right now. That is a prelude to a court-martial. There can be no other option. They must take him to court-martial, and they must hold him accountable for his actions. If he didn’t desert, then the truth will come out. ...There are other soldiers that [sic; who] were endangered and even some we are positive now that were killed in the efforts to find him. As far as I’m concerned, that exacerbates his crime from being a simple desertion to being one that resulted in the deaths of his comrades. I think that has to be considered as we talk about what to do with him. From my perspective, he needs to spend the rest of his life in prison at a minimum.” Boykin agrees that the situation is a case of desertion at best and treason at worst. “Absolutely. What else could you call it?” Noting the soldiers who have come forward to criticize Bergdahl, Boykin says, “Do you think if Bergdahl had served honorably that those guys wouldn’t be coming out now rejoicing in the fact he had been returned? Use a little common sense and just ask yourself: Would they have had this reaction had he not deserted his unit?” Boykin also believes the military knew exactly where Bergdahl was but didn’t have any motivation to go get him. “That’s what should have happened if this was a man with honorable service. He wasn’t. So you have to ask the question, ‘Why didn’t the military go and try to rescue him?’ I’m going to speculate that it’s because they were not willing to risk another life for a guy they knew was a traitor.” [59546]

Reuters reports that Bowe Bergdahl’s home town in Idaho has canceled plans for a welcome home celebration, because the city “will be unable to safely manage the number of people expected.” (That may mean, “We don’t want protesters coming here.”) Leftists express outrage on Twitter: “that is so sad. Republican propaganda has ruined what should be a happy time for the family. Looks like Americans believe TV.” “this is just plain sad. I’m sick and tired of the media covering RW propaganda. This has got to stop.—” “This is what happens when the #MSM & #GOP join forces to malign EVERYTHING #POTUS tries to do. Shame on them.—” “Shame on the #GOP and the #MSM for smearing #Bergdahl out of their shared hatred of #POTUS—” [59652, 59653, 59693, 59711, 59763]

Leftist reporter Glenn Greenwald tweets, “It’s fascinating how there’s so much sympathy for a US POW, but so little for GITMO detainees kept in a cage for a decade w/no charges.” (During World War II the United States kept thousands of captured Japanese and German soldiers in prisoner of war camps without charges or trial. That is a consequence of war, and no one expected, let alone demanded, that all POWs be given a trial. On the other hand, of course, it can be argued that because the U.S. Congress did not officially declare war on another nation or even a terrorist organization, then the combatants being held at Guantanamo are not prisoners of war and are instead civilian criminals who committed acts of terrorism and who should therefore be given trials. The

failure of George W. Bush, Obama, and the U.S. Congress to declare war—or even properly define the enemy—is what caused the problem of what to do with captured combatants. Some might therefore have little sympathy for the terrorists, yet be considerably disappointed by the manner in which the “war on terror” has been conducted.) [59654, 60355]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich writes, “Payback. That’s the word being used to describe recent busload transfers of illegal immigrants, mostly children, caught in Texas and dumped at bus stops in hot, Arizona cities. ... Instead of using resources to send the children home, I.C.E. and Border Patrol agents were instructed by officials in Washington to transport illegals from Texas to Arizona. When illegals are dropped off, they are given a court date and ICE simply hopes they show up for the hearing. ... Now, the move is being seen as payback for Arizona’s previous attempts to take control of their illegal immigration problem by bucking the feds inaction.” Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ) tells Fox News, “Well, we are one of the hubs. We’ve been having the argument in regard to upholding the rule of law... and this is actually just a way for the administration to poke Arizona in the eye.” [59659]

Following a closed door meeting with Obama administration officials to review the Bergdahl prisoner exchange, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) state, “It comes to us with some surprise and dismay that the [prisoner exchange] transfers went ahead with no consultation, totally not following law. And in an issue with this kind of concern to a committee that bears the oversight responsibility, I think you can see that we’re very dismayed about it.” Neither Feinstein and Chambliss believe the administration’s claim that Bowe Bergdahl had health issues that forced Obama to make a decision without first consulting Congress. (National Security Advisor Susan Rice does not attend the meeting.) Chambliss tells *On the Record’s* Greta Van Susteren, “I don’t see how anybody can walk out of there with any kind of comfortable feeling that the administration from a notification standpoint, and I emphasize that, did what they should have done or what they had the opportunity to do. I mean, it was like they didn’t trust Dianne [Feinstein] and me. ... My comment back to the administration is that I’m not going to believe anything they tell me from now on. They are willing to violate the law but even short of that, when they commit to us that they are going to give us 30 days’ notice and then they don’t do it, how in the world can we trust the administration on anything they tell us?” (All U.S. Senators were invited to the meeting. More than a few state afterward that they learned nothing and were not persuaded to change their minds about anything related to the Bergdahl exchange.) [59661, 59662, 59699, 59701, 59815, 59828, 59845, 59929, 60019]

Fox News’ Ed Henry reports, “I pressed administration officials in private today on how Susan Rice could suggest on ABC’s ‘This Week’ Sunday that Bergdahl served with ‘honor and distinction’ given the allegations against him. This has become another lightning rod for Rice, with Sen. John McCain and others charging she was again pushing a false narrative a la Benghazi. An administration official now tells Fox that Rice meant that we should not forget that Bergdahl was serving his country ‘in general.’ She was referring to the fact that he was over there as a U.S. soldier, volunteered for service, and

remember has just endured five years of brutal captivity; she wasn't necessarily trying to characterize the circumstances of his capture which she said we'd have to learn more about; and let's not get ahead of the facts that we don't know yet, we haven't heard his side of the story yet." [59663, 59664, 59718, 59775]

DailyCaller.com writes, "Knowing an epic political disaster when she sees one, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is seeking to distance herself from the swap of five Taliban commanders for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who has been described by fellow army soldiers and official Pentagon reports as a deserter who may have been seeking to join the Taliban. The presumed Democratic presidential front-runner for 2016 was deeply involved in deliberations about the secret negotiations between the United States and the Taliban in 2011 and 2012 that eventually led to the five-for-one exchange, reports The Daily Beast. Now that the deal is quickly becoming a public-relations nightmare for the Obama administration, unidentified pro-Clinton insiders have begun frantically spinning Clinton's involvement *in* the trade as Clinton's disagreement *about* the terms of the trade." (In fact, "convenient leaks" that try to distance Clinton from the Bergdahl fiasco start to appear. TheDailyBeast.com's Josh Rogin "reports" that "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was personally and intensely involved in the debate over swapping five Taliban commanders for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in 2011 and 2012. But she had severe reservations about the potential deal, and demanded stricter conditions for the release of the prisoners than what President Obama settled for last week." It is almost guaranteed that the more Obama's approval rating sinks, the more one can expect to see reports that Clinton fought him on key decisions over the years.) [59669, 59673, 59676]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel claims, "I do not know of specific circumstances or details of U.S. soldiers dying as a result of efforts to find and rescue Sergeant Bergdahl. ...Until we get the facts, until we have ...a review of all the circumstances, it is not in the interest of anyone and certainly I think a bit unfair to Sergeant Bergdahl's family and to him to presume anything. ...Let's get the facts, but let's first focus on getting Sergeant Bergdahl well, getting his health back, getting him reunified with his family." [59687]

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel—Obama's former chief of staff—announces a June 20 fundraiser for his reelection campaign, with "special guest" Bill Clinton." (Interestingly, Emanuel is relying on Clinton, rather than Obama, for help. If Emanuel were to ask Obama to appear at an event with him, Obama probably would do so; but Emanuel probably will not ask.) [59694, 59754]

Psychologist Dr. Gina Loudon is asked by Fox News' Lou Dobbs, "[Obama] hasn't mentioned a word about Sergeant [Andrew] Tahmooressi held in a Mexican prison. Your thoughts on the distinction here between the two, in at least Obama's mind?" Loudon replies, "You know, I will say to you, Lou, I am very, very concerned about the mental stability of [Obama] at this point. Some of his behavior seems irrational to me. It seems beyond that of just a typical narcissistic, arrogant, sort of, 'I'm a leader of a big country and I feel tyrannical at the moment' kind of attitude. It really seems to me like [Obama] is demonstrating behavior that is not only anti-American, but irrational and erratic and perhaps not exactly what we might want to deem sane." Loudon also says of Bowe

Bergdahl, “This isn’t your typical prisoner-of-war situation. This man obviously had some real hostility toward the American government and even the American military before he ever left. He was certainly—at best—insensitive to the others in his unit, knowing that they might have to risk their life to come for him, knowing that he was deserting them and knowing that their families could be highly impacted by this very irreverent decision. At worst, perhaps this guy really suffers from a serious case of narcissism, or even worse than that, somebody who’s completely self-obsessed and was thinking only about his own opinions when he made the decision to walk away that fateful day. This is not something that I think developed overnight. They’re going to talk a lot about Stockholm Syndrome and some of those things, but I think the evidence is looking like it’s going to unfold to say that this is something that had been going on in his mind for a long time. ...Lou, to be honest with you. I don’t think these anti-American feelings developed once [Bergdahl] was already in captivity. It sounds to me like he’d been raised with ...an anti-colonialist attitude, and perhaps that’s the reason why psychologically [Obama] could so well identify with [him].” [59750, 59854, 59939]

RollCall.com reports, “In its latest report on [the Affordable Care Act], the Congressional Budget Office said it is no longer possible to assess the overall fiscal impact of the law. That conclusion came as a surprise to some fiscal experts in Washington and is drawing concern. And without a clear picture of the law’s overall financing, it could make it politically easier to continue delaying pieces of it, including revenue raisers, because any resulting cost increases might be hidden. Charles Blahous, a senior research fellow at George Mason University’s free market-oriented Mercatus Center, calls the CBO’s inability to estimate the net effect of the law ‘a real problem.’ ‘The ACA’s financing provisions were assumed to be effective so as to get a favorable score out of CBO upon enactment, but no one is keeping track of whether they’re being enforced,’ says Blahous, a public trustee for Social Security and Medicare. ‘We receive occasional updates on the gross costs of the law, but none on whether the previously projected savings provisions are producing what was originally projected.’ As a result, Blahous says, ‘there’s no barrier to continually rolling back the financing mechanisms without the effect on the ACA’s finances ever being fully disclosed.’” (In other words, the CBO cannot reasonably estimate the financial impact of ObamaCare on the economy or the federal budget because the Obama administration keeps changing the rules, issuing waivers, and extending deadlines. Or, “ObamaCare is going to cost taxpayers a fortune—we just don’t know how much of a fortune.” Townhall.com’s Guy Benson comments, “This is a neat trick, isn’t it? Step one: Use a carefully-gamed CBO score to help pass your giant law over the will of the public. Step two: Issue so many on-the-fly changes, revisions and waivers to the resulting monstrosity that the CBO throws in the towel on trying to track the real data, thus undercutting a key nonpartisan group’s efforts to evaluate the veracity of your previous claims. Quite the scheme.”) [59730, 59731]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Some of Hillary Clinton’s closest aides blasted the *New York Times* for what they said was unfair coverage of the former first lady during a recent secret meeting with the paper’s Washington bureau, the *Washington Free Beacon* has learned. Sources said the meeting included Clinton advisers Philippe Reines and Huma Abedin, as well as *Times* Washington bureau chief Carolyn Ryan and national political

reporter Amy Chozick, who has been on the Clinton beat for the paper. During the closed-door gathering, Clinton aides reportedly griped about the paper's coverage of the potential 2016 candidate, arguing that Clinton has left public office and should not be subjected to harsh scrutiny, according to a source familiar with the discussions. Neither the *Times* nor the Clinton camp would discuss on the record specifics. However, sources familiar with the meeting describe it as an attempt to brush back and even intimidate the staff of the *Times*." (Chutzpah—or intimidate—is apparently Clinton's middle name. She demands "soft coverage" because she is not an announced candidate for 2016, yet everyone knows she will run for president. Even if she were not running for president, stories criticizing her are not off limits. She is a public figure. If she prefers not to be criticized for her public actions and statements, she can always stay home and bake cookies.) [59770]

TheHill.com reports, "The parents of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl visited the White House in March of 2013 as they sought to bring their son home from Afghanistan, public records show. Bob and Jani Bergdahl met with Lisa Monaco, Obama's counterterrorism adviser, in a White House dining area on the ground floor of the West Wing called the Ward Room, according to visitor records released by the administration. The couple arrived at 3:15 p.m. on March 21, 2013, and left at 4:23 p.m., records show. The White House said it wouldn't offer specifics on the individual meeting, but told The Hill it was one of many that Bob and Jani had with U.S. officials." [59703]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, "A central element of the administration's legal hair-splitting in justifying the Taliban Five trade relies on clinging to the conceit that Bergdahl was exchanged as part of a relatively routine prisoner swap. By describing him as a prisoner of war, rather than a hostage, the White House seeks to frame Bergdahl as merely one half of a deal, the likes of which is hardly unprecedented in US history. The problems with that narrative are obvious: (1) The Pentagon pointedly refused to categorize him as a POW, (2) the Taliban (in practice) and Haqqani network (according to our government's formal designation) are terrorists, and (3) the US does not treat Gitmo detainees as traditional POWs. Nevertheless, White House officials have doggedly insisted that Bergdahl was a prisoner, not a hostage—a distinction belied by" a Fox News report that a cash ransom for Bergdahl was considered as late as December 2013. "That option, though, was put 'on hold' in December when it was made clear the administration intended to pursue a prisoner swap." Benson continues, "As it happens, though, Team Obama was separately interested in emptying Guantanamo and had been looking to cut this group loose long before Bergdahl abandoned his unit. In their estimation, they were getting a win-win: The triumphant return of a 'POW,' and a fast-tracked method of shutting down Gitmo. They've been gobsmacked by the public's lose-lose response, fueled by the understandable fears about the Taliban Five and the disturbing revelations about Bergdahl." [59720, 59721, 59766, 60005]

"...We also know that Congress was not sufficiently consulted, in violation of the law. The White House laughably chalked this up to an 'oversight,' but their true motives are obvious. Such was the culture of secrecy around this whole situation that members of Bergdahl's platoon were made to sign non-disclosure agreements, with at least one soldier

alleging that they were pressured to lie about the nature of Bergdahl's capture. Parents of a soldier slain while searching for Bergdahl have also stepped forward to say they were misled by the government, and a high-ranking Senator on the intelligence committee [Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)] told Megyn Kelly last night that he never knew about Bergdahl's apparent desertion letter until its existence was reported by the *New York Times* and Fox. Lots of shady details. Speaking of which, one of the White House's explanations is that they had to rush this process through because they obtained a video of Bergdahl indicating that he was terribly ill, fostering a race-against-the-clock sense of urgency. The problem? They apparently received that clip in January, but didn't strike the deal for months. ...So scorching hot is this potato that Senate Democrats—with notable exceptions—have sprinted away from the Bergdahl story, with Team Clinton deciding to clarify that come to think of it, Hillary *did* have major reservations about the plan after all. Good to know. Meanwhile, additional Bergdahl platoon-mates vicious swiftboaters are taking to the airwaves to ~~denounce him as a deserter~~ spread their filthy anti-Obama lies, as MSNBC does its thing." [59720, 59721]

Former Taliban prisoner and Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell tells Glenn Beck, "That's the part that kind of got me off-guard, was the fact that they [the Taliban] held him [Bergdahl]. They don't normally do that." Luttrell says he never expected nor would have wanted to be exchanged for terrorists: "The thing that I held on to was that my teammates would come get me, or I was going to die out there, not [that the United States would] turn over some of the guys that were responsible for some of the worst atrocities that we've seen so far." Luttrell says his military friends are "pretty upset... that this [Bergdahl release] went down the way it did." [59717, 59751]

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) warns that Obama had better not release additional terrorists from Guantanamo without Congressional approval if he wants to keep his job: "It's going to be impossible for them to flow prisoners out of Gitmo now without a huge backlash. There will be people on our side calling for his impeachment if he did that." Graham also says that National Security Advisor Susan Rice should be fired: "I have no confidence in her. When I hear her on television talking about a world event, I can't believe anything she tells me. I mean, do you trust that she's going to tell you accurately what happened?" (Graham is correct that what Rice says cannot be trusted, but she is only repeating what she has been told to say. Although the nation would be better off without Rice, it would be served far better if Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett were fired. That, of course, will never happen because Obama reportedly does not act without first seeking her counsel.) [59725, 59726, 59746, 59835]

Meanwhile, Fox News reports, "[T]he Obama administration is considering springing yet another prisoner from Guantanamo Bay. Fouzi Khalid Abdullah al-Awda appeared via a video feed before a review board Wednesday morning in northern Virginia, often smiling as his private counsel Eric Lewis made the case for his release. Al-Awda has been held prisoner for 12 years. According to Defense Department officials and his official Guantanamo detainee profile, he traveled from his home in Kuwait to Afghanistan just before the 9/11 attacks to train in terrorist camps, and 'possibly' fight alongside the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Al-Awda maintains he only went to Afghanistan for



‘humanitarian reasons to provide alms for the poor and to teach the Koran.’” [59727, 59729]

Politico writes, “...the Rose Garden appearance Saturday afternoon with Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl’s parents was an attempt to humanize the prisoner swap to deflect potential criticism of letting five Taliban leaders out of Guantanamo Bay, White House aides say. It didn’t work. White House aides were aware Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl had been tagged a deserter, and that they would be grilled over not keeping Congress in the loop. But they figured people would be most outraged over the national security implications. The White House has been surprised by how much attention has remained on the questions about Bergdahl, from the circumstances of his disappearance to the wild beard his father grew while he was being held that’s even led to Bergdahl’s hometown canceling a celebration. All this, Obama aides say, is in their minds a proxy for the hatred toward [Obama]. The new approach: Frame the criticism as another example of Republicans complaining about something just because Obama was the one to do it. White House aides and other liberal outlets are highlighting what they see as Republican hypocrisy, citing past quotes from GOP lawmakers calling for Bergdahl’s freedom.” (In other words, “When you’ve got nothing else, play the race card.”) [59732, 59733]

Townhall.com’s Guy Benson comments that the Politico story “is highly revealing, from top to bottom. It paints a portrait of a White House reeling from a festering, self-inflicted political wound that’s flailing frantically to regain some measure of control over the narrative. It’s also a tad unnerving. This crew is so deep in the bunker that they can’t see a major mistake for what it is, preferring to take the mental exit ramp of chalking up the entire maelstrom to ‘hatred’ of Obama—a claim that requires acute cognitive dissonance... Now Team Obama has moved on to claiming that they expected some significant backlash all along, but failed to anticipate the flash points and depth of the anger. Flummoxed, they’ve discarded the entire episode into their catch-all ‘Obama haters’ bin, and are busily crafting a lefty media strategy to highlight Republican ‘hypocrisy.’ Their big smoking gun on this point is a series of past statements from Republicans urging the safe return of Sgt. Bergdahl. *See? They said they wanted Bergdahl home, and now that Obama’s achieved that amazing feat, they’re mad because he’s the one who did it.* This is a moronic line of argument. Of course many Republicans, and many Americans generally, are heavily inclined to be sympathetic toward a US soldier being held by the enemy. [But] Most of the people who voiced support for Bergdahl likely had no idea about the desertion allegations. ... Thus, there’s new information on the table (some of which was deliberately suppressed via non-disclosure agreements and exhortations to shade the truth). And based on that changing information, and the incensed reaction from Bergdahl’s platoon mates, people’s opinions are shifting. Imagine that. What we now know is that the White House negotiated with the Taliban, a horrible, radical group that most people consider to be terrorists.” [59733]

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta states, “I don’t fault the administration for wanting to get him [Bowe Bergdahl] back. I do question whether the conditions are in place to make sure these terrorists don’t go back into battle.” Panetta opposed the trade when he was in the Obama administration: “I said, ‘Wait, I have an obligation under the

law. If I send prisoners from Guantanamo, they have to guarantee they don't go back to the battlefield. I had serious concerns.' ...I just assumed it was never going to happen." [59768]

Fox News' James Rosen reports that military and intelligence sources have told him "further allegations against Bergdahl are coming." Rosen tells Bill O'Reilly, "[M]y reporting on this is that there are many inside the intelligence community who harbor outstanding concerns not just that Sergeant Bergdahl may have been a deserter, but that he [also] became an active collaborator with the enemy. ...The last thing I will tell you is—I'm still working on this story, I'm talking to a broad range of sources in and out of the government, in and out of the military. And all I will say is, there are many forms that active collaboration can take. I'm investigating claims that it could go as serious as you could imagine." [59734, 59735, 59745]

At Spectator.org Jed Babbin writes, "The Obama administration presented the release of Bowe Bergdahl as an indisputably glorious moment for the country. Amidst the celebration on Saturday, Obama didn't bother to mention that Bergdahl was a deserter. Obama considered the swap of five of the most dangerous terrorists of the Taliban for Bergdahl worthy of a Rose Garden ceremony. Even for the release of a decorated soldier, that would have been a dubious idea, given the shocking, precedent-breaking character of such a trade. But for Bergdahl, whose story of desertion and possible treachery and collaboration grows more troubling with each new report, a Rose Garden ceremony seems almost like a parody of liberalism. ...According to Susan Rice, who professes perplexity at why Republicans still have questions about the administration's handling of Benghazi, Bergdahl served with "honor and distinction." Rice said that 'Sergeant Bergdahl wasn't simply a hostage; he was an American prisoner of war captured on the battlefield.' No mention of his deliberately leaving the battlefield. Obama, too, described Bergdahl as captured on the battlefield. But by Tuesday the Pentagon's press secretary was using more cautious language, comparing at one point the recovery of Bergdahl to the recovery of someone who jumps from a ship. Perhaps the Obama administration will claim ignorance again, saying that it only recently learned of Bergdahl's deserter status from 'news reports.'" [59791]

"...An administration caught out in recent weeks for its indifference to the health of soldiers was eager to argue that dire health concerns about Bergdahl justified its release of terrorists for him. Obama evidently hoped that the Rose Garden ceremony would arrest his flagging poll numbers after the VA scandal. But it has only raised new questions about the depth of the administration's amateurishness, recklessness, and dishonesty. ...Obama still harbors the illusion that if the U.S. treats terrorists with more consideration their behavior will change for the better. Far more likely is that it will grow more emboldened, as they see how easily the U.S. can be manipulated and overpowered. Terrorists have been crowing over the pictures of the U.S. surrendering five of its most avowed enemies. The deal has unified them and divided Americans. Yet Obama speaks of it as a great moment in peacemaking that will result somehow in 'broader discussions among Afghans about the future of their country by building confidence that it is possible for all sides to find common ground.' Obama has telegraphed to the enemy America's

lack of resolve in the war on terrorism and encouraged more kidnappings. The beneficiary of this transparently self-defeating gesture—a deserter who grew to hate the military and saw America as a ‘horror’—makes it an even more vivid illustration of national decline.” [59791]

MSNBC’s Chris Matthews responds to Chuck Todd’s statement that White House aides “didn’t expect the ‘swift-boating’ of [Bowe] Bergdahl,” saying, “Wait a minute, wait a minute. Swift-boating is totally misused here. Swift-boating is when you make up stories and misconstrue the evidence—you don’t like the way John Kerry opposed the Vietnam War when he came back and turned it into an attack on his service over there. Totally dishonest. [But] These are questions raised about a guy who left [his] post, wrote letters, sent signals that he was leaving post as a matter of principle, he didn’t believe in the war effort. And we don’t know what’s worse here, but the idea—where’s the dishonesty in the portrayal of Bergdahl so far? I haven’t seen it. What’s been misconstrued about him so far? I know there have been questions raised. I have those questions. Most Americans do.” The scolded Todd replies, “Chris, I understand. This is not my portrayal. I’m simply reporting to you how the White House is viewing this.” [59743]

On CNN, Obama’s former “green jobs czar,” communist Van Jones, says, “Now, remember that warm feeling you got when you first heard that we had finally gotten our last captive soldier home from Afghanistan? Remember that feeling? I do, too. Unfortunately, the Republicans desperately want us all to forget about it. Now, I admit, there are some important questions we gotta [sic] answer here, but Sergeant Bergdahl isn’t even out of the hospital yet and already the air waves are being filled mysteriously with former soldiers just trashing the guy. What is goin’ [sic] on here? Well, it turns out that there are Republican operatives who are working behind the scenes to get some of those guys on television. This is an orchestrated smear campaign. The implication is that ...Obama should have left a U.S. soldier to die, but if he had done that, the same Republicans would be attacking him for doing that, so the whole thing is completely outrageous.” (There is nothing “mysterious” about soldiers coming forward to state what they know about Bergdahl. Nor are efforts to get them interviewed secretive. To criticize Obama’s trade is not to suggest that Bergdahl should have been left to die—although if he was a defector the Taliban would use him and not kill him. The objection is not to the fact that there *was* a deal; it is that it was a *bad* deal. Jones is quite at ease using Obama’s straw man arguments.) [59764, 59765]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tells Fox News’ Sean Hannity, “I intend next week to file legislation to halt any releases from Guantanamo until we get to the bottom of what happened [with Bowe] Bergdahl and provide some real congressional oversight here because it is really needed.” [59729]

On MSNBC, Ed Schultz excoriates Republicans for criticizing Obama over the prisoner exchange. Schultz says, “Well, this Republican freak-out over the release of Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, it’s all about one thing and one thing only and that is impeaching ...Obama. They’re looking for something. Republicans are hell-bent on taking out [Obama]. No matter the cost. ...I think what the Republicans need to do is give us an

update on the rest of the detainees in Gitmo. Are they all nice guys? Are they ready to be released? Are they the worst of the worst of the worst? You mean to tell me, we just happen to negotiate away the absolute worst people on the face of the Earth and this is such a bad deal for America? Wait a minute. It doesn't matter who was in the swap. The fact is, an American soldier is coming home and they're going to play it to the hilt as something wrong with ...Obama. It's his fault. High crimes and misdemeanor. Should have gone to Congress. Didn't follow the legal pathway. Time to get rid of him. ...I believe that they are just ideologically-driven and they hate [Obama]. And I think that they'll take any issue whatsoever, Bergdahl just happens to be the story of the hour, story of the week." [59818]

At ThePostEmail.com editor Sharon Rondeau reports a reader's telephone conversation with a Congressional staffer who stated that the Congressman and Congress are "working hard right now to draw up articles of impeachment and they want to get it right knowing the seriousness [of the issue]." (The identity of the caller and the Congressman or Congresswoman are not provided.) The caller state that he/she "called five or ten Congressmen and I tried to focus on the fact that Lt. Col. Terry Lakin was court-martialed and imprisoned and this guy Bergdahl was released after he had converted to Islam, and I tried to draw a contrast..." (Lakin was punished for questioning Obama's authority to issue deployment orders because his ineligibility to serve as president meant he was also not a legitimate commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Lakin was not permitted to defend himself with evidence supporting his claim.) [59819, 59914, 60326]

On June 5 *The New York Times* editorial board rushes to defend Bowe Bergdahl and Obama, writing, "The last few days have made clearer than ever that there is no action the Obama administration can take—not even the release of a possibly troubled American soldier from captivity—that cannot be used for political purposes by his opponents. ...Republican operatives have arranged for soldiers in his unit to tell reporters that he was a deserter who cost the lives of several soldiers searching for him. In fact, a review of casualty reports by Charlie Savage and Andrew Lehren of *The Times* showed there is no clear link between any military deaths and the search. And a classified military report shows that Sergeant Bergdahl had walked away from assigned areas at least twice before and had returned, according to a report in *The Times* on Thursday. It describes him as a free-spirited young man who asked many questions but gave no indication of being a deserter, let alone the turncoat that Mr. Obama's opponents are now trying to create. If anything, the report suggests that the army unit's lack of security and discipline was as much to blame for the disappearance, given the sergeant's history." (From the *Times*' perspective, Bergdahl is merely a "troubled American" and a "free-spirited young man," and it is the Army's fault that he "walked away." Perhaps the *Times* also defends car thieves on the basis that owners do not always lock their vehicles.) [59801]

Judge Andrew Napolitano writes at LewRockwell.com, "The concept of Gitmo as a holding facility of endless duration for uncharged and untried human beings is unrecognizable when viewed through the prism of the Constitution, and in all five cases in which this concept was addressed by the Supreme Court, the court directed the government to put the detainees on trial before a neutral public tribunal using rules that

were in place before the detentions began. Both [Bush and Obama] administrations have been averse to public trials, preferring to keep secret their own behavior in the manner of arresting, detaining and interrogating these people. As a result, few trials have been held, only two people have been convicted and both of them were released based on the prison time they had already served. Yet the release of these Taliban leaders in a prisoner swap materially assists the Taliban in such a way as to be criminal. How can it be criminal to release a prisoner? It is not a crime to release a prisoner who has been acquitted, but it is criminal to release an untried prisoner whom the government reasonably believes will aid a terrorist group. Federal law prohibits any person from providing material assistance to a terrorist organization, even if the organization fails to use the assistance, and even if the use of it produces no measurable harm. Material assistance includes anything from money to maps to professional services; it includes the appearance of support and even a false belief in support. It was intended to criminalize intentionally causing any assets of value to come into the control of any non-state terrorist group that American law has condemned.” (Providing material assistance to a terrorist organization, like the Taliban or the Haqqani network, is a crime punishable by imprisonment of 10 years to life.) [59704, 59889]

“...[Obama] no doubt will argue that under the Constitution he and he alone makes foreign policy and, as well, as commander in chief of the military, he enjoys the constitutional authority to make these prisoner swaps. Yet, [Obama] has sworn an oath faithfully to enforce all federal law. He cannot knowingly or legally exclude himself from the obligation to comply with laws with which he disagrees—that’s the Nixon argument (‘When the president does it, that means it’s not illegal.’), which the courts and modern history have rejected. [Obama] has a serious problem with competence and with fidelity to his oath. In one week, he has alienated and demoralized much of the intelligence community by revealing the true name of one of them [the identity of the CIA’s Kabul station chief] and by releasing their worst nightmare [five terrorist leaders] back into the theater of Middle East warfare. He has, as well, flagrantly failed to enforce federal law by materially aiding a non-state terrorist group condemned by American law. This is almost inconceivable in an American president. Yet it is almost predictable with [Obama]. In our Orwellian post-9/11 world, Congress thinks it can alter basic constitutional principles, and [Obama] thinks he can enforce only the laws he likes. Did we break away from a king, who thought his powers were given to him by God, 240 years ago only to elect a president who behaves like a king? Thomas Jefferson saw this coming in his final years, when he argued that an elected despot is not the government we fought for. It surely is not the government Jefferson fought for; but today, it is the government we have.” [59704]

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says he is “not, at this point, calling for impeachment. [Obama] has two years left in his term. We hope they pass quickly.” [59938]

At Townhall.com Wayne Allan Root—who attended Columbia University during the same years as Obama and majored in the same subject but insists that he and his classmates never heard of Obama until his 2004 Democrat National Convention keynote address—asks, “Why did Obama break the law to trade for one deserter? Why would he

risk all hell breaking loose for one traitor who cost the lives of six military heroes?” Root suggests two reasons: “First Obama was desperate to get the VA scandal out of the headlines. He had to change the topic away from neglect and fraud causing the death and suicide of American military vets under his leadership. How better to change the subject and erase the scandal involving abuse, neglect and even murder of military vets than by appearing to be a Commander in Chief rescuing an American military POW. Obama had delusions of grandeur—overnight going from bum to hero. Second, my sources in military command positions tell me that the CIA reported to Obama that Bergdahl was about to go on global television to denounce America, call our military evil... and do it all in Arabic. Obama would have been humiliated. His narrative of being such a big victor over Al Qaeda and the Taliban would have been destroyed... in front of the whole world... live on global television. So here was the perfect way to kill two birds with one stone. But it all backfired as word spread of the betrayal by this American soldier... the deaths of his military brothers caused by his desertion... and the lies of Obama to cover up this outrage. Obama said not to worry about the five released terrorists—‘we’ll keep eyes on them.’ Hours later Qatar officials reported they are free to go anywhere in Qatar. And in one year, they are free to return to the battle field. Is Obama naive... a terrible negotiator... reckless... or complicit in a plan against America? You decide.” [59724]

At NationalReview.com terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy agrees with former Attorney General Michael Mukasey that Obama’s “release of five top Taliban commanders is the spadework needed to make good on [his] vow to close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp. As he observes, Obama amateurishly made that commitment on his first full day in office without any apparent plan for how to carry it out. Judge Mukasey infers an insidious administration calculation. The Taliban commanders were among the most dangerous, most implacably anti-American jihadists detained at Gitmo. Therefore, once Obama sets the bar that their release is appropriate... it becomes very hard to argue against the release of other Gitmo detainees, the vast majority of whom are less capable and notorious. ...Here’s what I think: ...Obama has decided that Democratic losses in November are inevitable; thus, he has no more incentive to rein in his radicalism in hopes of making Democrats more electable so he could push his unpopular objectives through Congress. As a result, the Lawyer Left that drives this administration’s anti-anti-terrorist policy is now uninhibited in using [Obama’s] raw and awesome power to press its ‘social justice’ agenda.” (Many might argue that Obama should be impeached over his actions, but he is betting—probably correctly—that Senate Democrats and the mainstream media will protect him. The next two years may therefore be a rocky road for the United States of America.) [59921]

FoxNews.com reports that many Senators who attended a June 4 White House meeting about the prisoner swap “said the briefing did little to quell their concerns, the most pressing of which is that the five traded Taliban leaders could return to the battlefield.” Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) “said when asked if the officials thought the five released Gitmo prisoners would attack Americans, they said they did not know. ‘But there will be hell to pay if we find they go on to kill Americans,’ Kirk said.” Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) “said he left the briefing with more questions than answers.” (*The Obama Timeline* suspects the five terrorists will end up working with the ISIS rebels in Syria in an effort

to oust the Assad regime—which is perhaps one of the reasons Obama released them.) [59728]

In a Fox News poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval rating sinks to 40/54 percent. Among independents, his percentages are an abominable 26/61. “By a 20-point margin, (55/35) Americans believe the Obama administration has made the country weaker, not stronger. A plurality views this White House as less competent than the Bush administration, and a large majority says Obama’s team is less competent than Bill Clinton’s.” Eighty-four percent believe Obama’s prisoner exchange puts U.S. soldiers at risk. The poll also shows that “if the 2014 midterm elections were held today, 43 percent of voters would back the Republican candidate in their House district, while 39 percent would vote for the Democrat.” [59736, 59741, 59758, 59776, 59784]

Obama administration official Brandon Friedman tweets, “Here’s the thing about Bergdahl and the Jump-to-Conclusions mats: What if his platoon was long on psychopaths and short on leadership?” “What if he grew disillusioned with what he saw, didn’t trust his leadership, and walked off? Legal? No. Worthy of sympathy? Maybe.” “If that were the case, the soldiers in his platoon would have all the more reason to smear him publicly now.” (Friedman does not explain how the platoon’s psychopaths would know they are psychopaths.) Friedman then scrubs his Twitter biography to remove references to his job as deputy assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Some might wonder how a person who calls U.S. troops psychopaths gets a job as a U.S. government public affairs specialist.) Friedman later issues a non-apology apology: “As a former infantry officer and combat veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, I have only the highest regard for our servicemen and women. They are my friends, my colleagues, my mentors, my brothers, and sisters.” [59737, 59738, 59739, 59740, 59742, 59757, 59796]

Payroll processor ADP estimates that 179,000 private sector jobs were created in May—the lowest number in four months and the second-lowest in 12. HotAir.com points out, “The US economy has to add 150,000 jobs a month in order to keep up with population growth. If we’re averaging ~180,000 a month, we’re only treading water. In order to get the millions of people sidelined by the Great Recession and the five-year stagnation that has followed, we need sustained monthly job growth in the 300K–400K range for months, if not a couple of *years*.” [59767]

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) slams the administration’s new EPA regulations, saying on the floor of the Senate, “Others have labeled this proposal Obamacare 2.0—and in many ways, it is. The administration insists there will be no cost increases associated with this rule; all that is missing is an awful website and a pledge that ‘if you like your current electricity bill, you can keep it,’ [Obama] promises that electricity bills ‘will shrink,’ but I’m not buying that. ...Does anyone really think [the] EPA has the ability to impose its federal will while simultaneously keeping the lights on and power affordable in all 50 states? ...We still do not have an accurate accounting of the cumulative costs associated with all of EPA’s rules, but we do know not to trust their math—because [the] EPA has dramatically underestimated power plant retirements in the very recent past. ...The Polar

Vortex caused 50,000 megawatts of power plant outages. For one key system, 89 percent of the coal capacity that is slated for retirement next year because of an EPA rule was called upon to meet rising demand. Think about that. We had a tough winter and coal facilities were able to step up. The question we should be asking is, what happens when that capacity is gone? Hoping for a mild winter isn't a viable strategy. We can't have a hope-and-a-prayer policy." [59967]

WashingtonPost.com reports, "The Department of Defense has authorized what military gay rights groups and organizers of the Capital Pride parade say is a first nationwide—a color guard that will present the red, white and blue as well as flags of each branch of the military. The eight-member team is scheduled to help lead off the [June 7 gay pride] parade [in Washington, D.C.], immediately preceding the Capital Pride lead banner and grand marshal Chris Kluwe, a former National Football League punter and the author of the book 'Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies.' ...Bernie Delia, president of the board of directors for Capital Pride, said he was thrilled to have the color guard participate. He said members of OutServe and other groups warned Capital Pride officials that they might receive a rejection letter. 'We knew we might get turned down, but we asked and they said yes,' Delia said. 'I think that's very significant.'" [59897, 59898, 59899]

ClashDaily.com reports, "Before Michael Hastings died in a [mysterious] car accident in June of 2013, he was one of the few journalists investigating the disappearance of Bowe Bergdahl. According to Vice, the FBI caught on to this and was investigating his reporting..." According to Vice.com, Hastings "spoke to Bergdahl's parents, who had by that time stopped talking to the press, following 'subtle pressure' from the army, and he quoted from emails the young soldier had sent to them, documenting his growing disillusion with the war and the US military. Hastings also spoke to several unnamed men in Bergdahl's unit—soldiers who, we now know, had to sign a strict nondisclosure agreement forbidding them from discussing the soldier's disappearance and search with anyone—let alone one of the top investigative journalists in the country. But most controversially, Hastings' piece revealed what has been the subject of much debate and vitriol over the last few days: That a disillusioned Bergdahl had actually abandoned his post and 'walked away.' ...[W]ith the exception of some initial chatter, Hastings' piece, which paints a deeply unflattering picture of Bergdahl's unit and its leadership, hardly had the impact of some of his other investigations. But someone did pay attention to it: the FBI." [59771, 59772, 59832, 60367]

At a press conference in Brussels, Belgium, an arrogant Obama says, "We had a prisoner of war whose health had deteriorated and we were deeply concerned about and we saw that we had an opportunity and we seized it and I make no apologies for that... But because of the nature of the folks we were dealing with and the fragile nature of these negotiations, we felt it was important to go ahead and do what we did. And we're now explaining to Congress the details of how to move forward. ...I make absolutely no apologies for making sure that we get back a young man to his parents and that the American people understand that this is somebody's child. And that we don't condition whether or not we make the effort to try to get them back... You have a couple of parents whose kid volunteered to fight in a distant land who they hadn't seen in five years and



they didn't know if they would ever see again... I write too many letters to folks who unfortunately don't see their children again after fighting a war. ...I'm never surprised by controversies that are whipped up in Washington. That's par for the course... I think it was important for people to understand that this is not some abstraction, this is not a political football. We have a basic principle: we do not leave anybody wearing the American uniform behind." (Obama apparently forgot that Bergdahl was not wearing his uniform when he deserted. The "whipped up controversy" remark reflects Obama's infamous thin skin, defensiveness, and inability to accept any criticism whatsoever—as well as his refusal to admit that he could ever do or say something controversial. From his perspective, nothing is ever his fault. That Bergdahl was "somebody's child" is irrelevant and does not excuse his actions. That sentiment did not stop Obama from ordering a drone to kill U.S. citizen Anwar al-Awlaki and his child.) Of Obama's "I make absolutely no apologies" for his trade remark, Pamela Geller writes, "Tell that to our future dead." [59773, 59787, 59797, 59803, 59822, 59834, 59900, 60266]

Columnist George Will later comments, "When [Obama] says it's whipped up, he means it's synthetic; when he means it's synthetic, he means it's inauthentic. Which means it's yet again, a recurring theme in his presidency, which is there's no such thing as honest intelligent disagreement with him. Clearly, you can't exchange hostages and POWs and have all of this without some kind of controversy. And if this is whipped up, the project of whipping it up is remarkably bipartisan. To take just two examples, both Senators from West Virginia, Jay Rockefeller and [Joe] Manchin, are clearly disturbed about this. Jay Rockefeller is no rookie, Manchin is in his first term, Jay Rockefeller is the fourth most senior Democrat in the Senate. We can all stipulate, as the lawyers say, that perhaps a disturbed young man in a very disturbing situation did something that we're going to have a long time sorting out." [59830]

Asked by reporters why he knew about the prisoner exchange the night before it occurred, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) replies, "I'm not sure I'm the only one. I mean, it has made a big deal over nothing. The whole deal is, 'Is it Friday or Saturday?' What difference does it make? What difference does it make?" (Whether Hillary Clinton is pleased by Reid's choice of words is not known.) [59823, 59833, 59895]

Pamela Geller comments, "Despite the uproar caused by the release of the Taliban terror leadership, Obama's contempt for the American people was made plain when he tossed off the outrage of the American people. He answers to no one and is accountable to no one. He continued his bold faced lying and said, 'We have a basic principle: we do not leave anybody wearing the American uniform behind,' repeating the defense he offered earlier in the week. Really, then why did he leave our people fighting and dying all alone in Benghazi? Obama makes no apologies. We will leave no soldier behind. Unless they're on a VA waiting list. Obama makes no apologies. Why hasn't Obama answered the parents of a Chicago-area soldier, who say their son was killed while searching for missing Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl? Why hasn't he answered their demand for investigation? Obama makes no apologies. The Taliban were 'thrilled' when Bergdahl's father said the victory 'bismallah' [or basmallah] in the Rose Garden when announcing

the terror leaders' release. Obama makes no apologies." (Some argue that Bergdahls' recitation of "In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful" in Arabic meant that he was claiming the territory of the White House for Islam. Clare Lopez, a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy, says they are the words "Muslim conquerors would say when they had captured some new territory or defeated some enemy. This was the prayer of praise to Allah that they would say upon a conquest. Shoebat.com's Ted Shoebat notes, "When one gives the basmallah, trims his moustache and elongates his beard, it is the first sign of a convert to Islam.") [59773, 59787, 59797, 59882]

WhiteHouseDossier.com's Keith Koffler speculates that Michelle Obama may run for the U.S. Senate from Illinois in 2016, challenging Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL). Koffler states, "He'll be formidable, particularly given his brave recovery from a stroke. But Illinois is a heavily Democratic state, and the race could be close. No Illinois Democratic candidate would bring the star power and nationwide fundraising capacity that Obama would. She has proven herself a superb speaker on behalf of her pet projects and is now a veteran campaigner for her husband. She's also remained highly popular—even as [her husband's] ratings have plummeted." [59774, 59826]

On radio station WAPI, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) says, "Look, we had a briefing with a number of [Obama administration] officials last night. It was one of the most troubling briefings I've ever been in. It has no credibility with me. The arguments and the reasons they gave for what they did [in the Bergdahl trade] just did not ring true. They didn't meet the common sense test. We've got people at war right now in Afghanistan. They're on patrol. They're working with the Afghan allies and some of the things they've said about this just seems oblivious to the reality of that. [Obama] did it anyway. He didn't tell them [Senators on the Intelligence Committee] in advance and it's a colossal error—in my opinion, it's a colossal error. It hurts our country. It weakens the United States in a whole host of ways and I am very worried about it. I just think it doesn't reflect an understanding of what it means to commit men and women to combat and what we owe them. Are we going to release five of the worst terrorists? And one of these terrorists in Afghanistan—his statement has been interpreted and he basically said it's the equivalent of adding 10,000 jihadists to our cause, this release. This is a huge victory for the Taliban and al Qaeda and I am just baffled by it. I can't comprehend it. ...[T]he commander-in-chief has to be responsible to law and people are getting very concerned about the lawlessness that we're seeing here. It goes beyond anything I've ever seen. It reflects an ignorance of a great American system where people pass laws. Even if they don't like them, they abide with them. So if our top leaders are just ignoring laws, this has a corrosive effect on the entire integrity of the democratic republic that we're so proud of. I mean the rule of law is at the bottom of our prosperity and our liberty. And I don't think [Obama] has a sufficient grasp of that." [59777]

By a vote of 78–17, the Senate confirms Sylvia Matthews Burwell as the next Secretary of Health and Human Services. [59778, 59953]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, "A classified Pentagon report on Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's

disappearance in Afghanistan outlined how the soldier had wandered away from his unit on two occasions—once during training in California and once from an outpost in Afghanistan—prior to going missing in June 2009. The roughly 35-page report concluded that Sgt. Bergdahl had most likely walked away from his unit at his own volition when he disappeared for a third and final time, according to *The New York Times*, which first reported on the finding Thursday, citing anonymous sources familiar with the military document. ...Sources who spoke with *The Washington Times* on Monday said that officials with the U.S. military's special forces community who were tasked with attempting to find Sgt. Bergdahl, had privately concluded years ago that he was a deserter and had only been captured by the Taliban after willingly wandering away from a remote outpost in Afghanistan.” [59779]

On his radio program Glenn Beck discusses comments from a Special Forces source about the Taliban-released video of the release of Bowe Bergdahl. According to BizPacReview.com, “his source told him that just the presence of a camera in a war zone at all would normally trigger a ‘shoot to kill’ response. Insurgents use video of destroyed aircraft for propaganda purposes, the source said. That might mean the camera’s presence was approved beforehand. The source asked why the U.S. government would grant such approval. Second, the location of the pickup, on low ground surrounded by hills where an ambush could have been set, must have been also have been approved beforehand. Why did the U.S. trust the Taliban not to attack the aircraft? Finally, Bergdahl was almost on the helicopter before the soldiers picking him up took the time to frisk him. Had he been outfitted with a suicide vest or other explosive, the helicopter, Bergdahl and the rescue crew could have been blown up before anything was found. ‘This is an embarrassment,’ Beck said. ‘Every soldier I talk to is embarrassed by this.’ And all of this comes after the U.S. released its side of the prisoner exchange—five battle-hardened Taliban chiefs—five days earlier, which no assurances then that Bergdahl or the crew that flew to pick him up would actually return alive. ‘We trusted the Taliban!’ Beck said. ‘Unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable.’” [59920]

On *America’s Newsroom*, former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani says, “I think they [White House officials] are in a state of utter panic. They are saying all these men [soldiers who have come forward to criticize Bowe Bergdahl] are liars. These are men who did serve honorably. Who did put their lives at risk. Some of them are decorated. And, there’s a lot of them who are saying the same thing. ...The price that we paid for Bergdahl might have been too high a price to pay, even if you were trying to save a Medal of Honor winner. We gave up five of the worst people in Guantanamo. ...To take a guy who left under questionable circumstances, where there are allegations of desertion, and to put his family in the White House, and to make it look like this great hero is coming back, it made it much more difficult. They’re the ones who made the situation for Bergdahl much worse.” [59780]

Joseph Curl asks in *The Washington Times*, “Is Obama really that stupid? ...How else to explain the Bowe Bergdahl debacle? Team Obama, which games every move it makes to gauge the political leverage gained or lost, must have known the true story about the Army sergeant who his former comrades say was disgruntled with the war and simply

walked away. If the charge of desertion is true, why trade five top-level Taliban terrorists for him? Why would the White House expose itself to such easy criticism? Why would ...Obama so clearly violate the law that requires him to notify Congress 30 days before any release of prisoners from Guantanamo Bay? And why on earth would [Obama] send National Security Adviser Susan Rice, she of the multiple lies on the Benghazi attack that left four Americans dead, to the Sunday talk shows to proclaim that Sgt. Bergdahl had ‘served the United States with honor and distinction?’ There can be only one answer: Mr. Obama saw more upside than down with the hostage-for-terrorists trade. Aside from changing the subject from [Obama’s] latest scandal — the horrendous treatment of veterans at the nation’s VA hospitals—Mr. Obama must have concluded that the controversial move would, in the end, deliver him political leverage against Republicans, which he sorely needs going into what is expected to be a bloodbath for Democrats on Election Day 2014. Of course, part of the calculation was that the U.S. media would once again defend Mr. Obama. And while some news outlets have run stories about the puzzling details behind Sgt. Bergdahl’s ‘capture,’ others are adhering to the White House talking points.” [59781]

“...[T]he White House conclusion on lawmakers was this: Let ‘em whine. Their approval rating is in single digits, so no one cares what Congress thinks. Still, there’s this: The White House must have known that first-hand accounts of Sgt. Bergdahl and his disgruntlement with America would eventually make the press. Even though Army colleagues were ordered to sign nondisclosure agreements, Team Obama had to know that if Sgt. Bergdahl suddenly became a ‘hero,’ members of his platoon would be outraged and talk, damn the consequences. Mr. Obama must have also known that more details would emerge, like the fact that top Pentagon and intelligence community officials had nixed previous deals for the five terrorists, citing top-secret information. ...So the question that remains is: Could Mr. Obama and his advisers have so miscalculated the swap? Is the terrorist trade just another example of a [man] drunk with power, taking advice from a handful of sycophantic yes men on the couches in the Oval Office? ...[T]he Sgt. Bergdahl saga is playing out almost exactly like the aftermath of Benghazi, right down to lies from Mrs. Rice. Mr. Obama and his fellow Democrats are painting Republicans as purely partisan. Soon, the entire mess will be plunged into a ‘blue ribbon investigation,’ allowing administration officials to refuse comment. Mr. Obama is all about the politics. The White House has done this time after time with scandal after scandal. They know how to play the game. And despite appearances now, this whole saga is going along as planned. [Obama] may be incompetent, but he’s not stupid. He’s just counting on the American people to be.” [59781]

At FoxNews.com James Rosen reports, “U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl at one point during his captivity converted to Islam, fraternized openly with his captors and declared himself a ‘mujahid,’ or warrior for Islam, according to secret documents prepared on the basis of a purported eyewitness account and obtained by Fox News. The reports indicate that Bergdahl’s relations with his Haqqani captors morphed over time, from periods of hostility, where he was treated very much like a hostage, to periods where, as one source told Fox News, ‘he became much more of an accepted fellow’ than is popularly understood. He even reportedly was allowed to carry a gun at times. The documents show

that Bergdahl at one point escaped his captors for five days and was kept, upon his recapture, in a metal cage, like an animal. In addition, the reports detail discussions of prisoner swaps and other attempts at a negotiated resolution to the case that appear to have commenced as early as the fall of 2009.” [59783, 59804]

AFP reports, “Moves to free detainees from the US military prison in Guantanamo Bay are gathering pace as the administration works to close the notorious jail, a top US official has said. ‘There are a significant number of transfers in the pipeline at various stages and I think you’re going to be seeing substantial progress this year,’ the senior administration official said. The official refused to be drawn on any specific figures amid a furor over the release of five Taliban prisoners in exchange for a captured US soldier in Afghanistan. Of the 149 prisoners still remaining in the jail in southern Cuba since the weekend releases, 78 have been approved to be freed without charge. The group, which includes 58 Yemenis and four Afghans, are awaiting transfer out of the jail. US administration officials are actively working to find countries which will take them, as many cannot be sent home because of fears to US security or because they face persecution at home.” [59785]

At WND.com Garth Kant writes, “Many Americans have been puzzled by the bizarre behavior of soldier Bowe Bergdahl’s father, Robert, during a White House Rose Garden ceremony on Saturday celebrating the exchange of his son for five top Taliban commanders. The father began by saying his son was having trouble speaking English after five years away from home. He then uttered the Arabic phrase that begins every chapter of the Quran, except one, ‘Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim.’ It means, ‘In the name of Allah, the merciful, the compassionate.’ Brigitte Gabriel of Act for America explained to Sean Hannity in a Fox News interview Wednesday night it declares the greatness of Allah over the land, calling it a ‘war cry of Allah’ and a Muslim victory call. Essentially, it means Robert Bergdahl was claiming the White House as a spoil of war, she said. However, Gabriel said she doubts the elder Bergdahl understood the significance of what he was saying and did not intend to claim the White House, or America, in the name of Islam. But that is how it was seen by the Taliban and Islamic radicals around the world, she said. The words he spoke are ‘something Muslims would say throughout the 1,400 year history of Islam every time they conquered a location,’ Gabriel said.” [59798]

Syria announces that president Bashar al-Assad has won reelection, with about 88 percent of the vote. [59805]

At a jobs event, Vice President Joe Biden says, “We’ve grown [the economy] and made sure no one got left behind. No one got left behind. ...[But] We didn’t guarantee that every new job was going to be a high-paying job.” [59841, 59924]

Attorney Orly Taitz files a Motion for Reconsideration in *Taitz v. Carolyn Colvin*, a Maryland lawsuit which focuses on Obama’s use of a stolen Social Security number (042-68-4425) and the Social Security Administration’s refusal to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request for Obama’s form SS-5, his application for a

number, or the form of Harrison J. Bounel, who was reportedly the owner of the Social Security number most frequently used by Obama. (Taitz suspects that the government cannot hand over Obama's SS-5 because he never filled out the form, and instead relied on several stolen numbers over the years. The government refuses to release Bounel's form, absurdly citing privacy concerns—even though he has been dead for decades and would now be more than 120 years old if still alive. The number Obama is currently using applies to Connecticut, a state in which he never lived or worked. Although the Social Security Administration changed its procedures *after* Obama took office and stopped assigning numbers based on the state of residence, the numbers *were*, in fact, state-based when Obama would or should have applied.) On June 12 Taitz files an “emergency motion and notice of treason” with regard to Obama's use of the stolen Social Security number and a motion to expedite the release of the SS-5 forms. [59847, 59848, 60480]

A gun shop in Texas displays a sign that reads, “Will trade Obama to Mexico for Sgt. Tahmooressi. God help us all.” (Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi is in a Mexican prison, having made a wrong turn at the border and entering the country with weapons in his vehicle.) [59820, 59821]

The *New York Daily News*, which has generally been supportive of Obama, calls his Rose Garden appearance with the parents of Bowe Bergdahl “a cynical act of theatre.” The editorial excoriates Obama for releasing five terrorist leaders, writing that “he betrayed the highest obligation of his office: safeguarding national security. ...He wants out [of Afghanistan] so badly that he accepted the Taliban's terms, regardless of the threat to American security. He is surrendering without honor.” [59825, 59862]

On CNN, Democrat National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) responds to Senator Susan Collins' (R-ME) criticism of the Bergdahl exchange a bad deal: “Well, wh—, what, what up—, shocks me is that we just heard from a United States Senator, as much respect as I have for Senator Collins, uh, for a United States senator to suggest that we should leave a member of our armed forces, who was in an armed con—, in the midst of an armed conflict, regardless of the circumstances that he will, uh, likely be tried for, and, and uh, and, and considered to be innocent until proven guilty later, that she would leave a soldier in an armed conflict behind, when we had intelligence, from everything that I understand, Erin, that he was, this was our last, best opportunity, that he was potentially, uh, on, on death's door, uh, you know, looking at grainy video is, is not a way for us to determine that. But from everything I, I understand, this was our last, best opportunity and throughout the entirety of our military history, we do not leave our military behind, when they are, uh, when we have captives, we do everything we can to bring them home, and we had the highest levels of our military serving now who also said, you know, [Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] General [Martin] Dempsey said, we don't leave anyone behind regardless of the circumstances. We should all be unified around that.” [59877]

Collins did not, of course, state that Bergdahl should have been left behind and no effort should have been made to get him back. She merely stated that the deal to get him back

was terrible because it puts Americans at risk. Wasserman Schultz does not explain why she believes Bergdahl was “potentially... on death’s door.” The U.S. government had no more information about his health than the “grainy video” she ridicules as unreliable. She—and many others—are also mistaken in stating that the U.S. military “leaves no one behind.” Efforts are certainly made to recover captured soldiers when possible, but that is not always possible. During World War II, thousands of U.S. troops died in prisoner of war camps in Germany and Japan. It was simply impossible to mount rescue efforts to save those prisoners, or locate those classified as “missing in action.” Further, there have been deserters in all large-scale wars. When possible, the U.S. military attempts to get them back, whether to try them for desertion or to keep them from giving information to the enemy. But that is also not always possible. There were thousands of American deserters during World War II, and many of them remained in Europe for the rest of their lives. The Vietnam conflict also had its share of deserters, with many of them ending up in Canada and Sweden—or still living in Southeast Asia. [59878, 60160]

Time.com reports, “A Taliban commander close to the negotiations over the release of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl told TIME Thursday that the deal made to secure Bergdahl’s release has made it more appealing for fighters to capture American soldiers and other high-value targets. ‘It’s better to kidnap one person like Bergdahl than kidnapping hundreds of useless people,’ the commander said, speaking by telephone on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media. ‘It has encouraged our people. Now everybody will work hard to capture such an important bird.’ The commander has been known to TIME for several years and has consistently supplied reliable information about Bergdahl’s captivity. [59837, 59838]

DailyCaller.com reminds readers that U.S. citizen Caitlin Coleman and her Canadian husband, Joshua Boyle are likely still being held by the Taliban in Afghanistan. “In two short videos received by Coleman’s parents last year from an Afghan man claiming to have ties to the Taliban, the couple calls on the U.S. government to free them and their now-18-month-old child from their Taliban captors. The 28-year-old Coleman says in one video, ‘I would ask that my family and my government do everything that they can to bring my husband, child and I to safety and freedom.’ Coleman’s parents said that they chose to make the videos public now in light of the publicity surrounding the recent release of American POW Bowe Bergdahl, and although their families are disappointed they weren’t freed in the same deal, they are still holding out hope. Boyle’s father said in a telephone interview, ‘It would be no more appropriate to have our government turn their backs on ‘It’s an event that just stands out. I think it cries out to the world: ‘This can’t be. These people must be let go immediately.’ ...Joshua Boyle used to be married to the sister of Omar Khadr, a Canadian man who spent 10 years in Guantanamo Bay after being arrested in a firefight at an al-Qaida compound in Afghanistan, but U.S. officials have been quick to write off the couple’s capture as a mere coincidence unrelated to this fact.” (Coleman and Boyle went missing in Afghanistan in October 2012, apparently as a result of hiking in an unsafe area.) [59817, 59942]

Other Americans being held against their will in other countries are: Robert Levinson (held in Iran since 2007); Kenneth Bae (held in North Korea since 2012); Warren

Weinstein (held by al-Qaeda since 2011); U.S. Marine Andrew Tahmooressi (arrested by Mexico in May 2014 after crossing the border by mistake); Amir Hekmati (held by Iran for about three years); Alan Gross (arrested in Cuba in 2009); Pastor Saeed Abedini (in an Iranian prison for building an orphanage in Tehran). It is worth noting that the Obama administration did not even consider demanding the release of Levinson, Hekmati, or Abedini when it released billions of dollars to Iran in the nuclear development agreement. (Some might argue that whoever does the negotiating for the Obama administration should be fired for incompetence.) [59880]

At WSJ.com Kimberley Strassel writes, “If the Bergdahl uproar feels creepily reminiscent of the Benghazi uproar, or the Syrian ‘red line’ uproar, or the choose-your-own-Obama-foreign-adventure uproar, it’s because they all have a common denominator. This is what happens when political hacks formally take over foreign policy. ...At the heart of this effort is the National Security Council, which has served presidents since its inception under Harry Truman. ...NSC staff are foreign-policy grownups, and its meetings are barred to political henchmen. Or that was the case, until the Obama White House. By early March 2009... the New York Times had run a profile of David Axelrod, noting that Mr. Obama’s top campaign guru and ‘political protector’ was now ‘often’ to be found ‘in the late afternoons’ walking ‘to the Situation Room to attend some meetings of the National Security Council.’ ...Obama’s first national security adviser, former Marine General and NATO Commander Jim Jones, left after only two years following clashes with Mr. Obama’s inner circle. He was replaced by Democratic political operative and former Fannie Mae lobbyist Tom Donilon. Mr. Donilon joined Ben Rhodes, the Obama campaign speechwriter, who in 2009 had been elevated to deputy national security adviser for strategic communications.” (Donilon, who had no military experience and who Democrat pollster and political strategist Pat Caddell has called “the most amoral person I know in politics,” was a corporate lawyer and lobbyist who also worked for Jimmy Carter, Walter Mondale, Joe Biden, Michael Dukakis, and Bill Clinton. Donilon’s wife is Biden’s chief of staff, and Donilon’s brother is Biden’s legal counsel. Donilon also worked to destroy Judge Robert Bork’s chances of being confirmed for the Supreme Court. Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates bluntly stated that Donilon would be “a disaster” if given the position of National Security Advisor. General Jones once told Donilon, “You have no credibility with the military.” Obama gave him the job anyway) 14998, 15020, 15023, 15060, 15115, 15128, 15219, 59846, 60994, 60995]

Strassel continues, “Also present was Tommy Vietor, whose entire career prior to NSC spokesman was as an Obama spinmeister—as a press aide in the 2004 Senate run, and campaign flack for the 2008 Iowa caucuses, and assistant White House press secretary. In fairness, his credentials also included getting caught on camera in 2010 pounding beers, shirtless, at a Georgetown bar. America’s foreign-policy experts at work. ...This paper reported in September 2013 that as the White House struggled with the question of military intervention in Syria, it summoned all the old ‘Obama loyalists’ for advice. They included his 2008 campaign manager (David Plouffe ), his former press secretary (Robert Gibbs), a former speechwriter (Jon Favreau ), and Mr. Vietor (who had by then left the NSC to form a political consulting group). ...Presidents bear ultimate responsibility for



institutional dysfunction, but it is also the case that Mr. Donilon and his successor, Susan Rice, have ill-served their boss by tolerating (or even encouraging) political nonsense. Debate all you want over what motivated the White House to do the Bergdahl swap. What's beyond debate is that politics drove its rollout, and that there was nobody with enough seriousness or clout in the White House to stop it. ...Most remarkable is that despite the endless loop of foreign-policy fiascoes, this White House seems oblivious of the need for institutional change. It has had its share of experienced hands (Bob Gates, Leon Panetta) come and go, but shows no evidence it learned from them. In Obama world, there is only politics. And so the world will continue to burn." [59846]

On *The Kelly File*, six former members of Bowe Bergdahl's platoon slam the Obama administration for referring to them as "psychopaths" and call for Bergdahl to be court-martialed for desertion. [59806, 59824, 59865]

On June 6 Obama addresses World War II veterans and guests in Normandy, France, on the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. CNSNews.com notes that Obama "reminded the 'greatest generation' how the U.S. military has changed under his command, by slipping in references to immigrants and women." Obama says, "Gentlemen, I want each of you to know that your legacy is in good hands... For at a time when it has never been more tempting to pursue narrow self-interest, to slough off common endeavor, this generation of Americans—a new generation—has chosen to do their part as well." Obama proceeds to single out an Hispanic soldier "who was born in Honduras" and served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a female soldier "who joined the Army not even two years ago." (Obama's remarks are stunning. On a day that should be devoted only to honoring the heroes of that historic day, Obama chooses instead to delve into political correctness to emphasize young soldiers who are nothing more than props to him—props to help his fellow Democrats get a few more votes on November 4.) [59840]

During the D-Day ceremonies, Obama is spotted chewing gum throughout much of the ceremony, prompting a fair amount of outrage on Twitter, and expressions of particular disgust from the British and the French. ("He chewed like a Normandy cow!") Newsmax.com notes that Obama "faced similar attacks on social media after he was seen apparently chewing gum during Nelson Mandela's funeral in December. [He] has faced an on-off battle to quit smoking and often chews a nicotine-based gum to drive away the craving." BizPacReview.com observes, "For a man with a White House staff supposedly obsessed with 'optics,' getting caught on camera looking like he's planning to skip out of study hall is an enormous black eye—for himself and his country." (Whether Obama was listening to "gangsta rap" rather than speech translations in his earpiece is not known.) [59849, 59853, 59855, 59873, 59913]

Russian President Vladimir Putin also attends the D-Day ceremonies, and has a brief conversation with Obama. Newsmax.com reports, "Obama was all smiles as the leaders gathered on the steps of the grand Chateau de Benouville for the group photo. He took his place in the front row next to Queen Elizabeth and waved and shook hands with other leaders. But the U.S. leader steadfastly avoided any contact with Putin when the Russian leader took his place just a few feet away. French President Francois Hollande and

Denmark's Queen Margrethe II joined the British monarch in serving as a shield between Obama and Putin. As the photo ended, Obama lingered with Queen Elizabeth while Putin sidled up to Hollande for the short walk to lunch. But the two pairs were soon back to back, with Obama so close to Putin that he could have easily reached out and tapped him on the shoulder. Instead, Obama continued his conversation with the 88-year-old queen. More than once, he slowed his steps, putting some distance between him and Putin. No media were on hand for the Obama-Putin conversation inside the chateau, which aides described as informal." (Separate from the D-Day ceremonies, Putin meets with French President Francois Hollande for more than an hour, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel for about an hour—and with Obama for a few minutes.) [59871, 59883, 60013]

One D-Day veteran, 89-year-old George Ciampa, was invited by Obama to attend a White House meeting. According to John Fund at NationalReview.com, "George thought about it for awhile and concluded he just couldn't. 'I have so many issues with [Obama's] policies, including the most recent ones,' he told me ruefully. 'I just couldn't convince myself to do it.' He is not alone. The recent Bergdahl prisoner swap in which five hardened Taliban terrorists were released from prison is rubbing a lot of the military veterans attending D-Day events the wrong way. 'It's not that we don't want to respect the commander-in-chief,' one told me sadly. 'It's just that he makes it so hard to do so.'" [59869, 59874]

At an event in Fort Worth, Texas, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) says, "There is one guy who is kind of deserving we ought to try to get home, and that's the Marine who accidentally carried his guns into Mexico. So here's what I'm thinking: Mr. [Obama], you love to trade people. Why don't we set up a trade? But this time, instead of five Taliban, how about five Democrats? I'm thinking John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi—couldn't we send them to Mexico?" [59988]

NYTimes.com reports what most reasonable people already knew: transporting oil by pipeline is safer than shipping it in railroad tank cars. The *Times* writes, "If the Keystone XL pipeline is not built—and more oil from the Canadian oil sands is moved by rail—there could be hundreds more deaths and thousands more injuries than expected over the course of a decade, according to an updated State Department analysis of the contested project that was released Friday. The report is the latest twist in the long fight over the proposed 1,700-mile pipeline, which would carry crude oil from Alberta to Gulf Coast refineries. The findings are significant: The State Department has the authority to approve the pipeline because it would cross international borders, although ... Obama is expected to make the ultimate call. The initial study noted that without the pipeline, companies would simply move the oil by rail, and an addendum concluded that the alternative could contribute to 700 injuries and 92 deaths over 10 years. Friday's updated report raised those numbers more than fourfold, concluding that rail transport could lead to 2,947 injuries and 434 deaths over a decade." [59885]

Newsmax.com reports, "Top Oklahoma Republicans are outraged that the Obama administration will begin housing as many as 600 illegal immigrant minors at the Fort Sill Army Base as early as Tuesday—at an estimated cost to taxpayers of \$252 per child

per day.” Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) states, “Our nation has an immigration problem and a national security crisis, but I don’t believe the answer is for our military facilities to be transformed into a center that houses, feeds, and cares for illegal immigrants. This only encourages parents to send their children unaccompanied over the border and, with the average-aged child being between 13 and 17, it exposes our military facilities to unknown security concerns.” Congressman Tom Cole (R-OK) says he “learned about the administration’s plan from unofficial sources, rather than through a process of official notification. The manner in which we have been informed of this decision allows almost no time to protest its implementation, to consider alternative solutions or to prepare for the arrival of hundreds of illegal aliens at a facility that is neither intended nor designed for their use. This is incredibly unfair to the American military.” [59870]

USAToday.com reports, “The Obama administration is set to take another step to help young children caught crossing the southwest border without their parents, creating a program to provide them with lawyers as they make their way through immigration court. The Department of Justice, working with the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, will announce a new program Friday that provides \$2 million to entice attorneys and paralegals to represent those young, undocumented immigrants as they navigate the complicated web of immigration courts.” Holder states, “We’re taking a historic step to strengthen our justice system and protect the rights of the most vulnerable members of society. How we treat those in need, particularly young people who must appear in immigration proceedings—many of whom are fleeing violence, persecution, abuse or trafficking—goes to the core of who we are as a nation.” (Loosely translated, Holder means, “You taxpayers will be footing the bill for feeding, clothing, and educating all these new illegal immigrants.”) Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, calls the increase in child border-crossings an ‘administration-made disaster. ... Word has gotten around the world about ... Obama’s lax immigration-enforcement policies, and it has encouraged more individuals to come to the United States illegally.’ (That many people are eager to come to the United States to escape violence and persecution is irrelevant. Tax dollars appropriated for border security should be used to protect the border, not to provide free legal counsel to help lawbreakers remain in the United States. If Holder wants to feed, clothe, and care for immigrants in his own home at his own expense he is free to do so. Beyond that he should enforce, not distort, the law.) [59894, 60020]

NBCNews.com reports, “One of the five Taliban leaders freed from Guantanamo Bay in return for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl’s release has pledged to return to fight Americans in Afghanistan, according to a fellow militant and a relative. ‘After arriving in Qatar, Noorullah Noori kept insisting he would go to Afghanistan and fight American forces there,’ a Taliban commander told NBC News via telephone from Afghanistan. Noori pushed to return to Afghanistan after learning that the U.S. had provided written assurances that no country would arrest any of the five freed for a year as long as they lived peacefully, one of his relatives told NBC News by telephone from Afghanistan. ... Among the Taliban, the commanders’ release was treated as a victory. ‘We thought we may not see them again as once you land in the hands of Americans, it’s difficult to come out alive,’ Noori’s relative said. ‘But it was a miracle that Allah Almighty gave us

Bergdahl and we got back our heroes.” According to LongWarJournal.org, “Noori is ‘wanted by the United Nations (UN) for possible war crimes including the murder of thousands of Shiite Muslims.’” (Nevertheless, Obama—who consistently takes the side of Sunni Muslims over Shi’ites—set him free.) Townhall.com’s Guy Benson asks, “Does vowing to once again take up arms against the US violate the terms of his release? Can we drone the guy now, no questions asked? (I’ve always been baffled by leftists who insist that Guantanamo Bay is a ‘stain on our national conscience’ or whatever, but are 100 percent behind summary executions via drone. Actually it’s not that perplexing. In their minds, the former policy = Bush, while the latter is associated with Obama. It really is that simple).” [59808, 59809, 59810]

Benson, noting that White House press secretary Jay Carney continues to refer to Bergdahl as a prisoner of war and not a hostage, adds, “the administration is currently advancing two mutually-exclusive assertions: That Bergdahl wasn’t a hostage (*see? we didn’t negotiate with terrorists*), but that they had to bypass the law and Congress because Bergdahl’s captors (who were members of Haqqani, a designated terrorist group) were threatening to kill him. Those two explanations simply cannot exist side-by-side. Traditional prisoner swaps do not entail negotiating with a terrorist organization that forces the other side to comply with their every demand, under threat of executing the ‘prisoner.’ The Taliban and Haqqani network are terrorists. Period. The Obama administration negotiated with, and made every requested concession to, those terrorists. Period. Any suggestion otherwise is pitiful, insulting spin that relies on legalistic and contradictory parsing.” [59808]

National Security Advisor Susan Rice defends her description of Bowe Bergdahl as having served with “honor and distinction,” telling CNN “I realize there has been lots of discussion and controversy around this. But what I was referring to was the fact that this was a young man who volunteered to serve his country in uniform at a time of war. That, in and of itself, is a very honorable thing.” (Rice is twisting the truth. She said Bergdahl “*served* the United States with honor and distinction,” not that merely having enlisted was honorable. But if that was what she meant, she is necessarily categorizing Fort Hood mass murderer Major Nidal Malik Hasan as “honorable.”) [59811, 59851, 59919]

Rice also says, “I’m upfront with the American people and I always do my best on behalf of my country and I do my best until the facts as we know them [sic]. In the case of Bowe Bergdahl, for me to condemn him without any opportunity for him to have the chance to tell his side of the story without any due process that we accord any American, that would be inherently unfair. Similarly with Benghazi, as had been recounted on many occasions, I provided the best information that the U.S. government had at the time. Parts of it turned out to be wrong. I regret that the information I was provided was wrong and that I delivered to the American people. That doesn’t make me a liar. That makes me a public servant trying to say what we knew at the time. And when I gave that information, I caveated [sic] it and noted that it was what we knew then and there but it could well change.” (The problem with Rice’s excuse is that she when she told the “YouTube video” tale about Benghazi, she already knew it was a lie. Similarly, it is almost impossible to believe that Bergdahl’s disappearance was the result of his voluntarily leaving his base.

Although will be given the opportunity to tell his side of the story, that does not justify her making a claim she knew to be false—that he “served with honor and distinction.” Additionally, Rice may claim that providing the American people with information that turns out to be incorrect does not make her a liar, but she and other Democrats were not generous enough to accept that same excuse when the Bush administration’s claim that Iraq’s Saddam Hussein was seeking uranium for weapons turned out to be incorrect. She cannot have it both ways.) [59811, 59851, 59919]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson writes, “The bigger picture [of the Bowe Bergdahl exchange] involves an administration that negotiated with terrorists..., caved to their demands, released five high-risk jihadist commanders, and failed to adhere to the law by notifying Congress in advance. On that last point, the White House has careened from one excuse to another. First, it was an ‘oversight,’ a risible claim on its face. Next, they said securing Bergdahl’s freedom was incredibly urgent because a video showed him in terrible health. But that video was obtained five months before the deal was struck, and Bergdahl looked relatively healthy when he was handed over. He has reportedly been in stable condition for days. Finally, they told Senators on Wednesday evening [June 4] that they didn’t inform Congress ahead of time because Bergdahl’s captors threatened to kill him if details of the deal leaked out. This explanation amounts to, we couldn’t follow the law because the Taliban told us not to. It also makes little sense, for two reasons. First, why would the Taliban/Haqqanis kill their biggest bargaining chip? Second, and more compellingly, details of the proposed swap had percolated in the media for years. The AP reported in April that a deal might have been in the works, and that Bergdahl’s captors were ‘anxious to release him.’ The *Times* published a story about proposed deal-making in 2012. And the Huffington Post reported that the Taliban explicitly introduced the idea of the trade on a phone call with reporters last year.” [59814]

“...That blows a gaping hole through the story the administration peddled to Senators. But let’s pretend for a moment that it’s true, since that what Team Obama was obviously hoping people would believe. The White House has adamantly claimed that they did not negotiate with terrorists... to arrange this exchange, swearing up and down that this was a prisoner swap (which has plenty of precedent). ...[But] Bergdahl was being held by the Haqqani network, which the US has formally designated as a terrorist organization, so any deal for his release necessarily involved them. They can dress it up all they want. The United States made concessions to terrorists. On the second claim, the administration is now saying that it had to rush the plan through because the radicals holding Bergdahl threatened to kill him. That’s not how ‘prisoner exchanges’ work. That’s how hostage-takers and terrorists operate. Add in the detail that the US also considered paying a cash ransom as recently as December, and the ‘prisoner swap’ facade crumbles. In this case, the White House’s most recent excuse (they were going to kill him!) thoroughly undermines one of the central premises they’ve employed to defend themselves (it wasn’t a terrorist/hostage situation).” [59814, 60005]

Meanwhile, National Security Council spokesman Patrick Ventrell says in defense of Rice, “She has kept her head down, but when she needs to stand up and defend a

controversial decision [Obama] makes, she's not going to be afraid to do it—and she's not going to apologize for it.” “She sort of brings out this craziness in a certain crowd,” says another administration official. “If something is taken a half-notch out of context, it's calls for her resignation and vicious ad hominem attacks against her. I'm not here to suggest it's because she's a woman or a minority or what it is, but other principals in the national-security team don't come under this kind of attack.” (In other words, “I'm not going to place the race and gender cards—oh, wait, yes I am!”) There is, of course, a reason why that others on the national security team are not “attacked” like Rice: they do not repeatedly lie to the American people on Sunday talk shows. [59812]

At WashingtonPost.com Charles Krauthammer writes, “The [prisoner] swap itself remains, nonetheless, a very close call. I would fully respect a president who rejected the deal as simply too unbalanced. What is impossible to respect is a president who makes this heart-wrenching deal and then does a victory lap in the Rose Garden and has his senior officials declare it a cause for celebration. The ever dutiful, ever clueless Susan Rice hailed it as ‘an extraordinary day for America.’ Good God. This is no victory. This is a defeat, a concession to a miserable reality, a dirty deal, perhaps necessary as a matter of principle but to be carried out with regret, resignation, even revulsion. The Rose Garden stunt wasn't a messaging failure. It's a category error. [Obama] seems oblivious to the gravity, indeed the very nature, of what he has just done. Which is why a stunned and troubled people are asking themselves what kind of man they have twice chosen to lead them.” [59827]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Two years ago government watchdog Judicial Watch submitted a Freedom of Information Act request surrounding materials about Operation Fast and Furious to the Department of Justice. At the time, DOJ officials failed to respond, so Judicial Watch sued. Because of the ongoing conflict between the House Oversight Committee and the Department of Justice, a judge granted a brief stay preventing a FOIA lawsuit from moving forward. That stay was issued 18 months ago. Now, after two years of that ‘brief’ stay, stonewalling and non-response, Judicial Watch has asked for the stay to be lifted. Further, Judicial Watch is asking the Department of Justice to provide documentation and explanation about why they're refusing to turn over documents outlined in the original FOIA request. ...The request also argues that a settlement between DOJ and Congress about the release of Fast and Furious documents and ...Obama's executive privilege is nowhere close to being complete and that stay should be lifted immediately.” [59813]

The Department of Labor reports that the economy added 217,000 jobs in May. The unemployment rate remains 6.3 percent. HotAir.com's Ed Morrissey observes, “At a rate of 217K per month with 150K needed to keep pace with population growth, how long will it take us to catch up to that 7 million [jobs needed to rejuvenate the economy]? Oh... eight years and nine months.” Most of the job gains seem to have been made my men, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the number of unemployed women increased by 60,000 in May. The labor force participation rate remains a dismal 62.8 percent—the lowest since February 1978. (A whopping 37.2 percent of American civilians age 16 and older are not working.) [59829, 59839, 59843, 59868, 59996]

At FreeBeacon.com Matthew Continetti notes an “evening in March, during a visit to Italy,” when “Obama asked the U.S. ambassador to round up a bunch of—and I quote—‘interesting Italians’ for a dinner at the ambassadorial residence. The history of the property, the Villa Taverna, goes as far back as the tenth century. Its art collection includes Roman sarcophagi and centuries-old imperial busts. The menu that evening included a variety of pastas, and wines from Tuscany and the regions around Venice. Dinner lasted four hours. The interesting Italians surrounding him included a particle physicist, two heirs to the Fiat auto fortune, and the postmodern architect Renzo Piano. The dinner conversation, according to Politico’s Carrie Budoff Brown and Jennifer Epstein, touched on architecture, on art, on science, and on urban planning. Protocol demands that the president be the first guest to leave such an event. But Obama would not shut up. It was ‘a quite long dinner,’ Piano told Politico. ...The next morning, during a briefing, [Obama]—whose office holds a burden of responsibility matched only by its power—regretted that his job involved duties other than pretentious conversation with extremely wealthy famous people. ‘One aide paraphrased Obama’s response: ‘Just last night I was talking about life and art, big interesting things, and now we’re back to the minuscule things of politics.’” You know, minuscule things like the... invasion of Ukraine, the implementation of Obamacare, scandals at the IRS and Department of Veterans Affairs, negotiations with Syria and Iran, withdrawal from Afghanistan. These subjects are far too small and mundane for [Obama]. He prefers contemplative and thoughtful and nuanced symposia on philosophy, quantum mechanics, and how best to spend inheritances—all accompanied by Tuscan wine.” [59844]

“...[Obama’s] ambitions in this office, just like his ambitions at Harvard, in New York, in Chicago, and in the Senate, are now exhausted. America has disappointed him, and it is time to look to the next challenge worthy of Barack Obama. His post-presidency has already begun. He has decided to relax. He has decided to fill his remaining days getting the most out of his [White House] experience. The free travel and lodgings and security escort, the access to good tee times, the ability to get a reservation wherever and whenever he wants, the chance to meet VIPs who will flatter and ingratiate themselves to him—he is enjoying these perks and privileges to the utmost. Obama is golfing more than at any point in his term. In March, as Vladimir Putin launched the newest phase of his quest to recreate the Russian Empire, some in the White House had the temerity to suggest that it might not be a good idea to fly to Key Largo for a long weekend of golf and relaxation. Obama disagreed. ‘Obama sticks to Florida vacation schedule,’ read one headline. This was one commitment on which [Obama] would not renege. ‘I needed this,’ he told guests, including his new friend Alonzo Mourning, over dinner at the Ocean Reef Club. ‘I needed the golf. I needed to laugh. I need to spend time with friends.’ I am sure the Ukrainians understand. ...[O]ne Democrat said to *Politico*: “I wouldn’t be surprised if they looked at the next three years and think, ‘Oh my God, how are we going to survive the next 36 months of this bullshit?’ Good question—one [Obama] seems intent on answering by not caring, by retreating into his comfy and unthreatening cocoon of affluent bourgeois liberals from around the world. The rest of us have to live with the consequences.” [59844]

The *Miami Herald* reports, “Major Democratic donor John Morgan blasted the national party’s chair, U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz [D-FL], as an ‘irritant’ who is becoming ‘irrelevant’ after she voiced concerns about a medical marijuana proposal he helped put on Florida’s ballot this November. ‘I know personally the most powerful players in Washington, D.C. And I can tell you that Debbie Wasserman Schultz isn’t just disliked. She’s despised. She’s an irritant,’ Morgan, an outspoken Orlando trial attorney, told the Miami Herald. ‘Why she’s trying to undermine this amendment I don’t know,’ he said. ‘But I’ll tell you I will never give a penny or raise a penny for the national party while she’s in leadership. And I have given and helped raise millions.’” (Obama selected Wasserman Schultz, a shameless party hack, to head the Democrat National Committee in April 2011. Morgan is known in the Orlando area for his law firm’s frequent ambulance-chasing television commercials, which end with him saying, “Morgan & Morgan, for the people,” but which are ridiculed as “Morgan & Morgan, for the money.”) [19463, 59847, 59860, 59977, 60059, 60060, 60061]

FoxNews.com reports, “Dozens of Veterans Affairs workers who have come forward with stories of mismanagement and patient abuse say they have faced retaliation within the scandal-scarred agency, according to federal investigators. In one case, a VA employee with a spotless record over two decades was suspended after reporting patients had been inappropriately restrained, according to one of 37 such complaints filed with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC). In another case, an employee claimed to have been demoted after disclosing alleged mishandling of patient care funds. The employee was temporarily reassigned and an investigation is still ongoing, OSC officials said. The complaints, which involved VA facilities in 19 states, appear to show a culture that discourages whistle-blowing, said officials at the OSC, which is probing the claims. ...The investigation of the claims of retribution does not include a separate OSC review of 49 employee reports related to waiting lists and other issues at 152 hospitals and more than 1,700 other VA sites nationwide. Some facilities have been accused of doctoring their books to hide the fact that patients died while languishing on waiting lists to see doctors.” [59852, 59856]

MyFoxDC.com interviews “a soldier who was a fellow member of Blackfoot Company, 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. He is a member of a local law enforcement agency and is still in the military. He fears reprisals if he speaks on camera, so we agreed to disguise his identity.” Asked if he thinks Bowe Bergdahl was a deserter, the soldier says, “There’s no other name to call it. There’s no other way to describe what he did. You can say he just walked off, but that’s what he did. He deserted his post. Myself [sic; I] and a number of others members of Blackfoot company believed that Bowe Bergdahl walked off the base leaving members of the 2nd Platoon pretty much defenseless on June 30, 2009.” The soldier describes the missions to find Bergdahl: “Think of a small town and just going in every single building, every single room of those buildings, every single closet of those rooms, looking under every bed, looking in sheds if they had them. Everybody in that part of Afghanistan was doing the same thing. Members of Blackfoot Company and members of the Geronimo Battalion and every member of the United States Army that I can speak for—we always wanted to get him back.” Asked about being forced to sign a non-disclosure agreement, he states, “I



remember signing one and I remember them telling us, ‘You can’t talk about what happened with Bowe Bergdahl.’ We had to sign it. I think that the shared mentality was [that] we’re going to talk about it amongst ourselves regardless and eventually there will come a time when the truth will come out. ...I think [Bergdahl] he needs to go and face a UCMJ—a Uniform Code of Military Justice court. I think he needs to present the facts as he sees them and then allow other folks to present facts as they see them. Americans deserve to know the truth.” [59857]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “House lawmakers are currently pushing a resolution to classify the newly formed Palestinian unity government as a foreign terrorist organization and cut off U.S. aid following the formation of a new ruling body that includes the terror group Hamas, according to a copy of the draft resolution obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*. The new resolution, sponsored by [Congressmen] Michele Bachmann (R-MN) and Trent Franks (R-AZ), calls on the State Department to designate the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its new Hamas-backed unity government as a terrorist organization. The resolution is expected to be introduced Monday [June 9]. It additionally calls for the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to be reclassified as a terror group and for the U.S. government to fully cut aid to the Palestinians, who have received around \$5 billion in bilateral assistance since the 1990s.” (Pamela Geller comments, “The Obama regime seeks to sanction, fund and support the new axis of terror in Gaza, Judea and Samaria (the areas under siege by Jew-hating jihadists). The new ‘unity’ government between terrorist group Hamas and the laughably more ‘moderate’ Fatah gives proof to the lie that there was ever any ‘Palestinian’ leadership that wasn’t genocidal and jihadist. We already knew that. But we do not expect our government to fund jihad murder and annihilationism. No. Obama, once again, crosses the line. Fatah would never have partnered with Hamas had the leader of the free world (and major underwriter of their war effort) sanctioned such savagery.”) [59858, 59859, 59861, 59907]

As noted previously in this *Timeline*, the late Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat stole much of the aid from the United States and other nations that was supposed to go to Palestinians. Arafat’s widow, Suha, is alleged to have inherited as much as two billion British pounds—about \$2.8 billion U.S.—which Arafat had hidden in accounts in many countries. Suha Arafat now lives in Paris, far from the miseries of poor Palestinians, and receives an annual payment of 12 million pounds—about \$17 million in U.S. dollars—from the Palestinian Authority.) [1367, 1383, 11904, 11905, 11906, 11933]

According to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, more than 65 million Americans in 48 states are receiving Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits. (The data is for April, with two states not reporting figures.) [59866]

The ObamaCare exchange in Maryland release 2015 premium estimates. One insurer calls for a 30.2 percent increase in premiums. [59966]

On *The Five*, even liberal panel member Bob Beckel finds it difficult to defend Obama’s prisoner swap. Beckel says, “The idea they [in the White House] didn’t think that this

thing was going to be exposed for what this guy's background was is incomprehensible. I'm suggesting that somehow, some way, they smoked a bunch of dope and convinced each other that they were going to actually get something positive out of this." [59875]

During a panel discussion of the prisoner exchange controversy on *Hannity*, Monica Crowley states what many people are afraid to say: "You know, what? At the end of *Saving Private Ryan*, when they locate Private Ryan, they say to him, 'We lost a lot of guys looking for you.' The difference is, private Ryan in the movie was a hero, unlike this guy who's a deserter and possible traitor to his country. The parents who should have been in the Rose Garden with [Obama] are sitting right here [the mother and step-father of one of the soldiers killed searching for Bowe Bergdahl are on the discussion panel], the parents who lost their sons in the line of fire looking for this guy, and the truth is that we are in a holy war. This is a holy war, whether we want to see it that way or not, whether it's politically correct to say it or not, this is the truth. And the enemy gets a veto, they get a vote as to whether or not we're still in this war. So, this commander-in-chief can come out publicly and say, repeatedly, 'The war is ending, it's over, we're bringing home our guys.' The enemy has a vote on this and this jihad will be perpetual until the infidel is done, gone, killed, or in submission. That is the truth of the other side. We're in this holy war not because I'm saying it, but because the enemy is saying it. When we have a U.S. soldier who by all accounts now looks like he has turned and is now fighting that holy war on the other side, he [had] better be held to account." [59969, 59970]

On June 7 Vice President Joe Biden arrives in Ukraine to express support for the new government. FoxNews.com notes that the visit "is renewing concerns about his youngest son being hired by a Ukraine company promoting energy independence from Moscow. Hunter Biden will be working for the company while his father and others in the Obama administration attempt to influence energy policies and other issues of the new government, which is gripped in a struggle with Russia and pro-Russian separatists to control the county. The company, Burisma Holdings Limited, says it wants to reduce Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas and oil, a goal that parallels U.S. efforts to aid Ukraine's energy industry. The other major issues are Hunter Biden's new employer leases natural gas fields in Crimea, an eastern Ukraine peninsula being controlled by Russia in the country's months-long political upheaval. And the company is owned by a former Ukraine government minister, Nikolai Zlochevskyi, who has ties to the country's ousted pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich. The 44-year-old Biden was hired in April and will be a director and lawyer for the company." [59896]

The *Mirror* reports, "Ex-KGB Major Boris Karpichkov said spies from Russia's SVR intelligence service posing as diplomats tricked Snowden into seeking asylum in Russia. ...Ex-KGB Major Boris Karpichkov said spies from Russia's SVR intelligence service posing as diplomats tricked Snowden into seeking asylum in Russia. And when the turncoat went there the information was leaked to provoke the US into cancelling his passport, so restricting his movements, said Karpichkov. He believes the Kremlin will keep the ex-US intelligence official another three years—until he has no more information to give." [60051, 60052]

Pamela Geller writes, “The jihad for Taliban terrorists trade is illustrative of where Obama’s sympathies lie. A known deserter-cum-jihadist is a priority of the Obama administration. And Obama makes ‘no apologies’ for this sedition. Meanwhile, brave and heroic US soldiers rot in American prisons for violating Obama’s pro-jihadi rules of engagement.” (Geller is referring to “The Leavenworth 10, a group of soldiers/Marines incarcerated at Ft. Leavenworth for killing members of Al-Qaeda or Iraqi insurgents. These decorated and committed soldiers/Marines who honorably served their country—achieving a significant number of combat medals over multiple deployments—are now serving sentences ranging between 10 years and life in prison. They and their families have fallen victim to the untenable Rules of Engagement, demoralizing ‘Catch and Release’ policies, and climate of political correctness that govern our troops’ actions while trying to survive a combat zone.” [59863, 59864]

At Townhall.com Humberto Fontova writes, “It didn’t take long. Exactly two days after the announcement of the Bergdahl/Taliban-Five deal, Cuba’s Terror-Sponsoring (official classification by U.S. State Dept.) regime started clamoring for an Alan Gross/Cuban-Five deal. Alan Gross is a Jewish American held hostage by the Castro regime since December 2009 when he was arrested while distributing computers and satellite phones to Cuba’s microscopic (and mostly regime-collaborationist) Jewish community while on assignment for USAID (United States Agency for International Development.) After a ‘trial,’ the Castro regime formally sentenced Gross to fifteen years in prison. ‘The Cuban Five’ are Cuban terrorist/spies nabbed in south Florida in 1998 and convicted in U.S. federal courts of 26 counts of espionage along with conspiracy to commit murder—of three U.S. citizens. Two of the five communist spies have already had their sentences reduced and been returned to heroes’ welcomes in Cuba.” [59867]

TheHill.com reports, “Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday commemorated the 70th anniversary of D-Day at the home of his family’s estate in France. Kerry traveled to Saint Briac, where his mother’s family have owned property for years, a day after attending ceremonies marking the invasion of France in Normandy, according to the Associated Press. During a ceremony Saturday, Kerry paid tribute to the soldiers and to the people of Saint Briac who fought for liberation 70 years ago. ‘To me, Saint Briac’s World War II legacy isn’t just about loss and destruction,’ he said, ‘It’s a legacy of strength. It’s a legacy of solidarity. Ultimately, it’s a legacy of good prevailing over evil—of freedom prevailing over tyranny.’ He also credited the small seaside town for helping to save heirlooms from his family’s estate, which was used as a Nazis headquarters and destroyed after the invasion. ‘I can still hear the sound of the rubble and broken glass that was crunching under our shoes as we walked through what used to be her house,’ he recalled, saying he only remembered remains of ‘a stone staircase to the sky and an old, brick chimney.’” (Kerry was born December 11, 1943. He does not say when he visited his grandmother’s house, or how old he was at the time of the visit.) [59890]

According to DailyCaller.com, “A Vermont firearms dealer says the Obama administration is responsible for him having to lay off 41 of its workers in a ‘last minute’ move that has even angered some of the state’s liberal politicians. Century International Arms had a \$30 million contract in place to import World War II era M1 Garand Rifles

from the South Korean government. The U.S. State Department had given preliminary approval to the deal, and the State, Justice and Defense departments had cleared the transaction. But an executive action... by Obama ultimately blocked the plan..." The company "said it had invested 'considerable funds' to line up approval and financing for the bid, which it had won from the South Korean government. But the deal was nixed, the company said, because 'the White House intervened at the last minute and blocked this importation.' ...One of the actions put a ban on private entities re-importing military surplus firearms. Museums are one of the only exceptions to the ruling." Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) tells WCAX. "I think the Obama administration made a bad, bad mistake. This is not like selling a bunch of assault weapons; these are basically collectors' items. I'm a gun owner and these are not the things someone is going to use to hold up a bank, or shoot people, they are legitimate collector items." [59891]

NBC airs a Brian Williams interview with Obama, which BizPacReview.com calls "an exclusive, well-rehearsed version of ...Obama's defiant defense of his exchange of five senior Taliban prisoners for a possible U.S. deserter who the administration insists served honorably. In the scripted softball interview Obama showed no shame or hesitation in answering why Congress was kept in the dark. It was a 'unanimous decision' by 'my government,' Obama said, in his arrogant response. 'I make no apologies for it,' he began, following his familiar 'leave no man behind' mantra.' It was a unanimous decision by my principals in my government...' 'This is something that I would do again, and I will continue to do wherever I have an opportunity, if I have a member of our military who's in captivity.'" (What most Americans thought was a government "of, by, and for the people" is now apparently "*Obama's* government.") [59872, 60198]

Paul Sperry writes at NYPost.com, "If you thought ...Obama's release of five top Taliban commanders in exchange for POW Bowe Bergdahl was bad, wait until you see what his Gitmo parole board plans. Desperate to empty the Guantanamo Bay prison by the end of his term, Obama quietly is giving 'get out of jail free' cards for the flimsiest of excuses. One al Qaeda suspect captured in Afghanistan is considered reformed because he took up yoga and read a biography of the Dalai Lama. Another is eligible for release because of his 'positive attitude.' And one longtime detainee, a former bodyguard for Osama bin Laden, is now harmless because he's going to start a 'milk and honey farm.' The Periodic Review Board already helped clear 78 of the remaining 149 prisoners for release, documents show, and has scheduled more hearings for this summer. ...Obama's terrorist parole board was established in 2011. He appoints its members—officials from the Justice Department, Pentagon, State Department and Homeland Security—without a congressional confirmation process. It is secretive and lacking in accountability. ...Already, more than 600 prisoners have been transferred out of Gitmo with little fanfare. Two hundred of them were sent back to Afghanistan. As defense lawyer David Remes explained to Al Jazeera news network, 'The Periodic Review Board is likely to be predisposed to approval to transfer because the idea here is to close down Guantanamo.'" [59928]

NYTimes.com reports, "From the initial briefings given to senior military and civilian officials in the past week, Sergeant [Bowe] Bergdahl, 28, in some ways seems healthier

than expected. He suffers from skin and gum disorders typical of poor hygiene and exposure, but otherwise is physically sound, one official said. He weighs about 160 pounds on a 5-foot-9 frame, and is sleeping about seven hours a night. He shows few if any signs of the malnourishment and other ailments that Obama administration officials said he was suffering when they saw a video of him that the Taliban made in December and released a month later—a video so alarming, American officials have said, it made his release an urgent priority. As talks for Sergeant Bergdahl’s release proceeded after that, his captors may have fed him better, allowed him greater movement and even brought him medical care in preparation for his departure, American officials said. But Sergeant Bergdahl’s relatively stable health may be cited by those who object to the prisoner swap and have said his condition should not have been grounds for the administration to move rapidly ahead with releasing the Guantánamo detainees without informing Congress.” (That is, Bergdahl was not “on death’s door,” as claimed by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL).) [59903, 59904, 59974]

ABCNews.com reports, “The former pastor of the parents of a soldier released from Taliban captivity after almost five years said Friday they have been hurt by allegations that he was a traitor and by the outpouring of anger toward their family. ‘They have been really hurt,’ said Pastor Phil Proctor of Sterling Presbyterian Church in Sterling, Virginia. ‘They’re trying to keep their heads down.’ Proctor said Bob and Jani Bergdahl were surprised by interviews they have seen with former platoon mates of their son Bowe Bergdahl. Some of the soldiers told media outlets they didn’t support the exchange of five Taliban officials that led to his freedom. ‘This very much hit them as a shock and I’m not sure anybody’s got the full story,’ said Proctor, who is urging prayer and compassion for the family.” (Bergdahl wrote that he was “ashamed to even be an American” and “The horror that is America is disgusting”—and his parents are shocked that he has been criticized. Perhaps they will also be shocked when the Taliban terrorists released by Obama return to the battlefield.) [59454, 59915, 59916, 59917, 59918]

Blogger Doug Ross writes, “Liberty Speaks co-blogger ‘Lady Liberty’ contacted me earlier today with some interesting information. It would appear that the father of Bowe Bergdahl, the AWOL/deserter swapped for five bloodthirsty terrorist leaders, has been in communication with member(s) of Al Qaeda. On Google Plus, Robert Bergdahl’s contacts include one ‘Anissa bint Yusuf Zaid Ibn Youssef.’ And just who is Anissa? From this link (translated), she would seem to be a 10-year member of an Al Qaeda technology support team.” The link is to a statement from Anissa that reads, “I thank Allah (Subhana Wa’a Ta’laah) for guiding me on the path of truth, righteousness and justice, which is the Path of Jihad. Agradezdo my beloved brothers and sisters of the Scientific and Technological Committee of Al ’Qaida and TTP, as also to the various centers Translations of the Jihad, Al Al’Qaida General Command and the Taliban who have allowed me to develop and exhibit my work over 10 years.” Ross concludes, “From all appearances, the elder Bergdahl: (a) was in contact with a longstanding member of Al Qaeda; and (b) very well could have been a convert to Islam. It’s a pity the NSA—with its massive surveillance program, unlawfully monitoring the conversations of every American citizen—didn’t let us know these salient details ahead of time. As for Robert

Bergdahl shaving his beard now that his son's been released, well, I wouldn't hold my breath." [59937]

At NYPost.com John Podhoretz writes, "What happens when the world's greatest spin doctor commits malpractice—on himself? That is the question that now bedevils Barack Obama after what have been, without a doubt, the worst weeks of his [administration]. From the Veterans Administration scandal to the jaw-dropping events surrounding the swap of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the man with the most remarkable intuitive grasp of how to preserve and enhance his own image the world has ever seen has now tarnished it almost beyond recognition. ...An unabashed liberal and among the most nakedly partisan politicians in this country's history, Obama came to fame in '04 loudly declaiming that we are not red states or blue states, but the United States. ...In June '08, he began speaking at a podium with a decal resembling the presidential seal on it, a brilliant way of planting the suggestion that his election was a foregone conclusion. He delivered his convention speech that year on a set that suggested he was speaking in the Athens Acropolis, thus hardening in the minds of the chattering classes the idea that he was the greatest orator since Pericles. ...Obama therefore had reason to believe his stage management of the swap of Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban commanders would play to his advantage. He made a conscious decision to play up the emotion—having Bergdahl's parents standing beside him in the Rose Garden, proudly declaiming his obligation as commander in chief not to leave a man behind. He knew a firestorm would inevitably erupt over the release of the Taliban 5 from Gitmo, but as long as it was a political and policy firestorm, he could insulate himself from it by invoking the greatest of all pop-culture fantasies: a happy ending. ...The bottom line is that [Obama] settled on a controversial, high-risk strategy here in a difficult and problematic manner—and then sought to use his mastery of pop culture to change the story to a more palatable one. But some stories just can't be gussied up. More important for [Obama's] future fortunes is this lesson: You can only spin for so long before you start spinning yourself. Spin and spin and spin and soon you have a whirlwind to reap." [59957]

At NewsWithViews.com, J.B. Williams reviews the issue of whether Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is a natural born citizen of the United States. Williams concludes (properly) that, like Obama, Cruz is not. Williams further suggests that Cruz may not even be eligible to serve in the U.S. Senate if he did not undergo the naturalization process to become a U.S. citizen at least nine years prior to his taking office. (Cruz was born in Canada. His father was a Cuban citizen and his mother was a U.S. citizen. Although Obama's mother was a U.S. citizen, his father was not—if it is true that Kenyan Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. was his father.) Williams concludes, "The surest way to see another Democrat seize the Oval Office in 2016 is to run a blatantly unconstitutional candidate for the GOP. Last, it is very unfortunate that people like Ted and [Senator Marco] Rubio [(R-FL), who is also not a natural born citizen] are more focused on their personal political ambitions than the best interest of our Republic. Obama could be taken down so easy by anyone in this position. Once they proclaim themselves ineligible for office, it naturally follows that Obama is also ineligible. But as long as no Republican will stand up and rightly disqualify themselves, the charade of Obama eligibility continues." (On May 14 Cruz denounced his Canadian citizenship. On June 10 Canada confirmed the action and made

it official. Cruz may believe he has made it easier to run for president. He has not. He has made it more difficult by conceding that, at birth, he was a Canadian citizen. One cannot be “transformed” into a natural born citizen of the United States. If it is not one’s status at the moment of birth, it can never be one’s status. Historically, the term natural born citizen means born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. Cruz fails that test—as do Obama, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, and South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.) [59888, 60126, 60127, 60168]

Newsmax.com reports, “Angry about the federal government sending from Texas to Arizona immigrants who are in the country illegally, Arizona officials say they are rushing federal supplies to a makeshift holding center in the southern part of the state that’s housing hundreds of migrant children and is running low on the basics. Gov. Jan Brewer’s spokesman, Andrew Wilder, said Friday that conditions at the holding center are so dire that federal officials have asked the state to immediately ship the medical supplies to the center in Nogales. A Homeland Security Department official told The Associated Press that children are sleeping on plastic cots but about 2,000 mattresses have been ordered, and portable toilets and showers have been brought to the holding center—a warehouse that has not been used for detention in years. ... Brewer sent an angry letter to ... Obama on Monday [June 2] demanding that the program of dropping off families at bus stations in Phoenix stop immediately. She called the program dangerous and unconscionable, asked for details and demanded to know why state authorities weren’t consulted or even informed. The governor said she hadn’t received a response to her letter by Friday.” [59892, 59949, 60002, 60003]

Governor Brewer states, “Not only does the federal government have no plan to stop this disgraceful policy, it also has no plan to deal with the endless waves of illegal aliens once they are released here. If the Obama administration put half the effort into securing our border as it has invested to institute this operation, our state and nation would not be facing this situation. This is a crisis of the federal government’s creation, and the fact that the border remains unsecure—now apparently intentionally—while this operation continues full-steam ahead is deplorable. I have reached out to Federal Homeland Security Director Jeh Johnson for answers. Meanwhile, I reiterate my call on ... Obama to secure our southern border and terminate this operation immediately.” [59949, 60002, 60003]

Meanwhile, at TopRightNews.com Brian Hayes writes, “Texas is being overrun by illegal aliens at the highest rates in U.S. history. More than 47,000 unaccompanied minors have been caught in the first five months of this year, a 92% increase over the same time period in 2013. Obama is also dumping thousands of those illegals into Arizona, as payback for the crackdown on illegals by Gov. Jan Brewer and Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The Obama Administration is working hand-in-hand with Central American governments to engineer this deliberate, unprecedented invasion of illegal aliens. La Raza groups are spreading the word that Obama will sign administrative amnesty. And nations like El Salvador and Honduras are urging women and children to make the grueling trek to cross the U.S. border, because Obama will never deport them, and they can receive jobs and taxpayer-funded welfare for life. Obama has requested \$2 billion—not to deport

the illegals from this unprecedented invasion—but to house, clothe and feed them, and even deliver them to relatives already here illegally, so they can stay here indefinitely. And now [Attorney General] Eric Holder, who is supposed to be the highest law enforcement official in America, is unleashing a new lawless program to actually provide taxpayer-funded lawyers to these invading illegals—to make sure they will never be deported by an immigration judge. And Holder is grabbing \$2 million of a \$315 million fund that is supposed to help secure the border, not make a mockery of border security.” [59893]

At LastResistance.com, Frank Camp later writes, “Revenge is the cruelty of choice for the lowest of the low, because it is the easiest path to take. The Democratic Party has become the Party of revenge, all under the tutelage of their boss Barack Obama. Obama is a master of the underhanded revenge tactic. If you enact policy that runs contrary to his agenda, or the agenda of the Democratic Party as a whole, he sends his goons to destroy you. If you enact school choice—like Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal did—Obama will have Eric Holder sue you. If you act to secure your state’s border, because the Feds refuse to do so, Obama will put a severed horse’s head in your bed. [Obama] is the boss to a party of mobsters, and he is gaining power with the passing of each day. ...[Arizona] Governor [Jan] Brewer fought Obama tooth and nail on the issue [of border enforcement], during which time a now famous snapshot was captured that shows Brewer yelling at Obama. The claim from the White House was that the meeting was perfectly pleasant, but the picture tells a different story. Well, now Obama is dishing his revenge. The federal government has begun dumping bus-loads of illegal immigrant youth into the state of Arizona. ...Not only is this policy dangerous, in terms of national security, but it is cruel to the youth who are being dumped in the state. But Obama doesn’t care. As long as the border remains open, and illegal immigrants are pouring in, Obama has done what he needs to do to progress the leftist ideology, and advance the power structure of which he is the head. The left needs illegal immigrants, and they will decimate any conservative who tries to stand their ground. ...Obama is a bully. He is the head of the crime syndicate also known as the Democratic Party. His power is spiraling out of control, and if we don’t act to impeach him, or prosecute him, his leadership will only become more tyrannical.” [60068]

Obama tweets, “I will keep doing whatever I can without Congress to help responsible young people pay off their [student] loans.” (Obama has proposed raising taxes to offset the cost of lowering the interest rate on student loans. He cannot do that without Congressional approval.) [59911, 59912, 59942, 59975]

On *Justice with Judge Jeanine*, Jeanine Pirro says Obama “didn’t just release” the five terrorists; he “unleashed them,” that he alone “will be responsible for the hell that will be unleashed on us,” and calls for Obama’s impeachment. [59929, 59976]

On June 8 TheLeafChronicle.com reports that “since the Affordable Care Act took effect in January, [Louisville, Kentucky’s] Norton Hospital has seen its packed emergency room become even more crowded, with about 100 more patients a month. That 12 percent spike in the number of patients—many of whom aren’t actually facing true



emergencies—is spurring the Louisville hospital to convert a waiting room into more exam rooms. ...That’s just the opposite of what many people expected under Obamacare, particularly because one of the goals of health reform was to reduce pressure on emergency rooms by expanding Medicaid and giving poor people better access to primary care. Instead, many hospitals in Kentucky and across the nation are seeing a surge of those newly insured Medicaid patients walking into emergency rooms. ...Experts cite many reasons: A long-standing shortage of primary-care doctors leaves too few to handle all the newly insured patients. Some doctors won’t accept Medicaid. And poor people often can’t take time from work when most primary care offices are open, while ERs operate round-the-clock and by law must at least stabilize patients. Plus, some patients who have been uninsured for years don’t have regular doctors and are accustomed to using ERs, even though it is much more expensive. ‘It’s a perfect storm here,’ said Dr. Ryan Stanton of Lexington, president of the Kentucky chapter of the ER physician group. ‘We’ve given people an ATM card in a town with no ATMs.’” [59879]

In a June 5–7 Gallup poll, Obama’s approval/disapproval ratings are 43/51 percent. Based on its polling, the unemployment rate is 7 percent; the underemployment rate is 16.6 percent; and the payroll-to-population percentage is 44.5. (The “underemployed” includes the unemployed and those Americans who are working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment.) [59886, 59887]

ABC’s *This Week* airs a pre-recorded interview with Hillary Clinton. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Clinton “was noncommittal about whether she might testify in a new round of House hearings about the attack at a diplomatic facility that took place on her watch. She suggested she might testify if she was persuaded that Congress was conducting the hearings in the spirit of trying ‘to figure out what we can do better.’” (Clinton does not state whether she would defy a subpoena demanding that she testify.) [59905, 59906, 59910]

Congressman Mike Rodgers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, appears on *This Week* and states, “We have made a serious, serious geopolitical mistake [by releasing five Taliban leaders]. We’ve empowered the Taliban. The one thing that they wanted more than anything... was recognition from the U.S. government so they can use that to propagandize against areas that are unsecure still in Afghanistan. They got all of that. ...I don’t think you’ll see any operational activity [by the five terrorists] right now... They’re smart enough to know better, but it [being free in Qatar] allows them to prepare for what’s next. And that’s going to be to join the fight against what Americans are left in Afghanistan in 51 weeks... I am convinced, absolutely convinced of that.” Rogers criticizes Obama’s refusal to work with Congress to consider other ways of gaining Bergdahl’s release: “This administration thinks you’re either with them or for thermonuclear war.” [59984]

On *State of the Union*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says of Obama’s release of five Taliban terrorist, “Mullah Omar just got his cabinet back. What we’re doing here is reconstitution of the Taliban government. These are the people who used to take women into the soccer stadium in Kabul and hang them from the goalpost.” The program’s

Candy Crowley asks if Obama's action means that all terrorists will be released from the facility at Guantanamo. McCain replies, "If you think that we're going to just release everybody like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and others, I'm afraid that you've been misinformed." [59927]

Crowley suggests Obama may as well have released the five terrorists in exchange for Bowe Bergdahl now because he would be obligated to release them after all U.S. troops leave Afghanistan in two years. McCain properly labels that a "false choice." (Former terrorist prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy later writes, "Even if combat had ceased in Afghanistan, the release of these Taliban detainees would not have been required by the laws of war. ...In reality, [Obama] is engaged in a slow-motion surrender to the Taliban and its jihadist allies that is arbitrarily scheduled to take two years—arbitrarily, that is, unless you think it is the American political calendar rather than Afghan battlefield conditions that decides when combat ends. Now, on top of that fiction, the administration and Ms. Crowley are stacking yet another, to wit: The winding down of *combat operations in Afghanistan* equals the end of the war on terror, triggering the law-of-war mandate to release all enemy combatants who cannot be charged with war crimes or other offenses. ...[C]ombat operations in the ongoing conflict are taking place under a congressional authorization for the use of military force. The AUMF [Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Terrorists] was enacted overwhelmingly a week after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Recognizing that the jihad against the United States is a global one carried out by an intercontinental network of terrorist confederates who do not restrict their operations to one country, *the AUMF does not limit combat operations geographically*. To the contrary, it authorizes the president to use force against the enemy—essentially, any persons, organizations, or countries complicit in the 9/11 attacks, or that have facilitated and harbored those who were complicit—anywhere in the world where the enemy can be found." That is, withdrawing troops from Afghanistan does not mean the "war on terrorists" is over. Until one side surrenders, terrorists could be detained at Guantanamo indefinitely. McCarthy notes, "[T]he conflict is labeled the 'war on terror' because the government is reticent about naming the enemy—Islamic-supremacist jihadists—for fear of giving offense to Muslims. That, however, is not the only reason for this amorphous label. There is also the difficulty of pinning down the locus of the conflict. It has never been limited to Afghanistan. Consequently, even if the fighting in Afghanistan were really ending, that would not mean *the war* is over.") [60353, 60354]

On *Face the Nation*, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) pushes back on White House claims that Obama's prisoner exchange deal had to be kept secret because Bowe Bergdahl might have been killed by the Taliban had the information been leaked by Congress. Feinstein also questions the claim that Bergdahl was so ill that the deal had to be done quickly: "I think his rapid recovery now may indicate he wasn't close to death." Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) adds, "Because he is in decent health, considering where he's been, they've changed their story. They said, 'Well, no, we suspected his life might be in danger, if word got out of this pending, possible trade then his life may be in danger. Again, I can just tell you there is no intelligence to support that.'" (Key members of Congress knew in advance of the operation to kill Osama bin Laden and that was not

leaked.) Feinstein also says, “I heard John Kerry this morning say, you know, don’t worry about them [the five terrorists] in Doha [Qatar]. You can’t help but worry about them in Doha. And we have no information on how the United States is actually going to see that they remain in Doha, that they make no comments, that they do no agitation. And another rumor is that one Taliban has apparently said that he would return to the battlefield. So it’s a mixed bag at best.” Feinstein notes, “There is no house arrest [for the five terrorists]. They have the country [Qatar], which is very small, to be about in. Secretary Kerry made a very strong statement this morning, saying, ‘Oh, we have ways, and we will see that they do not defect, move, speak, whatever.’ And we’ll see. ...[but] it’s hard to be comfortable when you haven’t been briefed on the intricacies of carrying out this agreement.” [59932, 59945, 59986, 59987, 59989]

On *Fox News Sunday*, retired General Jack Keane comments on National Security Advisor Susan Rice’s statement that Bowe Bergdahl “served with honor and distinction,” telling Chris Wallace, “The fact that a citizen volunteers—becomes a soldier, becomes a paratrooper, goes to combat as a result of that, has an unblemished record, is a very good soldier—and then deserts his post, that trumps all previous behavior. So that is a distinction in itself, and he has to be held accountable for that.” Wallace asks, “And how have the military leaders you’ve talked to this week—I know you’re close touch with a lot of folks, still, at the Pentagon—how do they view the way this week has rolled out?” Keane replies, “They’re outraged that [Obama], at the Rose Garden ceremony, was actually promoting an event in terms of public relations. And then taking his family—who by the way, the military had advised to maintain a very low profile, and they had maintained a low profile for years. And then to put them in front of the cameras like that and begin a celebration, I think that created not only anguish among those who were his teammates and those who may’ve lost his lives in rescuing him, but senior military leaders looked at that and just shook their head and said, ‘Why are we doing something like that?’” [59901, 59964]

Secretary of State John Kerry tells CNN that released Taliban leader Noorullah Noori’s pledge to return to jihad is “propaganda” and “baloney.” Kerry says, “Well first of all, uh, propaganda is propaganda, and they’ll say whatever they want to stir the waters. So people should not be lured in by their propaganda, number one. Number two, we are ending our combat role. Our combat role in Afghanistan is almost over. We’re going to have very few, you know, people in that kind of position, on occasion, where—but I, I honestly just think that’s just a lot of baloney, to be truthful with you. And to whatever degree it may be true, they will wind up putting themselves at the mercy of those people who are very effective, who are there, who will deal with those things.” (The question, of course, is not whether Americans believe Noori’s pledge is propaganda. The question is, “How many Afghans will be inspired by Noori to engage in jihad?” For them, the war is not over, and Kerry is naive to believe it is. The United States will be leaving about 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and each one will be a target of Taliban kidnappers.) [59902, 59931, 59945, 59972, 59981, 59985]

Leftist political hack and Democrat National Committee vice-chairwoman Donna Brazile tweets, “A Republican PR firm has been publicizing accounts that Bergdahl might have gone AWOL just to make [Obama] look bad.” [59908, 59909]

In the *Chicago Tribune* John Kass writes, “Obama looks foolish or worse in all of this. He looks like a politician who desperately wanted a feel-good photo op in the White House Rose Garden with [Bowe] Bergdahl’s family. And now he owns it. He stood with Bergdahl’s mother and the father who’d issued, then deleted, a tweet on May 28 saying, ‘I am still working to free all Guantanamo prisoners. God will repay for the death of every Afghan child, ameen!’ And still, [Obama] wanted to stand with the family and tell Americans that we don’t leave our people behind. Then he sent out national security adviser Susan Rice on the Sunday talk shows to speak of Bergdahl in heroic terms. This is the same Rice who went on the Sunday talk shows just before Obama’s re-election to lie to the American people about what triggered the attack in Benghazi. We left people behind there, four Americans, including former SEALs who called for help that never came. ...Some Democrats huff and puff and defend [Obama] over the Taliban trade, though an increasing number are beginning to shy away as the November midterms approach. Politicians are adept at raising their moistened fingers to test the winds. And the winds of November don’t look good for the Democrats right now. ...What the freed Taliban fighters end up doing, and how Republicans and Democrats skin each other, is the stuff of the future. But I can’t help thinking about the past, and those who may have died in the search for the troubled young soldier: Martinek, Andrews, Bowen, Walker, Curtiss and Murphrey.” [59926]

Examiner.com’s Jim Kouri writes, “A former U.S. intelligence official, who worked on covert operations throughout the Middle East and Latin America, claims the scuttlebutt among Beltway security experts is that there may be an abrupt end to the freedom of the Taliban terrorists released from Guantanamo Bay’s detention center, he intimated on Sunday. ‘With all the negative publicity generated by Obama’s Taliban prisoner swap for an Army sergeant, Bowe Bergdahl, the Commander in Chief is being offered plans for covert operations to ‘terminate with extreme prejudice’ the five terrorists now living relatively free in the Arab nation [of] Qatar,’ said the deep background intelligence source.” Political strategist Mike Baker “said he would not be surprised if Obama decides to demonstrate that should any of the detainees he releases return to the battlefield, they will be killed. He also points to Obama’s alleged narcissistic character trait that make him prone to seeking adulation of others and avoiding criticism.” [59930]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has declined to speak to his family after five years in harsh captivity that included being held in a cage after one attempted escape, according to a U.S. official familiar with the Army soldier’s recovery. Doctors treating Sgt. Bergdahl at a U.S. military hospital in Germany are moving slowly because of the swirling controversy over the soldier’s release, the U.S. official said. While he spent five years in captivity after being captured by Afghan insurgents in 2009, Sgt. Bergdahl doesn’t yet want to talk to his family on the phone, the official said. Details of Sgt. Bergdahl’s captivity were earlier reported by the New York Times.” Some suspect Bergdahl will be kept away from his family and the public until he “memorizes the

talking points” given to him by the Obama administration. PatDollard.com speculates, “With perhaps impeachment at stake, Obama is not going to let Bergdahl admit he deserted and collaborated with the enemy to kill Americans. Obama is cutting some sort of deal with him, agreeing to not prosecute and/or convict him for desertion and treason (and perhaps agreeing to pay him cash covertly over time) in exchange for him agreeing to tell the story Obama wants him to tell. And until that deal is cut and that story is worked out in detail, Obama can’t afford for him to speak to anyone, including his parents, and perhaps say things that will contradict that yet-to-be-finalized story.” Columnist Charles Krauthammer asks, “The question I have is, ‘What’s going on in the [military] hospital in Germany? ... We are getting infinitely less information out of our own government about his actual health condition... than we are getting from the Taliban. ... If this goes on any longer, I think we’re going to have to imagine that perhaps there might be some witness tampering happening. At some point we’re going to have to look at this guy, have him speak to America, have a judgment as to how healthy he is or was, and explain exactly what were the circumstances of his leaving service.” (The more conspiracy-minded might wonder if a certain thug will have a certain deserter killed—a la Lee Harvey Oswald—to shut him up, and make it look like a Tea Party member did it.) [59935, 59968, 59971]

At Shoebat.com Ben Barrack writes, “The outrage over the exchange of five top level Taliban commanders for Bowe Bergdahl, a deserter at best and traitor who helped the Taliban murder his fellow soldiers at worst, is palpable. The role of CIA Director John Brennan in pushing for this deal could bolster the claims made by former FBI Agent John Guandolo last year that Brennan converted to Islam while a station chief in Saudi Arabia in the 1990’s, as relayed by Shoebat.com. According to the Daily Beast, Brennan—along with another interesting figure—have been pushing for the release of these five Taliban terrorist commanders since at least 2011: ‘For years, CIA Director John Brennan and White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough were part of a small group of Obama administration officials who believed that five relatively high-ranking Taliban commanders could be released under certain conditions with manageable risk of harm to American interests. For years, senior defense and intelligence officials disagreed—and were poised to block a potential trade for the Taliban five and American hostage Bowe Bergdahl.’ ... Also in 2011, Muslim Brotherhood agent and attorney Farhana Khera sent Brennan a letter imploring him to create a task force that would ‘purge’ the training materials used to educate law enforcement and homeland security officials. Materials deemed offensive to Muslim Brotherhood individuals and groups (America’s enemies) would be taken out. Not only did Brennan promptly respond to Khera but he granted her much of what she wanted.” [59940, 59941]

According to WallStCheatSheet.com, “A source close to Wall St. Cheat Sheet has confirmed that the Obama family have purchased property in the city of Asheville in North Carolina as a post-Presidency residence. A call to get an official confirmation from the White House wasn’t immediately returned.” WND.com asks, “Why is the first family buying a home in Asheville, North Carolina? Do they like the weather there more than Hawaii? Or could there be a post-presidency political motivation for the Obamas similar to the one that saw Bill and Hillary Clinton relocate to New York? At least one well-

placed source—and all kinds of scuttlebutt—suggest the latter. Residency in North Carolina is a prerequisite to the launch of Michelle Obama’s political career. Specifically, the smart money says, Michelle is likely to seek a Senate seat, the one currently held by Republican Richard Burr, who is retiring in 2016. Republicans believe Democrats will want to run a high-profile candidate to try to capture the open seat—and who could be higher than someone named Obama? ...The decision to pick the city is considered very telling by some GOP insiders, because it is one of the few liberal strongholds left in North Carolina.” (If the story is accurate, Obama may simply be purchasing a home in Asheville for vacations and golf, while maintaining their Chicago mansion as their main residence.) [60007, 60008]

In Las Vegas, Jerad Miller and his wife Amanda shoot and kill two police officers and a bystander before taking their own lives. (DailyCaller.com observes that “the media finally [got] the mass shooter it always wanted, because the Millers appear to have been supporters of Nevada Cliven Bundy and opponents of big government. In fact, the Bundys reportedly kicked the Millers off their property.”) [60050]

On June 9 the United States and Iran discuss a possible nuclear deal in Geneva, Switzerland. [59943]

Terrorists from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) destroy electrical transmission towers in Yemen, cutting power for the entire nation. FamilySecurityMatters.org notes, “Yemen, a nation of 24 million, is an important U.S. ally in the war on terrorism and has been the scene of some of the most significant episodes of that war. AQAP, based in Yemen, is notorious for its aggressive and ingenious terror operations against the United States. ...Why Yemen? Possibly because North Korea has provided to Yemen at least 15 Scud-B mobile missiles, capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, biological or high-explosive warheads weighing one ton to a range of 300 kilometers. Iran has demonstrated that Scud missiles can be ship-launched from a freighter. ...Yemen is yet another warning to protect the U.S. electric grid.” (The mainstream media essentially ignores the story.) [60798]

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin signs legislation establishing a minimum wage of \$10.50 per hour in the state. Strangely, Shumlin signs the legislation at a business that has no minimum wage workers. (The unemployment rate in Vermont is much lower than the national average. That is likely to change.) [60112, 60013]

At Spectator.org, Jed Babbin comments on Obama’s “whipped up” remark: “Obama made it clear that we need an American ambassador to the White House. Though [he] denies it, the [prisoner] swap will significantly damage our national security. [Obama] isn’t tone deaf: he just doesn’t give a damn what the military (who advised against the swap) or the American people think. In one action, he has materially strengthened the Taliban’s ability to attack America and retake Afghanistan. The president demonstrated his concern for the severe consequences that will follow his action by chewing gum at a D-Day remembrance. The trade of five top Taliban leaders for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl is a huge boon to the enemy. And not just the Taliban. Our enemies—including al Qaeda

(with which the Five are closely tied), as well as any terrorist network that can manage to kidnap an American—are celebrating. And why shouldn't they? Obama's swap, in the words of a Taliban commander, gives the group a legitimacy it never had before. ...If the Taliban can be regarded as a peer in negotiations with the United States, they have the standing of a legitimate nation-state. When they apply, we should expect Obama to help sponsor their membership in the United Nations. ...Obama sent his national security adviser, Susan Rice... out yet again to defend the administration's indefensible narrative that Bowe Bergdahl was a soldier who had served with distinction. ...If Susan Rice went on television to announce that the world was about to be destroyed by a massive meteor, I'd go out and buy long-term municipal bonds. The woman is either a pathological liar or extremely stupid. ...By swapping the Taliban brain trust for Bergdahl, Obama has enabled himself to justify further releases and trades. What's the harm in trading some low-ranking al Qaeda men for other kidnapped Americans, or returning them to nations that make some ephemeral promise to keep them under surveillance? Obama will do everything he can which, given Congress's self-imposed irrelevance, will be anything he wants to do to empty Gitmo of the rest, even though those who remain are the worst of the worst anti-American terrorists." [60266]

At FrontPageMag.com Faith H. J. McDonnell reports that "there is no evidence of any planned intervention by the Obama Administration for Meriam [Ibrahim] and her children." (Ibrahim, the Sudanese wife of a U.S. citizen, is in prison in Sudan with her children after being sentenced to death for being a Christian.) "And since Meriam's sentencing there has been no public statement in her defense coming from that direction. There have, however, been vigorous condemnations from British Prime Minister David Cameron, former U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan Mukesh Kapila, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and other international leaders." Ibrahim's husband, Daniel Wani, "a biochemist who has lived in Manchester, New Hampshire since 1998, revealed that while officials from the British and Canadian Embassies and from the European Union have all expressed sympathy and been 'incredibly helpful,' the officials at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum have been 'entirely unhelpful.' ...In addition to their unwillingness to help Daniel with the legal battle, the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum has refused to register Meriam and Daniel's children as U.S. citizens unless Daniel provides DNA evidence of paternity..." (Despite monumental evidence to the contrary, Americans are supposed to believe everything Obama tells them about his past is true, yet Wani cannot be trusted when he says his children are, in fact, his children. He has provided his marriage certificate and his children's birth certificates, which list him as the father.) [60094]

Democrat donor and trial attorney John Morgan calls for the resignation of Democrat National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL): "She should really step down as chairwoman of the DNC. I don't care if she disagrees with me, but she really can't be in that position [of opposing medical marijuana]. It would be like if she was opposed to the funding of Planned Parenthood. This issue is so central to the Democratic Party. [Democrat Senator] Bill Nelson, the most cautious politician in Florida, is in favor of the legalization of medical marijuana. It's going to be hard for her to be our leader. ...The new issues of the day for the Democratic Party are these: the right

to gay marriage and right to use medical marijuana. For her to take a counter position in either one of those in my mind disqualifies her from being chairwoman of the party.” Wasserman Schultz, a breast cancer survivor, has stated, “Other states have shown that lax oversight and ease of access to prescriptions can lead to abuse, fraud, and accidents. Also, given Florida’s recent history in combating the epidemic of ‘pill mills’ and dubious [its] distinction as having among the highest incidents of fraud, I do not believe we should make it easier for those seeking to abuse the drug to have easy access to it.” [60059, 60060, 60061]

At Townhall.com John Ransom writes, “So it comes to this: After all that has been said about Barack Obama, in the end there is very little to say. You are either willing to overlook Barack Obama’s foibles and foolishness; or you aren’t. We we’re [sic; were] right, you were wrong. You can either admit or you can’t. ...Going into his second term, you either knew what we had in Barack Obama or you didn’t. You knew we were right and you overlooked it, or you knew we were right and you didn’t. There is no middle ground. ... [W]hat a disappointment this man has been. There has been no level of discord to which he has not been willing to drive us. There have been no principles that he has not been willing to abandon. There has been no opportunity lost to use our country for personal, political ends. There has been no hesitation in manipulating, gaming, and otherwise using Washington, D.C. as a blood sport. The deception he perpetrated on the American people is rivaled only by the deception he perpetrated on his party. And if the stakes weren’t so grave for the country, I would laugh. Someone is going to have to clean up this mess. One day the Democrats are going to have to regain the trust of all Americans. They are the party of the Chosen One; they will not get a free pass on spying, or the Boston bombing, or Benghazi, or Eric Holder, the VA, Obamacare, Fast and Furious, the carbon tax, Bowe Bergdahl or scandals yet to be discovered. And this isn’t socialist Europe. We all expect to rise. And when we don’t rise, we’re going to blame someone.” [59946]

At TheBlaze.com Sharona Schwartz writes, “The former spokesman for the Hamas government in Gaza said that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ statements to the West are designed ‘to trick the Americans’ and that his sympathies are more in line with the Hamas view opposing Israel’s right to exist. Ihab al-Ghusein wrote on Facebook Sunday that Abbas in private meetings told Hamas officials that he has crafted his public statements recognizing Israel’s right to exist to dupe the U.S., according to a translation. Within hours of its formation last week, the Obama administration announced it would work with the new Palestinian unity government backed by Hamas and the Abbas-headed Fatah party. While Abbas has publicly insisted the government recognizes Israel’s right to exist, Hamas has stated it remains committed to the armed struggle against Israel and would continue to try to kidnap Israeli soldiers. Palestinian Media Watch, a research organization that tracks incitement in the official Palestinian media, provided the translation of the former spokesman’s Facebook post: ‘You know what Mahmoud Abbas says behind closed doors?? He says: ‘Guys, let me [continue] saying what I say to the media. Those words are meant for the Americans and the occupation (i.e., Israel), not for you [Hamas]. What’s important is what we agree on among ourselves.’ ‘In other words, when I go out [publicly] and say that the government is my [Abbas] government and it



recognizes 'Israel' and so on, fine—these words are meant to trick the Americans,' al-Ghusein posted, according to the translation. 'The problem really isn't with him [Abbas], the problem is with whoever believes him. Ha, Ha, Ha!'" (It is difficult to believe that Obama is being fooled. He likely knows full well that the Palestinian negotiators are lying—and does not care. Obama simply wants an "historic agreement" and to be considered a hero for achieving it—regardless of the consequences for Israel.) [59952, 60091]

FoxNews.com reports, "The White House allowed the parents of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl to take part in a series of secure video conferences with State Department and intelligence officials and senior military commanders, according to a published report. The Washington Times reports that Bob and Jani Bergdahl were allowed to join the conferences remotely from the Idaho National Guard headquarters in Boise soon after their son was captured by the Taliban in June 2009. A spokesman for the Idaho National Guard told the paper that the Bergdahls participated in up to 20 video conferences per year. ...Larry Johnson, a former State Department official who worked on the cases of American citizens taken hostage in Lebanon during the 1980s, told the Times that granting such access to the family of a missing person was 'wrong.' 'The Bergdahls shouldn't have been part of that for no other reason than on the off chance they may inadvertently divulge some tactic,' Johnson told the paper. 'I mean, it's one thing for government officials to interview the family, get insights from the family about what's going on. But to put them in the middle of what is essentially a classified secure video conference is ridiculous.'" (The administration not only allowed the Bergdahls to sit in on the video conferences, it did so knowing that Bob Bergdahl had Twitter exchanges with the leftist group Code Pink, has reportedly been in contact with members of al-Qaeda, such as Anissa bint Yusuf Zaid Ibn Youssef, and sent a Twitter message to Taliban spokesman Abdulqahar Balkhi stating, "I am still working to free all Guantanamo prisoners. God will repay for the death of every Afghan child, ameen!") [59402, 59403, 59404, 59417, 59435, 59444, 59523, 59706, 59707, 59937, 59958, 59973]

DailyCaller.com writes, "If there is one thing that Hillary Clinton owes Barack Obama a 'thank you' for, it is his decision to appoint John Kerry as her successor as secretary of state—if only because the decision allowed her to avoid the indignity of being known as the worst secretary of state of the Obama administration. Not that that's saying very much. Hillary's accomplishments as America's top diplomat have so far eluded the most meticulous investigators. Judging from what her defenders most often say, it seems her most celebrated feat is traveling a million miles. But history does not rank secretaries of state by the number of air miles they accrued." [59960]

In an interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer to push her book, *Hard Choices*, Hillary Clinton says she and her husband "came out of the White House not only dead broke, but in debt. We had no money when we got there, and we struggled to, you know, piece together the resources for mortgages, for houses, for Chelsea's education. You know, it was not easy. ...Bill has worked really hard—and it's been amazing to me—he's worked very hard. First of all, we had to pay off all our debts, which was, you know, he had to make double the money because of obviously taxes and then pay off the debts and get us

houses and take care of family members.” (Whether Hillary Clinton considered investing in cattle futures again to earn a quick buck is not known. But she certainly was not “broke” when she left the White House. Her story is no more believable than her phony claim that she had to run to escape sniper fire in Bosnia in 1996, or that she was named after Mount Everest climber Edmund Hillary—who did not become famous until 1953, more than five years after she was born. Most Americans will find it impossible to sympathize with her “struggle” to buy “houses”—rather than “a house.” Her “Hard Choice” appears to have been whether to buy a mansion in New York so she could run for the U.S. Senate, or a house in Washington, D.C., or both. She resolved the dilemma by buying both—with cash down payments of \$350,000 and \$855,000.) 59961, 59962, 59983, 60004, 60009, 60011, 60066, 60109, 60128, 60186, 60191, 60262, 60276, 60903]

According to DailyCaller.com, “Between the two, the Clintons have an estimated fortune of between \$100 million and \$200 million. ...The Clintons were reportedly \$12 million in debt following their two terms in the White House, largely due to legal fees from the Monica Lewinsky and Whitewater investigations. But that debt was paid in full by 2004, and the couple had banked millions, according to Hillary Clinton’s tax disclosures at the time. According to tax returns the couple filed while in the White House, their income came almost entirely from Bill Clinton’s presidential salary. Their income spiked in 1996 with the publication of then-first lady Clinton’s memoir, ‘It Takes A Village.’ The Clinton’s reported \$1,065,101 that year, with just over \$740,000 of that came from royalties on the book. Clinton reportedly received an advance between \$12 and \$14 million for her latest venture.” [59961, 59962, 59983, 60004, 60009, 60011]

According to former Bill Clinton advisor Dick Morris, “Her joint tax return with Bill for 2001 showed a \$16,165,110 income for her first year out of the White House. Even before they left the White House, their joint income for 2000 was \$359,000, scarcely in the ‘dead broke’ category, particularly when you consider that the Clintons had none of the normal expenses that the rest of us do, such as housing, cars, child care, insurance, electricity, landscaping, healthcare — all covered by the taxpayers. All they had to pay for was dry cleaning, food and college tuition for Chelsea. Most people could make that work. Hillary signed a book contract with an \$8 million advance in the closing weeks of Bill’s presidency and Bill inked a \$15 million deal at about the same time. She got more than \$2 million of this in 2001. Is that dead broke?” (If she runs for president, Hillary Clinton will have a *very* difficult time talking about “income inequality” on the campaign trail.” The royalties she will receive from the publisher advance and book royalties will far exceed what most Americans earn in a lifetime.) [59961, 59962, 59983, 60004, 60009, 60011]

Sawyer asks Hillary Clinton, “Is there anything you personally should have been doing to make it safer in Benghazi?” Clinton haughtily replies, “I’m not equipped to sit and look at blueprints, to determine where the blast walls need to be or where the reinforcements need to be. That’s why we hire people who have that expertise. What I did was give very direct instructions [to] the people who have the expertise and experience in security. That is personal.” (Clinton does not provide details of those supposed instructions, and Sawyer does not bother to ask.) Clinton suggests it was Ambassador Christopher Stevens’ own

fault he died, saying he was as at the embassy “of his own choosing. ...I take responsibility, but I was not making security decisions.” (In other words, “I may be responsible, but nothing was my fault. I will *say* I am responsible, but I don’t actually want to be *held* responsible or accountable.”) When Sawyer brings up the subject of Clinton’s age, she points out the irrelevant fact that she is younger than Sawyer. (Clinton was born in 1947; Sawyer was born in 1945. Whether Clinton did herself any favors with that contrast remains to be seen.) Asked about the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Clinton says, “I am not going to comment on what I did or did not say in the late ‘90s.” (Whether she will be able to get away with a 2016 presidential campaign refusing to comment on an entire decade remains to be seen.) [59994, 59995, 60064, 60078, 60103]

On the issue of her health, Clinton tells Sawyer she was given blood thinners because of her 2012 illness/injury and will “probably” need to continue them for life. “But I don’t mind because I don’t ever want to go through that again.” (According to Cardio.com, “In order to monitor the levels of blood thinner in your body, a blood test must be taken monthly (perhaps more often if deemed necessary by your health care professional). Diet and other medications can also affect these levels, so they must also be closely monitored.” The need to take blood thinners for the rest of one’s life may suggest atrial fibrillation or a history of strokes.) [60036, 60037, 60038, 60039]

At TheBlackSphere.com Kevin Jackson writes, “It was a good run, but Hillary’s run for president is all but over. You just have to learn how to read the tea leaves. ...My first clue, after Karl Rove put Hillary on ‘front street,’ was when Bill Clinton did all he could to let us know that Hillary is as healthy as a horse. If that’s true, I’d like Bill Clinton to name a healthy horse taking blood thinners. Hillary Clinton said she now has to take blood thinners after doctors found a blood clot between her brain and skull in 2012 following a concussion. ...Keep in mind that all this began... after Clinton fainted from what she said was a stomach virus. The faint led to her hitting her head, which of course caused the concussion. Clinton wants us to believe that [it] was the blood clots (and subsequent treatment) that left her unable to fulfill all of her goals as Secretary of State, the job she left the job in 2013. ...So let me get this straight. Clinton left the job of Secretary of State, because she couldn’t fulfill the task due to her condition. She now wants to be president, though she suffers from the same condition. ...By the time the election rolls around, Hillary Clinton will be old news. Her health will be worse, and America will be right to question her competency. She has accomplished nothing when her brain was supposedly working fine, so what can we expect from her certified defective one?” [60084]

At FrontPageMag.com Daniel Greenfield points out, “Right out of the White House, the Clintons bought a \$1.6 million Dutch colonial mansion in Westchester [New York] for \$1.7 million and a \$2.85 [million] ...colonial mansion on Embassy Row in Washington. Interestingly enough that home had been listed at \$3.5 million, but the Clintons always have a way of getting a ‘good deal.’ It had five bedrooms and 7.5 bathrooms. (The New York [house] only had four bathrooms.) Just the sort of thing working people pick up on the side so that Hillary would have a place in D.C. to write her memoirs. (Her other memoirs, which she also didn’t write.) Bill and Hillary made a down payment of

\$855,000 [on the D.C. home]. Just like broke people do. They made a down payment of \$350,000 on their [New York] home. The Clintons did leave the White House with huge debts, but they also had large sources of wealth including a blind trust that was making all sorts of interesting investments.” [59998]

Obama tries to rekindle the political support of young Americans with a bribe: he announces an executive order that limits monthly student loan payments to 10 percent of the individual’s monthly income and forgives any remaining loan balance after 20 years. He also expresses support for legislation to raise taxes to pay for reduced interest rates on student loans. Making it obvious that his goal is mostly encouraging young people to vote in November, Obama says, “I don’t know, by the way, why folks aren’t more outraged by this. It would be scandalous if we allowed those kinds of tax loopholes for the very, very fortunate to survive while students are just getting started with their lives. I want Americans to pay attention to see where their lawmakers’ priorities lie here. You’ve got a group of far-right Republicans in congress who push this trickle-down economic plan, telling hard working students and families you’re on your own. If you’re a big oil company, they’ll go to bat for you. If you’re a student, good luck. Some of these Republicans in Congress seem to believe that it’s just because—that just because some of the young people behind me need some help, that they’re not trying hard enough. They don’t get it.” (Obama apparently does not understand the concept of a student loan being paid back by the *student borrower*, rather than faceless taxpayers who were nowhere near when the loan agreement was signed. Whether Obama will soon propose that taxpayers pay off someone else’s car loans is not known.) Secretary of Education Arne Duncan later admits to reporters that the cost of Obama’s executive order is not even known: “We actually don’t know the cost yet. Obviously we have to go through this regulatory process, so we’ll figure that out the back end. But we think this is something that will be fantastic for the economy. ... We’ll work through the details as we go through the regulatory process.” [59965, 59980, 59991, 60001, 60006, 60034, 60185]

While promoting student loan changes, Obama repeats the story that he and his wife were still paying off their own student loans when he entered the U.S. Senate. Even during his 2008 campaign, Michelle Obama claimed he had “just paid off his loan debt.” But, as previously noted in this *Timeline*, those claims are not consistent with a review of Obama’s financial disclosure statements, which go back to 2000 and which did not list *any* outstanding college loans. As a candidate for the U.S. Senate Obama was required, in 2004, to file a financial disclosure form detailing his assets, income, consulting contracts, and liabilities. Obama listed *zero* for liabilities in 2004 and in all subsequent U.S. Senate financial disclosure forms. If Obama’s school loans had been paid off much earlier, then his wife’s statement that he “had just paid off his loan debt” was a lie—a pandering lie intended, no doubt, to make the Obamas appear to be “just another struggling middle class family.” If the loans had in fact just been paid off, then candidate Obama lied on his financial disclosure forms. [211, 60081]

DailyCaller.com notes, “Right now, only borrowers who began taking out student loans after October 2007 and who were still borrowing in October 2011 can take advantage of this program. A law passed by Congress would have broadened income-based repayment

plans in about a month, anyway. ...Obama will also throw his support and limited influence in Congress behind a plan proposed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) that would allow student loan borrowers to refinance higher-interest-rate student loans with new, lower-rate loans... Warren hopes to finance her scheme by forcing millionaires to pay higher taxes. ...Republicans have already blasted the Warren proposal. ‘This bill doesn’t make college more affordable, reduce the amount of money students will have to borrow, or do anything about the lack of jobs grads face in the Obama economy,’ said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), according to ABC.” [59965, 59980, 59991, 60001, 60006]

At PJMedia.com Rick Moran writes, “[Obama] and the Democrats are acting as if college kids who took out huge loans are victims. No doubt millennials love to hear that. Anything is better than admitting to yourself that you’re an idiot to get yourself into a situation where you can’t pay back what you owe. The way to protect yourself from crushing debt is not to take on more debt than you can reasonably expect to pay back. This is what the grown-ups do—or some of us, anyway. How many student loan scofflaws actually had a good notion of what their salary would be the first few years after they graduated before they took out a loan? Apparently, not enough. Certainly the lack of good-paying jobs is part of the problem. But it would help matters greatly if more students who wanted to go to college figured out a way to pay for it without taking on massive amounts of debt. Is there a law that says you have to start college at age 18? Why not work for three or four years, start a little later, and take on less debt? This was not an uncommon option before government got into the student loan business.” [59991]

Ed Morrissey writes at HotAir.com, “Let’s return to 2011, the last time that the White House formally consulted with Congress on a proposed deal to swap five high-ranking Taliban officials in Gitmo for Bowe Bergdahl. That proposal linked the release to an agreement on the part of the Taliban to stop fighting the elected government in Kabul and integrate themselves politically into the new Afghanistan political environment, as well as much more restrictive conditions on the detainees and a staged release rather than having them all leave American custody at once. The idea was to pre-empt any return to the battlefield by at least giving the Afghan government some space to get the Taliban to act politically rather than through warfare. Three years later, Barack Obama released them without any conditions from the Taliban. Now the two chairs of the Congressional intelligence committees, the Afghans themselves, and even the New York Times would like to know *why*. ...One former official told the NYT that this is only the way the war ends for the US while bugging out, not for Afghanistan—which can now expect an even tougher road to peace with these five former commanders in the field. They also questioned why the US did not send them to Kabul to live in a detention facility run by the government and funded by the CIA for just that purpose.” [59984]

On CNN, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf insists there are safeguards to insure that the five “gentlemen” do not go back to the battlefield. (By “gentlemen” she means the five terrorist thus released by Obama.)

White House officials brief House members on the prisoner exchange. After the meeting, Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) says the administration “was trying to explain away a bad deal.” Kinzinger says Obama is “essentially declaring the war on terror over”—even though it is not.

After the briefing, Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA) tells reporters, “They indicated [it was] Secretary [of Defense Chuck] Hagel [who made the final call to release the terrorists, rather than Obama]. It was [Obama] that [sic; who] came out with the Bergdahls and took all the credit and now that there’s been a little pushback he’s moving away from it and it’s Secretary Hagel?” On June 1 Hagel said on *Meet the Press*, “I signed off on the decision, [but Obama] made the ultimate decision.” (In the space of a few days, Obama shamelessly moved from “I make no apologies” to “Chuck Hagel did it.”) DailyCaller.com comments, “Yep. Obama didn’t know any of this stuff until he saw it on the news. Because he’s so competent. Did Hagel know he was being set up as the patsy? I wonder how he feels about that? He’s the perfect fall guy: white, male and Republican. Now he’s going to pay for the incompetence and dishonesty of his boss, and he can’t hide behind accusations of racism, sexism or any other -ism. Have fun in the barrel, Chuck.”) [60040, 60041, 60042, 60043, 60044, 60045, 60056, 60058, 60062, 60063, 60069]

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R-MN) says, “They made it clear that there were 80 to 90 people [in the Obama administration] who knew ahead of time about the [Bowe] Bergdahl release. There was a sense of anger that members of Congress didn’t know about this. Obviously, if there is secure information—members of Congress knew [for example] about the capture of Osama bin Laden—and yet 80 to 90 staff in the White House knew about this.” McKeon adds, “My question to them was, if you don’t know who [in the administration] knew, then how could you—if a leak had happened and the sergeant had been killed—how could you go back and find out who leaked?” Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) says, “It strikes me as unfortunate that they could have 80 to 90 people in the administration aware of what was happening and not be able to trust a single Republican or Democrat in the House or the Senate.” Congressman Mike Pompeo (R-KS) says, “They couldn’t brief a single member of Congress because they didn’t trust us, yet the Qataris knew about it. It’s phenomenal.” Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) says, “They’re trying to put lipstick on a pig. We heard nothing except continued excuses about why they didn’t come to Congress.” Congressman Peter King (R-IL) states, “If anything, I have more concerns. Probably the most distressing thing or the most disturbing thing I heard was at least 80 to 90 people in the administration were aware of this proposed deal, and yet they couldn’t notify anyone in Congress.” [60040, 60041, 60042, 60043, 60044, 60045, 60056, 60058, 60062, 60063, 60069]

Socialist Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) defends Obama, saying, “I am so grateful to this administration for following through on what we all believed that we leave no soldier behind. I am completely mystified and quite frankly disgusted that... there has been a demonization of the soldier. Every American deserves to be considered innocent until proven guilty.” (This would be the same Jan Schakowsky who, just weeks after the shooting of Trayvon Martin but more than one year before George Zimmerman

was found not guilty of murder, cared little about the concept of “innocent until proven guilty” when she told MSNBC’s Ed Schultz that Zimmerman had committed “a modern day lynching.” Schakowsky is married to Robert Creamer, a convicted felon who served time in federal prison for financial crimes and who nevertheless has been a frequent White House guest—possibly because he authored a book on how to implement a fully socialized health care system in the United States.) Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), a combat veteran, says, “Now look, if it comes out... somebody snuck into base and abducted him [Bergdahl], that’s one thing, but I think every indication that we’re getting is that he walked off his base. When you leave your country behind, the assurance of your country will never leave you behind is null and void. That’s what I learned in survival training, that this is kind of a two-way street.” [5592, 6563, 6564, 6565, 6574, 6586, 6688, 6925, 6926, 7014, 26877, 50885, 51942, 51944, 60040, 60041, 60042, 60043, 60044, 60045, 60056, 60058, 60062, 60063, 60069, 60095]

Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA) tells CNN’s Ashleigh Banfield, “It didn’t sit very well with those of us who were sitting at the briefing. Look, I think [Obama] had the constitutional authority under Article Two [of the U. S. Constitution] to make this [prisoner exchange] decision without consulting with Congress, but I think it would have been wiser, far wiser, for the administration to have notified, certainly, the leadership of Congress in the interest of having good relations and comity with a co-equal branch of government, so they should have done it. It was a mistake that they didn’t, and the fact that there were so many people within the know in the administration doesn’t help their case. One other fact I’ll raise is that most of the leaks that have taken place have come from the administration and not from Congress, so they really should have brought at least the leadership within their confidence, and I think that was a mistake.” [60072]

NationalJournal.com’s Ron Fournier writes of the increasing number of Democrats in Congress who are giving up on Obama—even if they will admit to that only in private: “The email hit my in-box at 9:41 p.m. last Wednesday [June 4]. From one of the most powerful Democrats in Washington, a close adviser to the White House, the missive amounted to an electronic eye roll. ‘Even I have had enough.’ Another Democrat had quit on ...Obama. The tipping point for this person was the Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl case—not the soldier-for-Taliban swap itself as much as how the White House mishandled its obligation to communicate effectively and honestly to Congress and the public. More than that, Obama’s team had failed once again to acknowledge its mistakes, preferring to cast blame and seek cover behind talking points. ...In the 18 months since I began writing columns focused on the [White House], virtually every post critical of Obama has originated from conversations with Democrats. Members of Congress, consultants, pollsters, lobbyists, and executives at think tanks, these Democrats are my Obama-whispers. They respect and admire Obama but believe that his [administration] has been damaged by his shortcomings as a leader; his inattention to details of governing; his disengagement from the political process and from the public; his unwillingness to learn on the job; and his failure to surround himself with top-shelf advisers who are willing to challenge their boss as well as their own preconceived notions. ‘Dem Party is F\*\*\*\*d,’ wrote a Democratic consultant with strong ties to the White House and Capitol Hill during the botched rollout of the Affordable Care Act website. A Democratic House

member whose endorsement in 2008 helped lift the Obama candidacy told me in January, 'He's bored and tired of being [in the White House], and our party is paying the price.' 'Talented guy but no leader,' said a Democratic lobbyist and former member of Congress in March." [59993]

TheHill.com reports, "The White House on Monday came under increased pressure to launch a criminal probe of the Veterans Affairs Department after an audit found more than 100,000 veterans were kept waiting for medical care. The audit uncovered evidence of widespread tampering of documents at Veterans Affairs (VA) clinics, with schedulers receiving direction from their superiors to use 'unofficial lists' to make the waiting times for appointments 'appear more favorable.' The audit found more than 57,000 veterans waited at least 90 days to see a doctor, and an additional 63,000 people over the past decade never received an initial appointment at all. Republican leaders in Congress called the findings a 'national disgrace' as members of both parties demanded the Justice Department prosecute the officials responsible. ...The Senate is likely to vote this week on a compromise bill from [Senator John] McCain [R-AZ] and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) that would allow veterans experiencing long wait times to seek private medical care. The bill would allow for immediate firings of VA employees and expedite the hiring of medical staff." [59997, 60021]

D. W. Ulsterman reports, "What has long been speculated, now appears confirmed. Weapons given three years earlier by the Obama administration to rebel forces in Libya have found their way into the hands of the Taliban and are being used to attack American military. And guess what country made the delivery of those weapons? None other than Qatar, the same nation that helped broker the 5 for 1 prisoner exchange with the Obama White House. I have long been convinced that what happened before, during, and after the Benghazi Massacre of 2012 went far beyond the killing of a U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. ...A just published report from the New York Post confirms what I and so many others have long held—that Benghazi was a weapons to terrorists cover-up, similar to what took place with the Fast and Furious scandal that plagued the Obama administration years earlier. With Benghazi though, these weapons were delivered to forces that had long declared war on the United States, meaning the Obama administration engaged in TREASON by knowingly arming the enemies of America. It now seems quite possible that the entire 5 for 1 Taliban exchange is merely part of a massive weapons to terrorists cover up initiated by the Obama administration. ...Qatar has been delivering American weapons via Benghazi to the Taliban. Those weapons have in turn been used to attack U.S. military in Afghanistan. Remember, the Obama administration has not gone after a single figure responsible for the Benghazi Massacre. NOT ONE. And now we find out that weapons the administration sent to Benghazi were obtained by Qatar." [59999, 60000]

TPNN.com posts a video from May 2013 showing Obama casually walking toward and entering the Marine One helicopter, totally ignoring the U.S. Marine saluting him at the bottom of the steps. After entering the helicopter, Obama turns around, goes back down the stairs, says something to the Marine and shakes his hand. (Although the assumption is



that he apologized to the Marine for his oversight, he still did not return his salute.) [60010]

Obama's Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, criticizes Oklahoma for passing legislation rejecting the federal "Common Core" education standards. Duncan (who has blamed "white suburban moms" for opposition to the program) says, "We got [sic; we have] a dropout problem we gotta [sic; have to] deal with. We want to make sure our high school graduates aren't having to take remedial classes, burn up Pell grants, [and] burn up student loans [by] taking non-credit bearing [sic]. And right now, roughly 40 percent of those graduates in Oklahoma are having to do that. We don't think that's good for those young people, their families, or for the country. ... We partner with states whether they're in Common Core or have their own high standards. But where we will challenge [the] status quo is when states dummy down standards." (Duncan should perhaps be taking a few remedial language classes, rather than criticizing Oklahoma students for needing them.) [60049, 60221]

Examiner.com's Jim Kouri reports, "After the U.S. Justice Department in June turned over an IRS database to the House Oversight Committee in their response to a subpoena issued by the committee's chairman, [Congressman] Darrell Issa [R-CA], the Justice Department now says it was informed by Internal Revenue Service officials that the database contains confidential, legally protected information on taxpayers that shouldn't have been submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the first place, according to Judicial Watch. 'At the very least, this information suggests that the IRS considered the political speech activities of non-profits to be worthy of investigation by federal law-enforcement officials,' ... Issa stated in his letter [to] the IRS chief. ... The letter demands additional information after the committee discovered that the IRS sent database disks containing 1.1 million pages of information from 501(c)(4) tax exempt organization in October 2010 to the FBI, just prior to the mid-term elections. 'We were extremely troubled by this new information, and by the fact that the IRS has withheld it from the Committee for over a year,' wrote Issa and Jordan to IRS Commissioner [John] Koskinen." [60012, 60015, 60022, 60161]

"We were astonished to learn days ago from the Justice Department that these 21 disks contained confidential taxpayer information protected by federal law. We ask that you immediately produce all material explaining how these disks were prepared and transmitted to the FBI.' According to Issa and [Congressman Jim] Jordan [R-OH], in an e-mail dated Oct. 5, 2010, former IRS Director of Exempt Organizations Lois 'Fifth Amendment' Lerner contacted an official with the Justice Department's Election Crimes Branch named Richard Pilger, about his formatting preference for 'the disks we spoke about.' Pilger forwarded Lerner's e-mail to an FBI agent, writing, 'This is incoming data re 501c4 issues. Does FBI have a format preference?' He then responded to Lerner, 'Thanks Lois—FBI says Raw format is best because they can put it into their systems like excel.'" Lerner illegally provided the FBI with confidential information related to conservative organizations that had applied for tax-exempt status. The Issa/Jordan letter also states, "The IRS apparently considered political speech by nonprofit groups to be so troublesome that it illegally assisted federal law-enforcement officials in assembling a

massive database of the lawful political speech of thousands of American citizens, weeks before the 2010 midterm elections, using confidential taxpayer information.” Issa and Jordan also renew their call for a special prosecutor to investigate the scandal—a request that Attorney General Eric Holder will ignore. [60012, 60015, 60022, 60161]

Holder should be reminded that the U.S Constitution grants Congress the power to impeach not only the president; it can also impeach “the vice president and all civil officers of the United States.” That includes cabinet officers like Holder. Holder may be “safe” while the Democrats control the Senate (even if the House impeached Holder the Senate would not convict him), but that may change after the November 4 elections. (*The Obama Timeline* believes that if the Republicans win control of the Senate, Holder will resign—to avoid the embarrassment of impeachment.) [60023, 60024]

Attorney Cleta Mitchell tells WND.com, “This is absolutely shocking and appalling,” high-powered Washington attorney Cleta Mitchell told WND. That the IRS was seeking to assist in criminally prosecuting citizens groups for exercising their free speech rights is beyond horrifying. This is America—not 1930’s Germany or 1950’s Soviet Russia.” Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX says, “This is yet more evidence of criminal activity by the Obama administration. It’s also proof ‘campaign finance reform’ is just a way for government to target citizens who express dissenting views.” Catherine Engelbrecht, who was harassed by the IRS, ATF, OSHA, and even Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) after she filed for tax-exempt status for the organizations True the Vote and King Street Patriots, states, “The discovery that Lois Lerner provided the Elections Crimes Branch of the FBI with 1.1 million pages of documents is shocking, but the fact that the IRS and FBI have withheld this smoking gun evidence for over a year demonstrates this Administration’s continued contempt for Congress, and the law. ...Lois Lerner obviously hoped this information would encourage the FBI to prosecute conservative groups on the Administration’s enemies list.” Jenny Beth Martin, president and co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, tells WND.com, “This is further evidence of how the Obama administration sought to criminalize free-speech as early as 2010. The more we learn about this IRS targeting of individuals and groups, the more we see it is rotten to the core.” Congressman James Lankford (R-OK) states, “Records associated with tax collection are to be kept secure and should never be used for political purposes. Now, it’s clear right before the 2010 election the IRS transferred documents outside their jurisdiction for purposes unrelated to tax collection. We cannot allow this administration to overstep the law or put the private information of the American people at risk for political purposes.” [60015, 60505]

WND.com’s Bob Unruh reports that in June 2013 Bob Bergdahl spoke at a rally in Ketchum, Idaho, saying, “Bowe, my son. Zmazoy, if you can hear me on BBC Radio. You are part of the peace process. You are part of ending the Afghan war, like we have known for some time. Have faith. Do good works. Continue to tell the truth. But above all, Sabr. Have the patience that can only come from God. We are being tested and God tests those who he knows can persevere.” Unruh notes, “Sabr is one of the two main components of Islamic faith. It is the Islamic virtue of ‘patience’ or ‘endurance.’ According to the Hadith, which guides Islamic law, the virtue of faith is composed of

four pillars: Patience, or Sabr; Conviction; Justice; and struggle or jihad. The reference to jihad as an Islamic pillar is commonly interpreted as an internal struggle but at times is meant as the fight to spread Islam, including by the sword. The term 'Sabr' itself has multiple uses and meanings in the Quran and Islamic tradition. The word is mentioned 90 times in the Quran, sometimes in reference to patience during jihad. 'And know that victory comes with patience,' reads one verse related to jihad. Another verse says victory in jihad comes to those who are patient. ...Yet another use of Sabr in jihad involves the instruction for where to station army units." (The word or name "Zmazoy" is not explained in the article.) [60014, 60016]

Retired U.S. Army General William "Jerry" Boykin tells WND.com that Bowe Bergdahl is a deserter who should be imprisoned and that Obama is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors for trading Bergdahl for five terrorist leaders. "All this talk about not leaving someone behind or about whether Bergdahl was tortured in captivity is nonsense once a soldier goes over to the enemy," states Boykin. "If Bergdahl went over to the Taliban, he may just have been told it was his job to return to the United States, claiming he had been abused, because the Taliban knew the Obama administration would release five top Taliban enemy combatant terrorists from Guantanamo if Bergdahl were willing to do as instructed by participating willingly in the prisoner swap." Boykin notes the case of Robert Garwood, who WND.com's Jerome Corsi writes is "a former U.S. Marine who was the only Vietnam POW to face court-martial. ...In March 1979, Garwood emerged from 14 years of captivity in Vietnam, only to be convicted by a U.S. Marine Corp court-martial of desertion, collaborating with the enemy and assault of a fellow prisoner. He received a dishonorable discharge and was stripped of back pay in a case the Supreme Court refused to hear. Garwood fought the court-martial to no avail, claiming his North Vietnamese captors had tortured him. He said he was exhibited in a bamboo cage and subjected to abuse while he was injured, malnourished and exposed virtually naked to severe weather conditions. Garwood claimed he 'went native,' deciding to collaborate with the North Vietnamese as a survival strategy. He said he expected to be treated as a hero when he finally managed to escape his captors. ...Instead, the Marine Corps pressed formal charges, forcing Garwood to face court-martial for desertion, sedition, being AWOL from September 1965 to March 1979—the 14 years he claimed he was a POW in Vietnamese prison camps – as well as allegations he beat a fellow American POW while in captivity. Throughout Garwood's court-martial, defense lawyers argued without success that he was innocent because he was driven insane by Viet Cong torture." [60017]

At DCClothesline.com Walid Shoebat writes, "The Benghazi attacks and subsequent coverup could have been prevented. The Obama administration, to include everyone who sided with him, are responsible for not heeding the words of five U.S. Congressmen who sent five separate letters to various agencies and departments exactly 90 days earlier. ...On June 13th 2012, five congressmen sent some very serious warning letters regarding Muslim Brotherhood infiltration, one of which was sent to the Deputy Inspector General (IG) of the State Department, led by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The letters caused so much controversy that nothing was done about them. The congressmen contacted and consulted with Walid Shoebat to etch some details regarding such Muslim

Brotherhood infiltration. ...One of those Congressmen who sent the letters is Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA) who sits on the newly formed House Select Committee on Benghazi..." The letters stated, in part, "The State Department and, in several cases, the specific direction of the Secretary of State, have taken actions recently that have been enormously favorable to the Muslim Brotherhood and its interests. ...We believe these actions and policies are deeply problematic. They may even pose security risks for this nation, its people and interests." [60047]

At DailyCaller.com "a senior Department of Defense official with a background in U.S. special operations and combat experience in Iraq and Afghanistan" lists "The Top 8 White House Bergdahl lies." "Lie #1: Bergdahl was very sick... Lie #2: The Taliban threatened to kill Bergdahl... Lie #3: The administration informed Congress about the swap... Lie #4: The U.S. didn't negotiate with terrorists... Lie #5: Bergdahl served with honor and distinction... Lie #6: The release of the terrorists poses little to no risk to the U.S.... Lie #7: The five terrorists released from Guantanamo Bay will be under U.S. monitoring... Lie #8: This was the "last, best chance" to bring Bergdahl home..." [60048]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest ridicules Republicans who claim that Obama's "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" program encourages immigrant youths to enter the United States illegally, telling reporters, "I wouldn't put a lot of stock in the ability of Republican members of Congress to divine the thoughts and insights of children in Central American countries." [60403]

According to a Fox News survey, "Fifty-five percent of voters wish Obamacare was never passed by Congress and that the 2009 health-care system was still in place. Independents feel strongly about the law, with 58 percent of independent voters wishing it hadn't made it through Congress. Unsurprisingly, 85 percent of Republicans regret that Obamacare became law, while just 25 percent of Democrats do." [60053]

At CNN.com Jake Tapper points out a Benghazi security-related error made by Hillary Clinton in her book, *Hard Choices*. Tapper writes, "Noting how many members of the public and Congress were surprised upon discovering 'there were no U.S. Marines assigned to our Benghazi compound,' Clinton notes that Marines are assigned to only slightly more than 50% of the diplomatic posts throughout the globe, focused primarily on protecting, and if need be destroying classified items. 'So while there were Marines stationed at our embassy in Tripoli, where nearly all of our diplomats worked and which had the capability to process classified material, because there was no classified processing at the diplomatic compound in Benghazi, there were no Marines posted there,' Clinton writes. It's accurate that there were no Marines at the U.S. compounds in Benghazi—Clinton doesn't go into it, but one of those compounds was a CIA compound with its own force protection. But, as Gen. Carter Ham, the former commander of Africa Command, testified before Congress on June 26, 2013, 'there was no Marine security detachment in Tripoli.'" (Marines were, however, assigned to Tripoli *after* the Benghazi attack. Clinton's claim that there were no classified documents in Benghazi may strike some as unbelievable.) [60067]

At WeeklyStandard.com Stephen Hayes writes, “Sources with knowledge of the transfer tell THE WEEKLY STANDARD [TWS] that prisoners at Guantanamo understood in the days before the transfer that something significant was imminent and may well have known who was being transferred. The security profile at Guantanamo had been raised, these sources say, and the daily routines of several prisoners had been broken up. Ramzi Kassem, a law professor at the City University of New York who has represented detainees, told the Associated Press that the coming transfer was hardly a secret among the prison population. Kassem told the AP that the guards explained the heightened security as cautionary measures taken in advance of a coming hurricane. ‘The prisoners saw right through that and knew something big was up,’ Kassem said. ‘Within a day or two of the event, everyone knew.’ The five Taliban members spent most of their time in recent years held at Camp 6, a relatively low-restriction facility where detainees are free to interact with one another. Each prisoner to be transferred typically goes through a series of pre-release procedures, including a physical examination. One source tells TWS that there is virtually no chance the five Taliban commanders didn’t understand what was coming, particularly because they would have all been subject to that pre-release processing. The detainees, who have access to a wide variety of media, had been able to follow the public reporting about a potential prisoner swap over the past five years, as some details of the potential swap were reported in the popular press. ...The *Gulf Times*, a newspaper headquartered in Doha, Qatar, reported that Qatari government officials had been at Guantanamo for three days prior to the transfer in order to escort the prisoners to Qatar. THE WEEKLY STANDARD could not independently verify that report and U.S. government sources would not comment.” [60073]

On June 10 Hillary Clinton’s 650-page memoir, *Hard Choices*, is released. Die-hard Clinton supporters line up to purchase a copy—and even get it autographed at a Barnes & Noble store in Manhattan. But Booksamillion store already discounted it by 40 percent on the first day of sales. The store manager calls the move “very unusual” and says it “really threw me.” (*The New York Times*’ Maureen Dowd says the book “doesn’t feel written so much as assembled by a ‘Hillary for President’ algorithm. All this excitement is being ginned up, but nothing exciting is happening. There isn’t one surprising or scintillating or provocative word in the whole book. ‘Hard Choices’ is inert, a big yawn.”) [60025, 60026, 60027, 60028, 60076, 60356]

Mrs. Clinton promotes her book on *Good Morning America*, getting softball questions from Obama-sycophant Robin Roberts. “Biting” question include, “You and your husband have very intense schedules, how much quality time—let’s say how many days in the month are you actually able to be together as a family?” “Have you offered any names [for your coming grandchild] to Chelsea?” “Who is your favorite Republican in Congress?” “Who is the person living that you admire the most?” “[Who is the] Politician you’d let babysit your future grandchild?” “Game three of the NBA finals. Heat or Spurs?” [60141]

On National Public Radio’s *Morning Edition*, Hillary Clinton says, “[T]he most important thing I did as Secretary of State] was to help restore America’s leadership

around the world. I think that was a very important accomplishment. We were flat on our back when I walked in there the first time. We were viewed as being untrustworthy, as violating our moral rules and values. ...Because of the eight years that preceded us. It was the economic collapse. It was two wars. It was the war on terror that led to some unfortunate, un-American actions being taken. That was my biggest challenge.” Clinton is less than thrilled when she is asked by Terry Gross about her changing position on gay marriage, and responds, “I think you’re reading it very wrong. I think that... just because you’re a politician doesn’t mean you’re not a thinking human being. You gather information, you think through positions, you’re not one hundred percent set, thank goodness, you’re constantly re-evaluating where you stand. That is true for me. ...I think that we have all evolved, and it’s been one of the fastest, most sweeping transformations that I’m aware of.” After several back-and-forth questions and answers on the topic, Clinton says, “You know I really, I have to say, I think you’re being very persistent, but you are playing with my words and playing with what is such an important issue. ...No, you’re not trying to clarify. I think you are trying to say that I used to be opposed and now I am in favor and I did it for political reasons. And that’s just flat wrong. So let me just state what I feel like I think you are implying and repudiate it. I have a strong record. I have a great commitment to this issue and I am proud of what I’ve done and the progress were making.” (The interaction is a clear indication that Clinton, like Obama, is thin-skinned when it comes to criticism. But she allows her anger to rise to the surface more readily. That will not help her in a presidential run. Unlike Obama, she is not likely to be treated by the mainstream media as a messiah. The leftist Media Matters quickly jumps on Gross for daring to suggest Clinton “evolved” on the issue of gay marriage for political purposes.) [60144, 60154, 60229, 60230, 60243, 60256, 60396]

According to Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson, Politico’s Mike Allen calls *Hard Choices* “a newsless snore, written so carefully not to offend that it will fuel the notion that politics infuses every part of her life. In this book, like in ‘The Lego Movie’ theme song, everyone is awesome!” CBS’ John Dickerson: “Clinton’s account is the low-salt, low-fat, low-calorie offering with vanilla pudding as the dessert. She goes on at great length, but not great depth... playing it safe.” *The Washington Post*’s David Ignatius writes, “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton is seen as hesitant to take big risks.” Benson writes, “All of which strongly suggests that Mrs. Clinton wasn’t interested in writing a compelling, provocative, insightful book. She was interested in writing a [sic; an] antiseptic tome that might get dinged for insipidness, but would do virtually nothing that could damage her 2016 presidential run.” [60031, 60032, 60033, 60104]

NationalReview.com’s Jonah Goldberg observes, “Have some sympathy for Clinton. She is an accomplished woman, but writing an exciting book about her unremarkable tenure as secretary of State would be hard enough. Doing so without throwing [Obama] under the bus and telling other tales out of school is simply impossible. This is because Clinton is not an exciting person. Yes, many people are excited about her, favorably and unfavorably. Yes, she is at the center of many hot cultural and political controversies. But beneath all that, she’s a remarkably dull figure. ...She’s exciting [only] because of the stuff that follows her around, and to the extent she is interesting at all, it is to see how she tries to manipulate her image to her benefit. ...[U]nlike her husband, she’s not very good

at faking sincerity. She told People magazine that she wrote the book herself by hand on paper, 'in my little old Chappaqua farmhouse, in the attic where I hang out.' No doubt there's some truth to that, but it's been widely reported that her former aide, Ted Widmer, did the 'heavy lifting' as her ghostwriter." (On June 17 WeeklyStandard.com quotes a "veteran publishing source" who calls Clinton's book a "bomb," based on early sales figures. "Between us, they are nervous at S&S [Simon & Schuster]. Sales were well below expectations and the media was a disaster. ...They sold 60,000 hard covers first week and 24,000 ebooks" but were "hoping and praying for 150,000 print first week. ...They will be lucky to sell 150,000 total lifetime. ...It's a bomb but it will be interesting to see how they spin it." As many as one million copies of the book have been printed and shipped to retailers. The publisher will lose money on the book, for which Clinton was paid a "near-\$14 million advance." Sarah Palin's book, *Going Rogue*, sold 496,000 copies in its first week.) [60104, 60432, 60466, 60555, 60584, 60720, 60741]

Asked by NBC's Cynthia McFadden if she kept a diary during her tenure as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton replies, "I kept a lot of notes." Asked if she would turn them over to the Select Committee on Benghazi, she says, "They can read it in the [my] book [*Hard Choices*]. Let's see whether this [committee] is on the level or not because that really matters to me. I don't want to be part of something which, in any way, politicizes or demeans the sacrifice that we saw happen there." (In other words, "I will not cooperate in any way; I will act like I am above it all; and anyone who dares question me will be called a misogynist.") [60116]

Commenting on a school shooting, Obama says, "My biggest frustration so far is the fact that, uh, this society has not been willing to take some basic steps to, uh, to keep guns out of the hands of, of people who can, uh, do just unbelievable damage. We're, we're the only society, we're the only developed country on earth where this happens, and it happens not once a week, and it's a one day story. There's no place else like this. ...Why aren't we doing something about this?" (Obama is incorrect. School shootings and mass shootings have occurred in many countries, even in those with much stricter gun laws than the United States, and even in other "developed countries." That shootings in other countries do not get widespread media attention in the United States does not mean they are not occurring.) [60851, 60852, 61959]

Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini announces that the company will request premium rate increases of less than 20 percent for 2015. ("Less than 20 percent," of course, means "More than 10 percent" for most customers.) [60156]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters, "Listen, we're glad that [Bowe] Bergdahl is back, but the biggest issue here is the violation of a policy that the United States has had for many, many years that we don't negotiate with terrorists. The fact is that we have violated that policy, and as a result, we have made Americans less safe, here and all around the world. And we're going to pay for this. There is not any doubt in my mind there is [sic; are] going to be lost lives associated with what came out of this [prisoner exchange]." [60057, 60075]

Appearing on MSNBC, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA) takes exception to Boehner's statement, saying, "The Taliban is part of the fabric of Afghanistan—they were part of the leadership of that country before we engaged there. We are now actively attempting to get the Taliban to negotiate with Karzai and the Afghanistani [sic] government, because there will be some cooperation, some level of coordination between the two if that country is going to survive and move forward. So, to say that they are 'terrorists,' at this point, is not necessarily accurate." (Obama believed the war in Iraq was a mistake but the war in Afghanistan was justified. Speier does not explain how her position does not repudiate Obama's. If the Taliban are "part of the fabric of Afghanistan," why did Obama believe it was proper to attempt to destroy them?) [60057]

The Obama administration again delays the launch of ObamaCare exchanges for small businesses, known as the Small Business Health Options Program, or SHOP exchanges. The exchanges were supposed to open on October 1, 2013. The date was then delayed to November 2014, but 2016 is the new date. (The delay is intended to help protect vulnerable Senate Democrats who are up for reelection and who want to avoid small businesses who face "sticker shock" over the health insurance premiums.) [60114, 60171]

DailySignal.com reports, "A Walmart store in Williston, N.D., is offering to pay entry-level workers as much as \$17.40 per hour—nearly 2½ times the federal minimum wage—in an effort to compete in one of America's most dynamic labor markets. The push for a 'living wage' has gained momentum in cities such as Seattle recently. But the historic oil boom in North Dakota has provided real, sustained growth in wages and lowered unemployment in North Dakota to 2.6 percent—the lowest statewide rate in the nation—and to less than 1 percent in Williston, which is near the oil fields in the western part of the state." (The situation in North Dakota demonstrates that labor is no different than products on store shelves—it is also subject to the law of supply and demand. When workers are in short supply, wages are increased in order to attract more of them. The solution to depressed wages is not to increase the minimum wage, but to create an environment in which businesses flourish and *need* workers. The Obama administration has, however, spent five years giving businesses reasons *not* to hire more workers.) [60152]

An anti-war rally at the White House in support of Bowe Bergdahl attracts fewer than two dozen people. According to DailyCaller.com, organizers included the groups Code Pink, the Answer Coalition, and March Forward. Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin says, "I as well as Bowe Bergdahl's questions about the war in Afghanistan now represent the mainstream of the American people who after 12 years of war are saying, 'Why are we in Afghanistan? What are we doing there? Why are we spending so much money there?' Let's bring the troops home and focus on rebuilding America." (As previously noted in this *Timeline*, in 2004 Code Pink delivered \$600,000 in cash and supplies to Iraq—not to American soldiers, but to the terrorists who were fighting them in Fallujah. In June 2009 Benjamin delivered a letter from the terrorist group Hamas to Obama. In September 2009 Benjamin and Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans—a friend of Jane Fonda—met with then-Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Evans has



reportedly also delivered messages from the Taliban to Obama. Benjamin violated federal law by assisting terrorists with the “peace flotilla” that attempted to break Israel’s blockade of Gaza, the territory controlled by Hamas; the Obama administration declined to prosecute her.) [104, 215, 220, 355, 384, 387, 395, 416, 419, 438, 439, 440, 521, 6160, 6163, 6322, 6481, 6523, 6860, 6861, 6862, 6863, 6864, 6865, 7902, 7903, 7904, 7905, 10776, 10829, 10902, 10903, 10904, 11706, 13055, 13092, 13093, 14760, 15281, 15282, 11707, 11708, 11769, 14760, 15281, 15282, 17511, 21004, 60115]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “As the unaccompanied child crisis along our southern border with Mexico continues to overwhelm the system, an internal Border Patrol email obtained by Townhall shows Tucson Sector Chief Border Patrol Agent Manuel Padilla Jr. calling the situation ‘unprecedented,’ comparable to humanitarian disasters like hurricanes and confirms illegal immigrant children are being treated and processed as refugees.” Padilla’s June 6 email states, “Ladies and Gentlemen, I wanted to provide you with information regarding the Nogales Placement Center (NPC). I believe that it is important for all of us to have an understanding of the humanitarian effort that is ongoing nationwide as it relates to unaccompanied children, primarily from Central America. There has been an influx of unaccompanied children that have been detained throughout the southwest border, primarily in South Texas, to a level that has overwhelmed the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) transition sites. This dynamic has caused the Border Patrol to hold these children at different locations while the transition to ORR takes place. In Tucson Sector, we are using the NPC as a transition point. As of this writing, there are hundreds of children being cared for at the center. This is an unprecedented mission for agents and mission support personnel at the Tucson Sector.” Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX) tells CBS, “Almost 40 percent of the Border Patrol Agents are not at the border; they’re actually filling out paperwork, transporting, feeding, moving these folks around.” [60029, 60046, 60082, 60195]

Meanwhile, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) questions the Obama administration’s plan to house illegal immigrant children in a 1.1 million square foot office complex once used by the Social Security Administration. Mikulski states, “I am concerned about the health and safety consequences of putting hundreds and possibly thousands of children in a closed down Social Security Administration office building while we work through language barriers to ascertain their legal status and locate their parents.” A spokesman for Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) tells *The Baltimore Sun* that Cardin “has some serious reservations if this is, indeed, going to happen. He thinks that the welfare of the children has to be the first priority and he doesn’t believe that this location lends itself to that purpose.” (Whether Mikulski and Cardin have no problems housing the children in any of the other 49 states is not known for certain, but neither objected when the Obama administration dumped children at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.) [60054, 60055]

CNSNews.com reports, “A \$350 million grant opportunity announced Friday by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide shelter for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) states that recipients providing residential shelter to these children must provide them with ‘family planning services’ and that residential care providers deliver services in a manner that is ‘sensitive’ to sexual orientation and gender identity.

‘Residential care providers are required to provide... family planning services,’ says an official description of the grant program published by HHS. ‘Residential care providers are required to provide or arrange for the program required services in a manner that is sensitive to the... sexual orientation, gender identity, and other important individual needs of each UAC [unaccompanied alien child],’ says the official description.” [60138]

According to a Pew Research/USA Today poll, 43 percent of Americans say the Bowe Bergdahl prisoner exchange was the “wrong thing” to do; 34 percent call it the “right thing;” and 23 percent “don’t know.” The “right/wrong” percentages break down by party affiliation: Republican, 16/71; Democrat, 55/24; independent, 32/44. Among veterans, the percentages are 16/68. [60030]

In Iraq, the city of Mosul and the entire northern province of Nineveh fall under the control of al-Qaeda. Thousands of terrorists are freed from the prisons, and thousands of Mosul’s residents flee the city. The Iraqi army largely gives up rather than fight al-Qaeda/ISIS, leaving behind weapons and vehicles. (Obama can be expected to say little and do almost nothing as, once again, the Sunnis in the confrontation defeat the Shi’ites (also often called Shia). It is worth noting that in any confrontation between Sunnis and Shi’ites, or between Sunnis and secularists, Obama—whose Kenyan family is Sunni—either backs the Sunnis directly or supports them indirectly by keeping his distance. Pamela Geller asks, “Hasn’t anyone told the thousands of Iraqis fleeing Iraq’s third-largest city that Obama insists that al Qaeda is on the run? Vanquished! These terrified, fleeing Iraqis must be islamophobes. Racists! Bigots! While Obama mulls moving American bases located across Europe and the Pacific in order secure the victory of World War II not to combat the gravest threat to freedom—the global jihad—but to fight ...climate change, any gains made by previous pro-American administrations have been destroyed and dismantled by the foreign agent in the White House. Add this to Obama’s towering pile of monumental, game-changing failures.”) [60070, 60071, 60087, 60088, 60365, 60601, 61002]

According to the *Telegraph*, ISIS “says it has a clear set of instructions for the remaining occupants of the city and surrounding area. Firstly it tells ‘anyone who is asking,’ who its members are and what it is about: ‘We are soldiers of Islam and we’ve taken on our responsibility to bring back glory of the Islamic Caliphate.’ All Muslims in the city have been instructed to attend mosque for the five daily prayers. It confirms that it seized up to half a billion dollars from the Mosul branch of the Bank of Iraq but states it can be trusted with the funds. Any one of its members who breach this promise will have their hands cut off. ‘No drugs, no alcohol and no cigarettes allowed,’ it added. No public gathering other than those organised by ISIS will be allowed at any stage. No guns will be allowed outside of its ranks. All tribal leaders and sheikhs in the area have been warned not to cooperate with the state. In a warning to the police, soldiers and other ‘kaffr’ bodies the choice is to repent or face the ultimate punishment. The group said it will open ‘special places’ for repentance. Outlining its sectarian bias it declared all shrines, graveyards and monuments will be destroyed. Finally all women must dress in concealing clothing that preserve decency. Females should only go outside ‘if necessary.’” [60344]

Soon-to-be White House press secretary Josh Earnest is asked by a reporter to name “two or three accomplishments” of Obama and Hillary Clinton. Earnest responds, “Let’s start with what I think [Obama] would describe as one of his most important national security priorities, which is ending the war in Iraq and winding down in a responsible fashion the war in Afghanistan.” Earnest also notes “the success of our efforts to dismantle and destroy al-Qaeda core.” Earnest is then asked about the fall of Mosul in Iraq. He replies, “We are concerned about how the security situation in Mosul has deteriorated so precipitously.” (He does not explain how that could have been accomplished by a dismantled and destroyed al-Qaeda.) [60080]

The House Appropriations Committee votes 33–13 to support legislation banning the Pentagon from funding detainee transfers from the terrorist detainee facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. [60134, 60135]

Sky News reports, “Boko Haram gunmen have reportedly kidnapped up to 40 young mothers from an area near Chibok, the village where more than 250 schoolgirls were abducted nearly two months ago. The exact number of women taken in the latest raid is thought to be at least 20—although one local leader from Borno state put it as high as 40. The kidnappings happened on Saturday [June 7] in and around the village of Garkin Fulani, five miles from Chibok.” (Whether the White House will release a photograph of a pouty-faced Michelle Obama holding up a “#Free Our Mothers” sign remains to be seen.) [60089, 60090, 60093]

Obama’s favorability rating falls to his lowest level ever in the Bloomberg National Poll: 44 percent. His approval/disapproval ratings are 43/53 percent. Hillary Clinton’s approval rating falls to 52 percent, down from 56 percent in March 2014 and 70 percent in December 2012. (HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey observes, “This sounds a lot like 2006, when Hillary was a formidable candidate ... as long as she didn’t actually *run*.”) [60130, 60244, 60258]

Shoebat.com interviews Cindy Lee Garcia, “the plaintiff in a lawsuit against Google and Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the maker of the infamous ‘Innocence of Muslims’ video.” (Garcia, an actress, was hired to appear in a film called *Desert Warrior*. “Instead,” charges the lawsuit, “Garcia’s scene was used in an anti-Islamic film titled ‘Innocence of Muslims.’ Garcia first saw ‘Innocence of Muslims’ after it was uploaded to YouTube.com and she discovered that her brief performance had been partially dubbed over so that she appeared to be asking, ‘Is your Mohammed a child molester?’ ... An Egyptian cleric issued a fatwa, calling for the killing of everyone involved with the film, and Garcia soon began receiving death threats. She responded by taking a number of security precautions and asking that Google remove the video from YouTube.”) Garcia states that Nakoula admitted to her that he is a Muslim (despite media reports to the contrary). Walid Shoebat and Ben Barrack write, “When taken together will all of our discoveries, Garcia’s claims do something far more damaging to the Obama administration. They even further bolster the possibility—now even strong likelihood—that Nakoula, in his capacity as an agent of the U.S. Federal government was commissioned by the Obama administration to produce the video. Knowing what you

know now, the biggest lies told by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama very well may be that the ‘United States Government had absolutely NOTHING to do with this video.’” Shoebat and Barrack note that Nakoula was given a light sentence in 2009 “after pleading guilty for his role in a bank fraud scheme. In return, he was to help authorities catch the ringleader of that operation...” [60147, 60148, 60270]

At that point Nakoula certainly owed the U.S. government a favor. The favor may have been to produce an anti-Islam film for the purpose of angering the Muslim world. That would give Obama an excuse to act to placate the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which had demanded a “crackdown” on all criticism of Islam. It is worth remembering that in an address to the United Nations shortly after the Benghazi attack, Obama said, “...The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” Further, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan—Obama’s closest friend among foreign leaders—has called for international laws making criticism of Islam a crime. Tom Perez, a former Department of Justice official who AmericanThinker.com’s Matthew Vadum has called an “in-your-face radical leftist lawyer” and who is now Obama’s Secretary of Labor, believes that criticism of Islam should be outlawed. According to Vadum, Perez “has worked with hardcore Islamist groups such as the terrorist-linked Islamic Society of North America and applauded Islamists for lobbying against airline security measures. ...Perez [had] an appalling track record at the DOJ and myriad unsavory associations.” Obama’s envoy to the OIC is Rashad Hussain, a State Department employee who Shoebat and Barrack calls “an infiltrator whose allegiances lie with the OIC, not the U.S. Constitution he swore an oath to uphold. As such, Hussain’s agenda is one that ultimately seeks the criminalization of criticism of Islam. Earlier this year, Hussain was at the fourth annual ‘Istanbul Process’ summit, held in Doha, Qatar. During his speech, he actually boasted about working with a confirmed Muslim Brotherhood front group that seeks the destruction of the United States from within.” (Hussain was photographed at a 2011 White House dinner with Hillary Clinton’s “closest aide,” Huma Abedin—whose mother is a member of the radical Muslim Brotherhood’s offshoot, the Muslim Sisterhood.) [716, 805, 827, 23443, 23444, 23445, 23532, 23837, 23840, 25674, 25675, 25678, 25709, 27318, 27333, 27428 27429, 35407, 35487, 35489, 35497, 36940, 37190, 37193, 37196, 37231, 37243, 37245, 37490, 37574, 37575, 37596, 37600, 37607, 37695, 37696, 37697, 37698, 43356, 43357, 43381, 43556, 44238, 60147, 60148, 60149, 60270]

The suggestion is that the anti-Islam video was produced by Nakoula at the request—or the order—of the Obama administration in exchange for a lighter sentence. The video would incite Muslim anger against the United States and an allegedly Coptic Christian filmmaker, and Obama would not only ramp up his efforts to downplay the dangers of radical Islam, he would lecture Americans on their “Islamophobia.” Note that the Obama administration has been purging State Department and Department of Defense training materials that suggest that radical Islam is a problem; the Fort Hood shooting was not an act of terror but “workplace violence,” and the “war on terror” is merely an “overseas contingency operation.” Note also that terrorist in Benghazi were heard saying, “Don’t Shoot us! We were sent by Morsi!” The Muslim Brotherhood’s Morsi was president of Egypt at the time only because Obama turned his back on U.S. ally Hosni Mubarak. If

Morsi sent the terrorists to attack the compound in Benghazi, the anti-Islam video was more than just an excuse for Obama and others to crack down on criticism of Islam. The video may have been intended as a cover for real operation, which some have suggested was an attempt to kidnap U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens and trade him for the “blind sheikh,” Omar Abdel Rahman. Morsi, after all, had promised his Muslim Brotherhood supporters that he would obtain the release of Rahman. A Stevens-for-the-sheikh trade, only weeks before the November 2012 election, would make Obama look like a hero in the eyes of many voters—never mind the fact that Rahman had masterminded the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. “Obama saved Ambassador Stevens!” would have been the headline, and the cover would have been the YouTube movie. The plan failed when the terrorists inadvertently killed Stevens, and when the few brave Americans at the compound put up a greater fight than anyone had anticipated. (It may be that Obama and Hillary Clinton left the facility under-protected on purpose, to facilitate the kidnapping.) [39292, 39293, 39294, 39295, 39305]

Many who are skeptical of the kidnapping theory have argued, “There is no way Obama would have released Rahman!” But before May 31, 2014 many would *also* have argued, “There is no way Obama would release the five top Taliban commanders from Guantanamo!” If Obama believed trading five terrorists for an Army deserter would result in praise, why would he not have believed that trading one terrorist for an ambassador would result in accolades? Regardless of whether the Benghazi attack was meant to result in the kidnapping of Stevens, it is clear that the Obama administration has placed the security of the American people at risk with his dealings with the Arab world. Regardless of whether Obama wanted an anti-Islam video produced as a cover for a kidnapping or simply as an excuse to defend Islam and force Americans to be more tolerant of the ideology, his doing so was most assuredly an anti-American act. The video not only put American lives at risk, it resulted in the deaths of four Americans. *If*, in fact, Obama and Clinton—as well as Huma Abedin, Rashad Hussain, and others—conspired to have a video produced to stir anti-American sentiment, they are guilty of treason. (One can hope that Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) is not afraid to ask the right questions with his Select Committee on Benghazi.)

Addressing the homosexual advocacy group Lambda Legal, Attorney General Eric Holder says that the Boy Scouts of America “preserves and perpetuates the worst kind of stereotypes” by not allowing gay scout leaders. “Like ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’ it’s a relic of an age of prejudice and insufficient understanding. Today, courageous lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals routinely put their lives on the line as members of America’s armed services. And if these men and women are fit for military service, then surely they are fit to mentor, to teach, and to serve as role models for the leaders of future generations.” (CNSNews.com notes, “In June 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5–4 ruling, said the Boy Scouts had a constitutional right, as a private organization, to exclude homosexuals from leadership positions.”) Holder ignores the fact that the Boy Scouts of America organization has had to pay out millions of dollars in damages because of a sexual abuse lawsuit, something that would not be possible with the U.S. military. Holder also seems not to understand that many of the same people who do not want gay Boy Scout leaders also do not want gays serving in the U.S. military. For Holder to argue,

“Well, if gays can be soldiers, why can’t they be scout leaders?” misses the point that the military was *forced* by the Obama administration to accept openly gay soldiers. That one is forced to accept something does not mean that one should gladly accept its imposition elsewhere. Holder’s argument is tantamount to the government demanding that banks hire thieves as janitors, and then asking, “Well, if the bank can accept thieves as janitors, why can’t the bank accept them as tellers?” Additionally, adults serving together in the military is certainly not the same as adults serving as mentors and role models for children. [60250]

In an astonishing upset in the Virginia GOP primary, virtually unknown free-market economics professor Dave Brat defeats sitting Congressman and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) by 10 points, despite having limited funds for his campaign. (The aloof Cantor raised more than \$5 million; Brat raised less than \$250,000.) Cantor’s defeat is likely the result of the impression—or the reality—that he seemed eager to negotiate a “deal” with the Democrats on “comprehensive immigration reform” and a “pathway to citizenship,” which many conservatives vehemently oppose. Cantor assumed he was headed for an easy victory—he won 79 percent of the vote in his 2012 primary—but was certainly not helped by news reports that waves of illegal immigrant children are crossing the border and being dumped in various cities and Army bases by the Obama administration. Nor was he helped by his discussions with Congressman Luiz Gutierrez (D-IL), which were seen as a direct indication that he was willing to “deal” on the issue of amnesty. Some voters no doubt thought, “If we can’t trust Obama to enforce immigration laws, why should we trust Obama to enforce the terms of any deal he makes with Cantor?” Cantor’s defeat is also an indication that many Americans may simply have “had it” with the Democrat and Republican establishments and do not trust any sitting Congressman or Senator to do what he says he will do. (Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), and perhaps Jeb Bush, may not have a good night’s sleep—unless they went to bed before learning of Cantor’s loss. Cochran faces a run-off election with primary challenger Chris McDaniel.) [60065, 60074, 60077, 60079, 60083, 60085, 60086, 60101, 60102, 60108, 60110, 60119, 60120, 60142]

It is worth noting that although House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) won their primaries, they did nowhere near as well as they should have done against their relatively unknown and ill-funded opponents. That their victories were not overwhelming is another indication that a “throw the bums out” sentiment may be growing across the nation. The Republican establishment’s obvious disdain for the Tea Party certainly cost Boehner and McConnell some votes. (Boehner and Cantor, in particular, should have known better than to criticize the Tea Party. They had their leadership positions, after all, only because the Tea Party gave the GOP control of the House in the November 2010 elections. “Thanking” conservatives by ridiculing and fighting them was not a good idea.)

Some observers blame Cantor’s loss on low voter turnout—but the turnout was actually greater than that of the 2012 primary. (About 20,000 more people voted in 2014 than in 2012, yet Cantor received fewer votes than in that previous primary.) Based on a June 2 Vox Populi poll it had commissioned, DailyCaller.com wrote on June 6, “Shock Poll

Shows Eric Cantor Struggling In Primary.” A McLaughlin & Associates poll done for the Cantor campaign showed him ahead by 34 points. [60137, 60238, 60239]

With Cantor’s loss, the White House may believe that there is no chance of “comprehensive immigration reform” being passed in 2014. Republican consultant Ari Fleischer says, “Cantor’s loss likely means [there is] no way immigration reform proceeds this summer. Rank and file [members of the House], already uneasy, won’t go for it.” That may encourage Obama to issue even more illegal executive orders to make it easier for illegal immigrants to enter and remain in the United States. (That might be a risky move for Obama, however. Although such orders could encourage the Democrat base to vote in greater numbers in November, they could also encourage greater voter turnout among Americans who want Congress, rather than Obama, to write the laws of the United States.) Some might argue that Cantor—having nothing to lose—may now push for amnesty legislation and persuade liberal-leaning Republicans to join him. The Democrats in the House will, of course, eagerly endorse that legislation. If House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) were to allow a bill to come to the floor, it might pass. Rush Limbaugh asks, “[W]hat has Eric Cantor got to lose in moving amnesty? He’s got nothing to lose moving amnesty. What has Boehner got to lose in moving amnesty now? See, I don’t think they’re [House leadership] scared. I think they’re mad. I don’t think this [Cantor loss] scares them. ...I’m just gonna tell you that I won’t be surprised if the behind-the-doors attitude [of GOP Leaders] is one of disgust and anger at the people of this country and the voters in Cantor’s district and the reaction [may be], ‘Okay, let’s show ’em what’s what,’ and just move this amnesty bill forward.” [60117, 60136, 60146]

One mistake likely made by Cantor (and others in the Republican establishment) was to believe opinion polls that suggest voter support for “comprehensive immigration reform” is greater than it actual is. The problem lies in how the poll questions are worded. If, for example, the person surveyed is asked, “Which do you support, deporting 11 million illegal immigrants or providing them with a pathway to citizenship?” a vast majority will choose the latter. But that is a false choice, as there are options other than “deportation or citizenship.” A majority of Americans want the borders made more secure, the violent illegal immigrants deported, and a “pathway to citizenship” only *after* the border is secured—and only if the illegal immigrants are not given preferential treatment over legal immigrants or U.S. citizens. But that is rarely one of the choices on the survey. As a result, if a pollster “has an agenda,” he or she can manipulate the results of the survey by wording questions in a way that “push” the interviewee into coming up with the “right” answer. (In fact, such slanted surveys are called “push polls.” Obama uses the technique frequently in his speeches, where he introduces a “false choice” argument that leads the audience to agree with him—because he neglects to mention the other options. Obama’s “Either X or Y” arguments essentially force agreement on X, especially when he intentionally distorts the Y choice. “We need to raise taxes on the wealthy or children will die in the streets!” is not an argument as much as it is emotional manipulation—but the latter is the major skill of a community activist.)

At PJMedia.com, J. Christian Adams, a former Department of Justice attorney, notes that Eric Cantor’s wife “sits on the board of the *Richmond Times*.” That newspaper recently

ran an ad urging Cantor to support proposed legislation that would give Attorney General Eric Holder “more power over state elections. ... The bill sponsored by Rep. Sensenbrenner [R-WI] explicitly removes white voters from the protection of the law and unleashes all sorts of other mischief and federal mandates on state election officials.” The *Richmond Times* refused to run an ad from Tea Party groups denouncing the legislation. Adams asks, “Did that mean that the *Times* was willing to take money from left-wing groups directed at her husband but not willing to take money from Tea Party groups asking her husband to oppose legislation that would harm Virginia? We’ll never know. What we do know is that the Tea Party—including the very active wing that opposes giving Eric Holder more power—brought down a majority leader.” [60143]

DailyCaller.com reports that one Congressional aide suggested Cantor not only would have won the primary, he “would be the next Speaker of the House if he had opposed amnesty and said, ‘No, Mr. Obama, I’m going to fight for Americans and their wages, against your immigration bill and the corporations who are pushing it.’” [60117]

Mark Krikorian, director of the Center for Immigration Studies, tells DailyCaller.com, “The Republican establishment doesn’t know what hit it. They figured that with enough money [from pro-immigration donors] they could dupe the voters into allowing amnesty, and in the 7th district of Virginia, that’s not the case.” [60117]

Gary Segura, a Democratic-affiliated Latino pollster, comments, “Note to media. Eric Cantor did not lose because of immigration... his party has gone nuts!” (Democrats may believe the Tea Party is “nuts,” but if they believe most Americans support amnesty for illegal immigrants they are sorely mistaken. Pushing amnesty may help Democrats keep Hispanic voters, but it will cost them the votes of “Reagan Democrats.”) [60117]

Cantor’s loss also increases the likelihood that House Republicans will choose someone other than John Boehner (R-OH) to be Speaker of the House in January 2015. [60111]

Some Democrats rush to claim the Tea Party is anti-Semitic because the defeated Cantor is Jewish. (Apparently they do not realize that it has been Democrat voters who opposed Cantor in his previous seven Congressional elections.) The Democrat National Committee sends an email asking supporters to “Chip in \$3 or more right now, and help Democrats fight the Tea Party.” [60097, 60106, 60184]

Democrat pollster Doug Schoen tells Newsmax.com, “The Republican electorate is angry. They are angry at the establishment. Eric Cantor represents ‘inside Washington’—and this is a repudiation of the Republican leadership strata. It’s a warning sign for [Senate Minority Leader] Mitch McConnell [R-KY]. There’s just a sense that they want the establishment out. It’s a rejection of everything the [establishment] Republicans stand for. ... [I]t’s also a shot across the bow [of House Speaker] John Boehner [R-OH]. The Republican electorate wants change. It’s certainly a warning sign in that direction.” [60125]



Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia, states, “Everybody agrees that if immigration reform was on life support before, they’re pulling out the plugs [now]. The Republican electorate has become very conservative, and that was demonstrated in conventions like last year.” [60125]

In South Carolina, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) defeats six primary challengers, winning enough of the vote to avoid a run-off. (Graham’s 56 percent, however, is dismally low for an incumbent Senator in a party primary, and is another indication that voters are unhappy with the “establishment.”)

In the Democrat primary in Virginia, former lieutenant governor Don Beyer wins the 8th District Congressional contest. Beyer is likely to win on November 4, and will take the seat held by retiring Democrat Congressman Jim Moran.

Shortly after Eric Cantor delivers his concession speech at the Westin Hotel, in Richmond, Virginia, a group of pro-amnesty demonstrators storm the ballroom, chanting, “What do we want? Immigration reform! When do we want it? Now!” According to WashingtonPost.com, “A few Cantor supporters tried to block the protesters’ entrance into the ballroom, and pushing and shoving ensued. And before they reached the microphone, one Cantor supporter threw his glass of wine at a female protester. She swore at him in return. A hotel employee took the microphone Cantor had used and told the protesters in Spanish that the police were on their way. Upon arrival, police told the protesters that they would be arrested if they did not leave immediately. Another Spanish-speaking man who was with the protesters told them that they had made their point and should follow the police direction to leave.” [60129]

On June 11 Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) appears on *Morning Joe* and absurdly claims, “I, I think people make a big mistake if they confuse the result in [Eric Cantor’s] race with getting immigration reform done. If—on the question for immigration reform is not if we’ll get it done, it’s when we’ll get it done [sic]. It’s gonna [sic] get done. Uh, even if majorities of Republicans throughout the country, including in Eric Cantor’s, uh, own congressional district, support immigration reform, comprehensive immigration reform. What people want to know, though, is how we’re gonna [sic] get it done so we don’t have to do it again in 10 years. And so I believe what we’re hearing here is the message, ‘get your work done.’ And anyone, any Republican, of course, who believes that this is a message to not get immigration reform [passed] and to fix our broken immigration system, I believe they do that at their peril.” [60139]

On *Fox & Friends*, radio talk show host and author Laura Ingraham, who endorsed Dave Brat over Eric Cantor, says, “Not one major tea party organization came out and endorsed Brat, supported Brat in any meaningful way. We had a difficult time getting the tea party groups and Brat connected. They basically told him, ‘You don’t have a chance.’ They wrote him off.” (The mainstream media has been falsely calling Brat a “Tea Party candidate.” His ideology is arguably as much “Libertarian populism” as anything else.) “This is a seismic shift,” says Ingraham, “or at least it should be, in GOP leadership. But, these guys are fanatics on this issue of immigration reform.” Cantor lost because he

“never could make the case to the people of Virginia as to why his 13 years in GOP politics delivered successes to the people of Virginia. ...I’d be looking at this Jeb Bush issue right now, because Jeb Bush, I think, is a lot weaker today than he was 24 hours ago.” [60151]

At WSJ.com, Reid J. Epstein quickly—and shamelessly—comes to the defense of the Republican establishment, slamming Dave Brat for defeating “the only Jewish Republican in Congress” [Eric Cantor] and for once writing, “We appear to be a bit passive. Hitler came along, and he did not meet with unified resistance. I have the sinking feeling that it could all happen again, quite easily. The church should rise up higher than Nietzsche could see and prove him wrong. We should love our neighbor so much that we actually believe in right and wrong, and do something about it. If we all did the right thing and had the guts to spread the word, we would not need the government to backstop every action we take.” (Whether Epstein believes another Hitler is not possible or that people should not rise up against the next one is not clear. Why Epstein believes that warning about being complacent in the face of tyranny is “anti-Jewish” is also not clear. Cantor did not lose because he is Jewish—his religion did not stop him from winning his last seven Congressional elections—but because voters have grown weary of the D.C. establishment and do not want an amnesty deal for illegal immigrants. That has nothing to do with Cantor’s religion. One Twitter user writes, “The voters of Virginia have shown Eric Cantor a path to private citizenship.”) [60097, 60098, 60099, 60100]

WashingtonPost.com reports, “Before he became a Taliban prisoner, before he wrote in his journal ‘I am the lone wolf of deadly nothingness,’ before he joined the Army, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was discharged from the Coast Guard for psychological reasons, said close friends who were worried about his emotional health at the time. The 2006 discharge and a trove of Bergdahl’s writing—his handwritten journal along with essays, stories and e-mails provided to The Washington Post—paint a portrait of a deeply complicated and fragile young man who was by his own account struggling to maintain his mental stability from the start of basic training until the moment he walked off his post in eastern Afghanistan in 2009. ...On June 9, 2009, two weeks before he walked away, Bergdahl sent an e-mail to a friend. ‘11nes n0 t g00 d h3rE. tell u when 1 ha ve a si cure line about pl/-ans’ [Lines not too good here. Tell you when I have a secure line about plans], read the partly coded message, one of Bergdahl’s many references to unspecified plans and dreams of walking away—to China, into the mountains, or, as he says at one point, into ‘the artist’s painted world, hiding from the fields of blood and screams, hidden from the monster within himself.’ ...According to Coast Guard records, Bergdahl left the service in early 2006 with an ‘uncharacterized discharge’ after 26 days of basic training. The term applies to people discharged before completing 180 days of service. No reason is specified in such discharges, and a Coast Guard representative said no further information was available.” [60214, 60215, 60216]

The Obama administration, of course, desperately wants to avoid court martial proceedings for Bergdahl—thus the portrayal of him as “a deeply complicated and fragile young man who was by his own account struggling to maintain his mental stability.” It needs Bergdahl to be seen as a victim so that Obama can be seen as having rescued a

victim, rather than as having traded five terrorists for a deserter or a traitor. Behind the scenes, Obama is likely putting great pressure on the Army not to court martial Bergdahl, and instead announce that “the details are murky” and “he has suffered enough.” It is certainly in the Army’s best interests to conduct a court martial. It cannot afford to have soldiers believe that if battlefield pressure gets too great they can simply desert their posts and rely on a defense of “fragile mental stability” for a “get out of jail free” card. Whether the Army will cave in to Obama remains to be seen, but if it does it will be obvious.

Michelle Malkin writes, “A source tipped me off last week to a curious occurrence: It seems that two planeloads of illegal aliens were recently shipped to Massachusetts. The first reportedly landed at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford. According to my tipster, approximately 160 illegal immigrants arrived on that flight and stayed nearly a week before being transferred to a Department of Homeland Security site and then released. The second flight reportedly was diverted from Hanscom to Boston’s Logan Airport this past weekend. I am told that both Massachusetts and New Hampshire officials were on hand. ...Question: How many other military bases are stealthily being used to redistribute, house, process and release illegal border crossers? What we do know for sure is that the Obama administration already has converted several other military bases across the country into outposts for tens of thousands of illegal aliens from Central and South America. ...Meanwhile, a law enforcement source in Texas tells me this week that countless illegal aliens are being released into the general public despite testing positive for tuberculosis. ‘The feds are putting them on public transportation to God knows where,’ he said. Another source, working in the border patrol in south Texas, tells me: ‘Our station, along with every other station, is flooded with women and small children. One lady yesterday had a baby as young as 8 months. And they’re coming over with pink eye and scabies. So getting them medically cleared becomes a priority. They’ll be here for almost a week, so we provide them with formula and diapers. We have a catering service contracted to feed them because it’s too many for us to feed on our own. And of course, they end up being released because every family housing facility is full. They’re supposed to show up for immigration court at a later date, but they don’t.” [60096]

Malkin observes, “The latest ‘crisis’ is a wholly manufactured byproduct of White House administrative amnesties, which are supported by a toxic alliance of ethnic-vote-seeking Democrats and cheap-labor-hungry Big Business Republicans. The flood comes just as Obama’s DHS announced a two-year extension for beneficiaries of the ‘Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals’ (DACA) program. A whopping 560,000 illegal aliens have been granted amnesty under DACA and also have received employment authorization. As I’ve said for two decades, illegal alien amnesties guarantee two things: more illegal immigration and more Democratic voters. Now we have a White House forcing U.S. military bases to provide interminable benefits and services to illegal aliens for political gain, while said White House evades responsibility for allowing military veterans to die waiting for the most basic of medical services. And where’s the GOP ‘leadership’ in this country? Doing the bidding of the amnesty-loving U.S. Chamber of Commerce and demonizing Republican candidates at every level who are sick and tired of giving away the store and the country. God save us from bipartisanship.” [60096, 60187]

According to *Asbury Park Press*, the Veterans Administration distributed \$108.7 million in bonuses to executives and employees over the last three years. [60177]

The Phoenix office if the FBI opens a criminal investigation into the Veterans Administration scandal. [60105]

SHTFPlan.com reports, “The Russians are actually making a move against the petrodollar. It appears that they are quite serious about their de-dollarization strategy. The largest natural gas producer on the planet, Gazprom, has signed agreements with some of their biggest customers to switch payments for natural gas from U.S. dollars to euros. And Gazprom would have never done this without the full approval of the Russian government, because the Russian government holds a majority stake in Gazprom. There hasn’t been a word about this from the big mainstream news networks in the United States, but this is huge. When you are talking about Gazprom, you are talking about a company that is absolutely massive. It is one of the largest companies in the entire world and it makes up 8 percent of Russian GDP all by itself. It holds 18 percent of the natural gas reserves of the entire planet, and it is also a very large oil producer. So for Gazprom to make a move like this is extremely significant. When Barack Obama decided to slap some meaningless economic sanctions on Russia a while back, he probably figured that the world would forget about them after a few news cycles. But the Russians do not forget, and they certainly do not forgive. At this point the Russians are turning their back on the United States, and that includes the U.S. dollar. ...Because nearly everyone else around the rest of the planet uses our currency to trade with one another, that keeps the value of the U.S. dollar artificially high and it keeps our borrowing costs artificially low. As Russia abandons the U.S. dollar that will hurt, but if other nations start following suit that could eventually cause a financial avalanche. What we are witnessing right now is just a turning point. The effects won’t be felt right away. So don’t expect this to cause financial disaster next week or next month. But this is definitely another element in the ‘perfect storm’ that is starting to brew for the U.S. economy. Yes, we have been living in a temporary bubble of false stability for a few years. However, the long-term outlook has not gotten any better. In fact, the long-term trends that are destroying our economic and financial foundations just continue to get even worse.” [60415, 60468, 60469, 60470]

On her book tour, Hillary Clinton says, “I actually write about Rahm [Emanuel] in the book. I asked him not to read it before we sat and did our interview. But it was in the very first chapter, the chapter I rightly call ‘Team of Rivals’ because that’s what it was in the beginning. A senator from Illinois [Obama] ran against a senator from New York [Clinton] just as had happened way back with a senator from Illinois named Lincoln and a senator from New York named Seward. And it turned out the same way.” (Abraham Lincoln was never a U.S. Senator; he was a Congressman from Illinois. Lincoln defeated Senator William Seward of New York, and several other candidates, for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860. In 1858 Lincoln ran for the U.S. Senate but was defeated by Stephen Douglas. Clinton’s gaffe is not particularly significant, but she is from Illinois and should know better—and had Sarah Palin made the mistake the media would have pounded her for weeks.) [60157, 60173]

Department of Homeland Security head Jeh Johnson is grilled by the Senate Homeland Security Committee. Not surprisingly, Johnson is pressed about the number of children crossing the border illegally and being warehoused like cattle by the Obama administration. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) says, “We have in particular a humanitarian crisis with respect to unaccompanied minors. That is a crisis that is a direct consequence of policies of the Obama administration. In 2011, there were roughly 7,000 unaccompanied minors who were apprehended... In 2012, that number rose to 14,000. In 2013, it rose to 24,000. And, in 2014, your agency is estimating it is going to be as high as 90,000. In 2015, the administration is estimating that it will rise all the way to 145,000. Now it’s important to understand what those numbers represent. These numbers represent children, little boys and little girls, their parents are handing them over not to some noble social worker trying to help them. They are handing them over to international, global criminal cartels that smuggle human beings in. They put kids, among other places, on top of fast-moving freight trains. They are criminals who sexually assault, who physically assault, and who sometimes murder these children. These are little girls that are sometimes being sold into prostitution and sex slavery.” [60107, 60176]

“Mr. Secretary, you testified to this committee the increase is a result of violence in Central America and there is surely violence in Central America, but if you look at the statistics... midway through 2012, was when Administration unilaterally granted amnesty to some 800,000 people who had been minors, with the so-called DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals] proceeding. And, you can see shortly after that the numbers spike *dramatically*. Is it really your testimony that granting amnesty to some 800,000 people who came [here] illegally as children had no effect in causing a dramatic increase in children being handed over to international cartels to be smuggled in here illegally?” Johnson responds that DACA does not apply to people currently crossing the border: “Those who cross borders today illegally, including children, are not eligible for an earned path to citizenship.” Johnson’s response is meaningless, because the children are crossing the border anyway. They don’t care about gaining citizenship as much as they care about living in the United States and receiving taxpayer-funded benefits. Johnson also claims that the increased illegal immigration is the result of violence in Central America—an excuse that Cruz does not accept, because that violence would be expected to increase the numbers of all Central American immigrants, not just children. [60107, 60176, 60366]

Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) states, “Two weeks ago, the House Judiciary Committee asked the Secretary to explain why the Department released more than 36,000 convicted criminal aliens from its custody in 2013. He didn’t have an answer at the time, saying he wanted ‘a deeper understanding’ of this issue. I look forward to hearing today what he’s learned since then. Releasing 36,000 people with criminal convictions is no small matter. These individuals have been convicted of homicide, sexual assault and kidnapping. They are drunk drivers and drug offenders. And, now they are free to roam our streets.” [60107]

Congressman Steve King (R-IA) tells WND.com, “I do feel this attempt to flood the border with illegals is a playing out of the Cloward-Piven theory. If you don’t see them bring reinforcements down there to seal the border, that means that, yes, it’s a Cloward-Piven maneuver to flood the country until we get to the point where we are an open-borders country that welcomes everybody, legal and illegal. ... You or I could shut that thing down in less than a week. Instead of busing and flying illegals out of Texas, you fly enforcement people in [and strengthen border security]. It’s the Battle of the Bulge down there, and you send in George Patton and the Third Army to relieve the surrounded 101st Airborne.” Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) agrees, saying that Obama “is trying to do a Cloward-Piven thing with the border. ... It’s an open secret Obama is trying to flood Texas with illegals to make it into a blue state. If we lose Texas, and it becomes like California, then the Republicans lose the chance of ever getting a Republican elected president.” (WND.com’s Jerome Corsi notes, “In the 1960s, professors Andrew Cloward and Francis Fox Piven of Columbia University, Obama’s alma mater, devised a plan to provoke chaos by deliberately overwhelming governmental systems and the U.S. economy to the point of collapse, paving the way for state intervention that would ultimately replace America’s free-enterprise republic with a collectivist system.”) [60163, 60776]

Some might argue that the Obama administration has applied the Cloward-Piven strategy in several areas: With Operation Fast and Furious, the plan was to dramatically increase gun violence as a way to gin up public support for stricter gun control legislation. (The ultimate goal is to outlaw guns.) ObamaCare’s taxes, rules, and regulations will drive private insurers out of business, encourage businesses to dump employees onto the federal exchange, and generally destabilize the entire health care system—with the intention of prompting Americans to eventually “cry uncle” and say, “Okay, I give up! Give us a fully socialized system!” (The ultimate goal is to have the government own and control all hospitals and make all doctors and nurses federal employees.) Flooding the nation with illegal immigrant children creates a “humanitarian emergency” that provides Obama with an excuse to “take action” that will likely conflict with the wishes of the American people. (The ultimate goal is to flood the United States with eventual Democrat voters.) The administration’s “global warming” scare tactics prompt non-thinking Americans to agree, “Yes, the government *must do something now!*”—and suddenly the EPA is regulating coal-fired power plants out of existence. (The ultimate goal is to place all power production under direct government control.) The government makes it incredibly easy for students to borrow money for college loans they cannot afford to pay back, with the short-term goal of buying the votes of young people with loan-forgiveness schemes. (The ultimate goal is to eliminate all private universities and place all colleges under federal control.) The Cloward-Piven strategy is in the handbook of every community activist because it is an effective tool. The activists (or the White House or the Department of Justice) create a problem significant enough to make people willing to accept even greater government control over their lives. The process is simple: Don’t ask people if they want more government; create a reason to demand it. Behind many crises is the hand of a local, state, or federal operative practicing the Cloward-Piven strategy.

At the White House, Obama takes questions from Tumblr users. Tumblr CEO David Karp asks Obama a user question: “Where do you see yourself in 10 years?” Obama replies, “Well, I haven’t projected out 10 years. ...I know what I’ll do right after the next President is inaugurated. I’ll be on a beach somewhere drinking out of a coconut. But that probably won’t last too long. ...And if there’s one message I want to deliver to young people like a Tumblr audience is, don’t get cynical. Guard against cynicism. I mean, the truth of the matter is that for all the challenges we face, all the problems that we have, if you had to be—if you had to choose any moment to be born in human history, not knowing what your position was going to be, who you were going to be, you’d choose this time. The world is less violent than it has ever been. It is healthier than it has ever been. It is more tolerant than it has ever been. It is better fed than it’s ever been. It is more educated than it’s ever been.” (That the world may be “less violent than it has ever been” may be news to hundreds of millions of people.) [60203, 60422, 61749]

Rush Limbaugh comments that Cantor lost the primary election because “[h]is constituents ceased to be the people that [sic; who] live in his district. Eric Cantor became a creation of Washington, and his constituency became Barack Obama and the House leadership. That’s why he was doing what he was doing, that’s for whom he was doing what he was doing, and the people of his district finally figured it out, I think. You don’t take pictures of yourself arm-in-arm with Barack Obama when the subject is immigration and expect there to be no kickback, or pushback, on that. But the tone-deafness, and, I think, the willing disregard of public opinion on any number of issues, is unlike anything I’ve seen. ...I think the pressures of that town is such—you know, the libs run it. They run it politically, they run it socially—which is crucial—they run it media-wise. All these guys are caught up in this notion that they can’t be confrontational. [But] that’s going to kill them, it’s going to wipe them out. ‘They’ve got to be agreeable, they’ve got to be bipartisan.’ Well look where it’s getting them!” [60124, 60146]

The White House retrieves Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel from under the Bergdahl bus, as press secretary John Earnest tells reporters, [Obama is] the commander in chief, and [Obama is] the one that’s [sic; who is] ultimately responsible for making sure that we fulfill this commitment that we don’t leave anybody behind.” (DailyCaller.com comments, “Of course, the word ‘responsible’ itself doesn’t necessarily mean what you dumb teabaggers think it means.”) [60121, 60122]

Hagel tells the House Armed Services Committee, “Mr. Chairman, I want to be clear on one fundamental point—I would never sign off on any decision that I did not feel was in the best interests of this country. Nor would [Obama], who made the final decision with the full support of his national security team. ...[Obama] and I would not have moved forward unless we had complete confidence that we were acting lawfully, in the national interest, and in the best traditions of our military.” Hagel admits, “The trust has been broken” between Congress and the White House, and “We could have done a better job of keeping you informed. ...As the opportunity to obtain Sergeant Bergdahl’s release became clearer, we grew increasingly concerned that any delay, or any leaks, could derail the deal and further endanger.” (Hagel and Obama were worried about Congressional leaks, yet spread the word of the exchange to 80–90 people in the administration and, of

course, to Qatar. Obama apparently trusts the Qatari government more than he trusts Democrats and Republicans in Congress.) As has National Security Advisor Susan Rice, Hagel weakly argues that the United States did not negotiate with terrorists; it negotiated with the Qataris. (That is like claiming a husband and wife who are getting a divorce are “not really” negotiating with each other because they have lawyers doing the bargaining over who gets the house, the furniture, and the cars.) [60145, 60162, 60188]

Hagel says the five released terrorists “were mid- to high-ranking members of the Taliban government... So yes, they were part of planning, but my point was we have no direct evidence of any direct involvement in their direct attacks on the United States or any of our troops.” Congressman Marc Thornberry (R-TX): “So your point was, they didn’t pull the trigger, but they were senior commanders of the Taliban military who directed operations against the United States and its coalition partners?” Hagel: “That’s right.” Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA): “Just like bin Laden didn’t pull a trigger, but we went after him because he’s the one that [sic; who] caused 9/11.” [60190]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest is asked about the threat of ISIS (or ISIL, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/Shaaam/Syria). He responds, “At this point, it appears to pose a different kind of threat to the United States’ interests, but a serious threat and one we continue to be concerned about. ...[D]ifferent in that core al-Qaeda had repeatedly and publicly vowed to attack the United States homeland. The threat in the region that we’re talking about now [Iraq] appears to be somewhat different, but it’s one that we are watching very carefully for a variety of reasons—because they’ve [ISIS] proven to be very violent, because they’ve demonstrated a willingness to consider targeting American interests and American allies. ...It’s the reason that we value the cooperative relationship we have with a lot of governments in this region. And it’s the reason that [Obama] is considering things like the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund to make sure that we are devoting the necessary resources to cooperate with our partners in these areas, to protect the United States of America and our interests and our allies.” (Iraq is collapsing, and the Obama administration talks about “partnership funds.”) Meanwhile, the terrorists have walked off with more than \$400 million in cash from Iraq’s central bank—cash that can buy a lot of weapons and ammunition, as well as bombs and plane tickets. The terrorists have also taken U.S. military Humvees. On March 20, one ISIS member, Abu Bak al-Janabi, Tweeted, “Dear #USA can you do us (#ISIS) a favor by sending more high tech. weapons to Al Maliki so that we can take them from him as war spoils?” The NSA may be spying on Americans but is perhaps not reading ISIS messages.) [60207, 60210, 60234, 60592]

A student loan bill proposed by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) that would reduce loan interest rates and raise taxes on the wealthy fails in the Senate. DailyCaller.com writes, “According to liberal sources, however, the bill’s failure is all part of the plan. The Progressive Change Campaign Committee, a grassroots left-wing organization that claims over 1 million members, says that activists and candidates for office are already campaigning on the bill and trying to savage Republicans for opposing it. By immediately striking down Warren’s bill, ‘they’ve given progressives the upper hand when engaging voters on the popular issue of college affordability,’ a representative of



the group told The Daily Caller News Foundation.” (That is, Obama and the Democrats will use the failure to pass the bill to argue that “Republicans hate students and love billionaires.” The GOP position is closer to “Person X should not be forced to pay for the education of Person Y, and we cannot continue to destroy jobs by raising taxes.” Which position is more likely to be believed by the voters remains to be seen.) [60123, 60167]

Hillary Clinton tells NBC’s Cynthia McFadden, “These five guys [the terrorists released by Obama] are not a threat to the United States.” (If they are not a threat to the United States, why were they being held at Guantanamo in the first place? If they are not a threat to the United States, why did Obama believe it was necessary to negotiate the deal without informing Congress?) “They are a threat to the safety and security of Afghanistan and Pakistan. It’s up to those two countries to make the decision once and for all that these are threats to them. So I think we may be kind of, you know, missing the bigger picture here. We want to get an American home. Whether they fell off the ship because they were drunk or they were pushed or they jumped, we try to rescue everybody.” (In other words, “What difference does it make whether Bowe Bergdahl was a hero or a deserter or an enemy collaborator?”) At HotAir.com Ed Morrissey writes, “*Five guys?* Yes, these are just five dudes we found hanging around Kabul, and not high-ranking Taliban commanders wanted by the UN for crimes against humanity. Just last week, a senior intelligence official briefed the Senate on the threat of these *five guys*, telling them that four of the five are likely to return to the battlefield—where tens of thousands of American troops remain in combat deployment. Besides, the Afghan government is supposed to be our partner in the war. If we’re releasing five high-ranking Taliban commanders that pose a threat to them, bypassing their sovereignty and jurisdiction over these fighters, then what does that say about American partnership? What does that say about Hillary Clinton’s approach to that partnership? The Afghans have to be aghast at this admission that their security means very little to the US after spending the last thirteen years in the field with us.” [60132, 60133, 60140, 60525]

Clinton also tells McFadden one of her “hard choices” as Secretary of State was advising Obama to go after Osama bin Laden. (Why that was a “hard choice” is not clear, unless she and Obama also considered leaving bin Laden alone to do as he pleased. Similarly, declaring war on Japan after it attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 was not a “hard choice” for the U.S. Congress. It was a logical consequence of the attack.) [60140]

DailyCaller.com writes, “Al-Qaida has established a new Islamic Caliphate. The Obama administration’s failure to secure a status-of-forces agreement with the government of Iraq, or to take decisive action in Syria to end that civil war, has provided al-Qaida an opportunity to fulfill its dream of creating a new Islamic Caliphate governed under Sharia law—and it is a direct threat to U.S. national security. On Tuesday, June 10, 2014, just days shy of the two and a half year anniversary of the departure of the last U.S. combat forces from Iraq, news broke that hundreds of al-Qaida-linked terrorists belonging to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) had taken Iraq’s second-largest city, Mosul, and possibly all of the surrounding Nineveh Province. Iraq security forces abandoned their posts, leaving advanced military equipment and weaponry to al-Qaida. As they advanced, 500,000 civilians out of an estimated two million that live in Mosul

fled, and al-Qaida now controls the city—a gateway to Iraq’s oil rich north. Less than 24 hours later, reports indicate that al-Qaida has now taken the city of Tikrit, the birthplace of Saddam Hussein. Al-Qaida militants are said to have driven into the city Wednesday in an organized convoy and taken over the government’s provincial headquarters building. The infamous black flag of al-Qaida now flies atop. The rapid destabilization of Northern Iraq is very alarming and dangerous. A very bloody civil war appears to be inevitable, similar to the one being fought in neighboring Syria.” [60515]

“Al-Qaida affiliated terrorists now control an area in Eastern Syria all the way through parts of Western and now Northern Iraq. They have subjected the locals in the areas they control to Sharia law and have engaged in acts of violent barbarism. They have beheaded locals for failing to adhere to their strict interpretation of Sunni Islam and have set up training camps to train additional terrorists to conduct operations and external attacks. This is exactly what al-Qaida has always wanted, and the Obama administration is allowing them to have it. Tikrit is now the third major Iraqi city to fall into the hands of al-Qaida terrorists, as the city of Fallujah was taken over in January. The United States Marine Corps fought two major battles for control of the city of Fallujah, and many Americans lost their lives or were injured fighting there. At the moment, all of that effort and sacrifice appears to have been made in vain. Why? Because the Obama administration failed to sign a status-of-forces agreement with the government of Iraq that would have allowed for a stay-behind counterterrorism force to maintain security gains and kill al-Qaida terrorists while Iraq got on her feet. ...Without a status-of-forces agreement in place, the United States was forced to withdraw all U.S. military forces from Iraq by December 2011. The U.S. military informed the administration that it felt that a U.S. counterterrorism force should remain in Iraq for several years after the withdrawal of U.S. combat forces in order to give the Iraqis some space to build additional capacity, and to ensure al-Qaida did not mount a comeback. It appears as though the U.S. military was correct in its assessment, as al-Qaida has made a comeback and it is now a threat to the U.S. homeland.” [60155]

“...The reason that this situation is a direct threat to U.S. national security is that al-Qaida affiliated terrorist groups have stated that their long term goal is to attack the United States. Their intentions lay beyond the borders of Iraq, Syria and the greater Middle East and include killing Americans on U.S. soil. To compound this problem, it has been reported that hundreds of U.S. citizens have traveled to fight in Syria for various warring factions. We now have al-Qaida in control of a large area of lawless territory in the Middle East, setting up training camps, Americans engaged in fighting alongside our enemies and a threat to attack the United States. There could not possibly be a scarier combination of events. The United States is at risk as a result of the inaction by the Obama Administration in either Syria or Iraq. This situation could have been prevented long ago had the President simply secured a status-of-forces agreement and left a U.S. counterterrorism force to prevent al-Qaida from reemerging. In addition to leaving the nation at risk of another terrorist attack, let us not forget that Operation Iraqi Freedom, more commonly known as the Iraq War, was very costly in terms of blood and treasure for the United States. Between 2003 and 2012 the United States spent over a trillion dollars and saw 4,486 brave Americans die on the field of battle. Millions more served

there over the course of eight years. The administration had an opportunity to ensure that their sacrifices were not made in vain, but instead it chose to turn tail and run at the first available opportunity.” [60155]

A U.S. official tells TheBlaze.com that the U.S. Embassy, United Nations and other foreign organizations with a presence in Iraq are “preparing contingency plans to evacuate employees.” There are as many as 10,000 American officials and contractors in Iraq. [60182, 60183]

Terrorists from the al-Qaeda offshoot ISIS threaten to invade Jordan and “slaughter” King Abdullah. (Those who believe the United States can ignore the situation in Iraq because the terrorists will remain there are mistaken.) [60208, 60209, 60217, 60218]

WND.com’s Bob Unruh reports, “An organization of former Border Patrol agents Wednesday charged that the federal government, under the administration of ...Obama, is deliberately arranging for a flood of immigrant children to arrive in America for political purposes. ‘This is not a humanitarian crisis. It is a predictable, orchestrated and contrived assault on the compassionate side of Americans by her political leaders that knowingly puts minor illegal alien children at risk for purely political purposes,’ said the statement released by the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers. ‘Certainly, we are not gullible enough to believe that thousands of unaccompanied minor Central American children came to America without the encouragement, aid and assistance of the United States government,’ the officers said. ‘Anyone that [sic; who] has taken two six- to seven-year-old children to an amusement park can only imagine the problems associated with bringing thousands of unaccompanied children that age up through Mexico and into the United States.’” [60158]

Congressman Paul Gosar (R-AZ) calls for the impeachment of Attorney General Eric Holder over the border security fiasco. Gosar states, “This is the continuing destruction of the rule of law and the constitutional framework which we operate under.” Gosar notes that it is a violation of federal law if anyone “knowingly, or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to enter or remains in the United State in violation of law, transports or moves or attempts to transport or move such alien within the United States by means of transportation or otherwise in furtherance of such violation of the law.” “I’ve contended now,” says Gosar, “and it’s been supported by a U.S. federal judge, that the attorney general is in fact violating criminal smuggling laws. ...It’s time to call him into question to stop the furtherance of the destruction of the rule of law. ...People are fed up. We saw the election last night. People are scared, and they’re angry at a government that will not uphold the rule of law.” The Attorney General is supposed to tell Obama, “‘Hey, you’re overreaching,’ whether it be immigration, whether it be prisoner release at Guantanamo, whether it be Fast and Furious, whether it be Benghazi behind the scenes. In all this stuff, the attorney general is required to uphold the rule of law, and if he can’t, he needs to get out of the way. ...If the House knows a breakdown of the law is occurring, it is their due diligence to file the articles of impeachment, to hold the attorney general accountable and make sure that we find an attorney general that can actually comply with the rule of law. ...[Obama] said that he would not deport anybody, and then

the attorney general was complicit in saying that they would not uphold the rule of law in border security. They perpetuated this issue, and what we're seeing right now is just the tip of the iceberg. What we're generating is whole new generations of 'dreamers' that are then being taken by plane. At least seven different flights have come from Texas to Arizona. These people have been moved around without food, water, shelter and many have not had any vaccinations." [60164]

Republican members of the House meet to discuss the fallout from the primary election loss of House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA). Cantor announces he will give up his position as House Minority Leader effective July 31. (On June 19 the GOP members will vote on a new Majority Leader and Majority Whip. Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), who is even more "establishment" and less conservative than Cantor may be elected majority leader.) [60118, 60150, 60153, 60178]

FreeBeacon.com reports, "Four Russian strategic bombers triggered U.S. air defense systems while conducting practice bombing runs near Alaska this week, with two of the Tu-95 Bear H aircraft coming within 50 miles of the California coast, the North American Aerospace Defense Command (Norad) confirmed Wednesday. ...[T]he latest Bear H incursions began Monday around 4:30 p.m. Pacific time when radar detected the four turbo-prop powered bombers approaching the U.S. air defense zone near the far western Aleutian Islands. Two U.S. Air Force F-22 jets were scrambled and intercepted the bombers over the Aleutians. After tracking the bombers as they flew eastward, two of the four Bears turned around and headed west toward the Russian Far East. The bombers are believed to be based at the Russian strategic base near Anadyr, Russia. The remaining two nuclear-capable bombers then flew southeast and around 9:30 P.M. entered the U.S. northern air defense zone off the coast of Northern California. Two U.S. F-15 jets were deployed and intercepted the bombers as they eventually flew within 50 miles of the coast before turning around and heading west." [60213]

Asked by The Globe and Mail if she personally supports the Keystone XL pipeline, Hillary Clinton replies, "I can't respond." [60410, 60411]

The Senate votes 93-3 to approve legislation that will allegedly make it easier for the Veterans Administration to hold poor employees more accountable for their actions, and allow veterans to get care at non-veteran facilities when VA facilities cannot accommodate them. Health care expert Betsy McCaughey, a former lieutenant governor of New York state, says the legislation "is designed to protect union jobs, not ailing vets" and "will not save the lives of vets stuck on the wait list." "One of the culprits," states McCaughey, "is this 316-page union contract full of mind-numbing rules that prevent assigning an employee to a new task, a new work shift, a new building, or reprimanding someone on the staff for misdeeds or just poor performance." According to CNSNews.com, the legislation "requires vets to get a letter from the secretary of Veterans' Affairs, confirming that they waited 'an unacceptable amount of time for treatment' or live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility" before they can be treated at a non-VA hospital. McCaughey remarks, "Good luck getting that letter! I talk to vets all the time who have contacted the VA, called them, e-mailed them everyday for

six months and couldn't get a reply. ...[M]ost preposterously, this bill states that this choice program will end in two years. In other words, a few hours after the VA manages to finally get the hotline up and get the cards distributed to vets, it will be over." [60251]

Former CIA intelligence analyst Kenneth Pollack and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy tells Australian media, "We need to be very concerned about the situation in Iraq. [The] Worst-case scenario is that there'll be a horrific civil war, it will have an effect on the global economy and could cause a very significant recession in the developed world. It will spawn new terrorist groups and it will destabilize the region. This is a very serious situation." Pollack calls the ISIS "a really nasty group. They are as radical, if not more so, than the rest of al Qaeda. It is likely that what we are seeing is the beginning of a new civil war in Iraq, and while that is probably not likely to lead to a rapid takeover by al Qaeda, the fighting there could have a very serious impact not only on Iraq's stability but on the stability of the rest of the region and on the global supply of oil. ...Clearly they have been secretly husbanding and building up their strength in a way that escaped any of the Western intelligence services or even the Arab intelligence services. I think that both the strength that ISIS has shown and the weakness demonstrated by the Iraqi security forces have both been very surprising." The United States "needs to step up and recognize that Iraq is too important to American interests, to western interests, quite frankly to the entire global economy, to simply allow it to drift the way that the Obama administration has. It's very late in the day. Saving Iraq is going to be extremely difficult; and what we need to recognize is that the kind of incremental half-steps that this administration has typically [been] favoring throughout the Middle East just aren't going to cut it. It is going to require some very dramatic steps. ...Obama has steadfastly insisted that the United States doesn't need to deal with the problems of the Middle East. I think that it was always a mistaken bet, and I think we are now seeing, as we say, those chickens come home to roost. I hope that he is willing to reverse course, but quite frankly I've not seen any indication that he is ready to do that." [60189]

On *The Kelly File*, former CIA officer Buck Sexton says, "This is as bad as anybody could have thought it would get after the decision was made by this administration to completely evacuate all real and military presence out of the country. The war does not end for the global Jihadist. It has not ended in Afghanistan and as we see, it has not ended in Iraq, either. ...This is essentially an al-Qaeda invasion force, and they are many steps down the road towards taking over the entire northern, western half of this country." [60189]

Appearing with Sexton, Pete Hegseth, CEO of Concerned Veterans for America, says, "You watch the coverage of this and you're resigned to the reality that we're watching one of the single greatest failures in American foreign policy unfold before our eyes. ...[Americans] need to wake up to the reality that, as Buck said, these wars just don't end. The problem is, everyone's war-weary... Iraq, whether you think it was the right idea or not... the reality is right now, because of decisions that have been made for a long time, al Qaeda is on the march to take over huge swaths of land that they will control... They have a strategic intent... which is to maintain a caliphate from which to operate,

plan, train and export jihad, which is exactly why Buck and I and so many of this generation were deployed.” [60189]

On June 12, NBC’s Jenna Bush Hager (daughter of George W. Bush) interviews Obama for the *Today* show. In the “exclusive interview,” Hager lobs softball questions about fatherhood and helping troubled children. (June 15 is Father’s Day.) [60254]

LeParisien.fr reports that a 23-year-old man in Reims, France was beaten by two Muslims for eating a sandwich—which they found offensive because it contained ham. (Obama has no comment. Pamela Geller notes, “[H]erein lies the fundamental difference between Islamic law (the sharia), Canon law and Jewish law: Canon law applies to Roman Catholics, Jewish law to Jews, but Islamic law asserts its punitive authority over non-Muslims, and Muslims (even those in Western nations) impose it by force and other means. This defines Islamic supremacism.”) [60661, 60662]

The Associated Press reports, “The Obama administration has been quietly advising local police not to disclose details about surveillance technology they are using to sweep up basic cellphone data from entire neighborhoods... Citing security reasons, the U.S. has intervened in routine state public records cases and criminal trials regarding use of the technology. This has resulted in police departments withholding materials or heavily censoring documents in rare instances when they disclose any about the purchase and use of such powerful surveillance equipment. Federal involvement in local open records proceedings is unusual. It comes at a time when ... Obama has said he welcomes a debate on government surveillance and called for more transparency about spying in the wake of disclosures about classified federal surveillance programs.” [60269]

Having taken control of Mosul and Tikrit in Iraq, al-Qaeda/ISIS terrorists head to Samarra and then Baghdad. Outgoing White House press secretary Jay Carney tells reporters, “We are not contemplating ground troops... We don’t believe that that is the approach that we should take in this case.” Asked about the prospect of a civil war in Iraq, Carney avoids the question and reminds reporters that Obama pledged to end the war and did. ABC’s Jonathan Karl asks, “Given what we’re seeing now in Iraq, can you still claim those [an end to the war in Iraq and the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan] as two of your signature achievements?” Carney replies, “There is no question that [Obama] pledged to end the war in Iraq, and he did.” Karl: “There’s no war in Iraq now?” All Carney can do is reply that there are no longer any U.S. troops in Iraq: “What is also the case, and what [Obama] made clear as we wound down the war in Iraq, is that we need to be a good partner to the government in Iraq, and provide the assistance that we can, at their request, to help them meet their security challenges—and we have done that. Ultimately, Iraq’s future has to be decided through reconciliation of political factions in Iraq, and a unified approach to dealing with the challenge posed by a group like the ISIL [ISIS].” [60159, 60240, 60253, 60261]

In Mosul, a masked ISIS commander addresses a cheering crowd: “By Allah, we embarked on our Jihad only to support the religion of Allah. ... We have defeated the Americans and their allies... Allah willing, we will establish a state ruled by the Quran

and the Sunna. ...All of you honorable Muslims are the soldiers of the Muslim State. ...Allah willing, you are Muslims. The Islamic State is as strong as the lions I see before me. ...the shari'ah of Allah, the Qu'ran, and the Sunna. ...Muslims in Baghdad ...Samaraa and Tikrit..." [60338, 60339]

State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki tells skeptical reporters, "Obviously, the withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 was not a mistake." Asked if the Obama administration welcomed the prospect of Iranian forces helping the Iraqi government, she replies, "I don't have any analysis from our team at this point in terms of what specific constructive role they could play." [60304]

Secretary of State John Kerry says, "I know [Obama] is prepared to make key decisions in short order. And as he made clear earlier, options are on the table right now, and at the appropriate time I'm sure you'll hear from [Obama]." [60159]

At the Council on Foreign Relations, Hillary Clinton tells an interviewer, "So this is not just a Syrian problem anymore. I never thought it was just a Syrian problem. I thought it was a regional problem. I could not have predicted, however, the extent to which ISIS could be effective in seizing cities in Iraq and trying to erase boundaries to create an Islamic state. That's why it's a wicked problem." (Clinton perhaps could not have predicted the events, but generals warned both the Bush and Obama administrations not to withdraw completely from Iraq—or it would face a resurgence of terrorists. Major General Jeffrey Buchanan warned in 2006, "If the Iraqi security forces are not able to put pressure on them, they could regenerate." New Mexico Republican Senate candidate Allen Weh, a retired Marine Colonel and Iraq War veteran, tells DailyCaller.com, "Regrettably, the current administration's failure to consummate an agreement to leave a residual force for training and counter insurgency operations has directly contributed to the deterioration in security conditions in Iraq and a deterioration in military capability. In 2008 our progress was impressive. There was no question then that this [Iraqi] army was on track to become the stabilizing force it was intended to be for both the country and the region.") [60241]

Clinton says, "[T]he deadline on Iraq was set, was set by the prior administration, that if there were not a status of forces agreement, which is the agreement under which American military forces can be positioned in a country to provide services that are agreed to or asked for by the host country... there would not be American troops. And when ...Obama came in, he was obviously not an enthusiast about the Iraq war from the very beginning, very strong critic of it, both its initiation and its handling. There was a lot of effort to work through with the Maliki government what such a status-of-forces agreement would look like. At the end of the day, the Maliki government would not agree. So the decision was made, in effect. There could not be American troops left, without such an agreement." [60248]

Clinton and Obama are trying to have it both ways with status of forces agreements. In November 2008 the Bush administration and the Iraqi government signed a status of forces agreement that called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops by the end of 2011—with a

stay-behind force. Obama chose not to renegotiate the agreement, even though the Iraqi government wanted U.S. troops to remain. (The U.S. military discussed a stay-behind force of 20–23,000. Obama suggested 3,000—and changed it to zero when he could not get his way.) When Obama withdrew all U.S. troops in 2011, he took credit for the action. But the Bush administration had already negotiated and signed the agreement. *All Obama did was comply with it.* The refusal to negotiate a new status of forces agreement in 2011 and leave some U.S. troops in Iraq was entirely Obama’s decision, not Bush’s. (After all, Bush was no longer in the White House in 2011. NationalReview.com’s Jonah Goldberg notes that Obama “deliberately let negotiations over the status of American forces in Iraq deteriorate until there was nothing to do but lament that we couldn’t work things out.”) That decision by Obama resulted in the 2014 terrorist resurgence—for which he and Clinton are now conveniently blaming Bush and Iraq. In reality, Obama would have had no trouble renewing a status of forces agreement with Iraq because Iraq *wanted* U.S. troops to remain beyond 2011. Obama used the lack of a new agreement in 2011 to his advantage to “end the war,” and in 2014 blames Bush for not negotiating an agreement beyond 2011. Had the Bush-Iraq agreement of 2008 called for troops to remain beyond 2011, Obama and Clinton would of course have raised Hell about it in the 2008 campaign. During his third debate with Mitt Romney in 2012, in fact, Obama specifically stated that he did *not* want a continuing status of forces agreement with Iraq, and added, “What I would not have done is left 10,000 troops in Iraq that would tie us down. That certainly would not help us in the Middle East.” [13400, 13403, 14219, 14220, 14221, 14229, 14231, 14241, 14243, 14245, 14247, 16700, 16709, 25672, 25713, 25734, 25741, 25967, 27303, 27312, 27381, 27492, 27498, 27541, 27548, 27647, 27718, 60257, 60561, 60628]

The Associated Press reports, “Officials say three planeloads of Americans are being evacuated from a major Iraqi air base in Sunni territory north of Baghdad to escape potential threats from a fast-moving insurgency. A current US official and a former senior Obama administration official say that means the American training mission at the air field in Balad has been grounded indefinitely. Twelve US personnel who were stationed at Balad were the first to be evacuated. Several hundred American contractors are still waiting to leave. They have been training Iraqi forces to use fighter jets and surveillance drones.” (Although many will blame the renewed violence in Iraq on Bush’s decision to oust Saddam Hussein in 2003, the true blame should probably be placed on Paul Bremer—who headed the occupational authority in Iraq and who decided to disband the Iraqi Army. Had that army been left largely intact, many of Iraq’s problems over the subsequent 10 years could perhaps have been avoided. Of course, Bush is responsible for having appointed Bremer—and for taking his unsound advice.) [60159]

An angry Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says on the floor of the U.S. Senate, “We cannot avoid the fact that Iraq’s progress is now at greater risk than at anytime since the dark days before the surge and that it did not have to be this way. And finally, on December 14, the day that [Obama] in triumph visited Fort Bragg to mark the end, in his view, the ‘end’ of the Iraq war, I said, ‘4,000 brave Americans gave their lives in this conflict. I pray that their sacrifice is not in vain.’ Unfortunately, it is clear that this decision of a complete pull-out of United States troops from Iraq was dictated by politics and not our



national security interests. I believe that history will judge [Obama's] leadership with the scorn and disdain that it deserves." McCain tells reporters he supports U.S. air strikes to assist the Iraqi government in resisting al-Qaeda, but no "boots on the ground." He notes, "Just because you say a war has ended, doesn't mean it's over," and suggests that Obama "get rid of his national security team, which has been a total failure." According to *The New York Times*, Iraqi President Nuri al-Maliki—who apparently was unaware that Obama had al-Qaeda "on the run" and had "decimated" its leaders—reportedly asked Obama in May for air support against al-Qaeda training camps and staging areas but was rebuffed. [60159, 60172, 60181, 60193, 60194, 60212]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters, "Now they've taken control of Mosul, they're 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Baghdad. And what's [Obama] doing? Taking a nap." [60194]

Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, "I think American airpower is the only hope to change the battlefield equation in Iraq. The Iraqi army is in shambles, and without some kind of intervention, Baghdad is definitely in jeopardy. ...I have never been more worried about another 9/11 than I am right now. ...Ten or 15,000 strategically placed US soldiers would have held this together." (Instead, Obama withdrew all U.S. troops because he would not agree to sign the status of forces agreement with Iraq—even though it had already been negotiated by the Bush administration. Obama was simply Hell-bent on pulling all troops out of Iraq. The terrorists knew that, and used their time to prepare accordingly.) [60194, 60237]

Obama, clearly caught flat-footed by the developments in Iraq, states, "My team is working around the clock to identify how we can provide the most effective assistance to them. I don't rule out anything because we do have a stake in making sure that these jihadists are not getting a permanent foothold in either Iraq or Syria, for that matter. It's fair to say that in our consultations with the Iraqis, there will be some short-term, immediate things that need to be done militarily—and, you know, our national security team is looking at all the options. But this should be also a wake-up call for the Iraqi government. ...Iraq is going to need more help, it's going to need more help from us and it's going to need more help from the international community." [60159, 60181, 60193, 60200, 60255]

Hillary Clinton calls the situation in Iraq "a dreadful, deteriorating situation." [60159]

The *Telegraph* reports that Qassim Soleiman, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's special forces, is in Baghdad. (Iran may assist Iraq in fighting al-Qaeda. Iran is primarily Shi'ite Muslim, as is the Iraqi government, while al-Qaeda and ISIS are Sunni Muslim. In conflicts between Sunni and Shi'ite, Obama generally favors the Sunnis—such as the rebel fighters in Libya and Syria, and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. *The Obama Timeline* believes Obama will do as little as possible to interfere in Iraq because he does not care if the Sunnis defeat the Shi'ites and establish a caliphate. In fact, that may be what he wants—as evidenced by his efforts to drive Hosni Mubarak out of power in Egypt, oust Moammar Gaddafi from Libya, assist the anti-Assad rebels in Syria, and

pull troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan. In each of those situations, Obama's actions have favored Sunni Muslims over Shi'ites and secularists. In 2012 Walid Shoebat predicted, "Iraq will weaken as a result of America's exit to simply be devoured by Iran.") There are also indications that Israel may become involved. Debka.com reports, "IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz's cryptic remark Monday, June 6, that 'The Israeli Air Force [IAF] will next month dramatically change its mode of operation,' meant that a decision has been taken to start directing the IAF's fire power against military and terrorist targets in the Syrian and Iraqi arenas—in particular the al Qaeda forces foregathering ever closer to Israel's borders with Syria, Iraq and Jordan. By aerial fire power, the general meant not just warplanes but also Israel's long-range unmanned aerial vehicles and helicopters." [60159, 60294, 60295, 60310, 60327, 60328]

On CNN, Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, states, "Our focus continues to be helping Iraq with their counter-terrorism efforts. And we've been doing a lot of that since American troops left Iraq. So that's the focus. A sustained effort in helping them with their counter-terrorism operations and we're not going to get into every single detail on that. ... We're monitoring the situation as closely as we possibly can. Certainly our country team there in Baghdad is constantly in close contact with the government so there is a lot of dialogue. Everyone is watching very closely and there's a shared understanding of the threat that ISIS [Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant/Syria] poses to the people of Iraq and the government there. And that dialogue and co-operation continues." [60159]

Germany urges its citizens in certain parts of Iraq to flee. [60196]

One ISIS fighter states, "We are soldiers of Islam and we've taken on our responsibility to bring back glory of the Islamic Caliphate [Muslim empire]." [60159]

Largely as a result of the fighting in Iraq, the price of oil jumps to \$111 per barrel. [60159]

One Twitter user quips, "In 2007, Harry Reid said that the Iraq war is 'lost.' In 2014, Barack Obama made sure he was right." (On February 10, Vice President Joe Biden told CNN's Larry King, "I am very optimistic about, about Iraq. I mean, this could be one of the great achievements of this administration. You're going to see 90,000 American troops come marching home by the end of the summer. You're going to see a stable government in Iraq that is actually moving toward a representative government. I spent—I've been there 17 times now. I go about every two months, three months. I know every one of the major players in all of the segments of that society. It's impressed me. I've been impressed [by] how they have been deciding to use the political process rather than guns to settle their differences.") [60166, 60191, 60200]

Also in 2007, President George W. Bush said, "To begin withdrawing before our commanders tell us we are ready ... would mean surrendering the future of Iraq to al Qaeda. It would mean that we'd be risking mass killings on a horrific scale. It would mean we'd allow the terrorists to establish a safe haven in Iraq to replace the one they

lost in Afghanistan. It would mean increasing the probability that American troops would have to return at some later date to confront an enemy that is even more dangerous.” [60319]

On April 2, 2011 Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) appeared on *Face the Nation*, “I’m deeply concerned [about Iraq]. We’re inside the 10-yard line in terms of finishing the job in Iraq but in 2011 all troops are supposed to leave Iraq—American troops. I do not believe the State Department can carry on their mission of helping the Iraqi government and people reconstitute their society, to help them build a civil society, without American forces there to provide security, air power, logistical support to the Iraqi Army. This idea being pushed that we’ll have a State Department army, I will not vote for that, I will not support that. We need American troops in 2012, ten-to-fifteen thousand, left behind in Iraq to provide to our people who are helping the Iraqi people, maintain air superiority, to have an edge against Iran, and to make sure the Iraqi Army continues to develop. ...If all military forces are withdrawn from Iraq in 2011, the State Department has come to the Congress and said, ‘We’re going to need more than 50 ...mine-resistant vehicles, we need a fleet of helicopters, and thousands of private security guards to protect us as we go to the four consulates in Iraq to do our job, to help the Iraqis build a civil society out of a dictatorship. I think that is a losing formula. I do not believe the State Department should have an army, that that’s not the way to provide security to our State Department, that if we’re not smart enough to work with the Iraqis to have ten-to-fifteen thousand American troops in Iraq in 2012, Iraq could go to Hell. ...I’m urging the Obama administration to work with the Maliki administration in Iraq to make sure that we have enough troops... beginning 2012 to secure the gains we’ve achieved, to make sure Iran doesn’t interfere with the Iraqi sovereignty, and to develop this country. We can’t do it with a State Department army and I will not support that. This is a defining moment in the future of Iraq and the Obama administration has the wrong strategy in Libya, and in my view they’re going down the wrong road when it comes to Iraq.” [60329]

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announces he will visit several Central American countries over the summer to address the problem of illegal immigrant children. [60170]

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer writes House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), asking them to take action on the border crisis—because Obama has shown no sign of doing so himself. Brewer writes, “By the Obama administration’s own estimation, 230,000 unaccompanied alien minors are expected to cross through the Rio Grande Sector by the end of next year. **It has become clear that the administration has encouraged this massive influx and intends to continue ignoring the states’ calls to end this policy.** Furthermore, it is indisputably evident that our border is not secure and is hardly ‘more secure than ever.’ ...As a nation, we cannot sit back and allow this policy to continue. The Obama administration is not forthcoming with answers. As congressional leaders, you have the ability to take action, get answers, and stop the lawlessness that is unfolding. On behalf of the State of Arizona I ask you to do so. Protecting our nation and its citizens is the federal government’s primary and fundamental responsibility, but it cannot be done as long as we have an unsecured border

and a federal executive that [sic; who] invites and encourages illegal activity. I urge you to use your voice, and the authority of your offices and institutions you lead, to immediately and permanently terminate this atrocious policy and stop this massive, unfettered influx of illegal crossings into our country.” (Boehner has done next to nothing over decades in Congress to ensure that the borders are adequately protected. A letter from Brewer will not prompt him to do anything now.) [60235, 60679]

Guy Benson writes at Townhall.com, “...Obama is in a quandary. On one hand, killing loads of Al Qaeda-type terrorists from the air has become a signature tactic of his, and he’s always insisted that the Iraq war was a distraction from the real fight against Al Qaeda. Regardless of one’s view of the Iraq conflict—at the time, or in retrospect—it’s abundantly clear that Iraq and Syria have become ground zero in the fight against a shockingly malignant and increasingly powerful strain of radicals. Syria presents a complicated scenario because Obama has vocally demanded the ouster of Bashar al-Assad, who’s actively fighting Al Qaeda in his ruthless struggle to retain power. He’s used (and is still using) chemical weapons in this battle, which crossed [Obama’s] unenforced ‘red line.’ Our official policy is that ‘Assad must go,’ even though the people who might supplant the Iranian puppet regime could arguably be even worse. Given that backdrop, it’s unsurprising that the Obama administration would prefer not to engage in that country at all, with the exception of backing some vetted anti-Assad fighters. In Iraq, though, there’s a cleaner case to be made: Help the Iraqi government beat back a terrible threat, kill Al Qaeda fighters, and protect the last vestiges of stability that were secured at great cost by the US military. Obama could do so with zero boots on the ground, and could partially make up for his administration’s inexcusable Status of Forces Agreement whiff (for which the Maliki government certainly bears some responsibility), which has indisputably contributed to the current crisis.” [60172]

“But there’s another looming factor in this calculus: Politics. ...Obama successfully ran for president as a leader with the foresight to oppose the Iraq intervention from the beginning. He was hellbent on ‘ending’ that war at all costs, buoyed by broad support among the American people, and therefore has little appetite to re-engage in Iraq in any capacity. The public likely wouldn’t be too keen on the idea, and his base would absolutely despise the move. ...Obama and his party can ill afford to infuriate their base in advance of an election that is already likely to result in Republican gains. Helping the still-fledgling Iraqi government hold off these barbarians is unquestionably the correct course of action, but the politics are hugely problematic. Obama’s Commander-in-Chief duties are in direct conflict with his Democrat-in-Chief role. We’ll see what, if anything, he does.” [60172]

BizPacReview.com reports, “A retired U.S. Air Force major said it was known during the Benghazi attack who was behind it because the Islamic terrorists used seized State Department cellphones to report up the chain on their success. And U.S. spy agencies were listening in on the calls in real time. The claim directly contradicts the narrative put forth by the White House in the aftermath of the attack that an anti-Muslim video played a role. In an exclusive interview on Fox News’ ‘Special Report,’ retired Air Force Major Eric Stahl said members of a CIA-trained Global Response Staff were ‘confused’ by the

repeated claims that the attack evolved from a spontaneous protest over the video because ‘they knew during the attack... who was doing the attacking.’ ‘Right after they left the consulate in Benghazi and went to the safe-house, they were getting reports that cell phones, consulate cell phones, were being used to make calls to the attackers’ higher ups,’ Stahl told host Brett Baier. According to Fox News, Stahl piloted the aircraft that was used to transport the four Americans who died in the attack. Stahl said his crew could have reached Benghazi in time to help those on the ground, had they been asked to do so. ‘We were on a 45-day deployment to Ramstein air base,’ he told Fox News. ‘And we were there basically to pick up priority missions, last-minute missions that needed to be accomplished.’ ‘You would’ve thought that we would have had a little bit more of an alert posture on 9/11,’ Stahl added. ‘A hurried-up timeline probably would take us [an] hour-and-a-half to get off the ground and three hours and fifteen minutes to get down there.’ ‘So we could’ve gone down there and gotten them easily,’ he added.” (The Accountability Review Board, which never interviewed Hillary Clinton, never bothered to interview Stahl either.) [60174, 60175, 60179, 60211, 60219]

Obama’s favorable/unfavorable ratings fall to 47/51 percent in a CNN/ORC International poll—his lowest rating for that poll. Hillary Clinton’s favorability rating is 55 percent—down from 57 percent in March, 59 percent in the fall of 2013, and 67 percent in March 2013. [60180, 60199, 60260]

In a June 5–8 Gallup poll, 51 percent of Americans do not believe Obama is “honest and trustworthy.” (The percentage was less than 30 in March 2008 and has gradually increased since then.) Hillary Clinton’s favorability rating is 54 percent in the Gallup poll, down from 59 percent in February and her lowest rating since August 2008. [60249, 60340]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The full horror of the jihadists’ savage victories in Iraq emerged yesterday as witnesses told of streets lined with decapitated soldiers and policemen. Blood-soaked bodies and blazing vehicles were left in the wake of the Al Qaeda-inspired ISIS fanatics as they pushed the frontline towards Baghdad. They boasted about their triumphs in a propaganda video depicting appalling scenes including a businessman being dragged from his car and executed at the roadside with a pistol to the back of his head. The extent of the carnage came as: Images from captured cities such as Mosul and Tikrit showed deserted streets, burnt out vehicles and discarded uniforms left by government troops fleeing the brutal fanatics; ISIS leaders urged their bloodthirsty followers to continue their march and warned that battle would rage in Baghdad and in the holy city of Karbala; Thousands of residents in the capital answered a call to arms to repel the invaders amid fears the government’s own troops were not up to the job; Aid groups warned of a new refugee crisis after half a million terrified Iraqis left their homes to escape the jihadists. ...In the swathe of captured territory across northern Iraq, ISIS declared hardline Sharia law, publishing rules ordering women not to go outside ‘unless strictly necessary’, banning alcohol and smoking, and forcing all residents to attend mosques five times a day. BBC correspondent Paul Wood said one woman from Mosul, Iraq’s second city, had spoken of seeing a ‘row of decapitated soldiers and policemen.’

The refugee woman told how the victims' heads were placed in rows—a trademark, trophy-style execution favoured by ISIS militants.” [60197]

Rush Limbaugh observes, “The simple fact of the matter is, the ultimate objective, Obama and the Democrats and the whole anti-war crowd—Code Pink, MoveOn.org, you name it—is to prove for the rest of time that everything Bush did was a mistake and was for nothing. It’s to continue the public perception of Bush [that he] was rotten and horrible, incompetent, dangerous, inconsiderate, unfeeling, uncaring. Nouri al-Maliki asking for American air support in Iraq gives Obama another political opportunity to blame Bush. And that is an opportunity they just can’t pass up. It’s too juicy. The opportunity here to secure defeat in Iraq, have it overrun by Al-Qaeda, buck up Taliban in Afghanistan, essentially get out of there and hand that country over to them. What have you done? You have proven in your mind, for the rest of time, that George W. Bush’s wars were all for nothing. You have proven that George Bush was a dirty, rotten president. You have proven that Bush had no business going anywhere. You have proven that we lost lives unnecessarily. You have advanced your own political agenda, and at the same time you are hopefully, in their view, exciting your base. As I say, the Michael Moore crowd, which just loves to see the American military fail. Because they consider the American military an agent of evil in the world.” [60200]

IBTTimes.co.uk reports, “The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Shams (Isis) has imposed a strict set of Sharia laws on the citizens of Nineveh province just days after capturing the provincial capital of Mosul. In a document circulating on social media attributed to the group, Isis warned tribal leaders and sheikhs not to ‘work with [the Iraqi] government and be traitors’ while proclaiming that women should only go outside if absolutely necessary. ‘For women, dress decently and wear wide clothes. Only go out if needed,’ read the document as translated by Al Aan TV reporter Jenan Moussa. Further rules included bans on drugs, alcohol and cigarettes while public gatherings, the possession of guns and the carrying of flags not of the Islamic state were outlawed.” [60205]

RedState.com reports that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS, “was released from US custody in 2009.” *The Washington Post’s* David Ignatius says he may be “the true heir to Osama bin Laden” and is “more violent, more virulent, more anti-American.” (Al-Baghdadi was released from the Camp Bucca prisoner facility and turned over to the Iraqis—who later released him. On June 13 Kenneth King, who was the commanding officer at Camp Bucca, tells *The Kelly File’s* Megyn Kelly that when al-Baghdadi was transferred to the Iraqis he said, “I’ll see you in New York.”) Al-Baghdadi was responsible for the jailbreak that freed about 500 terrorists from Abu Ghraib prison in July 2013. It is likely al-Baghdadi who freed militants from the jail in Mosul when ISIS overran the city. [60279, 60280, 60281, 60301, 60335, 60336, 60352]

Some claim that al-Baghdadi does not even exist but was created in order to give Americans someone new to hate and to rally against, while the real leaders are hidden. At DCClothesline.com Brandon Turbeville writes, “[A]ccording to the mainstream media and Western governments, the leader of ISIS is none other than Abdullah al-Rashid al-Baghdadi, the alleged creator of al-Qaeda in Iraq. However, upon further study, it is

revealed that the true leader is not Baghdadi at all. Indeed, the leader is not even an Iraqi. The commander of ISIS is none other than Saudi Prince Abdul Rachman al-Faisal, the brother of Prince Saud al-Faisal and Prince Turki al-Faisal. Of course, information regarding Faisal's control over ISIS has been known for some time, yet the Western media has conveniently neglected to report on it. In a 2007 article published by Reuters entitled 'Senior Qaeda Figure In Iraq A Myth: U.S. Military,' Dean Yates writes that a senior al-Qaeda operative informed U.S. Military interrogators that the Islamic State of Iraq was nothing more than a front for another organization and that its leader, Abdullah al-Rashid al-Baghdadi was himself a fictional person. In fact, Brigadier General Kevin Bergner told a news conference that Baghdadi did not exist and that 'he' was merely an attempt to put an Iraqi face on what was a 'foreign-driven network.' ...Clearly, the American public would do well to ignore the typically peddled stories handed to them by the American corporate media outlets. The narratives suggesting that terrorism is made up of cave-dwelling religious lunatics is not simply insufficient to explain current developments, it is inaccurate and entirely misleading. With the close relationship held between the United States and Saudi Arabia, if the U.S. wishes to stop the spread of terrorism in Iraq, it will immediately demand that the Saudis cease funding it. Unfortunately, however, for a number of reasons, such a request is not likely to happen." [60649]

CNSNews.com reports that ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi issues a radio message on January 21: "As for ISIS in Iraq: Be in the frontlines against the Shia, and march toward Baghdad and the South, keep the Shia busy in their own areas. Know that the entire Sunni population and the brothers in Syria are watching you. ...Our last message is to the Americans. Soon we will be in direct confrontation, and the sons of Islam have prepared for such a day. So watch, for we are with you, watching." [60292, 60293, 60419]

The Associated Press reports, "Officials say three planeloads of Americans are being evacuated from a major Iraqi air base in Sunni territory north of Baghdad to escape potential threats from a fast-moving insurgency. A current U.S. official and a former senior Obama administration official say that means the American training mission at the air field in Balad has been grounded indefinitely. Twelve U.S. personnel who were stationed at Balad were the first to be evacuated. Several hundred American contractors are still waiting to leave. They have been training Iraqi forces to use fighter jets and surveillance drones. Other U.S. contractors at a tank training ground in the city of Taji (TAH'-jee) is still ongoing for now. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they refused to be named in discussing the sensitive situation." [60206]

It is worth noting that in 2012 the Obama campaign ridiculed Mitt Romney for stating, "The precipitous withdrawal [from Iraq] is unfortunate. It's more than unfortunate. I think it's tragic." Romney also said that Obama's failure to keep 10,000–30,000 troops in Iraq was one of his "signature failures." [60226, 60227]

Senator James Inhofe (R-UT) tells Newsmax.com the crisis in Iraq is "something that was avoidable. It was something that we warned [Obama] about over a three-year period. Now, it's worse than it was before. It's very depressing. One of the most dangerous

battlegrounds during the Iraq war was Fallujah. To lose that, after they spent their blood to gain it—this is an America that I have never known before.” [60245]

Christians in Iraq are especially at risk with the terrorist advances in Mosul and other cities. CNSNews.com reports, “Barnabas Fund, an aid agency that supports minority Christians in Islamic countries, said the attacks on churches were ‘a clear statement from ISIS that they are no longer welcome in Mosul.’ ‘It is feared that this latest exodus could be the final death knell for the Christians of Iraq,’ said Barnabas international director Patrick Sookdheo. ‘Having previously sought refuge in Syria, this is no longer an option, and as ISIS violence threatens the stability of the wider region, Christians have very few places of safety to which to run.’ An Iraq-based representative of the religious freedom advocacy group Open Doors sounded a similar warning. ‘This could be the last migration of Christians from Mosul,’ the organization quoted the representative as saying. Open Doors says an estimated 1,000 Christian families were living in the city as of Monday this week. ‘The Islamist terrorists want to make Iraq a ‘Muslim only’ nation and as a result they want all Christians out,’ Open Doors USA President/CEO Dr. David Curry said in a statement. ‘The situation for Christians has deteriorated each year over the past 10 years. Iraqi Christians have faced kidnappings, threats and even death for being followers of Jesus. And they have little faith in their government to provide security as we see in the tragedy unfolding this week.’” [60246, 60290]

While Muslims persecute Christians and Jews around the world, Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) introduces legislation calling for a special State Department envoy to coordinate U.S. “global response” on LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) issues and allow LGBT individuals “who have a well-founded fear of persecution... to seek protection in the United States.” (Christians and Jews will have to fend for themselves.) [60781]

Mitt Romney tells Fox News’ Neal Cavuto, “All these decisions made [by Obama] in the past put us in a very difficult position now, frankly, with very poor options. This is the consequence of a [man who] did not take the right actions at the time opportunity presented itself. ...America is the leader of the free world, America has the potential to shape events, to help guide history in the way that is most fortuitous for the people of the world and for America. And unfortunately [Obama] has not taken the action necessary, has not had the foreign policy necessary to protect our interests overseas or in various parts of the world. ...There’s almost not a place in the world that’s better off because of [Hillary Clinton’s] leadership in the State Department. Look at what’s happening in Nigeria, in Iraq in Afghanistan, in Libya. Look what China is doing in the South China Sea. All over the world a policy of weakness and a combination that came from the Obama and Hillary Clinton team is one that’s led to serious and negative results and she’s going to have to account for that.” [60307, 60308, 60324]

During their morning and evening news broadcasts, ABC, CBS, and NBC all cover the increasing violence in Iraq—and all three networks also do their best not to suggest that Obama’s withdrawal of all U.S. troops contributed to the problem. The Media Research



Center notes, “The only reference to [Obama] was to fret that the administration was unclear whether or not to send in military support to aid the Iraqi government.” [60252]

At Aletheia.org Judicial Watch’s Islamic scholar Robert Spencer writes, “The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has just seized the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit, and is close to taking control of the nation’s largest oil refinery—indicating that the jihad between Sunni and Shi’ite Muslims is raging hotter now than it has in centuries, and isn’t going to die down anytime soon. ISIS, a Sunni group, according to the *Washington Post* now ‘effectively governs a nation-size tract of territory that stretches from the eastern edge of the Syrian city of Aleppo to Fallujah in western Iraq—and now also includes the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.’ What’s more, it has the resources to outlast its foes in a long conflict. ABC News reports that the jihadists ‘looted \$429 million from Mosul banks, making them richer than some small countries.’ ...[Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki] may indeed be able to clear the region of the Sunni jihadists, for behind him stands the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which also backs the Alawite Bashar Assad’s regime in Syria. But it is unlikely that they will be able to achieve total victory, for Sunni jihadists from all over the world have flocked to Syria in order to fight against Assad, and Maliki has accused Saudi Arabia and Qatar of supporting the Sunni jihadists in Iraq. ...[T]he idea that the Sunni-Shi’ite divide, which is 1,400 years old and goes all the way back to the murky origins of Islam, is something that can without undue difficulty be ‘overcome’ is a sterling manifestation of the general superficiality of Washington’s analysis of the Middle East, during both the Bush and the Obama administrations.” [60294, 60295]

“...[T]he Sunni-Shi’ite divide cannot be bridged by negotiations, or by bribes (‘aid’), or by anything but the full surrender of one group to the other—which is not going to happen. This is because the divide has enough roots in each side’s differing understandings of Islam for hardliners in both camps to label the other ‘unbelievers,’ and thus people who can lawfully be killed. There is not much doctrinal difference between the two camps, but since each believes that the other has departed from the truth of Islam, and each (particularly the Shi’ites) nurses centuries-old grudges over ancient wrongs done to them, this split is not going to be ‘overcome.’ Saddam Hussein kept a lid on it in Iraq by brute force, but now that he is gone and a Shi’ite government is in power there, the Sunnis are determined to wrest control back from them, and the Shi’ites and their Iranian patrons are just as determined to keep it. It is a recipe for endless warfare, until the Mahdi returns and reveals whether he has come as the Sunni or the Shi’ite version. In the meantime, the strength of ISIS, the Shi’ites’ determination to win back the territory they have lost, and the very real possibility that Sunni-Shi’ite war could engulf the entire Middle East, are grim monuments to the price of Washington’s faulty analysis.” [60294, 60295]

Comedian Conan O’Brien quips, “Former President George H.W. Bush turned 90 today, and he celebrated by going sky-diving. So if you include Obama, there were two presidents in free fall today.” [60282]

On June 13 Bowe Bergdahl returns to the United States and is transported to Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas for continued treatment. [60242]

On *Morning Joe*, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) says, “There are no good options” in Iraq. “I don’t know exactly if... air strikes right now are the answer. I’m not sure because I don’t claim to be that smart, but I know there are people like [retired general] Jack Keane and General [David] Petraeus and others who are that smart, and I know that this team that [Obama’s] got around him now ought to be fired. Everyone on the National Security team. They have been a total failure.” [60247, 60263, 60264]

Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) tells WND.com, “Iraq was won. The blood-soaked mayhem we see is the result of [an Oval Office occupant] who states carbon dioxide is a bigger threat than terrorism and breaks the law to free terrorist leaders from Gitmo. Al-Qaida smells weakness and seized the opportunity. This kind of terror also threatens Egypt and other allies. It’s time to stand strong in defense of peace.” [60304]

TheAtlantic.com blocks the author of *The Obama Timeline* from posting comments responding to an article that claims Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) is a natural born citizen eligible to serve as president. The article, by David A. Graham, wants to “nip those birther questions in the bud right now” and writes, “Helpfully, the Congressional Research Service gathered all of the information relevant to Cruz’s case a few years ago, at the height (nadir?) of Obama birtherism. In short, the Constitution says that the president must be a natural-born citizen. ‘The weight of scholarly legal and historical opinion appears to support the notion that ‘natural born Citizen’ means one who is entitled under the Constitution or laws of the United States to U.S. citizenship ‘at birth’ or ‘by birth,’ including any child born ‘in’ the United States, the children of United States citizens born abroad, and those born abroad of one citizen parents who has met U.S. residency requirements,’ the CRS’s Jack Maskell wrote. So in short: Cruz is a citizen; Cruz is not naturalized; therefore Cruz is a natural-born citizen, and in any case his mother is a citizen.” [60201]

Graham is wrong because Maskell is wrong. Maskell’s incorrect claims and conclusions were meant *only to defend Obama*, *not* to establish the truth about the term “natural born citizen.” Graham’s statements even work against Cruz. Cruz was born in Canada to a Cuban father and an American mother. He was a Canadian citizen by birth, based on the laws in Canada. If, as Graham claims, Cruz did not become a naturalized U.S. citizen, he remained a Canadian citizen. That Cruz, on May 14, 2014 denounced his Canadian citizenship is irrelevant because that action *does not change the facts as they existed at the moment of his birth*.

Even *if* one considers Cruz a U.S. citizen by virtue of his mother’s citizenship, that does not make him a “natural born citizen.” The two terms do not mean the same thing—regardless of what Graham and Maskell claim. Graham should explain why, if the fact that Cruz’s mother was an American makes him a U.S. citizen even though he was not born in the United States, why does the fact that Obama’s father was a Kenyan not make him a Kenyan citizen even though or if he was not born in Kenya? By arguing, “His

mother was an American, therefore he is an American,” one is also arguing, “His father was a Kenyan, therefore he is a Kenyan.” Graham cannot make one such claim without making the other. [60201]

TheAtlantic.com’s David Graham may believe that merely quoting an attorney who was called upon by Congress *for the sole purpose of defending Obama* is sufficient “research,” but history proves both Graham and Maskell wrong. As noted several times in this *Timeline*, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1862, Congressman John Bingham—the “father of the 14th Amendment”—stated, “All from other lands, who by the terms of laws and a compliance with their provisions become naturalized, are adopted citizens of the United States; all other persons born within the Republic, *of parents* [note the plural] *owing allegiance to no other sovereignty* [italics added], are natural born citizens. Gentleman can find no exception to this statement touching natural-born citizens except what is said in the Constitution relating to Indians.” In 1866 Bingham stated, “Every human being born within the jurisdiction of the United States *of parents* [plural again] *not owing allegiance to any foreign sovereignty* [italics added] is, in the language of your Constitution itself, a natural born citizen.” Bingham’s definition was never disputed by other Congressmen. Obama supporters—including attorneys filing briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court—have conveniently omitted the words “of parents” when quoting Bingham’s statement, in a shameful and intentional effort to mislead. [18420, 18466, 18783, 18784, 18795]

In the 1885 U.S. Supreme Court case *Minor v. Happersett*, Chief Justice Morrison Waite wrote, “The Constitution does not, in words, say who shall be natural-born citizens. Resort must be had elsewhere to ascertain that. At common-law, with the nomenclature of which the framers of the Constitution were familiar, it was never doubted that all children born in a country *of parents* [plural] *who were its citizens* [italics added] became themselves, upon their birth, citizens also. These were natives, or *natural-born citizens* [italics added], as distinguished from aliens or foreigners. Some authorities go further and include as citizens children born within the jurisdiction without reference to the citizenship of their parents. As to this class there have been doubts, but never as to the first.” That is, there was agreement by all legal scholars in 1885 that the term natural born citizen meant “born in the United States to two U.S.-citizen parents.” A *minority* argued that the citizenship of the parents was immaterial. *Without justification, Obama supporters eagerly accept the less common interpretation.* The Supreme Court has *never* ruled on the meaning of the term natural born citizen. (In addition to *Minor v. Happersett*, the cases *Shanks v. Dupont*, *United States v. Ward*, *Keith v. United States*, and *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, are worth reviewing. Wong is often misinterpreted by Obama supporters, who wrongly infer the term natural born citizen in places where the Court references only the generic term citizen. All natural born citizens are citizens, but not all citizens are natural born citizens, just as all trees are plants, but not all plants are trees.) [5665, 5666, 9620, 9621, 9622, 9623, 9624, 10454, 10460, 16448, 18963, 18964, 18965, 19054]

Additionally, Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution reads:

“No Person except a natural born Citizen, *or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution* [italics added], shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.” Note the highlighted “grandfather clause.” That text was made necessary after the term “born citizen” was changed to read “natural born citizen.” An earlier draft of the document read as follows:

“No Person except a Born Citizen shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.” [60202]

“Born Citizen” means born on U.S. soil—without regard to the citizenship of one’s parents. John Jay then wrote George Washington and asked that all presidents be required to be *natural born citizens*—that is, born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents. But simply making that change (“born” to “natural born”) would have been inadequate:

“No Person except a natural born Citizen shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.”

The problem with that text is that neither George Washington nor John Adams nor anyone else was yet a 35-year-old natural born citizen. Those potential presidents who were born on U.S. soil (such as George Washington, who was born in Virginia) obviously could not have had U.S. citizen parents at the time of their births. (Washington’s parents were citizens of Great Britain, as were the majority of the residents of the 13 colonies). In other words, it would be 35 years before anyone could serve as president! To allow for that problem, the final version read:

“No Person except a natural born Citizen, *or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution* [emphasis added], shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.” [10150, 10293]

The “grandfather clause” is essentially a loophole that means, “We can’t go without a president for decades while we wait for newborn natural born citizens to reach age 35, so we will *temporarily* allow individuals who are *not* natural born citizens to serve as president, as long as they were on this soil and U.S. citizens in 1789 when this document was adopted.”

Considering all of the above, it is clear that the U.S. Constitution prohibits Obama, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, and Ted Cruz (R-TX) from serving as president. Like George Washington, they are not natural born citizens. But Washington had the grandfather clause; *they do not*.

Obama is actually the nation's second illegal president. (The first illegal president was Chester A. Arthur, who hid from the public the fact that his father was not a U.S. citizen at Chester's birth. Arthur even went so far as to burn his father's documents—something that certainly would not have been necessary if his father's citizenship was irrelevant.) Regardless of where Obama was born, his father was not a U.S. citizen (if one assumes his father was the drunken Kenyan communist he claims was his father). Obama is therefore not a natural born citizen. Marco Rubio was born in Florida to Cuban citizen parents; he is a U.S. citizen but he is not a natural born citizen. Bobby Jindal was born in the United States to Indian citizen parents; he is a U.S. citizen but he is not a natural born citizen. Ted Cruz was born in Canada to an American mother and a Cuban father; he is a U.S. citizen but he is not a natural born citizen of the United States. Nikki Haley was born on U.S. soil to two citizens of India; she is a U.S. citizen but she is not a natural born citizen of the United States. [12191, 12192, 12266, 12299, 12300, 12301, 12410, 12411, 12533, 13239, 27965, 43673, 60202]

One problem for Obama supporters, of course, is that although they will do everything in their power to destroy Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Bobby Jindal, or Nikki Haley if they run for president or vice president, their ammunition *cannot* include charging that Cruz, Rubio, Jindal, and Haley are not natural born citizens—even though they are not! That ammunition would necessarily also expose Obama as an illegal occupant of the White House. The sad truth is that Obama was able to get elected because Democrats and Republicans in Congress either did not care that he was ineligible, or they were totally ignorant of the meaning of the term natural born citizen. The mainstream media, eager to help Obama get elected, chose to ignore or ridicule the issue. (Almost no one in the media likely ever heard of Congressman John Bingham, *Minor v. Happersett*, or the “grandfather clause” of Article II, Section, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution.) If Americans believe the presidency should not be limited to persons born on U.S. soil to two U.S. citizen parents, the proper course of action is to amend the U.S. Constitution—not to ignore it. But inasmuch as many legislators seem to care little about the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution, it may be expecting too much to ask that they care about the purpose of the “grandfather clause.”

Some might argue that the Democrats would be wise to now turn against Obama and help to expose his forged birth certificate and Selective Service registration form. He would be removed from office, leaving them free to say, “On second thought, the ‘birthers’ were right. Obama is *not* a natural born citizen—and neither are Cruz, Rubio, Jindal, and Haley!” Such an action by the Democrats would remove those four threats from any future presidential GOP ticket. If the reality is that Obama's father was his communist mentor in Hawaii, Frank Marshall Davis, that helps the Democrats even more because Obama would actually be a natural born citizen. (Obama might merely be a fraud and a con man, rather than an illegally serving fraud and con man.) The Democrats would then be even more free to point out that Cruz, Rubio, Jindal, and Haley are not. Obama's legacy would be further destroyed in the process, but his legacy isn't looking particularly good anyway.

*The Independent* reports, “Iraq is breaking up. The Kurds have taken the northern oil city of Kirkuk that they have long claimed as their capital. Sunni fundamentalist fighters vow to capture Baghdad and the Shia holy cities further south. Government rule over the Sunni Arab heartlands of north and central Iraq is evaporating as its 900,000-strong army disintegrates. Government aircraft have fired missiles at insurgent targets in Mosul, captured by Isis on Monday, but the Iraqi army has otherwise shown no sign of launching a counter-attack. The nine-year Shia dominance over Iraq, established after the US, Britain and other allies overthrew Saddam Hussein, may be coming to an end. The Shia may continue to hold the capital and the Shia-majority provinces further south, but they will have great difficulty in re-establishing their authority over Sunni provinces from which their army has fled. ...Foreign intervention is more likely to come from Iran than the US. The Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran would act to combat ‘the violence and terrorism of Isis.’ Iran emerged as the most influential foreign power in Baghdad after 2003. As a fellow Shia-majority state, Iraq matters even more to Iran than Syria.” [60204]

At NYTimes.com George Mason University professor Tyler Cowan suggests that a war is needed to boost the economy: “The continuing slowness of economic growth in high-income economies has prompted soul-searching among economists. They have looked to weak demand, rising inequality, Chinese competition, over-regulation, inadequate infrastructure and an exhaustion of new technological ideas as possible culprits. An additional explanation of slow growth is now receiving attention, however. It is the persistence and expectation of peace. The world just hasn’t had that much warfare lately, at least not by historical standards. ...Counterintuitive though it may sound, the greater peacefulness of the world may make the attainment of higher rates of economic growth less urgent and thus less likely. ...[T]he very possibility of war focuses the attention of governments on getting some basic decisions right—whether investing in science or simply liberalizing the economy. Such focus ends up improving a nation’s longer-run prospects. It may seem repugnant to find a positive side to war in this regard, but a look at American history suggests we cannot dismiss the idea so easily. ...War brings an urgency that governments otherwise fail to summon.” (Whether Cowan is getting ready to enlist in the Armed Forces is not known—but it is highly doubtful.) [60477, 60478, 60508]

At Townhall.com Katie Pavlich reports, “According to the House Ways and Means Committee, the IRS has ‘lost’ two years of emails belonging to former head of tax exempt organizations Lois Lerner. The IRS doesn’t have a record of her emails to outside groups or government agencies from January 2009 through April 2011, conveniently encompassing some of the same time when tea party groups were being targeted for extra scrutiny and possible criminal prosecution. The IRS says the loss of emails is due to a ‘computer crash’ and claims emails from or to Lerner from the White House, Democratic members of Congress, the Treasury Department and Department of Justice cannot be located. They do however have emails belonging to Lerner that she sent to other IRS employees.” House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp states, “The fact that I am just learning about this, over a year into the investigation, is completely unacceptable and now calls into question the credibility of the IRS’s response to

Congressional inquiries. There needs to be an immediate investigation and forensic audit by Department of Justice as well as the Inspector General. Just a short time ago, [IRS] Commissioner [John] Koskinen promised to produce all Lerner documents. It appears now that was an empty promise. Frankly, these are the critical years of the targeting of conservative groups that could explain who knew what when, and what, if any, coordination there was between agencies. Instead, because of this loss of documents, we are conveniently left to believe that Lois Lerner acted alone. This failure of the IRS requires the White House, which promised to get to the bottom of this, to do an Administration-wide search and production of any emails to or from Lois Lerner. The Administration has repeatedly referred us back to the IRS for production of materials. It is clear that is wholly insufficient when it comes to determining the full scope of the violation of taxpayer rights.” (On March 26, 2014 an evasive John Koskinen, the Commissioner of the IRS, told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee the emails were archived and it could take “years” to comply with document requests. Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH) asked Koskinen, “What part of ‘all’ don’t you understand? We don’t care what you think is relevant. We want every single email in the time period of the subpoena that was sent to you.” Two months later it is clear that the IRS is either hiding or destroyed emails between Lerner and offices outside the IRS. Someone should go to jail for the cover-up.) [56778, 56791, 56793, 56803, 56807, 56825, 57162, 60220, 60236, 60278, 60302, 60313, 60316, 60317, 60360, 60361, 60474]

Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) asks the National Security Agency to turn over all the “metadata” it has collected on the email accounts of former IRS official Lois Lerner from January 2009 to April 2011. Stockman releases a statement: “I have asked NSA Director [Admiral Michael S.] Rogers to send me all metadata his agency has collected on Lois Lerner’s email accounts for the period which the House sought records. The metadata will establish who Lerner contacted and when, which helps investigators determine the extent of illegal activity by the IRS. ...The claim incriminating communications were erased by a glitch conjures memories of Rose Mary Woods. Barack Obama has brought us Jimmy Carter’s economy and Richard Nixon’s excuses.” [60311, 60312, 60350]

A tea party group attorney, Cleta Mitchell, comments, “Liars. They’re such liars. Unbelievable. This is outrageous. They’re lying. This is like the [missing] 18-and-a-half minutes in [Richard M. Nixon’s secretary] Rose Mary Woods’ tape. It’s ridiculous. I just don’t believe them. ...They do it over and over and over. There are so many questions that are raised by this ‘revelation.’ Why are we just hearing this today, more than a year after the investigation started? What exactly are the FBI and NSA’s forensics experts doing to retrieve this ‘hard-drive crash?’ Do we believe that the FBI has not been called in—and that they have not been able to retrieve these ‘lost’ emails? There are so many things.” [60317]

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, calls the claim of a computer glitch erasing the emails is “insanity. Hollywood couldn’t write a script with any more scandal and intrigue than what is unfolding in the IRS targeting scandal.” [60317]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, says, “Isn’t it convenient for the Obama administration that the IRS now says it has suddenly realized it lost Lois Lerner’s emails requested by Congress and promised by Commissioner John Koskinen? Do they really expect the American people to believe that, after having withheld these emails for a year, they’re just now realizing the most critical time period is missing?” [60317]

While many may assume that Lerner’s emails were intentionally destroyed because they show who outside the IRS influenced—or ordered—her to discriminate against Tea Party organizations, it may also be possible that some of those emails relate to the 2011 granting of tax exempt status to the “Barack H. Obama Foundation,” which was formed by Obama’s half-brother, Abon’go Malik “Roy” Obama. Lerner approved the foundation’s tax status within one month of Obama’s filing—and she approved the status *retroactively*. The National Legal and Policy Center has charged that the foundation is a fraudulent money-making scheme. Additionally, according to Shoebat.com, “[T]he relationship between ...Barack Obama’s half-brother Malik Obama and Sudan’s President Omar Al-Bashir is much closer than previously thought. Malik is the Executive Secretary of the Islamic Da’wa Organization (IDO) as reported by all major Saudi press, including Okaz. ...The IDO has been created by the Sudanese Government, which is considered by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist state. This places Malik Obama in bed with terrorists and working as an official with a terrorist state.” Malik, who was best man at Obama’s wedding (and vice versa), has visited the White House on multiple occasions. [15222, 20539, 20540, 20541, 20603, 20604, 20631, 24176, 24582, 24583, 43006, 44795, 44976, 45068, 45086, 45316, 45397, 45402, 61581]

TheBlaze.com reports, “A veteran IT professional tells TheBlaze that the IRS’ claim that the agency lost two years’ worth of former IRS official Lois Lerner’s emails is ‘simply not feasible.’ ...Norman Cillo, an Army veteran who worked in intelligence and a former program manager at Microsoft, argued it is very difficult to lose emails for good and laid out six reasons why he believes Congress is ‘being lied to’ about the Lerner emails: ‘1. I believe the government uses Microsoft Exchange for their email servers. They have built-in exchange mail database redundancy. So, unless they did not follow Microsoft’s recommendations they are telling a falsehood. ...2. Every IT organization that I know of has hotswappable disk drives. Every server built since 2000 has them. Meaning that if a single disk goes bad it’s easy to replace. 3. ALL Servers use some form of RAID technology. The only way that data can be totally lost (Meaning difficult to bring back) is if more than a single disk goes before the first bad disk is replaced. ...4. If the server crashed (Hardware failure other than disks), then the disks that contain the DATA for the Exchange database is [sic; are] still available because the server hardware and disks are exchangeable. ...5. All email servers in a professional organization use TAPE backup. Meaning if all the above fails, you can restore the server using the TAPE backups. 6. If they are talking about her [Lerner’s] local PC, then it’s a simple matter of going to the servers which have the email and getting them from the servers. If the servers have removed the data you can still get them by using the backups of the servers to recover the emails.’” [60321]



“However, Cillo, who has been working in IT for roughly 16 years and is currently a consultant for a tech company, said it’s possible the IRS is telling the truth if the federal agency is ‘totally mismanaged and has the worst IT department ever.’ Other than that, it’s just not ‘feasible,’ he told TheBlaze. ‘If the IRS’ email server is in such a state that they only have one copy of data and the server crashes and it’s gone, I’ve never heard of such a thing.’ ‘I don’t know of any email administrator that doesn’t have at least three ways of getting that mail back,’ he added. ‘It’s either on the disks or it’s on a TAPE backup someplace or in an archive server. There are at least three ways the government can get those emails.’” (Not only is it outrageous for the IRS to claim that Lerner’s emails were lost, it is even more absurd for the agency to claim that only her emails to offices other than the IRS were lost. Even if the IRS did lose the email data, *it would still be available on the files of the agencies with which Lerner corresponded.* For example, if Lerner exchanged emails with John Doe at the White House and Jane Smith at the Treasury Department, the White House and the Treasury Department would have copies of those emails in *their* data files. It is impossible for all of Lerner’s emails at *every* agency to have “accidentally” been destroyed. the IRS is lying.) [60321]

*Wheel of Fortune* host Pat Sajak tweets, “Weird. Hundreds of emails to & from someone named Lerner just showed up in my spam. Must be British. Lots of tea [party] talk.” [60351]

At [WeeklyStandard.com](http://WeeklyStandard.com) Thomas Joscelyn reports, “One of the five senior Taliban leaders transferred to Qatar in exchange for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl played a key role in al Qaeda’s plans leading up to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Mohammad Fazl, who served as the Taliban’s army chief of staff and deputy defense minister prior to his detention at Guantánamo, did not have a hand in planning the actual 9/11 hijackings. Along with a notorious al Qaeda leader, however, Fazl did help coordinate a military offensive against the enemies of the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan the day before. And Osama bin Laden viewed that September 10 offensive as an essential part of al Qaeda’s 9/11 plot. The 9/11 Commission found that the hijackings in the United States on September 11, 2001, were the culmination of al Qaeda’s three-step plan. First, on September 9, 2001, al Qaeda assassinated Northern Alliance commander Ahmed Shah Massoud in a suicide bombing. Massoud’s death was a major gift to the Taliban because he was their chief rival and still controlled parts of the country. The assassination was also intended to weaken opposition to the Taliban and al Qaeda within Afghanistan before the United States could plan its retaliation for the most devastating terrorist attack in history. The Northern Alliance did, in fact, play a role in America’s response. The following day, September 10, al Qaeda and the Taliban took their second step. A ‘delayed Taliban offensive against the Northern Alliance was apparently coordinated to begin as soon as [Massoud] was killed,’ the 9/11 Commission found. Fazl and one of bin Laden’s chief lieutenants, Abdul Hadi al Iraqi, played key roles in this setup for 9/11. At the time, al Iraqi oversaw what al Qaeda called the Arab 55th Brigade, which was Osama bin Laden’s chief fighting force inside Afghanistan and fought side by side with Mullah Omar’s forces.” (Meanwhile, making the rounds of the Internet is a photograph of Fazl proudly displaying five severed heads.) [60222, 60223, 60259, 60273, 60337]

The *Daily Mail* reports, “The father of embattled POW Bowe Bergdahl, who landed on US soil today, waged a sinister campaign of stalking and harassment against pretty twin sisters—even stealing a gnome from their garden and peaking at them in the shower, the sisters claim in shocking police reports. Bearded Robert ‘Bob’ Bergdahl drove by the home of Lacey and Allie Hillman ‘several times a day’ over a period of months and left ‘creepy’ notes for them, the sisters allege in police documents, obtained exclusively by MailOnline. Once Bergdahl banged on Allie’s door and accused her of ‘two-timing’ him—despite the fact that the pair never dated or were even friends, Allie told police. ...The newly obtained police documents reveal the Hillman sisters’ claims that Sgt. Bergdahl’s father regularly ‘harassed’ the Hillmans for four-and-a-half months until they plucked up the courage to report him to police. ...Allie and Lacey told police that they were concerned for Bergdahl’s well-being ‘due to his son still being gone’ but could not cope any longer with his ‘disturbing’ behavior’ which was taking its toll on their ‘personal lives.’ Bergdahl was quizzed by officers soon after the report was lodged and warned to stay away from the sisters. He was never arrested. Police documents reveal that Bergdahl admitted ‘playing a trick’ on the sisters and stealing their gnome but denied wanting to know them on an ‘intimate basis’ claiming he was only ‘messing and joking’ around with them. Bergdahl was instructed by police not to visit the sisters’ home or Lacey’s workplace or he would be arrested and face possible trespassing or stalking charges. The sisters agreed not to press charges as they just wanted to be left alone and the case was closed on November 2, according to the police documents.” [60322, 60323]

According to the *New York Post*, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection is seeking workers with training in emergency medicine and non-emergency health care and “child care or juvenile teaching and/or counseling.” (That is, the Obama administration needs baby-sitters for the thousands of Central American children it is allowing to cross the United States’ southern border.) [60224, 60225, 60576]

At TheNewAmerican.com Warren Mass writes, “[T]wo things distinguish this wave from earlier illegal immigration waves. First, Hondurans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans now make up about 75 percent of illegals caught in South Texas, whereas previously most people who crossed the border illegally originated in Mexico. Second, large numbers of these illegal migrants are unaccompanied children. ... ‘We’re fighting a losing battle right now,’ said Chris Cabrera, the Border Patrol’s union representative in McAllen, Texas, as quoted in the [*Washington*] *Post*. ‘We don’t have anywhere to hold them.’ ...[M]any of the migrants—especially women and children—are not trying to sneak into the country but are crossing the border in plain sight of Border Patrol agents. While illegal aliens from Mexico can fairly quickly be processed and sent back across the border, the situation for illegals from Central America is more complicated. The government must first clear their return with consular officials from their native country, then charter planes to fly them home. If the aliens request asylum in the United States, on the grounds that they fear persecution in their home countries, they must establish that their fears are credible. Whether or not asylum is ultimately granted, the claim serves as a delaying tactic, often allowing the alien to remain in the United States long enough to blend in among the large numbers of ‘undocumented aliens.’ ...A question that we have seen no

one raise, not to mention answer, is how these thousands of children from poor areas of Central America manage to find their way—en masse—about 1,800 miles through Mexico’s rough roads to arrive in south Texas. While we cannot determine who is coordinating and assisting with their efforts, it is obvious that these children did not accomplish this Herculean feat all on their own.” (According to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, asylum is granted only to persons who face persecution in their home country based on race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group, or political opinions. “Being poor” or “caught in the fire of drug gangs” is not grounds for asylum.) [60490]

Mass quotes the National Association of Former Border Patrol Officers: “This is not a humanitarian crisis. It is a predictable, orchestrated and contrived assault on the compassionate side of Americans by her political leaders that knowingly puts minor Illegal Alien children at risk for purely political purposes. Certainly, we are not gullible enough to believe that thousands of unaccompanied minor Central American children came to America without the encouragement, aid and assistance of the United States Government. Anyone that has taken two six to seven year old children to an amusement park can only imagine the problems associated with bringing thousands of unaccompanied children that age up through Mexico and into the United States. I doubt even the Cartels would undertake that chore at any price. No, it has to be heartless corrupt politicians and their minions lusting for more money and power.” Andy Ramirez, “a recognized national expert on border security who has testified before Congress,” states, “There is no way this could have been done by an alien smuggling organization. It had to have been done at a much higher level. ... This is a major operation that requires logistical support, and that is well beyond snakehead capabilities. Therefore, it has to be well organized, like a military type operation, and only a government can accomplish such a thing. Given Mexico’s policies when it comes to illegal immigration entry into their country, and while knowing that setting up a North American Union has never included any Central or South American nations, it would require collusion between governments. Now keep in mind, why are most of these illegal aliens crossing into Texas? Why not Arizona? It would be easy to have pulled that off in Arizona, but to risk the numbers of minors involved would have been a death sentence. So Texas is the answer especially knowing you have media centers like Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio for coverage. Add in the Obama administration’s refusal to enforce U.S. immigration law, and how South Texas was targeted and the quick response to move the self-reporting aliens, it’s clear in connecting the dots that the Obama administration and Mexican government are co-partners. With Congress questioning DHS (ICE and CBP) about their failure to enforce the law, this is an operation forcing amnesty by decree.” [60490]

Before leaving for California for a weekend of golf (in Palm Springs), a commencement address at UC Irvine (at Angel Stadium), and a fundraiser (at Laguna Beach), Obama tells reporters, “We’ve seen significant gains by ISIS [in Iraq... This poses a danger to Iraq and its people, and given the nature of these terrorists, it could pose a threat to the United States as well. [But] we will not be sending U.S. troops back into combat in Iraq. This is not solely, or even primarily, a military challenge. [Many would argue that is precisely what it is.] ...Over the past decade, American troops have made extraordinary

sacrifices to give Iraqis an opportunity to claim their own future. Unfortunately, Iraq's leaders have been unable to overcome too often the mistrust and sectarian differences that have long been simmering there, and that's created vulnerabilities within the Iraqi government as well as their security forces. We can't do it for them... this should be a wake-up call. ...The fact that they [Iraqi soldiers] are not willing to stand and fight and defend their posts against admittedly hardened terrorists, but not terrorists who are overwhelming in numbers, indicates that there is a problem with morale, a problem in terms of commitment, and ultimately that is rooted in the political problems that have plagued the country for a very long time." Obama states his he is awaiting advice from the National Security Council before he decides on any course of action. (The intelligence community had been warning the administration for months that the terrorists were assembling and capturing territory, and the Iraqi government had asked for help. Yet Obama reacts as if the situation just came to his attention. By waiting to act, Obama has limited his own options. For example, there is likely no way he can remove the Sunnis insurgents from power in Mosul—but he could perhaps have prevented them from capturing that city had he provided assistance to Iraq earlier in the year.) [60228, 60232, 60233, 60267, 60268, 60274, 60275, 60286, 60291, 60304, 60305, 60314]

At his annual ideas summit in Utah, Mitt Romney states, "Tragically, all we've fought for in Iraq, all that 4,500 American lives were shed to gain, is on the cusp, potentially, of vanishing." [60306, 60307]

Politico reports that Chelsea Clinton, daughter of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bill Clinton (or perhaps the Rose Law Firm's Webster Hubbell), "earned an annual salary of \$600,000 at NBC News before switching to a month-to-month contract earlier this year... Clinton, who joined NBC News as a special correspondent in November 2011, was up for renewal or nonrenewal this year. Instead, the sources said, the network decided to keep her on the payroll on a month-to-month basis so the two parties could sever ties if Clinton's mother, Hillary Clinton, runs for president." According to BusinessInsider.com, Chelsea Clinton "earned about \$26,724 for each minute she... appeared on air." (Her reports, over two years and seven months, received a total of about 58 minutes of air time. Some might suggest that inasmuch as female workers are allegedly paid only 70 percent of what male workers earn, any male reporter at NBC who is not paid at least \$857,142 per year should demand a raise.) [60265, 60277, 60315, 60381, 60431]

WND.com reports, "A U.S. contractor in Iraq told WND the Iraqi Air Force has begun evacuations from Balad Air Force Base, where 200 American contractors were trapped by the al-Qaida-inspired jihadists who have seized control of two cities and are now threatening Baghdad. A contractor with Sallyport Global, who asked not to be named, told WND through a Skype instant message that he was transported from Balad to Baghdad and was communicating from a C-130 preparing to take off to Dubai. He said 300 in total have been evacuated from Balad, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, and another 100 are still awaiting airlift. He said the Iraqi Air Force is trying to evacuate everyone by midnight local time. WND previously reported Friday that private contractors who have recently returned to the U.S. from Iraq said their former colleagues effectively had been abandoned by the U.S. military and were fighting for their lives

against an army of jihadists surrounding the base who belong to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS.” [60271, 60272]

At Examiner.com Jim Kouri writes, “The current tidal wave of illegal alien children is not just a spontaneous crisis but a planned event designed to garner more support from Americans and lawmakers to pass a *de facto* amnesty law, according to several law enforcement officials, on Friday, who continue monitor the illegal immigration issue. ‘Anyone who believes this is just a unilateral plot by Latin Americans to gain entry into the United States and access U.S. social services including health care is blind to the fact that the Obama administration already had a plan to secretly—with the help of his news media allies—transport the young illegals to other U.S. cities such as Phoenix, Tucson, New York and others across the country. The idea was to do it before the American people got wind of this social fiasco,’ said former police commanding officer of an anti-narcotics unit, Rick Gonzales-Thompson. According to Capt. Thompson, ‘Central American newspapers began to promote the nonlegislated [sic], unilateral policies of the Obama administration that prohibits the deportation of illegal alien minors brought to this country by their illegal alien parents, or people claiming to be their parents. ‘So now, the illegal alien activists who are involved in openly criminal conspiracies to achieve their goals are overloading the immigration system using kids in the hopes of achieving legal status,’ he added. It wasn’t until Arizona’s Gov. Jan Brewer started to condemn the unimpeded influx of illegal aliens, especially the children, that the news media began covering the ‘Pied Paper invasion’ of Latino children from countries other than Mexico, according to an Examiner news story. ...The Obama plot is being carried out by another one of his administration’s fellow-travelers, namely his new Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. ‘Almost all agree that a child who crossed the border illegally with their parents, or in search of a father or a better life, was not making an adult choice to break our laws, and should be treated differently than adult violators of the law,’ Secretary Johnson is quoted as saying.” [60283]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “Gil Kerlikowske, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said Friday that many of the illegal immigrant children his agents are encountering trying to slip across the U.S.-Mexico border have never even seen a doctor before. He described scenes of Border Patrol agents changing diapers and heating baby formula in order to care for some of the youngest children, and said agents are being asked to do things way beyond their skill set—particularly for so many of the agents who are young, single men. ...One Border Patrol agent this week told The Times that agents trained to patrol the border were instead doing ‘babysitting’ guard duty.” (While agents are changing diapers, they are not patrolling the border—which may have been one of the goals of the Cloward-Piven scheme all along. At AmericanThinker.com Selwyn Duke writes, “It’s obvious why leftists such as Obama have long facilitated immigration: they are importing voters. Upwards of 80 percent of the new arrivals will vote Democrat upon being naturalized. And is this any surprise? Most all illegals—and a majority of legal immigrants—hail from Hispanic nations, which are notoriously socialist (only the degree varies). And people don’t suddenly change ideology just because they change location. ...Just consider recent Pew research... showing that only 19 percent of Hispanics favor a smaller government while a whopping 75 percent prefer a bigger one.”) [60318, 60377]

Chris Cabrera, vice president of the National Border Patrol Council Local 3307 in the Rio Grande Valley, tells *National Review* that the minors crossing the border include 16- and 17-year-old tattooed gang members from Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Cabrera says, “If he’s a confirmed gang member in his own country, why are we letting him in here? ...I’ve heard people come in and say, ‘You’re going to let me go, just like you let my mother go, just like you let my sister go. You’re going to let me go as well, and the government’s going to take care of us. Until we start mandatory detentions, mandatory removals, I don’t think anything is going to change. As a matter of fact, I think it’s going to get worse.” Examiner.com’s Jim Kouri note, “[I]nstead of at least interviewing the suspected gang members, agents were ordered to treat them as if they were child refugees entering the country for asylum. Many of the children are being reunited with their parents or other family members already in the U.S., but the Obama administration is forcing states such as Texas and Arizona to ‘share the burden.’ It’s believed that at least 50,000 illegal aliens children have crossed into the U.S. from Mexico without restraint by Mexican authorities who are renowned for being brutal to illegal aliens entering Mexico from the south.” [60349, 60368, 60429]

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin writes at Facebook, “I find it unforgivable to ignore this issue of overrunning border security into these conditions in southern states, and this one issue is just about driving me to renounce my Republican ties because, see, even leaders on the RIGHT side of the aisle haven’t exerted all Constitutional power to stop the madness. A few have tried, but until they’re sent reinforcements, then atrocities like the child abuse and exploitation you’re now getting wind of will only get worse. It’s already hard to recognize our once exceptional nation amidst the neglect of this issue of children used as political pawns. Can you imagine this disregard for child safety happening even a short decade ago? The press would have had none of it, and they’d shine light on what the underlying problem is. They’d report that it’s not the innocent babes’ fault, would attempt to get to the bottom of it, and then finally they’d blame Bush. Today, that approach is ignored. They just blame Bush. There is a loud and aggressive invitation to illegals of all ages and from all countries to ‘kick off your shoes and come on in!’ Now that’s Southern Hospitality! It’s sent by foreign leaders and our own. C’mon, with all the free stuff we can supply everyone, how can anyone turn this down? Government will have to grow enormously to accommodate this influx, and services and care will inevitably have to be rationed, but like we teach our children—we’re all better off being disciplined! And isn’t sharing our resources okay as long as we have trustworthy, compassionate career politicians in charge of the nation’s priorities? Remember, our Republic has been blessed because we committed to nurture a caring, compassionate, pro-child, law abiding citizenry. And because of those mores, it’s unconscionable to take any more of this chaos and crisis. I say, enough is enough. This issue of the children MUST be addressed.” [60376]

“...[H]ere’s the issue: Barack Obama has orchestrated this newest ‘crisis’ in order to overload the system with the intention of ‘fixing’ the problems his own policies create—by fiat, and that infamous phone and pen; screw the rule of law. He’s warned you by proudly claiming his executive orders can bypass the peoples’ representatives and

obviously ignore the will of the people. This exploitation of foreigners' children is an inhumane ploy to entice families to break laws by literally shoving kids across one of Obama's infamous and irrelevant lines, with assurance that parents, aunties, step-uncles and third cousins twice removed will get to cut in line too—that sacred line that previously led law-abiding, hardworking immigrants to build this great nation. Barack Obama will keep phoning in and penning the message that he will NOT secure borders, so, hey, extended undocumented relatives, you're free to join the kids being used and abused to snag that golden ticket. Obama surely knows a nation is not a nation without borders, while we must surely know this is the 'fundamental transformation of America' that he promised and some of us warned about. Congress and American voters, how long will you let Team Obama get away with this? The recent avalanche of devastating crises caused by [Obama] believing he is above the law has set the most dangerous precedent a once-free people can imagine. To encourage and reward lawlessness by refusing to enforce the will of the people as proven by laws passed by our political representatives is the signature of a tyrant. In this case, Obama's refusal to enforce immigration laws and his blatant suggestion that his chosen illegal activity will be rewarded are proof of his tyrannical tactics. ...Purposeful decisions causing these crises are meant to overload the system, justify abuse of executive power to 'fix' it all, and ultimately tighten control of the people." [60376]

“So, how much more will you take, Congress and We the People? I sense not enough guts in D.C. to file impeachment charges against Team Obama for their countless documented illegalities, so the way to stop this is at the ballot box. To fundamentally restore America to her destined exceptionalism you must get involved and then get to that box. Use YOUR phone and pen to support conservative candidates who will fight for what is right: Constitutionally protected freedom, respected military, free markets to create jobs, and secured borders to protect jobs! We need your help to do this; it takes more than a village to fortify the homeland. ANYONE associated with support for Obama's deceptive ploys that would stoop to using and abusing innocent children must be voted out of office. ANYONE who has shined the boot that Obama's put on the neck of our economy and security must be held accountable by those with the legal power to do so—Congress. And then We the People hold Congress accountable. Do not vote for any politician who has gone wobbly on their commitment to respect the will of the people and to fight to defend our Constitution. This wishy-washy status quo has got to go.” [60376]

Fox News reports that Mullah Mohammed Fazl, one of the five terrorist leaders released by Obama, was also the leader of an Afghanistan prisoner revolt on November 25, 2001 in which Johnny Micheal “Mike” Spann was killed. Spann, a member of the CIA who was interrogating prisoners at the Qala-i-Jangi compound, was the first American to be killed in Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Spann's daughter Alison tells Fox News, “My initial reaction was shock. I was shocked that [Obama] would release five of the most high-risk prisoners being held in Guantanamo in exchange for one American. As a whole, my family was extremely upset and saddened that our government would do something like this, especially in light of the fact that it seems that people in the intelligence community are fairly united in their belief that these terrorists

are likely to seek to further harm Americans in the future. ...It does become harder and harder to have faith in an administration that is plagued with scandal after scandal. I do not believe that it was the right move by the administration. ...You cannot release someone of such a high caliber within the Taliban community and expect him to suddenly emerge as a peaceful being. I would think now more than ever after being detained in Gitmo that he would seek revenge on America. These prisoners had one goal when they went into Gitmo and I feel certain that they left Gitmo with that same goal, and that is to do harm and spread evil in the world. The implications from this act will reach further than our soil and I am afraid that these prisoners have no plans of standing down from their original fight.” [60284]

On *The Kelly File*, syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer comments on Obama’s Iraq statement: “Well, we get [Obama] coming out—the world has been waiting to hear what [he is] going to say about this major crisis—and he comes out and says, ‘I’ve been thinking about it, and I’ll have a decision in a couple of days.’ I mean, this is quite amazing, this is quite remarkable. Either a make a decision and announce it or don’t make a decision, and let the world know when you decide. That fact that... he’s asked his staff to bring him options—every president is brought options by his staff. You don’t have to go out and make a speech about that. It’s as if he’s learning how the [job] is done. He should already have options, he should already have chosen. Now the only extenuating circumstance here is that he said, ‘We’re waiting to see how Maliki—he’s the [Iraqi] prime minister—how the Maliki government acts, because it is true that it’s alienated the Sunnis and set up this situation, by being very sectarian, extremely pro-Shi’ite, going after Sunnis.’” [60286]

“So what he’s saying to Maliki, he’s saying, ‘We want you to make a gesture to bring the Sunnis back to show that you will try to govern with them, the way you did when we [Americans] were still here, before I’—I think summarily and unwisely—‘evacuated Iraq in 2011.’ ...The only justification for saying, ‘We’re waiting,’ we’re waiting to see if Maliki will make a gesture of openness to the Sunnis, because otherwise [Obama] is right about this, in the end they are going to fail and they will fall to this insurgency. ...Why did the administration ignore the intelligence reports? Because [Obama] has been preaching for two years now—at least, especially in the election year of 2012—‘the tide of war is receding,’ which is completely false. War is accelerating. Accelerating in Ukraine, in Syria, accelerating in Iraq. What Obama says is *America* is receding. *America* is retreating. And [he] gave the false impression that we—which we [Americans] are supposedly the cause of these wars—once we retreat everything will be okay. It’s precisely the opposite. He withdraws us summarily, prematurely from Iraq, he leaves nothing behind, and what we get is a vacuum now being occupied by Iran on the one side—Shi’ite radical jihadi—and now this group ISIS, Sunni radial jihadi on the other side. Two devils, different stripes, and that’s what occupies this space, when America leaves.” [60286]

Algemeiner.com reports, “A branch of the ‘Islamic State in Iraq and Syria’ [ISIS] terror group has claimed responsibility for the disappearance of three Israeli teens in the West Bank on Thursday night, Israeli media reported. ...Israeli Army forces are currently



conducting a widespread operation in order to locate the missing individuals. Two of the boys are 16 years old and attend the Mevor Chaim Yeshiva High School in the area. The third teen is 19. ...One of the boys holds American citizenship, and the government has alerted the U.S. Embassy. Terror group Hamas is calling the trio “Israeli soldiers” and Hamas and Islamic Jihad have called for kidnapping Israelis as bargaining chips to gain the release of Palestinian convicts.” [60287, 60288, 60289, 60298]

Not only are ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria, and kidnapping teenagers in Israel, they are also in Europe. According to Terrorism-info.org.il, Mehdi Nemmouche, “a French Muslim of Algerian extraction,” has been detained in Marseilles, France after being “found with weapons used in the attack” on four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, Belgium on May 24. “He was also carrying a white cloth with the name of the Islamic State in Iraq and Greater Syria (ISIS) on it. The ISIS is a jihadist organization in Syria which, along with the Al-Nusra Front, serves as a magnet for European foreign fighters. According to the French prosecutor, Mehdi Nemmouche went to Syria and joined the ISIS in January 2013. After a number of months he left Syria for Germany and from there returned to France. France and Belgium are the two European countries from where the largest number of foreign fighters have gone to Syria (hundreds from each) to fight in the ranks of Al-Qaeda and the global jihad.” [60299, 60300]

At WND.com Joseph Farah writes, “Of course, Obama is conflicted. Look at his history. When millions of Egyptians rallied in the streets to overthrow Muslim Brotherhood warlord Muhammad Morsi as president, Obama suspended aid he had earmarked for the tyrant he helped bring to power. When a Muslim Brotherhood army that included a strong al-Qaida element set out to topple Syrian President Bashar Assad, Obama sought congressional approval for airstrikes to support the insurgents—and he did help arm them. He can’t wait to turn Afghanistan over to the ‘Tallybon,’ as he likes to call them. He even released five of their top commanders from Guantanamo Bay using the excuse of bringing home an American captive. Of course that ‘prisoner of war’ turned out to be a deserter and a Taliban collaborator. There’s a pattern here. If you can’t see it, check your lenses. Obama supports the Muslim Brotherhood. [Another part of the pattern is that the Muslim Brotherhood is Sunni, and Obama consistently sides with the Sunni Muslims in any conflict.] To expect him to come to Iraq’s aid with air power that can blow away much of the al-Qaida terrorist army amassing on the road to Baghdad would be foolhardy. It’s against all his instincts.” [60303]

“There’s another reason Obama has hesitated to take this obvious action. This will be hard to believe for some, but the facts are becoming more apparent everyday: Obama fosters chaos. We don’t think about government being empowered by chaos—at home and abroad. But it is. It’s simply the Cloward-Piven strategy on steroids. Choosing the right option, the obvious action, at home or abroad, is never going to be easy for Obama. Because the right option will reduce the chaos. Obama’s ideology embraces chaos because it eventually leads to bigger and more powerful government. ...I know Obama is not going to listen to me. I doubt he will listen to Congress. I doubt he will listen to the American people, who are genuinely and understandably tired of foreign wars without end. But I marvel at the talking-head pundits who are wringing their hands, wondering

what we can possibly do to stave off an al-Qaida takeover of Iraq after we poured so much blood, sweat, tears, not to mention billions of dollars, into ‘nation-building.’ Forget nation-building. What is needed in Iraq right now is a big fiery wrecking ball that hits the bad guys deliriously waving the Black Flags.” [60303]

Reuters reports, “The Obama administration has quietly repatriated a dozen detainees from a small U.S. military prison in Afghanistan, moving a modest step closer toward winding down the United States’ controversial post-9/11 detainee system. ...Obama, in a letter to Congress released on Thursday, informed U.S. lawmakers that about 38 non-Afghan prisoners remained at the Parwan detention center outside of Kabul, down from around 50 a few months ago. A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that a Frenchman, a Kuwaiti and 10 Pakistani prisoners were sent back to their respective home countries at the end of May. The remaining detainees include Yemeni, Tunisian and more Pakistani nationals, and a Russian who the United States is also considering trying in a military or civilian court.” [60372, 60373, 60545]

The Fox affiliate in Boston reports that planes chartered by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have been landing in Massachusetts to unload illegal immigrants who crossed the border in Texas. Governor Deval Patrick states, “I don’t know anything about it.” [60399, 60400]

On the *NBC Nightly News*, anchor and Obama-sycophant Brian Williams blames George W. Bush for the current crisis in Iraq: “Make no mistake: what’s happening in Iraq right now is a direct outgrowth of the U.S. decision to invade the country over a decade ago.” (It apparently does not occur to Williams that renewing the status of forces agreement in 2011, rather than withdrawing all U.S. troops, had anything to do with the advance of terrorism in Iraq.) [60397]

On *Washington Week*, CNBC’s John Harwood blames House Majority Eric Cantor’s (R-VA) primary loss on his faith: “Eric Cantor is a Jewish Republican. This is a very rural conservative southern district where that is not a—you don’t have a lot of Jewish members of Congress from the South.” (Two days later, on State of the Union, CNN’s Dana Bash interviews Cantor and asks, “Do you think there was anti-Semitism involved in your defeat?” Both Harwood and Bash ignore the fact that Cantor had been repeatedly reelected in the past.) [60393, 60394]

On June 14 the Democrat National Committee sends a “Happy Flag Day!” Twitter message—accompanied by an image of bunting, rather than a U.S. flag. (The United States has never had a flag with blue stripes.) [60363, 60364, 60380, 60398]

CNN.com reports, “Emboldened militants, backed by Sunni tribal leaders, pushed toward Baghdad on Friday as increasingly nervous U.S. officials mulled their limited options to help slow the militants’ advance. In recent days, Iran has sent about 500 Revolutionary Guard troops to fight alongside Iraqi government security forces in Diyala province, a senior security official in Baghdad told CNN. However, that claim was rejected by Iran’s Foreign Ministry. ‘We have made our position clear. We are not involved in fighting in

Iraq,' ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham told CNN. A senior Iranian government official told CNN that Tehran is monitoring the situation in Iraq and could send advisers there, but would not send a fighting force. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani reiterated his nation is prepared to help advice Iraq if asked." [60296]

Pamela Geller writes, "'The spread of evil is the symptom of a vacuum'—Ayn Rand. Enter Iran in its imperialistic quest to conquer the region and beyond. The Obama approach is so illogical and nonsensical, there is no way of knowing how and if he'll respond. He is backing ISIS in Syria. And in Iraq? He opposes ISIS. Obama is turning over Iraq to the terror state of Iran. Americans fought and died to keep Iraq from the Iranian mullahs. 4432 Americans died and 67,793 wounded (and then there is the sacrifice of the coalition partners). It's going from bad to horrible. Quickly. If you think this regional war won't affect us here in the homeland, you are dreaming." [60297]

Former George W. Bush speechwriter Marc Thiessen writes, "Let's recall that Obama inherited a pacified Iraq, where al Qaeda had been defeated—both militarily and ideologically. Militarily, thanks to Bush's surge, al Qaeda was driven from the strongholds it had established in Anbar and other Iraqi provinces. It controlled no major territory, and it's top leader—Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi—had been killed. Ideologically, al Qaeda had suffered a massive rejection by the Sunni masses. Iraq was supposed to be a place where al Qaeda rallied Sunnis to drive America out. Instead, the Sunnis joined with Americans to drive al Qaeda out. That was a major ideological defeat. So al Qaeda in Iraq (now ISIS) had been beaten on the battlefield and rejected by the Sunnis it claimed to represent. In fact, the situation Obama inherited was so good that the Obama administration was actually trying to take credit for it. Joe Biden declared that Iraq 'could be one of the great achievements of [the Obama] administration.' Obama took that inheritance and squandered it. And—just as Bush predicted—we're now talking about going back (at least in the air) to help the Iraqis to confront an enemy that is even more dangerous. Is this how wars end in the 21st century, Mr. [Obama]?" [60319]

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair writes, "Three or four years ago, Al Qaeda in Iraq was a beaten force. The sectarianism of the Maliki government snuffed out a genuine opportunity to build a cohesive Iraq. And there will be debate about whether the withdrawal of US forces happened too soon. ... There is no easy or painless solution. The Jihadist groups are never going to leave us alone. 9/11 happened for a reason. This is, in part, our struggle, whether we like it or not." [60460]

At AmericanThinker.com Thomas Lifson writes, "Crisis upon crisis, and yet [Obama] conspicuously enjoys his leisure with an insouciance certain to raise the blood pressure of anyone who cares about the fate of the nation. I have to wonder if the man is hoping to goad his opponents into impeaching him. Such spectacular neglect of duty, fiddling as it were as the nation implodes, should infuriate the friends and relatives of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines currently risking their lives in Afghanistan and elsewhere in our defense. As Iran moves steadily toward the nuclear Armageddon it openly seeks and the bulwark against it we fought for in Iraq collapses, ... Obama makes clear he will not even disrupt his leisure activities [golf] to take action. And we have two and half

years more of this ahead. Perhaps Obama's only political hope is to behave so flagrantly in defiance of his constitutional duties that his opponents are left with no other option than to pass articles of impeachment. That worked out very well indeed for Bill Clinton, and the playbook followed in the 1990s remains an option today. With the added advantage of being able to denounce his opponents as racists... it may in fact be an irresistible temptation for ...Obama to use his pen and phone strategy and enact by executive fiat some more elements of the fundamental transformation he promised. Perhaps offering a categorical presidential pardon to violators of our border, for instance. Or announcing that the employer mandate of Obamacare will not be enforced for another year. Or two. It is what should be a lazy summer weekend sandwiched between Memorial Day and Independence Day. And for [Obama] enjoying golf in the luxurious environs of Palm Springs, perhaps it is. But for those of us who see our sovereignty crumbling to our south, a historic realignment in the Middle East tinderbox underway, and a rogue agency of the federal government acting with impunity to destroy evidence of suppression of [Obama's] opposition, it has the air of unreality." [60472]

Lifson's theory is not without merit. Obama knows there will never be 67 votes in the Senate to convict him if the House impeaches him. Obama might therefore do as much as he can to encourage the House to start impeachment proceedings—as a way of encouraging more Democrats to turn out to vote in November and to persuade independents who had been turning away from him to instead turn against “those racist Republicans.” Or Obama may simply be thinking that the Democrats will lose the Senate in the mid-term elections, so he may as well do whatever he can outside the control of Congress to “fundamentally transform” the nation. An impeachment by the House will not stop him, because the Senate will never vote to convict Obama and remove him from office. With impeachment he becomes a martyr to Democrats, while in the process imposing as much of his leftist agenda as he can. [60472]

TheBlaze.com reports, “The Internal Revenue Service has guidelines that require all IRS employees to keep printed copies of all work-related emails. That means even if the IRS did experience a computer crash that makes it unable to retrieve certain emails to and from former IRS employee Lois Lerner, as the IRS is claiming, those emails should have been printed out and kept on file by Lerner. And if Lerner failed to do that, she violated IRS rules. ...The IRS maintains an Internal Revenue Manual, and chapter 10, section 3 of that manual deals with standards for using email. Those standards, which apply to ‘all IRS employees,’ make it clear that paper copies of all emails must be maintained. Section 3 states that, ‘All federal employees and federal contractors are required by law to preserve records containing adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the agency.’ ‘If you create or receive email messages during the course of your daily work, you are responsible for ensuring that you manage them properly,’ it adds. ‘The Treasury Department’s current email policy requires emails and attachments that meet the definition of a federal record be added to the organization’s files by printing them (including the essential transmission data) and filing them with related paper records.’” [60320, 60464, 60487]

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel orders the USS George W. Bush aircraft carrier to head from the Arabian Sea into the Persian Gulf. According to Newsmax.com, “Accompanying the carrier will be the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea and the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun. The ships, which carried Tomahawk missiles that could reach Iraq, were expected to complete their move into the Persian Gulf by the end of the day. The Bush’s fighter jets also could easily reach to Iraq.” [60325, 60401]

On *Cashin’ In*, investor and former actor Wayne Rogers says of Obama, “The man has violated the law constantly, he’s violated the Constitution. Listen, he’s given amnesty for illegals who entered the U.S. before the age of 16. He’s given amnesty to illegals who have relatives in the U.S. He’s given amnesty to illegals who are parents or guardians of people. He’s given amnesty to—the key word, ‘illegals.’ It’s already illegal. You can’t violate the Constitution if you’re doing something legally. He’s doing it illegally. He ought to be impeached, and so should Eric Holder! ...The Republicans are pusillanimous peewees, they don’t do anything about it, and they should stand up and be counted instead of running for the exit every time they bring this up.” [60330]

Examiner.com reports, “A well-respected, non-partisan watchdog group, currently probing the allegations of misconduct and malfeasance at healthcare facilities run by the Obama administration’s U.S. Veterans Affairs Department, is refusing to comply with a federal subpoena on Friday ordering the group to reveal the identities of—and information provided by—whistleblowers. The subpoena demands that the Inside-the-Beltway Project on Government Oversight (POGO) turn over any and all documents and identities POGO received from federal official, rank-and-file employees, and others who had complained to POGO about distressing activities occurring at VA medical facilities. The whistleblowers were assured that their complaints would be kept secret and they would remain anonymous. According to POGO, the material they received regarding the VA had been digitally encrypted in order to protect confidentiality. Officials from POGO, a nonprofit group that earned awards this month from the Society of Professional Journalists for investigative and business reporting, refused to comply with the order by the VA’s inspector general to turn over the files, POGO spokesman Joe Newman said. According to an Examiner news story: ‘One of the major complaints leveled at Veterans Administration (VA) officials has been their retaliation against military hospital staff who identify problems within their facilities. But according to the VA’s acting chief, those involved in intimidation or retaliation against whistleblowers will face serious disciplinary action.’ ...‘Under no circumstances does POGO plan to release any information that would compromise whistleblowers. It has not happened in our 33-year history. It’s not going to happen now’ said POGO’s executive director, Danielle Brian.” (The Obama administration, rather than trying to resolve problems with the Veterans Administration, is acting to identify whistleblowers—so they can be punished and to serve as a warning to other would-be whistleblowers.) [60331]

FoxNews.com reports, “Thousands of Shiite Muslims across Iraq took up arms Saturday and joined security forces in the fight against Al Qaeda-inspired militants who have invaded and taken over huge chunks of territory north of Baghdad. The Al Qaeda splinter group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), has been on the move,

conducting an offensive in the western region of the country and now threaten stability in the nation's capital. Their push has caused hundreds of young Iraqi men to pour into volunteer centers across Baghdad, answering a call by the country's top Shiite cleric to join the fight against Sunni militants advancing in the north. Dozens climbed into the back of army trucks, chanting Shiite slogans and hoisting assault rifles, pledging to battle the ISIS, which has launched a lightning advance across the country.” [60332]

Obama takes time out from golf to deliver the commencement address at the University of California, Irvine. He focuses on “climate change,” saying, “One of the most significant long-term challenges that our country and our planet face [is] the growing threat of a rapidly-changing climate. The overwhelming judgment of science, accumulated and measured and reviewed over decades, has put that to rest. The question is whether we have the will to act before it's too late. ... We also have to realize, as hundreds of scientists declared last month, that climate change is no longer a distant threat but ‘has moved firmly into the present.’ The overwhelming majority of scientists who work on climate change, including some who once disputed the data, have put the debate to rest.” (Obama is incorrect. As time has passed, increasing numbers of scientists and climatologist have become more skeptical of the “global warming” claims, and few who do support the theory believe that Obama's proposed regulations would have a significant impact on average global temperatures—largely because other nations like China are increasing their carbon emissions as they build coal-fired power plants. Obama nevertheless continues to bang the “we're all going to die if we don't give the government more power” drum.) [60333, 60348, 60425, 60458]

Outside Angel Stadium in Anaheim, where Obama delivered the address to the faculty, graduates, and their families, approximately 100–150 protesters from various organizations demonstrate against illegal immigrant amnesty and Obama, and call for his impeachment. [60357, 60358]

At AmericanThinker.com James Lewis writes, “The Children's Crusade that has invaded our southern borders has an amazing number of well-fed gangster types, grabbing their crotches and giving the finger to the news cameras. These adult-sized gangsters are not children, and they don't act like children. They are doing sex, dope, and almost certainly work in criminal collusion with the biggest Mexican drug cartel, Sinaloa. They certainly look more like drug smugglers and mules for the youngsters who have apparently been abandoned by their real parents and by governments south of the border, to go wandering north under conditions that simply invite abuse. ... This is another Obama agit-prop stunt, like the Tahrir Square ‘spontaneous demonstration’ that brought Muslim Bro Mohammed Morsi to power in Egypt. ... Mob agitation is a standard operating tactic of these people, in close collusion with leftist media and agitator groups like the Ruckus Society, and of course our Rotten Media. So now we have [Obama] assaulting our southern borders. Think about that. ... Three power centers had to come together to fake this refugee crisis—with the healthiest-looking refugees in history. First is the Obama Administration, which has a long history of doing this—based on Alinsky and ACORN training manuals. ... The second big power center colluding in this assault are governments south of the border, which always play footsie with the radical left down there, like La Raza, and the

cartels. Newspapers in Central America have been actively encouraging children to throw themselves on the mercy of the American people, and to overwhelm our Border Patrol. In any civilized nation that is criminal child abuse, and in this case it is large-scale, highly organized criminal child abuse, probably a defined crime against humanity. [Obama advisor] Valerie Jarrett met ‘several times’ with La Raza and its ilk, who want to turn the United States into ‘Azatlan’—because they are entitled to own this country, of course. Our Rotten Media are playing along, as we have seen a thousand times.” [60471]

“The third colluding organization is the Sinaloa Cartel, the biggest and most dangerous organized drug mob, which received arms from this administration in the [Operation] Fast and Furious scandal. Sinaloa used those weapons to destroy their competition south of the border, and to intimidate the U.S. Border Patrol. Sinaloa had to be involved in the Children’s Crusade, because they control the southern border, probably more effectively than we do. What we are seeing therefore is an Obama-La Raza-Sinaloa alliance at work. You need to know only three facts about Sinaloa: they are huge, they are very dangerous, and they have penetrated our political-media class in cities like Chicago. This follows Alinsky doctrine that the left rises to power by building alliances with the criminal mafia against the middle class. This administration seems to love radical gangs of all kinds, from the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt (slogan: All we want is to die in the way of Allah!); to Hamas, which has just received *de facto* recognition as part of the Pals; to Hizb’allah, the Iranian proxy terror group, which runs Lebanon and does widespread drug smuggling in South America; to Al Qaeda in Libya and Syria, which is being supported by the United States and Qatar to head-chop all the infidels they want, in exchange for slicing up Assad’s control of Syria. ...That is the political context for the Children’s Crusade today, timed exquisitely to coincide with the amnesty bill the RINOs were going to help Obama to push through Congress. Just an amazing coincidence, you see.” [60471]

“Today’s Children’s Crusade is a very different thing. These well-fed and reportedly sexually-active kids are not refugees. They don’t look desperate. Their long bus ride across the U.S. border is not an act of desperation, and their parents, aunts, and uncles are not far behind. No; this is an organized mob, run by adults (including Valerie Jarrett and her kind), in collusion with governments and mafias south of the border—to give our radical leftist media a chance for another tear-jerking photo op for the Hopeless Suckers of America. This is community disorganizing the Obama way. It is the scofflaw pattern we have learned to expect from this Chicago Way administration. For the internationalist media it’s Hurricane Katrina playbook, repeated to the point of boredom. Haven’t we seen these stunts before? Americans do not want to believe it, but everybody is beginning to smell massive corruption and national betrayal in this administration. We are seeing terrorist and gangland penetration. Terror gangs like Hizb’allah also deal drugs throughout Latin America. Just look at the facts.” [60471]

ISIS releases photographs of its brutality as it took the Iraqi city of Mosul. The gruesome photographs, no doubt meant to frighten off the Iraqi army and to frighten all Iraqis into submission, show Iraqi soldiers and civilians marched into ditches, where they were executed. [60334, 60359]

IJReview.com notes a 2007 statement by a prescient Mitt Romney about Iraq: “You could see in the Shia south, the Iranians reaching over and grabbing to take power. You could see in the Sunni northwest, the Al-Qaeda folks taking power and leadership in that area. You could see the unrest among some of the Kurd populations and surrounding countries, perhaps destabilize the border of Turkey. And it’s even possible that you might think a regional conflict in the Middle East may occur.” [60375]

Investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson offers some suggestions for requests to present to the IRS in response to its absurd claim that Lois Lerner’s emails were erased in a computer crash: “Please provide a timeline of the crash and documentation covering when it was first discovered and by whom; when, how and by whom it was learned that materials were lost; the official documentation reporting the crash and federal data loss; documentation reflecting all attempts to recover the materials; and the remediation records documenting the fix. This material should include the names of all officials and technicians involved, as well as all internal communications about the matter. Please provide all documents and emails that refer to the crash from the time that it happened through the IRS’ disclosure to Congress Friday that it had occurred. Please provide the documents that show the computer crash and lost data were appropriately reported to the required entities including any contractor servicing the IRS.” [60406, 60407]

Attkisson continues, “If the incident was not reported, please explain why. Please provide a list summarizing what other data was irretrievably lost in the computer crash. If the loss involved any personal data, was the loss disclosed to those impacted? If not, why? Please provide documentation reflecting any security analyses done to assess the impact of the crash and lost materials. If such analyses were not performed, why not? Please provide documentation showing the steps taken to recover the material, and the names of all technicians who attempted the recovery. Please explain why redundancies required for federal systems were either not used or were not effective in restoring the lost materials, and provide documentation showing how this shortfall has been remediated. Please provide any documents reflecting an investigation into how the crash resulted in the irretrievable loss of federal data and what factors were found to be responsible for the existence of this situation. I would also ask for those who discovered and reported the crash to testify under oath, as well as any officials who reported the materials as having been irretrievably lost.” (Attkisson was fired by CBS News for her investigative reports that portrayed the Obama administration in a negative light. According to FreeBeacon.com, the network has since hired Bloomberg New correspondent Julianna Goldman, “the daughter of two high-dollar Obama donors.”) [60406, 60407]

On June 15 Obama plays golf in Palm Springs, California. CBS’ Mark Knoller tweets, “By my count, this is ...Obama’s 175th round of golf since taking office. GWBush only played 24 rounds in office.” (Obama still has 31 more months to go.) [60341, 60342, 60343]

Malia Obama gets a summer job in the motion picture industry. According to TheWrap.com, Obama’s daughter “was spotted this past week working as a production assistant for a day in Los Angeles on the set of Halle Berry’s upcoming sci-fi series



'Extant,' an individual with knowledge of the production told TheWrap. 'She helped with computer shop alignments and the director also let her slate a take,' the insider said. The insider also said Malia laughed with delight saying, 'My first time. This is a big deal.' CBS has not yet not responded to TheWrap's requests for comment. A spokesperson for [Michelle Obama] also has not responded." (It can be assumed that Malia Obama's salary is somewhat less than Chelsea Clinton's \$600,000 but quite a bit more than the \$10.10 minimum wage Obama is pushing for unskilled teen-aged labor.) Meanwhile, Obama tells *Parade* magazine, "We are looking for opportunities for [our daughters] to feel as if going to work and getting a paycheck is not always fun, not always stimulating, not always fair. But that's what most folks go through every single day." His wife Michelle adds, "I think every kid needs to get a taste of what it's like to do that real hard work. That's what life is." (Whether "real hard work" includes being a production assistant on a television series is debatable.) [60577, 60578, 60644, 60646]

At Townhall.com Doug Giles honors Father's Day by listing "9 Ways Fathers... Can Avoid Raising a Barack Obama." "1. Make sure your children appreciate this nation, its founding docs and its original intent and not some wet dream Bill Ayers and Bernadine Dohrn had back in the late '60s when they were high on acid, Che Guevara and Saul Alinsky. Especially be certain that they love our Armed Forces who protect us and not slice and dice their benefits. 2. Make certain your kids know it's wrong to lie your butt off to people who have given you their trust. For instance, if you tell people 'they can keep their health care plan and their doctors, period!' then mean that, dammit. 3. If in the event your offspring does make mistakes and situations get worse under their care, train your child to own their mistakes instead of blaming George W. Bush for their ham-fisted, ill-thought out blunders. 4. Teach your child that glib speeches read from a teleprompter that are laced with platitudes and horse manure do not replace character, honesty and integrity. 5. Lovingly school your young child that when he gets older, writing two books about yourself, or worse yet, having them ghost-written about oneself, is really, really weird and doesn't make one a great leader but rather a Little Lord Fauntleroy. 6. Take the time also to train your dear child to throw a baseball properly so he doesn't look ...uh ...um ...effeminate should he ever be called upon to throw out a first pitch during a baseball game. 7. Father, if you have a son, let him know it's okay for him to drink out of a straw when he's like ...uh ...three but not when he's the leader of the free world. At least not in public; and if he ever does drink from a straw in public tell him to never look someone of the same sex in the eye while doing so. The same goes for eating a banana. 8. In addition, dads, please instruct your spawn not to frickin' spy on people. Okay? It's rude and no one likes it and people will think you're a paranoid control freak. 9. And finally, teach your young whippersnapper if he is a boy to forego marrying a mean woman who's ashamed of this nation and wants to police what people eat and don't eat. Happy Father's Day and good luck."

Obama marks Father's Day by posting a photograph of himself with his wife, daughters, and mother in law. (The photograph is from a May 2011 visit to Cape Canaveral. Obama is not with his daughters on Father's Day 2014, as they are in Washington, D.C. while he plays golf in Palm Springs. Some might argue that Obama cannot very well post a

photograph of him with his own father because he either doesn't have such a photograph or doesn't want anyone to know who his real father is.) [60345, 60346, 60347]

During the California trip, Obama and his wife are, according to the Associated Press, “staying with White House decorator Michael Smith and his partner, U.S. Ambassador to Spain James Costos, at their vacation home.” WhiteHouseDossier.com adds, “Smith is also a personal friend of the Obamas and is reportedly close to Mrs. Obama. He oversaw the redecorating of the Oval Office. Smith and Costos were also major fundraisers for [Obama's] reelection campaign. Costos was subsequently appointed ambassador to Spain, where the couple [usually] live.” (While Obama plays golf, his wife Michelle reportedly goes house-hunting with Smith. There have also been rumors that the Obamas are seeking a vacation home in North Carolina, as well as a residence in Hawaii. They may have to ask Hillary Clinton for advice on how to afford all those house if they also leave the White House “dead broke.”) [60370, 60371, 60424]

On CBS' *Sunday Morning*, Hillary Clinton whines, “Politics is so unpredictable. Whoever runs [for president] has to recognize that the American political system is probably the most difficult, even brutal, in the world.” (Clinton is grossly mistaken. Political campaigns are notoriously more ruthless in many other countries, with biting personal attacks on opponents—even if one does not consider violent attacks, such as the assassinations of candidates Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan and Indira Gandhi in India. Bhutto was murdered not long after she claimed, in November 2009, that Osama bin Laden had been dead for quite some time.) [20257, 20258, 20259, 20269, 20273, 20274, 20275, 20290, 20325, 24122, 24495, 32480, 60392, 60395, 60405]

WND.com reports, “The deployment of Iran's Revolutionary Guard to Iraq came after the Obama administration quietly gave its approval of the Shiite troop movement, according to informed Middle Eastern security officials. The Obama administration pressed Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to allow battalions of the Quds Force to aid the Iraqi military in its fight against the Sunni Muslim Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. The Quds Force is special unit of the Revolutionary Guard responsible for international operations. According to numerous press reports the Iranian forces were dispatched Thursday to fight in Tikrit, which was initially held by the ISIS but was subsequently liberated by the Iraqi army with help from Iran. The Wall Street Journal reported two Guards' units were further tasked with protecting Baghdad and the Shiite holy sites in the cities of Karbala and Najaf. Obama's actions give clarity to State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki's statement on June 12 that Iran could play a ‘constructive’ role in Iraq.” [60362]

On *State of the Union*, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) says, “The Iranians can provide some assets to make sure Baghdad doesn't fall. We need to coordinate with the Iranians, and the Turks need to get in the game and get the Sunni Arabs back into the game, form a new government [in Iraq] without [Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al] Maliki.” Graham notes that during World War II the United States cooperated with the Soviet Union because Hitler was the common enemy who needed to be stopped. (Someone should remind Graham of what Joseph Stalin did after World War II and consider what the world would

be like if Iran followed in the Soviet Union's footsteps. Had President Roosevelt and General Eisenhower allowed General Patton to advance and take Berlin, rather than give it to the Soviets, perhaps there would never have been a Berlin Wall, Iron Curtain, and Cold War.) Graham warns, "Iraq and Syria combined are going to be the staging area for the next 9/11 if we don't do something about it. ...If Baghdad falls ...a disaster awaits us of monumental proportions. ...The Obama administration wanted to say, 'I ended the war in Iraq. I'm going to end the war in Afghanistan.' This [crisis in Iraq] was as predictable as the sun rising in the east. I blame ...Obama mightily for a hands-off policy when it comes to Iraq. ...The lack of a residual force, the stubborn-headed [Obama]—who thinks he knows better than everybody else, who withdrew troops and exposed this country to the inevitable—needs to change his policies quickly. If he does, we can still save this." CNN's Gloria Berger questions Graham's use of "stubborn-headed," and he replies, "Stubborn-headed, delusional, detached... but that's the last bad thing I'm going to say." [60362, 60401, 60417, 60423]

On *Fox News Sunday*, House Select Committee on Intelligence chairman Mike Rogers (R-MI) says, "We can't wait days and weeks and months to scratch our heads in some political reconciliation process. We have to ask one single question: Is al Qaeda holding land the size of India a problem for the United States? Well, it certainly was when they were in Afghanistan and had time to plan the 9/11 event. ...You have an al Qaeda army on the move. This isn't just Sunnis versus Shia... This is as dangerous as it gets. Why? We have thousands of Westerners and Americans in both eastern Syria and Iraq who have Western passports [and who have turned to jihad]. [W]e know [they] have these Westerners who have come to jihadist Disneyland in eastern Syria that [they] can further radicalize, train and send back to Europe and send back to the United States. ...And we're either going to face it [the terrorist threat] in New York City or we're going to face it here [in Iraq and Syria]." [60401, 60418]

Also on *Fox News Sunday*, Congressman Tom Price (R-GA) says, "The American people understand and appreciate, given the events over the past couple of weeks, that [Obama] was being deceitful with the American people on this [immigration issue]. There's a human tragedy going on the Southern border right now, and [Obama's] doing nothing. What did he do this weekend to correct that? He gave a hyper-partisan commencement speech and then went and played golf. That's the frustration that my constituents have and the American people have. [Obama] is disengaged on solving this challenge of immigration." [60421]

CNN reports that between 50 and 100 U.S. Marines "who specialize in embassy protection during high-threat conditions" arrived at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. (CNN does not explain why none of them were deployed to the compound in Benghazi in 2012, even though there were obvious high-threat conditions there.) [60401]

LatinoFoxnews.com reports, "Miami's shelters for immigrant children have increased the number of beds they have available in order to accommodate the massive influx of unaccompanied minors, mostly from Central America, who in recent months have poured into the U.S. illegally across the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Miami is one of the cities

picked by authorities to receive the more than 47,000 minors who, according to official sources, entered the country up to May of this fiscal year, twice as many as during the same period of the previous fiscal year. Cheryl Little of Americans for Immigrant Justice (formerly the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center) told the daily El Nuevo Herald that last year they were already overwhelmed by the increase in the number of unaccompanied minors who arrived and ended up in Miami shelters.” [60366]

The body of an 11-year-old boy from Guatemala is found near La Hoya, Texas. The Associated Press writes, “Although hundreds of immigrants die crossing the border each year, the discovery of Gilberto Francisco Ramos Juarez’s decomposed... illustrates the dangers unaccompanied minors face as they cross into the U.S. in record numbers. ...Investigators were able to reach the boy’s brother in Chicago through a phone number found written inside the child’s belt buckle. That brother gave authorities his father’s phone number in Guatemala.” Hidalgo County Sheriff Eddie Guerra states, “Down here finding a decomposed body—we come across them quite often. ...It’s a very dangerous journey. ...He was found in an area that normally the unaccompanied minors are not crossing over. ...But not being familiar with the terrain I’m sure this child was just wandering aimlessly through the brush area and got lost and had no water and the elements did him in.” (Some might argue that the child’s blood is on Obama’s hands, but that Obama does not care because the end—amnesty and millions more Democrat voters—justifies the means.) [61097, 61098]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration on Sunday joined Israel in implicating the militant group Hamas in connection with the kidnapping of three Israeli teens and called the move a ‘despicable terrorist act.’ The teens, including one who holds US citizenship, disappeared late Thursday apparently while hitchhiking in the country’s West Bank region. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already accused Hamas of being responsible for the kidnappings. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that officials are still investigating the abduction, but that ‘many indications point to Hamas’ involvement.’ He spoke the same day Israeli troops searching for the teens arrested roughly 80 Palestinians, including dozens of members of Hamas, in an overnight raid in the West Bank. ...Hamas, branded a terrorist group by the West for its long history of attacks on Israeli civilians, has been involved in past abductions. But this time around, there are other potential suspects. In recent months, there have been growing signs of the emergence in the West Bank of small groups of militants who identify with Al Qaeda.” (On June 13 Algemeiner.com reported that “A branch of the ‘Islamic State in Iraq and Syria’ [ISIS] terror group has claimed responsibility for the disappearance of [the] three Israeli teens...” [60287, 60288, 60289, 60298, 60369]

FoxNews.com reports, “The Obama administration said Sunday the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad will remain open amid the growing sectarian violence in Iraq but will increase security and that some embassy staff will be temporarily evacuated. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the staff will be moved to U.S. Consulate General posts in Basra and Erbil and to the Iraq Support Unit in Amman, Jordan. The embassy is within the Baghdad’s Green Zone. It has about 5,000 personnel, making it the largest U.S. diplomatic post in the world.” [60374]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “Newly discovered audio recordings of Hillary Clinton from the early 1980s include the former first lady’s frank and detailed assessment of the most significant criminal case of her legal career: defending a man accused of raping a 12-year-old girl. In 1975, the same year she married Bill, Hillary Clinton agreed to serve as the court-appointed attorney for Thomas Alfred Taylor, a 41-year-old accused of raping the child after luring her into a car. The recordings, which date from 1983–1987 and have never before been reported, include Clinton’s suggestion that she knew Taylor was guilty at the time. She says she used a legal technicality to plead her client, who faced 30 years to life in prison, down to a lesser charge. [He served only two months.] ... The full story of the Taylor defense calls into question Clinton’s narrative of her early years as a devoted women and children’s advocate in Arkansas—a narrative the 2016 presidential frontrunner continues to promote on her current book tour.” (Although all defendants are entitled to legal representation, there is no requirement that a particular attorney must come forward to volunteer his or her services. The audio recordings suggest Clinton knew Taylor was guilty. Nevertheless, Clinton attacked the credibility of the 12-year-old victim, accusing her of fantasizing and seeking out older men. CNN’s Gloria Borger explains the recording by saying it shows how “ambitious and aggressive” Clinton was.) [60378, 60386, 60387, 60461, 60528, 60556]

NYTimes.com reports, “The Obama administration is contacting hundreds of thousands of people with subsidized [ObamaCare] health insurance to resolve questions about their eligibility, as consumer advocates express concern that many will be required to repay some or all of the subsidies. Of the eight million people who signed up for private health plans through insurance exchanges under the new health care law, two million reported personal information that differed from data in government records, according to federal officials and Serco, the company hired to resolve such inconsistencies. ... Since June 1, the government has notified hundreds of thousands of people that ‘the information in your application doesn’t match what we found in other records.’ Accordingly, the notice says, ‘you need to follow up as soon as possible and provide more documents to make sure the marketplace has the correct information.’” Congressman Erik Paulsen (R-MN) warns, “many Americans are going to find out that they owe money to the Internal Revenue Service because their premium tax credits were paid incorrectly.” [60385]

ISIS terrorists take the Iraqi city of Tal Afar. Possibly using an American Stinger missile, the terrorists shoot down an Iraqi helicopter near Fallujah. [60408, 60409, 60435, 60436]

Aboard Air Force One, White House press secretary John Earnest responds to media questions about Lois Lerner’s “accidentally destroyed” emails: “I think it’s entirely reasonable, and it’s fact. You’ve never heard of a computer crashing before?” (Americans have heard of computer crashes, but they haven’t heard of any large business or government agency that does not routinely back up its files—or of computer crashes that erase the emails of only one employee.) Earnest adds, “The far-fetched skepticism expressed by some Republican members of Congress I think is not at all surprising and not particularly believable.” (Earnest manages to stop short of using the term, “vast right-wing conspiracy.”) [60402, 60433, 60451, 60455, 60462, 60475]

Islamic extremists attacked the predominantly Christian town of Mpeketoni, killing at least 57. According to MorningStarNews.org, “[T]he assailants were chanting ‘Allahu Akbar [God is Greater]’ and killing whoever could not recite verses from the Koran. ‘The attackers entered my house, took my boy out of the house, then killed him by shooting him, leaving my wife and daughters inside,’ one pastor told Morning Star News. ...[T]he town is only 5 percent Muslim, and... most of the people killed were Christians.” The *Daily Mail* reports that witnesses said “A white man speaking ‘fluent English’ was in charge of [the] Somali Islamist group al-Shabaab which gunned down at least 60 people in [the] Kenyan coastal town...” Mary Gachoki, a teacher who lives in Mpeketoni, states, “I saw a white man who was speaking in fluent British English commanding the rest of the attackers.” (Obama has no comment.) [60438, 60439, 60551, 60552]

On June 16 Obama signs an executive order prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Newsmax.com notes, “The new move may energize gays and young people, two constituency groups that make up an important part of Obama’s political base, ahead of congressional elections in November that could shift control of the Senate to Republicans. Obama has been fundraising for Democrats and urging voters to show up at the polls in November for the midterm election, which typically sees lower turn out than in years with presidential races. A Republican-controlled Congress would make it more difficult for [Obama] to pass any of his legislative agenda during his final two years in office. The order could increase pressure on the White House to take executive action on immigration. Similar to the non-discrimination order, Obama has resisted such a move while holding out hope that the House would advance broad legislation.” (Whether OSHA safety rules have anything to say about the dangers of men wearing dresses and high heels as they build and repair roads and bridges is not clear.) [60379, 60391]

On *CBS This Morning*, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee, calls the IRS claim that Lois Lerner emails were accidentally destroyed “just not believable. We have enough evidence of her wrongdoing that we want to review every email that she has sent or received. That’s reasonable to do when you have someone who takes the Fifth.” Newsmax.com reports that in a letter to IRS commissioner John Koskinen, Issa stated, “I will not tolerate your continued obstruction and game-playing in response to the committee’s investigation of the IRS targeting. Despite your empty promises and broken commitments to cooperation, the IRS still insists on flouting constitutional congressional oversight. This is not about what you turn over. It is all about what you don’t turn over.” (Koskinen can be as arrogant and defiant as he wishes, because he knows Attorney General Eric Holder will not appoint a special prosecutor, and even if forced to do so he would make sure the investigation is a whitewash.) [60433]

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, issues a statement in response to the IRS’ June 13 claim that it “lost” Lois Lerner’s emails because of a computer crash: “To assert that a computer glitch eliminated key evidence in this case is the most egregious stonewalling tactic to date by the IRS. This latest assertion

defies logic, makes absolutely no sense, and represents an incredible insult to members of Congress and the American people who demand accountability in an illegal targeting scheme that gets worse with each passing week. After learning the IRS gave the FBI more than a million confidential documents of taxpayer information, the IRS now wants us to believe that critical evidence in the case simply disappeared because of a computer glitch. This Administration's arrogance and disrespect for the rule of law is at an all-time high. ... We intend to get to the bottom of this unlawful targeting scandal through our federal lawsuit. With these latest troubling revelations, however, it is now more important than ever for a special prosecutor to be appointed to get the truth. The American people deserve the facts—the truth—not an ongoing effort to stonewall and mislead.” (The ACLJ represents several tea party groups that were stonewalled by the IRS in response to their applications for tax-exempt status.) [60384]

Even CNN ridicules the IRS for claiming it lost Lois Lerner's emails. In a panel discussion, John King says, “I'm going to be flippant here and I don't mean to—well, maybe I do mean to be. Do you believe in the Easter Bunny? Do you believe in Santa Claus? Do you believe that Lois Lerner's e-mails just suddenly went ‘poof?’” Julie Pace, of the Associated Press, adds, “There is nothing good about the way this has been handled. It's hard to believe, in this era where you have servers and back-up servers and all kinds of technologies that can recover all kinds of emails, that these emails simply don't exist. If that is true, and they don't exist, why wasn't that one of the first things that was told to Congress? So we didn't have to go through these questions and raise these suspicions a year in?” [60390, 60451, 60467]

In Toronto, Canada, Hillary Clinton tells an audience she supports the Obama administration's decision to negotiate with a Hamas-Fatah alliance. She says, “I think it's a holding position. And the reason it's a holding position is that the makeup of this joint enterprise are largely technocrats. They're academics and they're business people. They don't represent sort of, what you might call hard-core Hamas leadership.” Pamela Geller comments, “And how is she even a player still? After Benghazi? After Huma [Abedin, Clinton's Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated aide]? What has she done? She was a first lady who debased herself by staying with a man who would bang anything that moved. How is that presidential? She ran for [the U.S. Senate in] a state she never lived in and won. Proving yet again the power of the corrupt media. She was Secretary of State with no record save for the blood of our own in Benghazi. Now this. Has someone told Hillary that her own State Department has designated Hamas a terrorist organization? This is reminiscent of James Clapper's saying that the Muslim Brotherhood was ‘largely secular,’ and shows yet again that Obama Administration officials have no idea what they're dealing with in regard to Islamic jihadists, and are taking our nation and our allies on the road to ruin by continuing to ignore and downplay what the jihadist agenda really is.” [60493, 60494]

The U.S. Army names Major General Kenneth Dahl the lead investigator in the Bowe Bergdahl desertion case. Examiner.com reports that, “...according to Pentagon officials, Dahl and his investigation team won't be allowed to interview the former POW until officers and psychiatrists complete the three-phase reintegration program.” (It is highly

unusual for someone of Dahl's rank to deal with such a case; it would normally be up to the company commander of the unit that was deserted.) [60434]

The United States begins a partial evacuation of embassy staff in Baghdad. State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki tells reporters, "Due to the relocation of personnel from Baghdad, the embassy will only be restricted in its ability to offer all consular services; but emergency services are always available to U.S. citizens in need at any embassy or consulate anywhere in the world." (IowaHawkBlog's David Burge tweets, "We're not evacuating the embassy in Baghdad, we're just letting workers off early to celebrate Al Qaeda Is On The Run Day.") [60383, 60388, 60389, 60416]

FoxNews.com reports, "U.S. officials with access to the latest U.S. intelligence on Iraq told Fox News it 'appears likely/probable' that U.S.-made Stinger missiles have fallen into the hands of Sunni insurgents. It is possible that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) fighters acquired them from army bases they have taken over in recent days, the sources said. The Stinger missile is a shoulder-fired surface-to-air weapon that is used against aircraft. As ISIS forces have advanced through Iraq, concerns have increased that more U.S.-made weaponry could fall into the hands of the radical group." [60437]

At WashingtonExaminer.com Byron York writes, "[W]hether or not many people noticed, this was the week in which the Obama administration's attempts to deflect blame for the border crisis fell apart. Most of the illegal immigrants are what Border Patrol officials call OTMs. That is, while they are crossing into the United States from Mexico, they are actually from other countries—in this case, mostly Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—and are classified as Other Than Mexican immigrants. Top administration officials have tried to attribute the surge in crossings to violence and poverty in those countries. ... [But] Recent days have been filled with anecdotal reports, from local news outlets in Central America to major American newspapers, citing immigrants who say they came because they believe U.S. law has been changed to allow them to stay. And now comes word that Border Patrol agents in the most heavily-trafficked area of the surge, the Rio Grande Valley sector of Texas, recently questioned 230 illegal immigrants about why they came." [60403, 60404]

"The results showed overwhelmingly that the immigrants, including those classified as UACs, or unaccompanied children, were motivated by the belief that they would be allowed to stay in the United States—and not by conditions in their homelands. From a report written by the agents, quoting from the interviews: 'The main reason the subjects chose this particular time to migrate to the United States was to take advantage of the 'new' U.S. 'law' that grants a 'free pass' or permit (referred to as 'permisos') being issued by the U.S. government to female adult OTMs traveling with minors and to UACs. (Comments: The 'permisos' are the Notice to Appear documents issued to undocumented aliens, when they are released on their own recognizance pending a hearing before an immigration judge.) The information is apparently common knowledge in Central America and is spread by word of mouth, and international and local media. A high percentage of the subjects interviewed stated their family members in the U.S. urged them to travel immediately, because the United States government was only issuing



immigration ‘permisos’ until the end of June 2014... The issue of ‘permisos’ was the main reason provided by 95% of the interviewed subjects.” [60403, 60404, 60489]

There is, of course, no “new law.” York notes the recent response to Congress from Jeh Johnson, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security: “If comprehensive immigration reform is passed, the uncertainty that may be existing in people’s minds about our law gets resolved.” ...Others, including the White House spokesman, have made the same point in what has become the administration’s fallback position: If you don’t like what is happening at the border, pass comprehensive immigration reform. It is essentially a concession that yes, the young illegal immigrants flooding across the border are coming because they’ve heard that Obama administration policies will allow them to stay. But it’s also a sign that the White House has no intention to do much about the problem.” (The Obama administration’s position is essentially, “Well, if the people crossing the border wrongly believe they will be given a “free pass” to enter the United States illegally, why not just pass a law giving them that free pass so they won’t be wrong?” or, as HotAir.com puts it, “The only way to convince illegals that there’s no mass amnesty in effect is to... pass a mass amnesty.”) [60403, 60404]

GOPTheDailyDose.com reports that Obama “is sending Vice President Joe Biden to deal with the rising flood of poor Central American immigrants now flowing into Texas. Biden will fly into Guatemala June 20, to meet with the presidents of Guatemala and El Salvador, plus a top official from Honduras, and to tell the 28 million people in those countries that they can’t migrate to the United States, a White House official said Sunday. But the trip is a merely for show, said one Hill aide. ‘Anytime the administration sends Joe Biden to solve a problem, it’s clear evidence that the administration doesn’t see it as a problem worth solving,’ the aide said, noting that Obama has not spoken in public about the crisis. ‘[Obama] is sending Biden as a symbolic gesture to show they care about the border flow, whereas in reality their primary goal is to increase the flow,’ the aide said, citing Biden’s recent call for increased immigration.” [60459]

The Associated Press reports, “The White House is considering sending a small number of American special forces soldiers to Iraq in an urgent attempt to help the government in Baghdad slow the nation’s rampant Sunni insurgency, U.S. officials said Monday. ...It’s not clear how quickly the special forces could arrive in Iraq. It’s also unknown whether they would remain in Baghdad or be sent to the nation’s north, where the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has overrun several cities in the worst threat to the Shiite-led government since U.S. troops left in 2011. ...The mission almost certainly would be small: one U.S. official said it could be up to 100 special forces soldiers. It also could be authorized only as an advising and training mission—meaning the soldiers would work closely with Iraqi forces that are fighting the insurgency but not officially be considered as combat troops.” Obama sends a letter to Congress advising that “up to approximately 275 U.S. Armed Forces personnel are deploying to Iraq.” (Some might ask how, if Obama declared the war in Iraq over in 2011, withdrew all troops, and refused to sign a new status of forces agreement, he now has the authority to move troops to Baghdad or order air strikes on ISIS without the approval of Congress.) [60412, 60413, 60414]

While many suggest that Secretary of State John Kerry should be in Baghdad pushing the Maliki government to get its act together, he instead attends an “Our Ocean 2014” event with actor Leonardo DiCaprio because “the threat to our ocean is [sic; oceans are] too great to ignore.” Kerry tells the audience, “You are the ones who have brought that sense of urgency to this effort here. I might say that by being so rigid and so firmly planted we can say with certainty that the oceans movement is a hard-ass group of folks.” (What Kerry’s job description has to do with saving the oceans is not clear. “Our Ocean 2014” suggests tweeting, “my national and local leaders know that our ocean is important to me,” “I will ask whether my seafood has been caught in a sustainable manner,” “I will not eat shark fin soup,” and “I will not throw trash into our ocean or waterways.”) [60497, 60498, 60510, 60541]

CNSNews.com reports, “Since ...Obama took office in January 2009, the cumulative outstanding balance on federal direct student loans has jumped 517.4 percent. The balance owed as of the end of May was \$739,641,000,000.00. That is an increase of \$619,838,000,000.00 from the balance that was owed as of the end of January 2009, when it was \$119,803,000,000.00, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement.” [60420]

Retired Air Force Lieutenant General Thomas McInerney, addressing a conference of military and legal experts, says of the Benghazi attack, “Verification of what the National Command Authority knew and when they knew it is extremely important as it will show, I believe, that there was dereliction of duty by [Obama], the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State, and the CIA Director. That is a very serious charge. That is a very serious charge, and it was done in violation of the law of the United States. ...It absolutely boggles my mind that we did not have pre-positioned forces in that area. We didn’t do these things. That points to dereliction of duty. ...[W]e should have launched F-16s and tankers and they could have been airborne in two hours... but nothing was done. The Foreign Emergency Support Team, can you believe this, was up in Croatia. What was it doing in Croatia? Were we having riots in Croatia? So again, dereliction of duty.” [60588]

Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne tells Fox News’ Neil Cavuto the Obama administration “just dumped the people” who crossed the border in Texas in his state. “[T]hey could have flown them [back] to Guatemala or Mexico or whatever. They flew them to Arizona, and then they bused them to the Greyhound bus station, and then they just dumped them there with a piece of paper saying, please show up in 15 days for processing, which presumably they won’t be willing to do. They have been transported into the interior of the country, and they can just disappear into the woodwork.” Horne notes that he sent the Border Patrol a “cease and desist” order. “I haven’t heard back yet. But I cited two federal statutes. One federal statute says that they’re supposed to defend and guard the border, which means they could detain people. They could send them back... The federal government is supposed to be sending them back to Mexico or Central America. Somebody in the federal government has a bizarre sense of humor and said, let’s send them to the state of Arizona instead. ...[W]hatever their motive, what

they're doing is wrong. And I am demanding that they cease and desist. And we're aggressively researching what legal avenues are available to us in federal court if they continue to do this..." [60476]

On *Special Report*, Charles Krauthammer ridicules a statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: "We'll work with the Iranians so long as they respect the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq." Krauthammer calls the statement "preposterous. Of course it has no respect for the sovereignty and integrity of Iraq. For the last years, Iran has been supporting Shi'ite militias and actually supporting both sides *precisely* so it would become the dominant element in Iraq and it is the worst thing that we could possibly do. The way that we would keep Iran relatively off the table and out of the scene is to provide some assistance and also have somebody like a [former ambassador to Iraq Ryan] Crocker on the ground—there were just elections in Iran, the parliament is still split, there is a golden opportunity to create a coalition, tripartite coalition—Crocker or somebody who knows all the players is the guy to do it if Obama will allow himself to have people of great competence and stature involve themselves in conducting foreign policy other than running it himself in the presence of, let's say, people who don't exactly have the stature of a Henry Kissinger." [60426]

With regard to the "lost emails" of Lois Lerner, Krauthammer says, "These guys are living in a different planet. They asked for this a year ago; it's not discovered that they are lost. I've seen quotes from computer experts who worked for decades at Microsoft who say that this [data] can 'absolutely' be found. And we already heard from one of the IRS officials a few months ago that all of this stuff is backed up. Now, the idea—here we have—Nixon lost 18 minutes [of White House recordings]; Obama's now lost two years of email. And one thing that people don't remember: the second article of impeachment for Richard Nixon was the use of the IRS to pursue political enemies. This is a high crime. This is not a triviality. When [Obama] said there wasn't a smidgen of corruption, this all had to do with a rogue operation in Cincinnati—we already know from a newly-released email, as a result of a Freedom of Information Act procedure, that it was run from the Washington (D.C.) IRS and not a rogue operation out there, and now the question is, 'Was the White House involved, political people involved, and these emails hold the secret, and all of a sudden we're asked to believe they have disappeared into thin air.'" [60448]

On *Hannity*, Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio says Border Patrol agents "are too busy changing diapers and not going after dope peddlers and illegal immigrants... and I think [Obama] knew this was going to happen. ...And we'll see how it settles. This is a great country. You're trying to tell me we can't keep people from coming into our country if we really had the desire to do it? I don't buy it. There's something wrong." [60476]

DailyCaller.com reports, "While world leaders were busy fretting over Iraq, Russia has moved to cut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine—a move Western leaders were dreading just months ago. The move could impact the rest of Europe if nothing is done to resolve the crisis. The continent gets about one-third of its natural gas from Russia—about 16

percent of the gas consumed by Europeans travels through Ukraine. Ukraine says it has enough gas reserves to last until December, but after that it will be forced to come back to the negotiating table with Russia. The country has been ravaged by civil strife that has warped into rebellion in the pro-Russian eastern part of the country. Russian officials have said this is a business negotiation, not a political one. Ukraine owes its former Soviet masters about \$4.5 billion in past due payments for natural gas. Russia had previously sold Ukraine discounted gas, but after the country's pro-Russian government was toppled earlier this year Russia began to demand the money it was owed. ...Gazprom, the Russian state-owned energy giant, is now demanding Ukraine pay upfront for its gas. 'Ukraine will get as much gas as it pays for,' Alexei Miller, the CEO of Gazprom, said Monday." [60427, 60529]

Newsmax.com reports, "The United States is beefing up security at its large, palatial embassy in Baghdad and will move workers from behind its massive blast walls and out of the Iraqi capital, the U.S. State Department said Sunday. Expanded military support for security at the embassy will include fewer than 100 soldiers, a U.S. official told Reuters on Sunday. The enhanced security personnel will include Marines and other soldiers, a U.S. military official said on condition of anonymity. A substantial number of the more than 5,500 embassy workers will be included in the evacuation..." [60428]

In an interview with DailyCaller.com, documentary filmmaker and author Dinesh D'Souza suggests a Hilary Clinton administration will be much like the Obama administration, but "We can't know for sure because we've seen many Hillarys. We saw the early radical Hillary of health care when Bill Clinton was first elected. Then we saw this sort of demure Hillary as a senator from New York. Now we've seen Hillary as a representative of the Obama administration. So the question becomes, I think most people think, is Hillary more like Bill or is Hillary more like Barack? I think many people are hoping Hillary is like Bill and if we elect her we're gonna get Billary and it's gonna be [like it was] back in the '90s. But no, I don't think so. I think that if you track Hillary you can see that Hillary and Obama have common ideological roots. In fact, both of—there's a bridge that connects the two of them, and that bridge is Saul Alinsky [author of *Rules for Radicals*]. ...Well, notice, for example, that Obama writes an autobiography, 'Dreams From My Father,' Alinsky is not mentioned. So it's rather odd. If I were to write my life story and leave out my mentor Jeffrey Hart at Dartmouth, people would go, 'How odd is this?' The leaving him out would have to be deliberate. Now here's my point. Many of us are formed in our politics and our values at a young age. I came to America as an immigrant. I was not political in any way. I landed at Dartmouth. It was the Reagan era. And so a mentor of mine at Dartmouth, as well as [Ronald] Reagan, had a huge influence on me. Now they didn't have a huge influence on me by devising a blueprint or a plan, they just shaped the way I see the world. So I'm not claiming that he's [Alinsky is] making phone calls to Obama or Hillary—he's gone. But his influence lives on. And isn't it interesting that this one man happens to have a formative connection not just with [Obama], but what [sic; who] may be the front runner to be his successor." [60456]

D'Souza says, "There is a desperate desire on the part of many Americans, particularly in the media, for the first African-American [in the White House] not to fail. If Obama was

Jimmy Carter, he would be hounded right now. If he was Bill Clinton, the uproar would be deafening. But because it's Obama, everybody is in jitters. Because it's Obama, there are people in the press who go, 'this is very bad for him, let's downplay it. This is very good news for him, let's trumpet it.' Chris Matthews said very explicitly, 'we have to do what we can to help this man succeed.' So, now, what's ironic of course is that America suffers from the pathology of race and the legacy of slavery. Obama is not descended from slaves on either side of his family. His father—sometimes people say his father was an immigrant. His father was not an immigrant. His father was a foreign student who came to America and then went back to Africa. So Obama is not a direct descendent of slaves at all, but because he is African American or of mixed race descent, he benefits from the peculiarity of race as it plays out in the history of this country.” [60512]

FoxNews.com reports, “House Republicans seeking a direct link between ...Obama and the IRS targeting of conservative groups—a connection Democrats say is essential for a legitimate White House scandal—have released a report detailing dozens of examples that they say prove [Obama] and fellow Democrats pressured the agency to act. The influence campaign unofficially started during Obama’s January 2010 State of the Union Address in which he ‘delivered a stunning rebuke’ of the Supreme Court decision in favor of the group Citizens United, among the IRS’s first and biggest targets, according to the 77-page report released Monday by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The decision in part allowed campaign donors to remain anonymous. ...The report attempts to show that Obama combined his master oratory skills with the ‘indisputably powerful’ ...bully pulpit to sound a clarion call that was heard by news outlets shaping the national agenda and that led IRS official Lois Lerner to start targeting Tea Party and other conservative groups that applied for tax-exempt status. ‘IRS employees read and acted upon the news reports,’ the committee report concludes. ‘Put simply, as [Obama’s] political rhetoric drove the national dialogue and shaped public opinion, the IRS received and responded to the political stimuli.’” [60430]

Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, issue a subpoena to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen over the “lost” emails of former IRS official Lois Lerner. Issa’s letter to Koskinen states, “Congress passed the Federal Records Act (FRA) to preserve key documents—such as those that were stored on Lerner’s hard drive—for production to congressional investigators and other stakeholders, including historians and FOIA requesters. The FRA requires agencies to make and preserve records of agency decisions, policies, and essential transactions, and to take steps to safeguard against the loss of agency records. I will not tolerate your continued obstruction and game-playing in response to the Committee’s investigation of the IRS targeting. For too long, the IRS has promised to produce requested—and, later, subpoenaed—documents, only to respond later with excuses and inaction. Despite your empty promises and broken commitments to cooperation, the IRS still insists on flouting Constitutional congressional oversight. I was astounded and disappointed to learn on Friday that the Internal Revenue Service has lost a substantial portion of e-mails sent or received by former IRS official Lois Lerner from January 2009 to April 2011. For a year, the Committee has sought all of Ms. Lerner’s e-mails from the IRS. Because of the IRS’ obstruction, I have issued two subpoenas

compelling the production of the documents. At no time until late Friday had the IRS ever informed the Committee that the IRS did not possess all of Ms. Lerner's emails from the applicable period. Indeed, you testified—under oath—during a Committee hearing in March 2014 that you would produce all of Ms. Lerner's emails subpoenaed by the Committee.” According to Townhall.com's Katie Pavlich, “The subpoena demands Koskinen testify in front of the House Oversight Committee next week. He is expected to appear Monday night at 7 p.m.” [60449, 60454]

At PJMedia.com Bryan Preston writes, “Hardly anyone accepts the IRS' claim to have lost two years of Lois Lerner's emails. Those most familiar with government record retention requirements, and the technology used, probably are the most skeptical. ...A former IRS IT specialist is casting serious doubt on the IRS' claim to have lost the Lerner emails. ...First, he points to the United States Code for government record retention. That code, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 33, governs what a government record is and requires that agencies must notify the Archivist of any records that are destroyed and the reasons for destroying them. The code was put into place after Iran-Contra to keep government workers and contractors from deleting records. Section 3309 states that records ‘pertaining to claims and demands by or against the Government of the United States or to accounts in which the Government of the United States is concerned, either as debtor or creditor, may not be disposed of by the head of an agency under authorization granted under this chapter, until the claims, demands, and accounts have been settled and adjusted in the General Accounting Office, except upon the written approval of the Comptroller General of the United States.’ ‘These environments were required by federal regulations to be redundant and recoverable,’ the former IRS IT worker says. ‘The recoverability requirements were put into place for exactly the reasons we see today.’ Disposal of records outside the statutory standards requires permission in writing. He says that the IRS uses Microsoft Outlook/Exchange systems, which are backed up using Symantec NetBackup. He also says that ‘the IRS is the cash cow of the federal government. When they ask for funding for anything it was granted without discussion.’” [60453]

Preston continues, “In the case of the prime contract and record retention, ‘The IRS IT projects were fully funded and never lacked for resources. To state ‘Backup tapes were reused after some short period’ is a complete joke. The IRS had thousands and thousands of tapes and ‘Virtual Tape Libraries’ (VTL or non-tape backups based on hard drive storage technologies). There was never a reason to reuse tapes.’ Indeed, the U.S. government has been getting out of the tape backup regime for years. The former IRS IT worker points to [an] ExaGrid document from 2011. In the document, ExaGrid discusses its work with the federal government to eliminate tape backups in favor of faster and more secure record retention systems. ExaGrid specializes in disk-based records retention systems. The former IRS IT worker adds that in his time on the prime contract, ‘I have worked for many federal agencies and the IRS had some of the best people. This reason is why I scoff at the story being put out. Those folks would not have had such a short retention period for email unless they had it in writing from the highest levels. It would have made the local IT water cooler gossip if the IRS had screwed up and lost tons of email by accident.’ Yet the IRS claims that it lost the emails a year ago, and is only now

telling congressional investigators.” (In other words, the IRS is lying to protect itself, Obama, and others.) [60453]

Police in Spain detain eight people suspected of recruiting terrorists to fight with ISIS in Syria and Iraq. The BBC reports, “The cell’s leader was once held at the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba after being arrested in Afghanistan, a statement said. Unconfirmed reports in Spanish media named him as Lahcen Iksarrien, a Moroccan national who was released on his return to Spain in 2005 for lack of evidence. One of the seven other people arrested is believed to be from Spain. Another is from Argentina and the remaining five from Morocco.” [60446, 60447]

FreeBeacon.com reports, “A controversial senior adviser to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is receiving criticism for tweeting that the recent takeover of Iraqi cities by a violent terror group is proof that a Muslim ‘caliphate’ is making an ‘inevitable’ return. Mohamed Elibiary, a controversial figure and member of DHS’s Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), discussed what he described as the ‘inevitable’ return of a Muslim caliphate Friday on Twitter. ‘As I’ve said b4 inevitable that ‘Caliphate’ returns, Elibiary tweeted in response to a question about the terror group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (also known as ISIS, or the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham), which is currently seeking to overthrow the Iraqi government and instate strict Sharia law in the country. ‘Choice only whether we support [European Union] like Muslim Union vision or not,’ wrote Elibiary... Elibiary has come under heavy criticism in the past for claiming that America is ‘an Islamic country with an Islamically compliant constitution.’ Critics have said that such rhetoric makes him unfit to serve as an adviser for DHS, which is tasked with defending the U.S. border from terrorism.” At JihadWatch.org, Robert Spencer notes that Elibiary “was one of the speakers at a December 2004 conference in Dallas titled ‘A Tribute to the Great Islamic Visionary.’ The visionary in question was none other than the founding father of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini.” [25810, 25811, 25812, 25815, 25819, 25826, 25856, 26075, 26076, 26831, 26980, 41199, 41200, 48401, 48415, 48509, 48558, 48962, 48963, 49394, 60441, 60442, 60443, 60444, 60491, 60599]

Asked why he attended the conference by Dallas Morning News reporter Rod Dreher, Elibiary replied, “Expect someone to put a banana in your exhaust pipe.” The Obama-appointed Janet Napolitano hired the jihad-supporting Elibiary anyway, and gave him a position at the Department of Homeland Security—where he could access confidential documents. As noted previously in this *Timeline*, Elibiary unsuccessfully “shopped around” to the media some state and local intelligence reports in an effort to smear Texas Governor Rick Perry as an “Islamophobe.” Napolitano herself refused to answer questions from Congress about Elibiary, telling the House Judiciary Committee, “Well, since I don’t know the facts, I’ll have to look into that.” According to the Egyptian magazine *Rose EL-Youssef*, Elibiary is a member of the radical Muslim Brotherhood. Via Twitter, Elibiary has essentially argued that the Coptic Christians being persecuted in Egypt “have it coming” because of their “Islamophobia.” (On June 20 Pamela Geller writes, “Iraqi terror group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as ISIS, are praising and potentially recruiting extremists based on controversial tweets by a

senior Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adviser [Elibiary] who recently claimed that ISIL is proof that a Muslim ‘caliphate’ is making an ‘inevitable’ return.” [25810, 25811, 25812, 25815, 25819, 25826, 25856, 26075, 26076, 26831, 26980, 41199, 41200, 48401, 48415, 48509, 48558, 48962, 48963, 49394, 60441, 60442, 60443, 60444, 60491, 60599]

In a radio interview, Congressman Lou Barletta (R-PA) says Obama is “just absolutely ignoring the Constitution, ignoring the laws, ignoring the checks and balances. The problem is, what do you do? ...For those who say impeach him for breaking the laws or not enforcing the laws, you know. Could that pass, in the House? It probably, it probably could. Are the majority of American people in favor of impeaching ...Obama? I’m not sure. ...I think what happened [to Congressman Eric Cantor] in Virginia is what you’re going to start seeing around the country. ...They’re going to look at their specific member of Congress and their own U.S. senator. If they don’t feel you’re standing up for them, they’re going to throw you out and they’re going to send somebody else there. ...There’s a big message here. People in Washington [had] better pay close attention.” [60496]

On June 17 Pamela Geller comments on Secretary of State John Kerry’s statement that the United States could “work with the Iranians so long as they respect the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq.” She writes, “The idea that the US would support Iran’s imperialist goals in Iraq defies believability. We cannot and must not work with Iran in their bloody quest to conquer Iraq. Iran would love the American infidel army to fight and die to secure Iraq for them. And knowing how shrewdly they play the subversive clown in the White House, they would demand more nuclear concessions from Obama in such a cooperative deal. Obama would make more nuclear concessions in exchange for sending American boys and girls off to die for Iran. The tyrants of Iran is playing chess. Obama is playing ...tic tac toe. He is way, way out of his league. Why would Obama back ISIS in Syria and oppose them in Iraq? It’s madness. And why would we fight Iran’s war and make them a nuclear regional jihadist power? His foreign policy is nonsensical and lethal. The United States should be backing the Kurds in Iraq and Syria and all religious minorities. We should be aiding abetting those communities and nothing more. Let the Iranian jihadists and the al Qaeda/Muslim Brotherhood jihadists slaughter each other.” [60445]

On *CBS This Morning*, former U.S. ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker says, “The focus has been on the conflict [in Iraq], that is indeed serious, but, you know, diplomacy is what is crucial right now. We need to work with the Iraqis at the highest level,” which, he said, entails having [Secretary of State John] Kerry urge Iraq’s leaders to pursue a national unity government. ...We are hard-wired into their political system. We helped create it. We can’t walk away from it. I would have preferred since 2011 to see us more deeply and intensively engaged at the highest levels of government. I don’t think it’s too late, but we [had] better move now.” [60465]

Meanwhile, there are reports of ISIS attacks in Baqubah, less than 40 miles from Baghdad. [60465]



At WND.com Aaron Klein reports, “Members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIS, were trained in 2012 by U.S. instructors working at a secret base in Jordan, according to informed Jordanian officials. The officials said dozens of ISIS members were trained at the time as part of covert aid to the insurgents targeting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Syria. The officials said the training was not meant to be used for any future campaign in Iraq. The Jordanian officials said all ISIS members who received U.S. training to fight in Syria were first vetted for any links to extremist groups like al-Qaida.” (Obama should be asked to explain which ISIS fighters he supports—those who are fighting the Assad regime in Syria, or those who are in the process of capturing a large portion of Iraq. In reality, both groups are bad for the United States. If ISIS takes control in Syria and remains in control of much of Iraq, that entire combined region will be used as a base for worldwide terrorist activities—and it will be well-funded with oil revenue.) [60580]

The Pentagon reports that American special operators and law enforcement agents in Libya captured Ahmed Abu Khatallah, one of the lower-echelon terrorists involved in the Benghazi attacks of September 11, 2012. Pentagon press secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby states, “There were no civilian casualties related to this operation, and all U.S. personnel involved in the operation have safely departed Libya.” Obama brags that he “authorized the raid” (as if there would have been any good reasons to not do so) and states, “It’s important for us to send a message to the world that when Americans are attacked, no matter how long it takes, we will find those responsible and we will bring them to justice. That’s the message I said the day after it happened and regardless how long it takes, we will find you. I want to make sure everyone around the world hears that message very clearly. My duty as commander-in-chief is to keep the American people safe.” (Libyan Justice Minister Saleh al-Marghani demands that the United States return Khatallah, saying, “We had no prior notification. We did not expect the U.S. to upset our political scene.”) [60463, 60479, 60483, 60492, 60495, 60514, 60526, 60590]

Obama does not explain why it took so long to capture Khatallah, who has been operating freely in Libya and has even granted interviews to CNN, *The New York Times* (October 2012), Fox News (October 2012), and other news agencies. (The more cynical might suspect that Khatallah was ordered captured “at an opportune time”—when Obama wanted something else in the news headlines than Iraq, Lois Lerner, and thousands of children crossing the border. In fact, HotAir.com does just that, writing, “This is exactly what it looks like, i.e. Obama’s trying to stop the bleeding he’s endured lately on foreign policy over Ukraine and Iraq and the Taliban Five by seizing an easy victory. I’m old enough to remember when U.S. counterterror [sic; counter terror] developments, especially ‘terror alerts,’ were greeted by our liberal betters online as obviously political gambits by the Bush administration, designed to distract the public from more important matters. Questioning the timing was standard practice for the lefty blogosphere circa 2006. Today, of course, it’s the height of crankery to believe that a guy whose party is in deep trouble in the midterms, and who’s proved before that he’s not above well-timed executive action for electoral ends, might have given this order with an eye to putting some good news on the front page for once.”) Where Khatallah will be taken is not clear.

Since Obama entered the White House *not one person has been added to the prisoner population at Guantanamo*, although many detainees have been released. With the capture of Khatallah, the mainstream media may very well now declare Benghazi “over” and pretend there is no House Select Committee investigation. [60463, 60479, 60483, 60492, 60495, 60514, 60526]

Several Republicans call for Khatallah to be kept at the detainee camp at Guantanamo, rather than in a U.S. prison. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) states, “Khatallah is a foreign terrorist, captured by our special forces overseas for his violent attack on a U.S. facility. He belongs in Guantanamo and in the military justice system, not in the U.S. civilian court system with the constitutional protections afforded U.S. citizens. ...The Obama administration should immediately transfer him to the military detention center at Guantanamo Bay for detention and interrogation.” [60513, 60516, 60532]

Reporters press State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki about the fact that it took almost two years to capture Khatallah even though he was readily available for media interviews in Libya. Psaki responds, “there are a range of factors that are taken into account, and in terms of the right timing for operations along these lines, [Obama] made a decision with the support of the national security team about the timing, and obviously it was successful.” The administration has “taken every step possible to do that as quickly as possible, but taking on operations of these kinds are difficult, and there are a range of factors involved, and... this was undertaken as quickly as possible, given the circumstances.” She claims that an interview with a reporter “is entirely different from any operation to take these individuals into custody, and there are a range of factors taken into account. ...[R]eporters have interviewed a range of terrorists in the past, there’s nothing new about that... that’s entirely different from taking the steps necessary to apprehend someone in a country... not the United States, as has happened in this case. We did this as expeditiously as possible [and] took into account a range of factors and where we are today is that the outcome was successful.” [60488]

In *The Wall Street Journal*, Dick Cheney and his daughter Liz Cheney write, “As the terrorists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) threaten Baghdad, thousands of slaughtered Iraqis in their wake, it is worth recalling a few of ...Obama’s past statements about ISIS and al Qaeda. ‘If a J.V. [junior varsity] team puts on Lakers’ uniforms that doesn’t make them Kobe Bryant’ (January 2014). ‘[C]ore al Qaeda is on its heels, has been decimated’ (August 2013). ‘So, let there be no doubt: The tide of war is receding’ (September 2011). Rarely has a U.S. [leader] been so wrong about so much at the expense of so many. Too many times to count, Mr. Obama has told us he is ‘ending’ the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—as though wishing made it so. His rhetoric has now come crashing into reality. Watching the black-clad ISIS jihadists take territory once secured by American blood is final proof, if any were needed, that America’s enemies are not ‘decimated.’ They are emboldened and on the march. The fall of the Iraqi cities of Fallujah, Tikrit, Mosul and Tel Afar, and the establishment of terrorist safe havens across a large swath of the Arab world, present a strategic threat to the security of the United States. Mr. Obama’s actions—before and after ISIS’s recent advances in Iraq—have the effect of increasing that threat. On a trip to the Middle East this spring, we heard a

constant refrain in capitals from the Persian Gulf to Israel, ‘Can you please explain what [Obama] is doing?’ ‘Why is he walking away?’ ‘Why is he so blithely sacrificing the hard fought gains you secured in Iraq?’ ‘Why is he abandoning your friends?’ ‘Why is he doing deals with your enemies?’ In one Arab capital, a senior official pulled out a map of Syria and Iraq. Drawing an arc with his finger from Raqqa province in northern Syria to Anbar province in western Iraq, he said, ‘They will control this territory. Al Qaeda is building safe havens and training camps here. Don’t the Americans care?’” [60520, 60522, 60540]

“[Obama] doesn’t seem to. Iraq is at risk of falling to a radical Islamic terror group and Mr. Obama is talking climate change. Terrorists take control of more territory and resources than ever before in history, and he goes golfing. He seems blithely unaware, or indifferent to the fact, that a resurgent al Qaeda presents a clear and present danger to the United States of America. When Mr. Obama and his team came into office in 2009, al Qaeda in Iraq had been largely defeated, thanks primarily to the heroic efforts of U.S. armed forces during the surge. Mr. Obama had only to negotiate an agreement to leave behind some residual American forces, training and intelligence capabilities to help secure the peace. Instead, he abandoned Iraq and we are watching American defeat snatched from the jaws of victory. ...Now, in a move that defies credulity, he toys with the idea of ushering Iran into Iraq. Only a fool would believe American policy in Iraq should be ceded to Iran, the world’s largest state sponsor of terror. [Obama] is willfully blind to the impact of his policies. Despite the threat to America unfolding across the Middle East, aided by his abandonment of Iraq, he has announced he intends to follow the same policy in Afghanistan. Despite clear evidence of the dire need for American leadership around the world, the desperation of our allies and the glee of our enemies, ...Obama seems determined to leave office ensuring he has taken America down a notch. Indeed, the speed of the terrorists’ takeover of territory in Iraq has been matched only by the speed of American decline on his watch. [Obama] explained his view in his Sept. 23, 2009, speech before the United Nations General Assembly. ‘Any world order,’ he said, ‘that elevates one nation above others cannot long survive.’ Tragically, he is quickly proving the opposite—through one dangerous policy after another—that without American pre-eminence, there can be no world order.” [60520, 60522]

“It is time [Obama] and his allies faced some hard truths: America remains at war, and withdrawing troops from the field of battle while our enemies stay in the fight does not ‘end’ wars. Weakness and retreat are provocative. U.S. withdrawal from the world is disastrous and puts our own security at risk. Al Qaeda and its affiliates are resurgent and they present a security threat not seen since the Cold War. Defeating them will require a strategy—not a fantasy. It will require sustained difficult military, intelligence and diplomatic efforts—not empty misleading rhetoric. It will require rebuilding America’s military capacity—reversing the Obama policies that have weakened our armed forces and reduced our ability to influence events around the world. American freedom will not be secured by empty threats, meaningless red lines, leading from behind, appeasing our enemies, abandoning our allies, or apologizing for our great nation—all hallmarks to date of the Obama doctrine. Our security, and the security of our friends around the world, can only be guaranteed with a fundamental reversal of the policies of the past six years. In

1983, President Ronald Reagan said, ‘If history teaches anything, it teaches that simple-minded appeasement or wishful thinking about our adversaries is folly. It means the betrayal of our past, the squandering of our freedom.’ ...Obama is on track to securing his legacy as the man who betrayed our past and squandered our freedom.” [60520, 60522]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Now, the IRS has announced it can’t find emails belonging to six high ranking officials involved in the IRS targeting of conservative and tea party groups. One of those officials is former chief of staff to former Acting Commissioner Steven Miller, Nikole Flax. [Lois Lerner reported to Miller.] The ‘lost’ emails fall during the time period when ‘the Washington, DC office wrote and directed the Cincinnati field office to send abusive questionnaires, including inappropriate demands for donor information, to conservative groups,’ according to the House Ways and Means Committee. During his time at the IRS, Miller made numerous [more than 30] trips to the White House according to visitor logs.” Congressman Dave Campo (R-MI), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, states, “It looks like the American people were lied to and the IRS tried to cover-up the fact it conveniently lost key documents in this investigation. The White House promised full cooperation, the Commissioner promised full access to Lois Lerner emails and now the Agency claims it cannot produce those materials and they’ve known for months they couldn’t do this. Even when the IRS does admit something, they are not fully honest with us. Despite their attempt to bury the missing Lerner emails on page 15 of a 27 page letter that arrived late Friday, we now know documents from other central figures, like Nikole Flax, are missing. The fact that Ms. Flax was a frequent visitor to the White House and the Eisenhower Executive Office Building only raises more questions. Who was she visiting at the White House and what were they talking about? Was she updating the White House on the targeting or was she getting orders? These are answers we don’t yet have, because—surprise, surprise—a few computers crashed. Plot lines in Hollywood are more believable than what we are getting from this White House and the IRS.” [60450, 60451, 60452, 60484, 60485, 60569, 60612, 60874, 61300]

“This entire investigation has been slow-walked by the Administration while they denied any wrongdoing and tried blaming ‘low-level’ workers in Cincinnati—all of which we have proven to be wrong. This entire case started with the White House and top Democrats in the Senate using the bully pulpit to bully law-abiding Americans because they dared to stand up for their own political beliefs. The only way for Democrats to have any credibility on this issue is to immediately give an independent prosecutor full access and full authority to investigate every angle of this case.” Pavlich writes, “Emails don’t get lost. The IRS is lying. IRS officials are currently weighing their options about which lies they are willing to tell, to the American people and Congress, and what the consequences for those lies will be. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen will testify in front of the House Ways and Means Committee next week.” [60450, 60451, 60452, 60484, 60485, 60569, 60612]

While thousands of illegal immigrants continue to cross the U.S. border with Mexico, the White House has a ceremony honoring illegal immigrant activists with the “Mi Familia

Vota Education Fund” organization. DailyCaller.com dryly observes, “While the White House is teaming with law enforcement officers, no arrests are expected to be made Tuesday.” Congresswoman Candice Miller (R-MI) describes the event as “exactly the type of tone deaf messaging fueling the unprecedented surge of immigrant children being smuggled across our southern border. ...How can we expect to dispel rumors throughout Central America that children who enter America illegally will be allowed to stay while simultaneously touting the success stories of a few illegal immigrant children granted de facto amnesty by the administration? The sad truth is that most of the children being smuggled across the border today, in unprecedented numbers, will not have similar success stories.” [60457, 60482, 60543]

CNSNews.com reports, “The seasonally-adjusted price index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs hit an all-time high in May, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In January 1967, when the BLS started tracking this measure, the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs was 38.1. As of last May, it was 234.572. By this January, it hit 240.006. By April, it hit 249.362. And, in May, it climbed to a record 252.832. ‘The index for meats, poultry, fish and eggs has risen 7.7 percent over the span [last year],’ says the BLS. ‘The index for food at home increased 0.7 percent, its largest increase since July 2011. Five of the six major grocery store food group indexes increased in May. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 1.4 percent in May after a 1.5 increase in April, with virtually all its major components increasing,’ BLS states.” [60473]

At RealClearPolitics.com Tom Bevan lists five reasons why Hillary Clinton won’t run for president in 2016: “1) She’s just not that good at campaigning... 2) The ‘fire in the belly’ question... 3) It ain’t gonna be a coronation... 4) Obama is leaving a mess... 5) The country wants real change...” [60481]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, “The Internal Revenue Service is about to get slapped with a harsh payback for messing around with conservative groups, blowing wads of tax dollars on employee conferences and helping implement Obamacare. The House Appropriations Committee is set to OK an IRS budget of \$10.9 billion, \$1.5 billion under ...Obama’s request for fiscal year 2015, reducing the agency’s budget to 2008 levels. The goal is to keep the tax agency focused on its ‘core duties,’ and eliminate efforts to judge the political activities of tax-exempt groups and brake its implementation of Obamacare.” The legislation also includes specific restrictions on some IRS activities such as “A prohibition on funds for bonuses or awards unless employee conduct and tax compliance is given consideration. A prohibition on funds for the IRS to target groups for regulatory scrutiny based on their ideological beliefs. A prohibition on funds for the IRS to target individuals for exercising their First Amendment rights.” [60486]

In a “town hall meeting” staged by CNN, complete with stage director cues for audience applause and cheers, Hillary Clinton tells CNN’s Christiane Amanpour, “We want to know who was behind it [the attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi], what the motivation of the leaders and the attackers happened to be, uh, there are still some unanswered questions—it was, after all, the fog of war—uh, but I’m absolutely convinced that, uh, the United States and all of our, uh, various, uh, agencies, with all of

our professionals, including the Congress, is, uh, you know, piecing together the best information we can find.” (Immediately after the attack, Clinton, Obama, and other administration officials seemed *convinced* that the motivation was a YouTube video. Almost two years later, Clinton has questions and talks about the “fog of war.”) [60499, 60511, 60524, 60607]

Clinton tells Amanpour, “Ahmed Abu Khalil [sic] has been very much—Khatallah—has been very much on the minds of our law enforcement, our military, and our intelligence professionals since that night, uh, in September of 2012.” (At HotAir.com Duane Patterson writes, “Excuse me? This guy was on our minds from the night of the attack? He certainly wasn’t on Jay Carney’s mind for the next month and a half. Khattalah wasn’t on the mind of [Obama]. He wasn’t on the mind of Susan Rice. If you look at the entire video record of the Obama administration from 9/11/12 forward, this statement by Hillary Clinton is objectively untrue. If you want to be charitable and let her redefine history, Khattalah may have been on their minds, but the detainment of the YouTube videographer was on their lips. Bill Clinton used to lie with an unusually-gifted ability. Hillary Clinton wages the same war on truth every day, but not with the same panache.” [60527]

On the issue of gun control, Clinton says, “We cannot let a minority of people hold a viewpoint that terrorizes the majority of people.” (The statement is astounding. First, Clinton assumes that only a “minority” of Americans support the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—which is clearly not the case. Second, belief in the right to self-defense does not “terrorize the majority of people.” Lastly, the Bill of Rights is intended to protect the rights of citizens *even if they are in the minority*. That Clinton is making such brash statements as a not-yet-official candidate suggests she will not hesitate to act to restrict Second Amendment rights if elected president.) [60531, 60562, 60585]

Amanpour asks, “Senator Jay Rockefeller [D-WV] said recently and he suggested basically that some of the political opposition to ...Obama could have something to do with the color of his skin. Do you agree with that? What do you think about that?” Clinton responds, “Well, I can’t read the mind of all of the opposition. But some of it is virulent, and really, in my view, you know, quite detached from the job that not only [Obama] is doing but any president has to do. It’s a really hard job. ...I believe that there are people who have trouble with ethnicity, with race, with gender, with sexual orientation, you name it. And therefore, they are not developing a reasoned opinion—even if it’s an opinion in opposition, but they are reacting on a kind of visceral stereotypical basis. And that’s unfortunate.” [60537]

At a book signing event, conservative writer Jason Mattera asks Hillary Clinton to sign his copy of her book, *Hard Choices*. Asked by Clinton, “Sure, what’s your name?” Mattera replies, “Uh, if you can make it out to Christopher Stevens, I think you knew him.” Clinton says she will not, and Mattera asks, “What difference does it make?” and, noting her Secret Service entourage, says, “It’s kind of odd that you have more security than Chris Stevens had in Benghazi.” [60557, 60558, 60559, 60571, 60621]

In Mexico City, FBI agents take Lionel Portillo-Meza—aka Jesus Leonel Sanchez Meza—into custody for the December 14, 2010 shooting of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Sanchez-Meza was arrested in Mexico on September 6, 2012 and has been waiting extradition from a prison there for nearly two years. He is currently in Tucson, Arizona for a court hearing Wednesday afternoon after being transferred through Houston. According to an indictment, Sanchez-Meza will [be] tried on 11 counts, including for first and second degree murder. ... Another suspect in Terry’s murder, Ivan Soto-Barraza, is still in Mexican custody waiting extradition. Two other men, Jesus Rosario Favela-Astorga and Heraclio ‘Laco’ Osorio-Arellanes, are still on the run. Two of the guns found at Terry’s murder scene were trafficked to Mexican cartels through the Department of Justice’s Operation Fast and Furious.” [60504]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) tells CNN’s Erin Burnett, “You cannot win a battle against radical Islamic terrorism if you’re unwilling to utter the words ‘radical Islamic terrorism.’ ... [T]he most consistent error of the Clinton/Obama foreign policy is a failure to understand the nature of the people we’re dealing with, of our enemies.” Cruz notes that neither Obama nor Hillary Clinton will “utter the words ‘radical Islamic terrorists.’ They do not understand the radical religious extremism of individuals committed to jihad who had pledged to murder Americans. And that leads them to keep making the mistakes over and over and over again, whether it is releasing five senior Taliban terrorists without understanding that these individuals will likely return to active warfare against the United States; whether it is in the case of Iraq, not understanding the threat posed by ISIS.” Meanwhile, notes CNSNews.com, “Secretary of State John Kerry told a conference in Washington earlier on Tuesday that poverty is the problem and ‘energy policy’ is the solution: ‘The world is waiting for people to be put to work,’ Kerry told a conference on oceans at the State Department: ‘We have extreme poverty; we have terrorism that comes out of it. We have any number of problems that could be cured by energy policy that makes sense...’” In a lengthy discussion about Benghazi, Burnett defends Hillary Clinton against charges by Cruz that the administration has misled the American people and refused to cooperate with investigations. [60534, 60538, 60547]

At a Democrat LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual] fundraiser, Obama thanks donors “for helping make America more just and more compassionate. ... They understand love is love, and for many people whose minds have changed, it was love that did it—love for the child or the grandchild or the friend or the co-worker who sat down one day and held their hands and took a deep breath and said, ‘I’m gay.’ Almost everybody in this room was that child or grandchild or friend or co-worker at some point. And you may not have known it at the time—it may have seemed like an individual act—but in those moments when you summoned that courage and reached out with that hopeful love—you were doing it for everybody. And that’s why I’m here tonight—to say thank you for helping to make America more just and more compassionate.” Obama says, “So Pride Month is a time for celebration, and this year we’ve got a lot to celebrate. If you think about everything that’s happened in the last 12 months, it is remarkable. In nine more states you’re now free to marry the person you love—that includes my two home states of Hawaii and Illinois. The NFL drafted its first openly gay player. The U.S. Postal Service made history by putting an openly gay person on a stamp—the late, great

Harvey Milk smiling from ear to ear.” (Milk was a pederast, child molester, and drug addict. His “claim to fame” was having been shot to death.) Obama brags, “I lifted the 22-year ban on people with HIV traveling to the U.S.” (He does not explain why introducing people with deadly infections to the population is a good idea, let alone something he should be proud of.) [50319, 50350, 50378, 59513, 60536, 60554]

On June 18 Robert “Andy” Andrews, the father of Sergeant Darryn Andrews—who was killed in Afghanistan in the search for Bowe Bergdahl—addresses the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Andrews says, “My son was a soldier’s soldier. And it didn’t matter what the assignment was, he was gonna do it ... Do not let my son—to me, this situation with us not being told the whole truth, and then trading a private for five high-ranking Taliban—*exactly why did my son die?* Tell me one more time. Because I don’t know what we’ve accomplished.” Congressman Randy Weber (R-TX) asks, “If you could say that to [Obama], is that what you would say to him?” Andrews replies, “Yes.” A choked-up Weber then asks, “And now the hard question, so forgive me. ‘If you could get your son back by trading five more of those senior Taliban?’” Andrews replies, “If my son had been a deserter, then no. Absolutely not. But my son was a man of honor, and I would do almost anything.” [60500, 60501]

During the hearing, Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) asks a mental health professional if the stress of serving in Afghanistan would have prompted Bowe Bergdahl to leave his post and asks him to “describe the kinds of stresses” Bergdahl may have faced. Army Specialist Cody Full, who served with Bergdahl, interrupts and asks for permission to speak. Sherman reluctantly agrees. Full then says, “You’re asking Dr. Jacobson what situation Bergdahl was in over there. I was... with Bergdahl at the same location. I could give you a first-hand account of *exactly* what Bowe Bergdahl was going through because I went through the exact same conditions. ... We were at an observation post. It was very primitive. We had to eat ‘meals ready to eat’ [dehydrated MREs], which are heated up with water. It was very hot and very dirty. We went without showers for certain days, didn’t get phone calls or [have] any comforts of home, but it didn’t effect anyone else there, we all continued the mission and upheld our oath. Everybody deals with mental issues in some form or another if they deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq. Everybody else still came back from that same platoon. Nobody else deserted on their own, so there’s nothing in my opinion that was so bad that forced him to walk off on his own accord caused by anything going on there, he walked off on his own accord.” [60620]

An Iraqi oil industry official reports that BP and Exxon Mobil are evacuating most of their staff from Iraq. [60602]

Al-Akhbar.com reports, “Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region formed a new government Wednesday after months of wrangling, with premier Nechirvan Barzani using the occasion to call for defending disputed northern territory. ‘Today we announce the formation of the government in complicated circumstances,’ said Barzani, the nephew of the region’s president. The division of ministries was not immediately clear, but the government includes the Goran movement, which had been in opposition. Previously, the



government was formed by the historic duopoly of Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of ailing Iraqi President Jalal Talabani." [60858]

Obama's grand-aunt, Margaret A. Payne, dies at age 87. (Margaret Payne is the sister of Madelyn Payne Dunham, Obama's maternal grandmother.) [60871, 60872]

At a Senate hearing on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety hearing entitled, 'Climate Change: The Need to Act Now,' Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) addresses four former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrators. He says, "[Obama], on Nov. 14, 2012, said, 'The temperature around the globe is increasing faster than was predicted even 10 years ago.' And then on May 29th last year, he said, 'We also know that the climate is warming faster than anybody anticipated five or ten years ago.' So I would ask each of our former administrators if any of you agree that that's an accurate statement on the climate. So if you do, raise your hand." None raise their hand. [60840, 60841]

Obama's approval/disapproval ratings fall to a record low 35.7/59.2 percent in a Reuters/Ipsos poll. In an NBC/WSJ poll, his ratings fall to 41/53. A 54 percent majority agree that Obama is "no longer able to lead the country." (In the same NBC/WSJ poll, 38 percent say they would vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016; 37 percent say there is no chance that they would vote for her.) Obama's approval rating is 41 percent in an Economist/YouGov poll, 43 percent in a Bloomberg poll, and 43 percent in a CNN poll. NBC's Chuck Todd says, "This [NBC/WSJ] poll is a disaster for [Obama.]. ...Lowest job rating, tied for the lowest; lowest on foreign policy. His administration is seen as less competent than the Bush administration, post-Katrina. On the issue of, 'Do you believe he can still lead?' a majority believe no. Essentially the public is saying [Obama's administration] is over." (Some may argue that Obama does not care. Although he would no doubt rather be wildly popular than wildly unpopular, his goal is not to win a popularity contest. His goal is to "fundamentally transform" the nation, and being hated by millions will not stop him from doing so. That most Americans do not want tens of thousands foreigners flooding across the border does not, for example, stop him from facilitating those crossings.) [60506, 60507, 60517, 60518, 60519, 60521, 60523, 60539, 60542, 60553]

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) tells reporters, "We've been informed that [former IRS official Lois Lerner's] hard drive has been thrown away." (It is absurd for the IRS to suggest that Lerner's emails were not also copied to servers—as any competent organization would do. But the Obama administration cannot afford to have the data see the light of day because it almost certainly implicates officials higher than Lerner—if not in the White House itself.) [60563]

Obama's ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, states that the capture of Ahmed Abu Khatallah was necessary because he planned further attacks against Americans. (That begs the question, "Had he not planned additional attacks, was Obama going to let him remain free even though he was partly responsible for the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi on September 11, 2012?") Some suggest that Obama needed to capture Khatallah because it was feared he would start talking about why Americans may

have been in Benghazi in the first place: the United States government was providing arms to Libyan rebels, and Ambassador Christopher Stevens may have been coordinating the arms shipments.) [60509, 60515]

WND.com reports, “While U.S. forces on Sunday captured primary Benghazi suspect Ahmed Abu Khattallah [or Khatallah], it was not their first attempt at seizing the senior leader of the Benghazi branch of the Ansar al-Sharia terrorist organization. Last October, a perplexing decision made by ...Obama himself essentially sabotaged an operation in which Special Forces were reportedly just hours from capturing Khattallah, one of the most important terrorist figures charged with carrying out the Benghazi murders. Following Obama’s decision in October, top U.S. officials were left asking uncomfortable questions about the timing and manner in which the U.S. seized wanted militant Abu Anas al-Libi, who was living openly in his home in Libya and likely could have been captured at a different time. It became increasingly clear the decision to capture al-Libi all but thwarted an ongoing operation in which covert U.S. operatives were at the same time tracking Khattallah’s every move. The operatives were on standby, ready to seize Khattallah, waiting for orders to carry out the arrest operation. The Libyan government reportedly granted the U.S. permission to seize both al-Libi and Khattallah in October. ...Al-Libi was seized in Tripoli by U.S. Special Forces on Oct. 5 in a very public daylight raid outside his home while his family looked on. Family members immediately predictably told the news media about the raid. ...This very public raid was carried out as Special Forces had worked for months to track wanted Benghazi ringleader Khattallah and were only hours from nabbing him, U.S. officials told CNN. ...However, al-Libi’s capture and its subsequent leak to news media sent Khattallah underground and further caused a major rift with the Libyan government, which demanded an end to any future U.S. raids. CNN reported the Khattallah raid never materialized ‘partly because there was so much publicity inside Libya and in the Western press about the al-Libi capture.’” [60533]

On the floor of the Senate, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) says, “Imagine for a moment if we could go back in time to the year 1997, or 1996, or 1998, 1999, and had known about al-Qaeda then what we knew by September of 2001. We would have realized that this was a dangerous group that had the capacity and the deep willingness to attack Americans in order to terrorize us so that we would leave the Middle East and turn it over to people like them. If we had done something about it, it is fair to say that eventually there would have been some terrorist attack, but maybe there wouldn’t have been one on September 11, 2001. While this is not the time to point fingers or throw blame around, I certainly think it’s the time to learn the lessons of that history and apply them to the challenges of our time. ...I know [Obama] likes to go around saying ‘The war is over,’ but no one told ISIL [ISIS] that. They don’t think the war is over. So, while I understand that he doesn’t want us engaged in another conflict, and neither do most Americans, he knows—he must know—that we are going to have to do something about this. The issue before us is whether we do something about it now, or we do something about this later when the problem will be much harder and much costlier to address. Mr. [Obama], on this issue, you must lead. You must put aside all these domestic political debates that are going on in your office about how this is going to poll, or whether this runs contrary to

what you said on the campaign trail. This is too important. It's too vital. It's too serious, and it's too dangerous." [60586]

The politically correct Obama administration revokes the trademark for the Washington Redskins football team. A whopping 81-page ruling from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office states, "These registrations must be cancelled because they were disparaging to Native Americans." (*Five people* filed a complaint. If five people are sufficient to challenge a trademark, every trademark in the United States may be at risk.) WashingtonTimes.com notes, "The action doesn't have any immediate effect. It allows the team, which is named in the decision as Pro Football Inc., to seek a federal court review of the decision, and it stipulates the team does not have to act on the ruling until the appeals are exhausted—a process which could take years. ...The decision also does not bar the team from using the nickname, but it cancels the protection that comes with exclusive rights to a trademark, meaning the team's logo and name could be used without permission to produce knockoff hats and T-shirts and jerseys and make the property less valuable." (Ironically, the government decision may have the effect of increasing the visibility of the team name and logo, because counterfeiters will be able to flood the market with low-quality Redskins products without having to pay royalties to the NFL.) In reporting the story, MSNBC's Joy Reid "warns viewers" that they will hear the evil word (Redskins). (Interestingly, the federal agency that is offended by the name Redskins seems not to mind "MILF"—"mothers I'd like to fuck"—which, according to the Media Research Center's Brent Bozell has received 20 trademark approvals, including "Diary of a MILF," "MILF Magnet," "MILF Next Door," "Backroom MILF," "MILF Workout," and "Fat MILF.") Whether the Obama administration will force the state of Oklahoma to change its name is not known. (The name Oklahoma is based on the Choctaw phrase, "okla humma," or "red people.") [60530, 60544, 60560, 60573, 60574, 60575, 60587, 60610, 60634, 60676, 60786]

CNSNews.com reports, "The international community will miss its June 30 deadline for the complete destruction of Syria's chemical weapons program, due to a series of regime breaches of an agreement which the Obama administration has touted as a key foreign policy accomplishment. ...[The Syrian] regime has not destroyed 12 chemical weapons facilities, as required to do under [a] 'plan of destruction' mandated by a U.N. Security Council resolution adopted last September. The deadline for that objective passed on March 15, unheeded. In fact the regime has flouted virtually every deadline set down in terms of a framework agreement negotiated between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov last spring." [60535]

CBSNews.com reports, "...Obama on Wednesday met with congressional leaders at the White House to discuss the turmoil in Iraq and the administration's efforts to respond. According to one leader in the meeting, Mr. Obama said that any actions the administration may take in response to Iraq's deteriorating security situation won't require congressional authority. 'We had a good discussion,' Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said. '[Obama] basically just briefed us on the situation in Iraq. And indicated he didn't feel he had the need for authority from us for the steps that he might take and indicated he would keep us posted.'" [60546]

FoxNews.com reports, “The United States is flying F-18 surveillance missions over Iraq from an aircraft carrier in the Persian Gulf, officials confirm to Fox News, as ...Obama weighs options for ‘increased security assistance’ in the country. The surveillance missions are being launched from the USS George HW Bush. It was already known that the Obama administration had authorized ‘manned and unmanned’ surveillance flights, but F-18’s [sic; F18s] are not traditional surveillance aircraft—they are attack aircraft. ‘It’s not so much about looking as it is being seen,’ a U.S. official told Fox News. Obama is thought to be leaning away from pursuing airstrikes in Iraq, as the Iraqi government and Shiite militias battle Sunni militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. But, after [he] met Wednesday afternoon with top congressional leaders in the Oval Office, the White House confirmed Obama still is weighing various military options.” [60548]

Former CIA director General Michael Hayden tells Newsmax.tv’s Steve Malzberg, “The state of Iraq as we know it is gone, and it’s not going to be reconstituted. It’s certainly not going to be reconstituted by [Prime Minister] Nouri al-Maliki. ...[I’d] get in the way-back machine, go back three years and undo some incredibly unwise decisions that we made then. That’s really the nub of the issue. We’ve got three successor states there now. As much as we might look for opportunities to keep Iraq together, we need to be prepared for the reality that it’s not going to stay together. We should snuggle up comfortably with the Kurds in Kurdistan, who have always been pro-American and actually have a functioning society and state right now. We should give help to the Maliki government, sufficient to settle the current conflict so it just doesn’t turn into a humanitarian disaster. For example, there’s fighting around Beiji right now, the oil refinery north of Baghdad. Baghdad needs for that part of the country to survive, and so we’ve got to settle the lines of this conflict in a way that Nouri al-Maliki’s surviving state, which I’ll call Shiastan, has Beiji within it. Then we’ve got Sunnistan, and that’s the state under the control of ISIS right now, and frankly, we’ve got to treat that as if it were a safe haven for terrorists and begin to think about it the way we had thought about Waziristan for the last decade-plus. That’s a tough message, and I’m afraid that’s where we are. Now we’re at a point where we really don’t have good options. ...There is no border now. ...This is all going to be very, very hard going forward, and we frankly may have to limit our objectives. In other words, seek to achieve things less than we would have thought to achieve had we made different decisions a few years back.” [60572]

Partly because of the turmoil in Iraq, the average price for a gallon of gasoline for the month of June reaches a six-year high of \$3.67. (Historically, gas prices tend to rise in the spring and fall in June.) [60581]

Politico writes, “[W]orry is quietly building that the ongoing crisis in Iraq—the struggles of a government partly seen as illegitimate, the collapse of its American-trained military and the ascendance of Islamic extremists—is just Part 1 of a grim coda to George W. Bush’s foreign policy. Part 2 could be a repeat of this scenario in Afghanistan as, or after, the last American combat troops come home over the next two years.” (Politico is apparently unaware that Obama, not Bush, has been in charge of U.S. foreign policy since January 20, 2009. What has been done—or not done—since then belongs in the lap

of Obama. In 2011 Obama said, “Iraq is not a perfect place. It has many challenges ahead. But we’re leaving behind a sovereign, stable, and self-reliant Iraq, with a representative government that was elected by its people. We’re building a new partnership between our nations.” Anything the United States has done to change that assessment was a result of Obama’s actions, not Bush’s.) [60582, 60583]

While the Obama administration turns a blind eye to thousands of young foreigners entering the United States through Texas, Reuters reports, “Two men in central Texas have been arrested on charges of trying ‘to provide material support to terrorists,’ with one of the pair seeking to aid extremist groups fighting in Syria, U.S. prosecutors said on Wednesday. Rhatul Ashikim Kahn, 23, was arrested at his home in the Austin suburb of Round Rock and charged with terrorist activities, including ‘committing violent jihad,’ according to court documents unsealed on Wednesday. The other man, Michael Wolfe, 23 also known as ‘Faruq,’ was arrested at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston on Tuesday. He was charged in a separate federal criminal complaint with ‘attempting to provide material support to terrorists,’ prosecutors said.” [60549, 60550]

With the federal government refusing to control the border, Texas’ Department of Public Safety prepares to spend \$1.3 million per week on law enforcement operations along the state’s border with Mexico. Governor Rick Perry states, “Texas can’t afford to wait for Washington to act on this crisis and we will not sit idly by while the safety and security of our citizens are threatened.” Meanwhile, Congressman Dave Schweikert (R-AZ) introduces legislation calling for 10,000 or more National Guard troops to be sent to any border state whose governor requests assistance. [60565, 60680]

WashingtonExaminer.com suggests one method of dealing with the wave of children crossing the border: “This disgraceful practice would right stop now [sic; stop right now] if ...Obama showed some leadership and moved beyond his usual habit of using immigration as a political cudgel against Republicans. The humanitarian crisis was created by vague rumors and ending it requires a clear and unmistakable message from the U.S. government. The United States must immediately and with great fanfare declare its intention to impose sanctions on any parent or guardian whose child makes the border crossing alone. Beginning today, when unaccompanied children are found crossing the border, their parents should be identified and their names placed on a publicly available list of people who will be specifically excluded from all benefits of any future immigration reform. They should also be permanently barred from entering the U.S. even if they claim refugee status. And if the parents currently reside in the United States, they should be identified, tracked down and deported immediately. Doing this now will quickly stop the flow of children, letting authorities to focus on those already here. Americans are a compassionate people who welcome legal immigrants and care deeply about children. U.S. policy should reflect that compassion. The children should not be punished or sanctioned in any way. They should be welcomed back to the United States later if they qualify under future reform proposals. The only regret is that for now, they may have to be returned to parents who care so little about them as to endanger their lives in this way. But incentives matter, and no American wants the federal government to encourage child abuse, even if unintentionally.” [60579]

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal joins Oklahoma, Indiana, and South Carolina in announcing that his state will not follow the federal government's Common Core education standards and tests. Jindal tweets, "We will not be bullied by fed govt. Common Core advocates claim it not a fed takeover, but Sec. [of Education Arne] Duncan's comments & actions prove otherwise." Jindal has opposition from state education officials, who respond that they will continue to implement the federal propaganda anyway. (Meanwhile, school principals in Hawaii expect math and reading test scores to decline by 30 percent after implementation of the Common Core curriculum.) [60608, 60609, 60728]

On June 19 Townhall.com's Guy Benson reports on a Manhattan Institute study of post-ObamaCare health insurance premium increases. According to the study, "Across the country, for men overall, individual-market premiums went up in 91 percent of all counties: 2,844 out of 3,137. For 27-year-old men, the average county faced 91 percent increases; for 40-year-old men, 60 percent; for 64-year-old men, 32 percent. Women fared slightly better; their premiums 'only' went up in 82 percent of all counties: 2,562 out of 3,137. That's because Obamacare bars insurers from charging different rates to men and women; prior to Obamacare, only 11 states did so. Because women tend to consume more health care than men, the end result of the Obamacare regulation is that men fare somewhat worse. Relative to men, the average rate increase for women was less extreme: 44 percent for 27-year-olds; 23 percent for 40-year-olds; 42 percent for 64-year-olds." Across the nation, the average increase has been a monumental 49 percent." [60564]

RT.com reports, "The United States has made top-secret deals with more than 30 third-party countries so that the National Security Agency can tap into fiber optic cables carrying internet data in those parts of the world, new leaks reveal. Documents provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden and published on Wednesday by journalists at The Intercept and Denmark's Dagbladet Information show publically for the first time an intelligence gathering operation waged in 33 countries where secret arrangements exist to broaden American surveillance abilities. The previously unreported NSA operation—a program codenamed RAMPART-A—"sweeps up a vast amount of communications at lightning speed," according to Ryan Gallagher of The Intercept, by letting the NSA tap into broadband internet cables containing web traffic that might not be otherwise easily obtainable from the originating country. *'It has already been widely reported that the NSA works closely with eavesdropping agencies in the United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia as part of the so-called Five Eyes surveillance alliance,'* Gallagher wrote. *'But the latest Snowden documents show that a number of other countries, described by the NSA as 'third-party partners,' are playing an increasingly important role—by secretly allowing the NSA to install surveillance equipment on their fiber-optic cables.'*" [60857]

Obama announces he will not send U.S. combat troops to Iraq to help its Army defend itself against ISIS radicals, but will send about 300 military advisors and may authorize "targeted and precise military action." He states, "There's no military solution inside of

Iraq... not one that's led by the United States. ...American forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq, but we will help Iraqis as they take the fight to terrorists. ...We do not have the ability to simply solve this problem by sending in tens of thousand of troops and committing the type of blood and treasure that have already been expended in Iraq. This is something that 's going to have to be solved by the Iraqis." No reporter bothers to ask Obama this question: "Why is it that you would use an air strike to kill an ISIS fighter in Iraq, but would support him if he crosses into Syria to fight the Assad regime?" One reporter does ask Obama if he regrets not having left a "residual force" in Iraq to prevent renewed terrorist activity, Obama replies, "Well, keep in mind, uh, that wasn't a decision made by me. That was a decision made by the Iraqi government. Uh, and, eh, we offered a modest residual force to help continue to train, uh, and advise, uh, Iraqi security forces. Uh, we had a core requirement, which we were require in any, uh, situation where we have U.S. troops overseas, and that is—is that they are provided immunity at the in—since they are being invited by, uh, uh, the sovereign government there, so that if, for example, they end up, uh, acting in self-defense if they are attacked, uh, and, and, uh, find themselves in, in, uh, a tough situation, uh, that they're not somehow hauled before, uh, a foreign court. Uh, that's a core requirement, uh, that we have for U.S. troop presence anywhere. Uh, the Iraqi government, uh, and Prime Minister Maliki, uh, declined to provide us, uh, that immunity, uh, and so, uh, uh..." (It is worth noting that Obama is, at least initially, sending the 300 U.S. troops without the Iraqi government granting them legal immunity from prosecution in Iraqi courts—which was part of the status of forces agreement that Obama let expire in 2011. In fact, that was one of Obama's excuses for pulling all troops out in 2011—even though he could easily have persuaded Iraq to agree to immunity terms. What Obama considered a sticking point in 2011 is suddenly not a sticking point.) [60566, 60589, 60628, 60630, 60770, 60795, 60899, 60946, 60947]

Obama is, of course, lying. He could easily have negotiated an agreement to leave some troops in Iraq. He used Iraqi calls to make changes to the status of forces agreement as an excuse to not renegotiate. As previously noted, during his third debate with Mitt Romney in 2012 Obama specifically stated that he did not seek a continuing status of forces agreement with Iraq or want any troops left behind. He cannot now place the blame on Iraq. He wanted to be completely out of Iraq, and he is now suffering the consequences of that decision. Obama's decision to send 300 advisors to Iraq is a tacit admission that he was mistaken when he withdrew all troops in 2011, claiming Iraq was then able to stand on its own. Further, the presence of 300 troops/advisors is next to meaningless. They will have little impact, yet will be an incredibly tempting target for radical jihadists who seek to kill or kidnap them. Few Americans can support Obama's "plan" because they have no idea what his plan *is*—and neither, perhaps, does he. If there is no desire or strategy to fight all radical jihadists to the death, not one American life should be risked by Obama to kill only a few. (Additionally, Obama cannot reasonably claim that the 300 special forces advisors will never engage in combat. Fred Wellman, a former Army lieutenant colonel who served as spokesman for Gen. David Petraeus when he commanded U.S. and allied troops in Iraq, tells McClatchyDC.com, "These special operators will be advisers, but they will be with Iraqi units, and if those units get engaged by the enemy, they will defend themselves.") [60823]

Meanwhile, ISIS terrorists post a photograph of Senator John McCain (R-AZ) meeting with several of their leaders in Syria in 2013—when McCain claimed they were “moderates” and told CNN’s Anderson Cooper, “We can identify who these people are. We can help the right people.” (In 2013 Pamela Geller wrote, “...two of the men posing with McCain were involved in the ‘kidnapping of 11 Shiite pilgrims one year ago.’ This is what happens when clueless politicians inject themselves into situations in which they clearly do not belong. What was McCain thinking, sneaking into Syria to meet with jihadists?” Hillary Clinton and her successors, John Kerry, have both claimed in the past that Syrian president Bashar al-Assad was a “reformer” who could be trusted. Neither McCain nor Clinton nor Kerry have proven to be good judges of character or motive.) [60690, 60691]

Pamela Geller writes, “U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is urging Arab nations not to send financial support to even ‘moderate opposition’ Sunni groups in Syria. Obama is funding these same rebels. For years I have warned that the ‘opposition’ in Syria was more dangerous than Assad, just as I did in Libya (and Egypt.) Of course, I was widely mocked by leftists in the enemedia and Islamic supremacists. Of course, I was right, because truth is the recognition of reality. Obama is supporting a jihadist agenda. This is yet another nonsensical backpedal in Obama’s catastrophic foreign policy rout.” [60692]

Obama presents retired Lance Corporal William Kyle Carpenter with the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Afghanistan. (Carpenter saved the life of a fellow Marine by using his own body to absorb the blast of a hand grenade. According to *Stars and Stripes* magazine, “Carpenter spent five weeks in a coma and more than two and a half years in the hospital undergoing nearly 40 surgeries—including brain surgery. Doctors had to remove shrapnel from his head and repair a collapsed lung, fractured fingers, and a right arm that was broken in more than 30 places. He received a new prosthetic eye, a new jaw, new teeth, and multiple skin grafts.”) [60619, 60629]

The price of Brent crude oil reaches \$114.26 per barrel. [60602]

In a secret ballot, Congressman Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) is voted Majority Leader by House Republicans. (McCarthy is even more of an “establishment” Republican than previous leader Eric Cantor.) [60568]

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey, Americans with health insurance plans the Obama administration called “junk plans” are happier with them than are owners of ObamaCare plans; 85 percent of the former rate their plans as good or excellent, while only 71 percent of the latter do. [60567]

Texas Governor Rick Perry excoriates Obama for his failure to protect the nation’s border with Mexico, telling reporters, “This unaccompanied alien children issue has the potential to be an absolute catastrophe—a humanitarian catastrophe. We are just going into hurricane season. Were we to have a major event and literally do not have places to house our citizens because of this influx from Mexico—I am greatly concerned the catastrophe that could occur with those two events happening simultaneously. ...I have



been haranguing, bringing to the attention of, flagging issues on that border for multiple years. You'll recall I stopped on the tarmac to welcome [Obama] in 2010, gave him a letter about border security. We wrote a letter and drew to his attention and tried to really focus him and his administration, particularly Homeland Security, on this issue of unaccompanied alien children who were coming in on the backs of these trains in 2012. I am deeply frustrated and disappointed in the administration's response—both directly back to the state of Texas and in their actions. So with that said, yes, I would like for the federal government to pay for what is a clear constitutional responsibility of the federal government, which is to secure the border. We know how to do that. ...Over the last six years we [the state of Texas] have expended upwards of half a billion dollars—450 plus million dollars—on border security. ...That's a 1,200 mile border. It is a very vast and inhospitable area that is substantially, if not almost all, private property. So the idea that we have this ability to secure the entire border is—I hope you get your arms around that—is very, very broad, hard to do by the State of Texas and the resources, limited resources, we have. Hopefully the American people, through their congressional and senatorial representatives, will impress upon the federal government the importance of them doing their job of securing the border. It is the single most important thing they must do. ...My concern is that this government is not committed to securing the border.” [60570]

According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), services for illegal immigrants residing in California alone cost that state's taxpayers \$25.3 billion per year.” [60597, 60598]

Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com, “Last week the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [CFPB], through the power of Dodd-Frank, passed a rule giving the agency unprecedented power to shut down businesses, no matter what the reason, at any time it wishes through a cease-and-desist order. Further, the rule puts businesses at the mercy of the CFPB and they cannot go back into operation until government approval or a court ruling is made over an issue. Subsequently because bureaucratic decisions and court rulings take a substantial amount of time to happen, businesses cannot survive during those waiting periods. ...The new rule comes on the heels of revelations the Department of Justice has been smothering firearms dealerships and other ‘high risk’ entities out of business by ‘choking’ banks and stripping funding through Operation Choke Point. Consumer groups are pushing back against the rule and issuing warnings to businesses everywhere about what the rule means for them. The United States Consumer Coalition in particular is sounding the alarm: ‘This unprecedented rule created by the CFPB grants the agency unilateral authority to literally shut down any business overnight. It is a doubling down of Operation Choke Point (OCP), the Administration’s program to target lawful industries by intimidating banks from doing business with them. This rule allows the CFPB to immediately issue a cease-and-desist order, which terminates all business practices—and a hearing doesn’t have to be granted for 10 days, effectively shutting down businesses for at least 10 days. This is a ‘guilty until proven innocent’ tactic of the Administration that goes against every historical notion of justice under the law in America. ...This is a direct attack on every free-market business in America, and every single business should be alarmed. No business should have to operate while questioning

daily whether or not they will be the victim of a cease-and-desist order. This will cause uncertainty on Wall Street and uncertainty in the job market, leading to a loss of jobs and devastating the families that rely on them, while irreversibly damaging the economy and threatening consumer choice.” [60591]

WJS.com reports, “Sunni extremists in Iraq have occupied what was once Saddam Hussein’s premier chemical-weapons production facility, a complex that still contains a stockpile of old weapons [mustard gas, Sarin, Tabun, and VX], State Department and other U.S. government officials said. U.S. officials don’t believe the Sunni militants will be able to create a functional chemical weapon from the material. The weapons stockpiled at the Al Muthanna complex are old, contaminated and hard to move, officials said.” According to the CIA, “Stockpiles of chemical munitions are still stored there. The most dangerous ones have been declared to the UN and are sealed in bunkers. ... These areas of the compound pose a hazard to civilians and potential blackmarketers.” (Some might wonder how jihadists could capture one of Saddam Hussein’s WMD facilities when opponents of the invasion of Iraq in 2003 claim he did not have WMDs.) [60593, 60594, 60595, 60596, 60635, 60640, 60641, 60855, 60991, 60992, 60993]

Supporters of ISIS jihadists post a doctored photograph of Michelle Obama holding up a sign that reads, “#BRINGBACKOURHUMVEE.” [60600]

At a Republican event called the “Road to Majority Conference,” Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) comments on ObamaCare’s requirement that even religious organizations provide employees with birth control, abortifacients, and sterilization services, “Let me give you a simple rule of thumb. If you’re litigating against nuns, you have probably done something wrong.” [60618]

Vocativ.com reports, “Online retailers have begun selling ISIS-themed T-shirts and hoodies. If you’d like a unique cover-up for the beach this summer and don’t mind a lot of black, you can purchase a sweatshirt with the group’s full name—Islamic State of Iraq and Syria—written in bleak white lettering. Another design features the group’s acronym, ISIS, surrounded by automatic weapons and a map of the world, in an apparent reference to the group’s global ambition.” (Whether the Obama administration will grant ISIS trademark protection remains to be seen.) [60660]

On June 20 White House press secretary John Earnest tells reporters the thousands of children and teenagers crossing into the United States via Mexico are the result of a “deliberate misinformation campaign” by syndicates in South America that tell them they will be allowed to stay, but that is “simply not true.” (Of course, unless the Obama administration starts turning them back at the border it *is* true. In fact, the administration has bragged that 430,000 young illegal immigrants have already been granted “deferred action” by Obama.) [60603]

CNSNews.com reports, “The total number of disability beneficiaries in the United States topped 11 million for the first time last month, increasing from 10,996,447 in April to a

record 11,004,507 in May, according to new data released by the Social Security Administration.” [60724]

The University of South Carolina announces a 3.2 percent tuition increase, citing “the additional costs of state-mandated employee pay raises, health and retirement benefits and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.” [60926, 60927]

According to Judicial Watch, “a former Guantanamo Bay captive has been arrested in Spain for operating what authorities there say is a sophisticated jihadist recruitment network. Spanish media is reporting that the one-time Gitmo prisoner is a 46-year-old Moroccan named Lahcen Ikassrien, who heads an Islamic cell that recruits fighters for the Syrian and Iraqi-based terror group known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Ikassrien and seven others were arrested in Madrid recently as part of a dozen raids on terrorism cells in the Spanish capital, Madrid.” [60977]

DemocracyNow.org writes, “Pressure is mounting on Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to form a less sectarian government or to resign. A representative of the influential Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called for the creation of what he described as a new ‘effective’ government. On Thursday, The New York Times revealed the U.S. ambassador in Iraq, Robert Beecroft, and the State Department’s top official in Iraq, Brett McGurk, recently met with the controversial Iraqi politician Ahmed Chalabi, who has been described as a potential candidate to replace al-Maliki. Chalabi is the former head of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], a CIA-funded Iraqi exile group that strongly pushed for the 2003 U.S. invasion. The INC helped drum up pre-war claims that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction and had links to al-Qaeda. The group provided bogus intelligence to the Bush administration, U.S. lawmakers and journalists.” (Chalabi is a Shi’ite Muslim.) [60859, 60860, 61091]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A California businessman who has donated over \$1 million to Democrats, including ...Obama, has been indicted in federal court for a laundry list of infractions. Two sealed indictments were handed down against Kareem Ahmed, the CEO of Landmark Medical Management, and 15 associates, TPM reports. Ahmed is accused of running a kickback scheme involving a topical cream his company developed. One indictment alleges that Ahmed (a “close friend” of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA who has been photographed with the Obamas)) would pay doctors who handled workers’ compensation cases to prescribe the cream. The scam ran from 2009 to 2013 and involved the filing of false insurance claims, according to TPM, which obtained the documents. ccording to Southern California Public Radio, Ahmed paid doctors a total of \$25 million to dispense the ‘transdermal cream.’ The involuntary manslaughter allegation involves Ahmed and two others—a pharmacist and a doctor. The three ‘did unlawfully and without malice kill Andrew G. (a minor), a human being, in the commission of a lawful act which might produce death, in an unlawful manner and without due caution and circumspection,’ the indictment reads, without providing much other detail. In 2012, when TPM first reported on Ahmed’s business practices, he reportedly told the news outlet ‘I’ve got the White House on notice.’ If Ahmed did indeed have such access to the White House, it likely would have stemmed from the massive amount of money he

funneled to ...Obama and other Democrats. Records show that he donated \$1 million to Priorities USA, a political action committee founded by Bill Burton and Sean Sweeney, two Obama campaign officials. The website CampaignMoney.com, which tracks political donations, shows that Ahmed also donated \$75,800 in total to the Obama Victory Fund in 2012.” [60643, 60655, 60677]

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield announce that it is seeking to raise premium rates for 253,000 policyholders in Iowa. According to the Des Moines Register, “Those rate increases would affect individual policyholders and small businesses. Most—92 percent—of the proposed rate increases would be less than 5.9 percent, according to numbers provided by Wellmark. ...For the remaining 7.5 percent of policyholders—those who have post-Affordable Care Act plans for individuals under 65—Wellmark is asking for a rate increase between 11.9 percent and 14.5 percent. [60702, 60703]

The House Ways and Means Committee—or at least some of its members—grill IRS commissioner John Koskinen over its claim that Lois Lerner’s emails to other agencies were destroyed in a computer hard drive crash. Congressman Dave Camp (R-MI), committee chairman, starts the proceedings by saying, “This committee is fed up and we expect some answers [from the IRS].” After Koskinen reads his prepared statement, Camp responds, “What I didn’t hear in that statement is an apology to this Committee.” An arrogant Koskinen responds, “I don’t think an apology is owed.” Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) apologizes to Koskinen for the tough questioning he gets from GOP members. Congressman Xavier Becerra (D-CA) tells Koskinen he “deserves better” treatment and call sit “not a hearing but an inquisition.” (In their eagerness to defend Obama, Lewis, Becerra—and other committee Democrats—shamelessly defend the universally-hated IRS. Their behavior at the hearing would be laughable—if it were not for the fact that it is obvious proof they *know* the scandal probably goes to the White House. Their choice is to either shamelessly defend the indefensible, or allow the collapse of the Obama administration.) Koskinen admits that the IRS informed the White House in April that Lois Lerner’s emails were missing—six weeks before advising Congress—yet he claims the IRS was “not keeping it secret.” (Comedian Michael McDonald tweets, “Where did they find that haughty reptile representing the IRS? He should play the villain in every movie until the end of time.” “The IRS commissioner looks like a self satisfied lizard taking in sun on a rock after eating his own young.”) [60604, 60605, 60606, 60611, 60613, 60616, 60624, 60631, 60632, 60647, 60653]

After a succession of excuses—that is, lies—from Koskinen, an angry Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) says, “This is unbelievable. The apology that ought to be given is to the American taxpayer, not to a government agency that is abusing its power. ...I’m sitting here listening to this testimony. I just—I don’t believe it. That’s your problem. Nobody believes you. The Internal Revenue Service comes to Congress a couple years ago and misleads us and says no targeting [of conservative groups] is occurring. Then it said it was a few rogue agents in Cincinnati. Then it said [the targeting] was also [performed] on progressives. All of those things have been proven untrue. This committee sent a criminal referral of possible criminal wrongdoing just a month ago to the Justice Department; we’ve heard nothing. You bury in a 27-page letter to the Senate, asking them to conclude

the investigation, that you've lost Lois Lerner's emails during the time in question because of a hard drive crash. Monday [June 16] our investigators asked your agency whether any other hard drives crashed and we learn that six other hard drives of the people we're investigating were involved—you didn't tell us *that*." [60604, 60605, 60606, 60611, 60613, 60616, 60624, 60631, 60632, 60647, 60653]

"...You are the Internal Revenue Service. You can reach into the lives of hard-working taxpayers, and with a phone call or an email or a letter you can turn their lives upside down. You ask taxpayers to hang onto seven years of their personal tax information in case they are audited and you can't keep six months worth of employee emails? And now that we are seeing this investigation—you don't have the emails. Hard drives crashed. You learned about this months ago you just told us, and we had to ask you on Monday—this is not being forthcoming. This is being misleading *again*. This is a pattern of abuse, a pattern of behavior that is not giving us any confidence that this agency is being impartial. I don't—I don't believe you. This is incredible." A defiant Koskinen interrupts, saying, "I have a long career, that's the first time anybody has said they do not believe me—" Ryan makes it clear: "I don't believe you. ...If we are investigating criminal wrongdoing, targeting of people based on their political beliefs, and the emails in question are lost because of a hard drive crash—that is apparently unrecoverable which a lot of IT professionals would question—and you don't tell us about it until we ask you about it, that is not being forthcoming." [60604, 60605, 60606, 60611, 60613, 60616, 60624, 60631, 60632, 60647, 60653]

In his opening statement, Koskinen argues that "not all emails on IRS servers or backup tapes qualify as an 'official record'...Accordingly, our agency's email system is not designed to preserve email..." (The IRS manual conflicts with Koskinen's statement and calls for emails to have permanent backups. It reads, "Email messages are official documents and should reflect this perspective. Email communications can be offered as evidence in court and can be legally binding. Before sending an email, you must consider how it reflects on the Service's image and take into account privacy, records management, and security factors. ...The Federal Records Act applies to email records just as it does to records you create using other media." Additionally, the IRS' actions in destroying Lerner's hard drive violated the Federal Records Act.) [60626]

Meanwhile, White House press secretary Josh Earnest, when asked if the White House counsel had ever made any effort to recover Lois Lerner's lost emails, tells reporters, "...I don't know if you're floating another conspiracy or if this is a request from Republicans who are floating a conspiracy or what exactly the suggestion is. But the fact of the matter is we've cooperated extensively, and despite that cooperation, you know, we've seen continued allegations of Republican conspiracy theories that just never pan out. ...I think it's fair that we recognize that software moves on and that archiving in a digital age is not as easy as it might seem to the public." [60625]

With tongue (one assumes) in cheek, Congressman Steve Stockman (R-TX) introduces "The Dog Ate My Tax Receipts Act." It would allow taxpayers to avoid turning over documents requested by the IRS for any of the following reasons: "1. The dog ate my tax

receipts 2. Convenient, unexplained, miscellaneous computer malfunction 3. Traded documents for five terrorists 4. Burned for warmth while lost in the Yukon 5. Left on table in Hillary's Book Room 6. Received water damage in the trunk of Ted Kennedy's car 7. Forgot in gun case sold to Mexican drug lords 8. Forced to recycle by municipal Green Czar 9. Was short on toilet paper while camping 10. At this point, what difference does it make?" [60622, 60623, 60654]

TheDailyBeast.com lands an interview with the woman who, as a 12-year old decades earlier, was attacked by Hillary Clinton as not credible as Clinton worked to defend her rapist. John Rogin writes, "In a long, emotional interview with The Daily Beast, she accused Clinton of intentionally lying about her in court documents, going to extraordinary lengths to discredit evidence of the rape, and later callously acknowledging and laughing about her attackers' guilt on the recordings. 'Hillary Clinton took me through Hell,' the victim said. The Daily Beast agreed to withhold her name out of concern for her privacy as a victim of sexual assault. ... 'I would say [to Clinton if I encountered her today], 'You took a case of mine in '75, you lied on me... I realize the truth now, the heart of what you've done to me. And you are supposed to be for women? You call that [being] for women, what you done to me? And I hear you on tape laughing.'" [60378, 60386, 60387, 60461, 60528, 60556, 60614, 60615, 60617, 60627, 60651, 60652]

"...The victim vigorously denied Clinton's accusations and said there has never been any explanation of what Clinton was referring to in that affidavit. She claims she never accused anyone of attacking her before her rape. 'I've never said that about anyone. I don't know why she said that. I have never made false allegations. I know she was lying,' she said. 'I definitely didn't see older men. I don't know why Hillary put that in there and it makes me plumb mad.' ... 'It's proven fact, with all the tapes [now revealed], she lied like a dog on me. I think she was trying to do whatever she could do to make herself look good at the time... I think she wants to be a role model being who she is, to look good, but I don't think she's a role model at all... If she had have been, she would have helped me at the time, being a 12-year-old girl who was raped by two guys,' she said. 'She did that to look good and she told lies on that. How many other lies has she told to get where she's at today? If she becomes president, is she gonna be telling the world the truth?'" (Meanwhile, according to Townhall.com, the University of Arkansas public library—where FreeBeacon.com uncovered the audio tape of Clinton's discussion of the rape case, has demanded that the evidence be removed from the web site. The dean of the library, Carolyn Henderson Allen, is a Clinton donor.) [60378, 60386, 60387, 60461, 60528, 60556, 60614, 60615, 60617, 60627, 60651, 60652]

At PJMedia.com J. Christian Adams reports that Democrat operatives in Mississippi are feverishly "harvesting absentee ballots from African-Americans in the Republican primary who normally never vote in the Republican primary in Mississippi"—in an effort to help Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) defeat his GOP/teat party challenger Chris McDaniel. (Cochran's tactics include a radio ad targeted at blacks that tells them, "By not voting, you're saying, 'Take away all of my government programs, such as food stamps, early breakfast and lunch programs, millions of dollars to our black universities.'")

Everything we and our families depend on that comes from Washington will be cut. Mississippi will never be the same. The question is, will you spend five dollars on gas to vote—or allow the Tea Party to send us back to the good old bad days? Vote against the Tea Party. Vote Thad Cochran.”) [60633, 61040, 61041]

Asked by Gallup to rate all living presidents, surveyed Americans put Bill Clinton in first place with a 64 percent favorable rating. George H. W. Bush is in second place with 63 percent. George W. Bush garners 53 percent, Jimmy Carter 52 percent, and Obama brings up the rear with a 47 percent favorable rating. [60637, 60722]

WashingtonTimes.com reports, “The Obama administration Friday abandoned plans to use a defunct college in rural Virginia town as housing for some of the illegal immigrant children flooding across the border, bowing to fierce local opposition as the government struggles to find sites to put the thousands of unaccompanied children. ‘We have heard the concerns of many of the residents and leaders of Lawrenceville about the proposal to temporarily care for unaccompanied children at the now-closed Saint Paul’s College,’ said Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Mark A. Weber. ‘We have taken this proposal off the table and will move on quickly to identify other sites to temporarily house these vulnerable children.’ The announcement followed a heated community meeting at a high school in Lawrenceville, a hardscrabble town about 70 miles south of Richmond. More than a thousand residents attended to voice opposition to the plan and denounce the Obama administration officials for trying to force the project upon their impoverished community. ‘We talk slow around here and with a twang. But we say what we mean,’ Aaron Smith, a sergeant in the National Guard and former Marine, told administration officials at the meeting. ‘Let me talk straight into your eyes: We don’t want you here.’ The residents expressed concerns about security, disease, the town’s overburdened emergency services and tax dollars going to unaccompanied alien children—or UACs—instead of local families living in poverty.” (At least one illegal immigrant child being housed at Lackland Air Force Base has been confirmed to have the H1N1 “swine flu” virus. Border Patrol agents in McAllen, Texas have reported cases of tuberculosis, chicken pox, and scabies.) [60638, 60675, 60751, 60935, 61106]

At the White House, Obama meets with Mexico’s president, Enrique Pena Nieto, and reportedly does not bring up the issue of Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi, who is being held in a Mexican jail for inadvertently crossing the border with weapons in his vehicle. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) tells *On the Record’s* Greta Van Susteren, “It is inexcusable, it is inexplicable, it is obscene, it is horrific. ...He took a wrong turn from the U.S. into Mexico, a wrong turn into the Twilight Zone. Meanwhile, he’s been in a Mexico prison, and the days languish on for him. He has been beaten, he has been chained, he has been treated terribly. ...Now, they’ll probably tell us, ‘Oh well [Obama] did [mention Tahmooressi], but it’s such a sensitive nature that we didn’t put it down in the notes of the transcript of what was talked about. Baloney. This is very clear that it was not talked about.” (Obama rarely acts—or fails to act—without politics entering into his decision. What he has to gain from not demanding the Marine’s release is not clear.) [60658]

*On the Record's* Greta Van Susteren later comments on Obama's failure to discuss Tahmooressi's situation with the Mexican president: "I'm furious at ...Obama, and you should be too. At best he blew it, at worst he doesn't give a damn." [60683]

In an interview with WND.com, Maricopa County, Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio says, "I would have had to resign [as sheriff] the day I announced [if] I was going to run for governor. But I'm not about to abandon my troops. We have a number of highly sensitive investigations ongoing and we have a brand new headquarters building. I still have the Justice Department after me. So, I'm not giving this job up to someone else. I'm sticking around. ...If I was the governor, [the nomination for] which I turned down a couple of weeks ago because I would have to resign, I'm not going to leave this office to somebody coming in when I have sensitive investigations going, including [Obama's] birth certificate. I haven't finished that yet. I don't care where [Obama] was born. That has nothing to do with it. I'm concerned about a forged, fraudulent government document. From day one I've been investigating that, now we have to find out who's behind that. I'm getting close." On the issue of thousands of children crossing from Mexico into the United States, Arpaio says, "The White House does some stupid things, but I don't think they're so stupid as to not realize when they flood this area with children there's going to be controversy. But I think ...Obama wanted the controversy in order to justify [an] ...executive order or to force Congress to do something about passing immigration reform legislation." [60648]

"...Obama establishes DREAM Act provisions by executive order and puts out word to the media that DHS is getting lax about law enforcement on the border. So all these people from Central America want to send their kids across the border to surrender to Border Patrol because they know they will get a pass. ...The Central American countries from which these unaccompanied minors are coming do not have good record-keeping on the unaccompanied minors coming across the border. So how would the federal government know if these children or teenagers have histories of medical problems or if the teenagers are members of criminal gangs? But instead of catching drug cartel dope dealers, the Department of Homeland Security has Border Patrol [agents] changing diapers. ...The federal government constantly investigates me and my jails for civil rights abuses. My jails are country clubs compared to the warehouse where DHS is keeping these kids in Nogales. But where is the ACLU? Where's Amnesty International?" [60648]

ConservativeTreehouse.com writes, "On January 29th of this year, the federal government posted an advertisement seeking bids for a vendor contract to handle 'Unaccompanied Alien Children.' Not just any contract mind you, but a very specific contract—for a very specific number of unaccompanied minors: 65,000. Why would DHS and ICE be claiming 'surprise' by the current influx of unaccompanied minors on the border in June, when they were taking bids for an exact contract to handle the exact situation in January? Secondly, how could they possibly know [to] anticipate [that] 65,000 unaccompanied minors would be showing up at the border, when the most ever encountered in a previous year was 5,000 total?" At AmericanThinker.com Thomas Lifson writes, "This stinks to high heaven. It is time to subpoena the people who placed



the ad to give testimony in Congress. We may have a Cloward-Piven strategy on illegal immigration underway.” [60656, 60657, 60794, 60891]

LifeNews.com reports, “Just days before the Supreme Court is slated to hand down its decision in the Hobby Lobby case against the mandate, a judge in Denver gave a Christian university a big victory against the abortion mandate.” According to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, “Colorado Christian University (CCU) scored a victory for religious liberty today when a federal judge in Denver ruled that the Christian-based institution does not have to facilitate access for its employees and students to potentially life-terminating drugs. ...In a carefully reasoned opinion, the court ruled that the Health and Human Services Mandate, which would have forced CCU to include drugs like Plan B (the ‘morning after’ pill) and ella (the ‘week after’ pill) in its health care plan, infringes the University’s freedom of religion.” (In other words, CCU does not have to comply with ObamaCare’s requirement to provide birth control, abortifacients, and sterilization.) [60663, 60664]

On June 21 Judge Andrew Napolitano writes at LewRockwell.com, “There is a lesson in this [Iraq crisis], and it reveals the power of religious fanaticism when resisted by unprincipled political force. ISIS fighters are motivated by a hatred of American invaders and their Iraqi defenders and an embrace of fundamental Sharia principles, which are anathema to Judeo-Christian principles. These ISIS fighters truly are monsters—they have crucified and decapitated deserters, traitors, captives, recalcitrants, Christians and Jews—and many Iraqi soldiers would rather join or walk away from them than resist them. The U.S.-trained Iraqi soldiers by and large view themselves as defending a temporary and inconsequential government. The ISIS fighters view themselves as being on a triumphal crusade. ...Obama’s dilemma is daunting. He is on record as saying that the war in Iraq was ‘dumb;’ that the government there is secure and its forces are well-trained; that the rebels fighting Assad are freedom fighters who deserve American military support; and that the American troops he brought home from Iraq are not returning on his watch. Should he send troops back to Iraq to defend the government we installed when we toppled Saddam? Should American lives and tax dollars be spent in another pointless effort to bring democracy to a culture that has persistently rejected it? Should we take sides using our military in what is essentially an ancient religious civil war? Is the national security of the U.S. even remotely affected by the outcome of the current Iraqi civil war?” [60642]

“...America is no safer because of the Iraq war, but we are weaker. Our relationships among the people in the Middle East are far less sanguine, we have planted three generations’ worth of hatred, distrust, and lust for vengeance among Middle Eastern youth, and we have a crushing war debt. We also have American cash and military hardware, including expensive and lethal Stinger missiles, now in the hands of ISIS. We are witnessing the contemporary incarnation of the old Sunni/Shia/Kurd rivalry that has persisted in what is today called Iraq for 1,000 years, and will persist until the country returns to its pre-modern sectarian borders and each ancient group has its own land. There is no bona fide American national security interest in jeopardy because of the persistent Iraqi civil war, and we have no lawful right to choose a side and assist it

militarily. But the American military-industrial-neocon complex wants more war. We must resist them. We should gather all Americans in Iraq, take what moveable wealth is ours and come home—and stop searching the world for monsters to destroy, as that will end up destroying us.” [60642]

DailyCaller.com reports, “Desperate to find housing for thousands of illegal child immigrants from Central America, federal officials embarked on a wild goose chase Friday when they began inspecting what they believed was an abandoned hotel and resort in New York. The problem was the 263 room Byblos Niagara Resort and Spa in Grand Island, N.Y. is completely booked through the summer, the Buffalo News reports. Agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security showed up to the resort without warning Friday morning. ‘They were thinking the hotel was abandoned and closed,’ the facility’s manager Scott Swagler, told the Buffalo News, adding that ‘it was a complete shock’ that federal agencies might want to use the facility in the first place.” [60645, 60791]

Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security is considering unloading some of the illegal immigrant children in the south Chicago suburb of Olympia Fields. According to Illinois Review, Congressman Randy Hultgren (R-IL) “released a statement Saturday morning announcing this week the HHS [the Department of Health and Human Services] will be conducting an inspection of a former monastery at 203rd and Governors Highway to be used to house some of the children that were illegally sent to America unaccompanied by their parents. Hultgren called for the effort to halt, saying moving the children to Olympia Fields will only make matters worse for the children. ‘We should immediately halt this effort. It is an ill-conceived stop-gap solution that will only exacerbate the terrible situation for these children,’ Hultgren said. ‘Moving these children further away from the border unnecessarily elongates their legal limbo at orphanage-style federal facilities while they undergo removal proceedings.’” [60650]

In his weekly radio/Internet address, Obama calls for Congress to require that employers provide paid family leave for workers: “Many jobs don’t offer adequate leave to care for a new baby or an ailing parent, so workers can’t afford to be there when their family needs them the most. That’s wrong. And it puts us way behind the times. Only three countries in the world report that they don’t offer paid maternity leave. Three. And the United States is one of them. It’s time to change that.” (Federal legislation already requires substantial periods of unpaid family leave, and businesses routinely have to deal with employee abuses of those rules. Paying people to not work is a recipe for lower productivity, higher prices, and lost jobs. It is absurd to demand that business pay workers not to work. Obama either has no idea of the negative consequences of such a proposal, or he doesn’t care. By advancing the proposal he can force Republicans to oppose it—which then allows Democrats to portray the GOP as mean-spirited during their 2014 campaigns. Although the Democrats and their media shills advertise paid family leave proposals as “pro-woman” because it is women of child-bearing age who are most likely to appreciate paid time off for family matters, such legislation would actually hurt many women—because it makes them less likely to be hired in the first place.

Businesses are not going to be eager to hire young women who, rather than help them make money, cost them money by being paid to stay home.) [60726]

Twitchy.com posts an October 9, 2009 Twitter message from Sonasoft: “If the IRS uses Sonasoft products to backup their servers why wouldn’t you choose them to protect your servers? <http://www.sonasoft.com>.” [60659, 60668, 60669, 60670]

Obama plays golf—his 178th round since entering the White House, by some counts.

In an interview with *The Guardian*, Hillary Clinton is asked how she will be able to talk about “income inequality” on the campaign trail when she and her husband are incredibly wealthy. Remarkably, she responds, “But they don’t see me as part of the problem, because we pay ordinary income tax, unlike a lot of people who are truly well off, not to name names; and we’ve done it through dint of hard work.” (Whether flying in a private jet to an event where one is paid \$200,000 to deliver a speech qualifies as “hard work” is subject to debate. In any event, Clinton apparently did not learn from her mistake of saying she and her husband were “dead broke” when they left the White House. She now claims they are not like the “truly well off,” because they pay tax on earned income from speaking fees rather than leisurely live off assets that are subject to capital gains taxes. Millions of Americans would, of course, be more than happy to pay income taxes on \$200,000 speaking fees.) According to Bloomberg.com, “The Clintons created residence trusts in 2010 and shifted ownership of their New York house into them in 2011, according to federal financial disclosures and local property records.” That action “will help shield some of their estate from the tax that now tops out at 40 percent of assets upon death. ... The move could save the Clintons hundreds of thousands of dollars in estate taxes, said David Scott Sloan, a partner at Holland & Knight LLP in Boston.” Meanwhile, Chelsea “Hubbell” Clinton says she went to work for the Clinton Foundation because “I was curious [to learn] if I could care about [money] on some fundamental level, and I couldn’t.” (Being paid \$600,000 per year by NBC to do almost nothing, and being married to wealthy hedge fund manager Marc Mezvinsky, generally allows one the luxury of not caring too much about money. The Clinton-Mezvinsky wedding is reported to have cost \$3 million.) Vice president Joe Biden later rushes to tell anyone who will listen that he was the “poorest man in Congress,” “does not own a single stock or bond,” and “has no savings account.” (In other words, Biden wants 2016 voters to know he is “far less truly well off” than the Clintons. Biden does, of course, own stocks and bonds, and has a savings account—and he would not be the poorest person in Congress. His statement is a lie.) [60666, 60667, 60704, 60705, 60709, 60716, 60723, 60730, 60736, 60737, 60739, 60768, 60797, 60999]

NYPPost.com posts excerpts from Edward Klein’s upcoming book, *Blood Feud, The Clintons vs. The Obamas*. Klein writes, “Outwardly, they put on a show of unity—but privately, the Obamas and Clintons, the two power couples of the Democrat Party, loathe each other. ‘I hate that man Obama more than any man I’ve ever met, more than any man who ever lived,’ Bill Clinton said to friends on one occasion, adding he would never forgive Obama for suggesting he was a racist during the 2008 campaign.” Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett and Michelle Obama, according to Klein, nicknamed Hillary Clinton

“‘Hildebeest,’ after the menacing and shaggy-maned gnu that roams the Serengeti.” Before Obama’s 2012 reelection campaign Clinton reportedly stated, “I’ve had two successors since I left the White House—Bush and Obama—and I’ve heard more from Bush, asking for my advice, than I’ve heard from Obama. I have no relationship with [Obama]—none whatsoever. I really can’t stand the way Obama always seems to be hectoring when he talks to me. Sometimes we just stare at each other. It’s pretty damn awkward. Now we both have favors to ask each other, and it’s going to be very unpleasant. But I’ve got to get this guy to owe me [for 2012] and to be on our side [in 2016].” [60681, 60708, 60743]

Klein writes, “Lately, Bill Clinton has become convinced that Obama won’t endorse Hillary in 2016. During a gathering at Whitehaven, guests overheard Bill talking to his daughter Chelsea about whether [Obama] would back Joe Biden. ‘Recently, I’ve been hearing a different scenario from state committeemen,’ Clinton said. ‘They say he’s looking for a candidate who’s just like him. Someone relatively unknown. Someone with a fresh face. He’s convinced himself he’s been... brilliant... and wants to clone himself—to find his Mini-Me. He’s hunting for someone to succeed him, and he believes the American people don’t want to vote for someone who’s been around for a long time. He thinks that your mother and I are what he calls ‘so 20th century.’ He’s looking for another Barack Obama.’” (*The Obama Timeline* agrees that Obama does not want Hillary Clinton to be the next president. Ideologically, Obama is far closer to leftist Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). Behind the scenes, Obama will be pushing for Warren to run and defeat Clinton in the 2016 primaries. The last thing Obama wants is for the economy to recover with a Clinton in the White House, which would lead Americans to believe both Clintons were “the successful presidents” while Bush and Obama were “the failures. If the economy recovers with a leftist in the Oval Office, Obama can claim it was the extension of his policies that turned the tide.) [60681, 60708]

It is worth noting that Klein’s book is filled with un-sourced quotes and stories, which may or may not be accurate. Nevertheless, it is probably accurate to portray the Obamas and the Clintons as being less than fond of each other, and smoke often does signify fire. (At PJMedia.com Roger L. Simon later writes, “*Blood Feud...* is a lurid, irresponsible work of yellow journalism filled with suppositions, inaccuracies, myriad anonymous sources, made-up dialogue and (often extreme) bias. In other words, it is essentially like your average front page story in the *New York Times*. And unlike the *Times*, *Blood Feud* is a compulsive read. I dare you to put it down. ...Even at its most seemingly illogical, Klein’s work has the ring of truth. He’s on to something, even if he hasn’t hit the bull’s eye. ...On a more serious matter, someone has given Klein an account of Benghazi that places the blame squarely on Obama for inventing the shameful video narrative. According to the book, [Obama] directed his then-secretary of State to use the video as an excuse for what they both already knew was terrorism during the famous missing phone call between the two at 10 p.m. the night of the September 11, 2012 attack. If so, that was among the most reprehensible acts ever by a sitting American president (straight out of Scandal, actually) and to be honest, I generally believe it. Unfortunately, that doesn’t much exonerate Hillary who, after a troubled phone call to an irate Bill, quickly gave up demurring and went along with the execrable coverup, going so far as, only two days

later at Tyrone Woods' funeral, whispering in the ear of the dead hero's father that they were going to get that guy who made the video.") [61047]

Addressing the Faith and Freedom Coalition, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal says, "I can sense right now a rebellion brewing amongst these United States, where people are ready for a hostile takeover of Washington, D.C., to preserve the American Dream for our children and grandchildren. ...I am tired of the left. They say they're for tolerance, they say they respect diversity. The reality is this: They respect everybody unless you happen to disagree with them. The left is trying to silence us and I'm tired of it, I won't take it anymore." Noting his rejection of the federal Common Core education standards, Jindal says, "The federal government has no role, no right and no place dictating standards in our local schools across these 50 states of the United States of America." Of Obama, Jindal says, "Are we witnessing right now the most radically, extremely liberal, ideological [leader] of our entire lifetime right here in the United States of America, or are we witnessing the most incompetent [leader] of the United States of America in the history of our lifetimes? You know, it is a difficult question. I've thought long and hard about it. Here's the only answer I've come up with, and I'm going to quote Secretary Clinton: 'What difference does it make?'" [60682]

On June 22 DailyCaller.com reports, "The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) cancelled its longtime relationship with an email-storage contractor just weeks after ex-IRS official Lois Lerner's computer crashed and shortly before other IRS officials' computers allegedly crashed. The IRS signed a contract with Sonasoft, an email-archiving company based in San Jose, California, each year from 2005 to 2010. The company, which partners with Microsoft and counts The New York Times among its clients, claims in its company slogans that it provides 'Email Archiving Done Right' and 'Point-Click Recovery.' Sonasoft in 2009 tweeted, 'If the IRS uses Sonasoft products to backup their servers why wouldn't you choose them to protect your servers?' Sonasoft was providing 'automatic data processing' services for the IRS throughout the January 2009 to April 2011 period in which Lerner sent her missing emails. But Sonasoft's six-year business relationship with the IRS came to an abrupt end at the close of fiscal year 2011, as congressional investigators began looking into the IRS conservative targeting scandal and IRS employees' computers started crashing left and right. Sonasoft's fiscal year 2011 contract with the IRS ended on August 31, 2011. ...Lois Lerner's computer allegedly crashed in June 2011, just ten days after House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Dave Camp [R-MI] first wrote a letter asking if the IRS was engaging in targeting of nonprofit groups. Two months later, Sonasoft's contract ended and the IRS gave its email-archiving contractor the boot. IRS official and frequent White House visitor Nikole Flax allegedly suffered her own computer crash in December 2011, three months after the IRS ended its relationship with Sonasoft." (Sonasoft later claims it never had access to IRS emails and its only IRS customer was the agency's legal counsel division. Assuming Sonasoft's claim to be accurate, some would call its 2009 ads that bragged about the IRS using its products was quite a marketing exaggeration.) [60659, 60668, 60669, 60670, 60671, 60672, 60696, 60706, 60714, 60721, 61045, 61300]

At LibertyUnyielding.com J. E. Dyer reports on the relationship between Sonasoft, the IRS, and the Obama administration. Sonasoft “provides a customer with *continuous* email archiving, even when a primary email server ‘fails over’ to the standby server. In other words, there is never any reason to fear the loss of archived emails. ...Whatever Sonasoft’s obligations after the contract was terminated [on August 31, 2011], it’s clear that the company had a relevant contractual obligation to the IRS at the time of the supposed email loss. There seems to be no question that Sonasoft’s knowledge of the email ‘catastrophe’ needs to be investigated. ...Sonasoft is a small company, founded and run in Silicon Valley by a Mr. Nand (Andy) Khanna. It isn’t clear whether Andy Khanna is any relation to Rohit (Ro) Khanna, a Pennsylvania-born attorney who served as an Obama appointee in the U.S. Department of Commerce, and is now a Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives in the 17th district of California (in Silicon Valley). But what is clear is that the two other members of Sonasoft’s board of directors—the members other than Andy Khanna—are both working hard to get Ro Khanna elected. Here are the players. On the Sonasoft board of directors, Dr. Romesh K. Japra, M.D., is the chairman of the board. The board director is Mr. Romi Randhawa, whose day job is president and CEO of HPM Networks, another Silicon Valley IT company. And then there’s Ro Khanna. Khanna has connections to Obama that go way back, to Obama’s first run for the Illinois state senate, when Khanna was at the University of Chicago as an undergrad. Will Burns, a Chicago Democratic political operative, recruited Khanna to walk precincts with Obama during the campaign, and Khanna was reportedly star-struck. ...Perhaps coincidentally, Khanna left the Department of Commerce in August 2011, the same month that the Sonasoft contract with the IRS expired. ...Somebody *really* wants to get this guy [Ro Khanna] elected. And the interesting thing is that two of Sonasoft’s three board members appear to be in the middle of it.” (Khanna has several Obama operatives running his campaign.) [60715, 60721]

At Townhall.com Michael Youssef connects Obama’s “Muslim dots,” noting that Obama “is probably not a Muslim, but not a Christian, either. Most likely, he’s agnostic. Politics is his religion. That doesn’t mean that he doesn’t possess strong loyalties. Many people are afraid to discuss those loyalties, however...” Among the “dots” Youssef lists: “Obama spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, stepson to a Muslim. His natural father was born as a Muslim in Kenya.” “Obama romantically reminisces about his fond memories of hearing the ‘izan,’ or the Muslim call to prayer, echoing from a nearby mosque each day.” “One of his closest friends in Chicago [Rashid Khalidi] is a member of the Hamas terror group, funded in part by Qatar.” “During his 2008 campaign, Mr. Obama saw himself as the defender of Islam in America...” “He asked the head of NASA (yes, NASA!) to ensure the defense of Islamic causes and to help improve their reputation.” “In Turkey, he declared that America was not a Christian nation.” “In Egypt, he humiliated his host, then-president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, by insisting that the Muslim Brotherhood, an outlawed Islamist group, occupy the front seats for his ‘lecture’ at Cairo University.” “In 2011, he forced a sovereign nation (Egypt) under U.S. influence to accept a member of the Muslim Brotherhood as its new president, despite unofficial results that showed his opponent had actually won by a slight margin.” “Then, after the subsequent collapse of the Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt, Mr. Obama continued to support the terrorist group—going against more than 30 million Egyptians

who had sought to oust that illegitimate government.” “He suspended aid to Egypt in retaliation for ousting the Muslim Brotherhood cabal from power—aid that was agreed upon more than 30 years prior.” “Obama has recognized the Hamas coalition Palestinian government, to Israel’s deep disappointment, despite our government’s repeated official designation of Hamas as a terror organization.” “In at least four cases, he appointed Muslim Brotherhood-sympathizers to his administration, instead of more moderate or secular American Muslims.” “Obama has entrusted Qatar with five known terrorists released from Guantanamo Bay, which he secretly exchanged for an Army deserter.” “To top all that off, the father of the Army deserter claimed the White House for Islam by naming the name of Allah during his speech at the Rose Garden.” [60673]

Newsmax.com reports, “Disappointed by the Obama administration’s decision to delay approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, the Canadian government has approved the construction of a major pipeline to deliver oil to Asia. The Northern Gateway project will run 732 miles from the oil sands in landlocked Alberta across British Columbia to a new marine terminal in the Pacific Coast town of Kitimat, according to global news agency AFP. It would transport about 525,000 barrels of oil daily for shipment across the Pacific to Asia, most likely to China. If approved, the Keystone XL pipeline could carry 700,000 barrels a day from Alberta to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast.” [60674]

Newsmax.com also reports, “Members of the seven unions that staff the Long Island Rail Road [LIRR] earn an average of \$83,794 a year plus benefits and have been offered an 11 percent raise over six years. But they are demanding 17 percent and threatening to go on strike if they don’t get it.” The unions also oppose increasing the retirement age from 62 to 63 and an increase in their contributions to their pension fund to 5.2 percent of wages. (Whether the workers understand that millions of Americans would be more than happy to take their jobs, wages, and benefits is not clear.) Newsmax also notes that there has been massive fraud in the union disability benefits fund, with “Doctors and consultants help[ing] hundreds of LIRR employees receive sham disability payments by faking career-ending physical ailments. Several people have been sentenced to prison terms, and officials decided to stop disability payments to nearly 600 retirees...” [60674]

The *Chicago Tribune* calls for a special prosecutor in the IRS scandal. The editorial board writes, “[L]ike the rest of us, [Obama] has since [13 months ago] read news accounts establishing that IRS officials in Washington were communicating extensively about the agency’s scrutiny of conservative groups. We also now know that several Democratic senators, including Dick Durbin of Illinois, had urged the IRS to look into some of these groups. And we know that, in 2012, top IRS officials repeatedly misled Congress by not disclosing—in response to highly specific questions—that the agency was giving extraordinary attention to conservative groups. Are those data points connected? Or are they mere coincidences? None of us yet knows the origins, motivations and scope of the agency’s actions. In May 2013 we wrote that with their stonewalling, claimed ignorance and convenient amnesia, IRS officials were making it difficult for Americans to evaluate the depth, but also the official awareness, of the agency’s evident assault on free speech. At the time we didn’t know that the agency would resist congressional demands for full disclosures. Nor did we know that seven IRS

workers—including Lois Lerner, former director of the agency’s tax-exempt organizations division—would report losing emails that congressional investigators wanted to examine. On a matter this serious, the administration can’t adequately investigate itself. Given the amount of smoke now rising from the IRS, many Americans won’t be much interested in what one arm of the administration concludes about other arms, including the IRS, the Treasury Department of which it’s part, and possibly the White House.” [60678]

“That’s why we’ve urged Attorney General Eric Holder to appoint a special prosecutor—a phrase that... provokes Pavlovian suspicions. We’ve been skeptical of some special prosecutors and their tendency toward mission creep. But we’ve also seen situations where only a special prosecutor has the independence and credibility to resolve a case that drips with politics... Why Holder won’t act is a mystery he’s inviting Americans to resolve, uncharitably, in their own minds. Whatever any one of us thinks about this scandal—from ‘Republican grandstanding’ to ‘another Watergate’—all of us can agree that it’s slathered in hot politics. Remember the context: In the 2010 congressional election, well-funded conservative groups led a sea-to-sea GOP victory march. At both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, Democrats forcefully complained that some of the groups were engaged in political activity that their tax-exempt status didn’t allow. Democrats worried that the 2012 presidential election would be a repeat. In June 2012, five months before that election, an inspector general told top Treasury officials that he was investigating IRS targeting of tax-exempt groups. So: Did that juicy news, with its potential to capsize a presidential campaign, travel beyond Treasury? Beats us. ... Given the reach that it has into all of our lives, none of us can ignore the IRS and questions about its conduct. And now there’s one more question ascendant: This 13-month refusal to name a special prosecutor has become its own curiosity.” (Why the *Chicago Tribune* cannot recognize the obvious is not clear. Holder has not named a special prosecutor because he knows the White House is connected to the scandal. Emails are not intentionally destroyed and witnesses do not refuse to testify unless there is something that someone wants to hide.) [60678]

On *State of the Union*, journalist Bob Woodward expresses regret that he and others had not made it more clear in 2011 reporting Obama’s decision to pull all U.S. troops was fiercely resisted by the military: “[T]he experts, the generals were saying—I mean they were almost on their knees, ‘Keep some troops here,’ and we left zero. ... We [reporters] should have been aggressive when [Obama] said, oh, we’re getting out. There were people in the military strongly advocating let’s keep 10,000 troops there as an insurance policy. And we know we all live on insurance policies, and this is a case where they didn’t do it.” ConservativeInfidel.com writes, “Obama claimed the total withdraw was because Iraq’s Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki refused to sign a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). Both Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) dispute that, saying they both personally witnessed Maliki agree to a substantial U.S. forces being left in Iraq.” (In other words, journalists were covering for Obama in 2011 because they, too, wanted all the troops out, even though that may have been against the national interests of the United States. They pushed *Obama’s* story, rather than the *entire* story.) [60689]



Appearing on *Face the Nation* to defend his policy on Iraq—whatever that may actually be—Obama says, “I think it’s fair to say that their [ISIS’] extreme ideology poses a medium- and long-term threat. There are a lot of groups out there that probably have more advanced immediate plans directed against the United States that we have to be on constant guard for. ...Right now, the problem with ISIS is the fact that they are destabilizing a country that could spill over into some of our allies, like Jordan, and that they are engaged in wars in Syria where in that vacuum that’s been created. This is going to be a global challenge and one that the United States is going to have to address, but we’re not going to be able to address it alone. And as I said yesterday, what we can’t do is think that we’re just going to play Whack-A-Mole and send U.S. troops occupying various countries, wherever these organizations pop up. We’re going to have to have a more focused, more targeted strategy.” (Obama does not say which terrorist groups have “advanced immediate plans” to attack the United States. Whether he believes “advanced” and “immediate” have the same meanings recognized by most Americans is not clear. Nor does Obama admit that the “vacuum” in Syria is partly his doing, as it is his administration that has supported ISIS and other rebel groups against the Assad regime.) [60710]

Also appearing on *Face the Nation* is former acting CIA director Mike Morell, who says, “Al-Qaeda in Iraq was essentially defeated when U.S. military left at the end of 2011, and the intelligence community monitored the growth of al-Qaeda post 2011 in great detail with intelligence reporting, with analysis. We made very clear that this group [ISIS] is becoming more and more dangerous.” [60717]

On *This Week*, former vice president Dick Cheney says, “The first thing we have to do is recognize we’ve got a hell of a problem, and it’s not just in Iraq. The difficulty, the spread of the terrorist organizations, is not recognized by the administration. The proliferation of nuclear capability and the possibility that it could fall into the hands of terrorists is not really being addressed at all. And I appreciate the problems we’ve got in Iraq right now, but what I think we need is a broad strategy that lets us address this whole range of issues, and that involves reversing a number of the policies of the Obama administration.” On *State of the Union*, Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) possibly reflects the opinions of most Americans, saying, “I’m not willing to send my son into that mess.” (*The Obama Timeline* believes the United States should withdraw completely from Iraq and Afghanistan and instead position tens of thousands of U.S. troops on the border with Mexico to stop the influx of illegal immigrants, terrorists, and illegal drugs. At the same time, the Transportation Security Administration should focus its energies on travelers with Muslim backgrounds—and leave little old ladies and children alone.) [60710]

In an interview with DailyCaller.com former prosecutor Joe diGenova says Obama, “in order to score a political point... has now made it worth it to kidnap Americans anywhere in the world and then demand that they be traded for someone in Gitmo. Can you believe it?” The administration’s attempt to discredit the claims of Bowe Bergdahls’ fellow soldiers by attacking them is “insanity,” that “has hit the raw nerve with [Obama’s] relationship with the military. It’s like a scab that has finally come off. What it shows is

how corrupt, politically, it is, that it doesn't care about Bergdahl as a soldier. It cares about him as a political weapon." [60707]

DrudgeReport.com reports that Ed Klein's book, *Blood Feud, The Clintons vs. The Obamas*, "claims Hillary Clinton's health problems are much more severe than she has publicly revealed! 'She had managed to keep her medical history secret out of fear that, should it become public, it would disqualify her from becoming president,' writes Klein in BLOOD FEUD." Klein writes in his book, "To begin with, Hillary fainted while she was working in her seventh-floor office at the State Department, not at home, as [Clinton advisor Philippe] Reines told the media. She was treated at the State Department's infirmary and then, at her own insistence, taken to Whitehaven to recover. However, as soon as Bill appeared on the scene and was able to assess Hillary's condition for himself, he ordered that she be immediately flown to New York—Presbyterian Hospital in the Fort Washington section of Manhattan. When Reines subsequently released a statement confirming that Hillary was being treated at the hospital over the New Year's holiday, it naturally intensified speculation about the seriousness of her medical condition. While she was at the hospital, doctors diagnosed Hillary with several problems. She had a right transverse venous thrombosis, or a blood clot between her brain and skull. She had developed the clot in one of the veins that drains blood from the brain to the heart. ... To make matters worse, it turned out that Hillary had an intrinsic tendency to form clots and faint. In addition to the fainting spell she suffered in Buffalo a few years before, she had fainted boarding her plane in Yemen, fallen and fractured her elbow in 2009, and suffered other unspecified fainting episodes. Several years earlier, she had developed a clot in her leg and was put on anticoagulant therapy by her doctor. However, she had foolishly stopped taking her anticoagulant medicine, which might have explained the most recent thrombotic event. 'The unique thing about clotting in the brain is that it could have transformed into a stroke,' said a cardiac specialist with knowledge of Hillary's condition. According to a source close to Hillary, a thorough medical examination revealed that Hillary's tendency to form clots was the least of her problems. She also suffered from a thyroid condition, which was common among women of her age, and her fainting spells indicated there was an underlying heart problem as well. A cardiac stress test indicated that her heart rhythm and heart valves were not normal. Put into layman's language, her heart valves were not pumping in a steady way. ... [B]efore they released Hillary from the hospital, they warned Bill Clinton: 'She has to be carefully monitored for the rest of her life.'" [60684, 60685]

On June 23 Barack "Uh" Obama is interviewed by *Morning Joe's* Mika Brzezinski. She asks if the situation in Iraq is making him reconsider his Afghanistan withdrawal timetable. Obama responds, "No... keep in mind that our goal in Afghanistan was to decapitate al-Qaeda... That has been accomplished." Brzezinski: "You said that the war was ended in Iraq. You said al-Qaeda was decimated. You said it was stable." Obama: "It was. And, but, just because something's stable, uh, two years ago, or four years ago doesn't mean that it's stable right now..." Brzezinski: "Would you have moved differently in Syria given this eruption in Iraq, and give that the chaos has spilled over now?" Obama: "Eh, eh, eh, eh, uh, if, you know, if, if what you're suggesting is that there was a simple solution in Syria that would have avoided the civil war and chaos there, um,

that's just not true. [That is, of course, *not* what she was suggesting.] Uh, eh, you know, you had, a, uh, a ruthless dictator, uh, that, uh, started killing his own people, and you had the, the makings of a moderate opposition that still exists and that we still work with... What we're not gonna [sic; going to] be able to do is ta [sic; to] play 'whack-a-mole' and chase, uh, wherever, uh, extremists appear, occupy those countries, uh, for long periods of time and think somehow that we're gonna [sic] solve those problems..." (At HotAir.com Noah Rothman observes, "Obama insisted that his administration cannot play 'whack-a-mole' when it comes to terrorist threats to the United States. This is simply preposterous. Not only has the administration been doing just that for the past five years—it is the very essence of his approach to the war on terror—but it is the foundation of the preemptive strike doctrine which both Bush and Obama have pursued. What [Obama] means is that it is too politically toxic to whack this mole in particular. This incoherent interview on the subject of Iraq is disconcerting. It revealed that [Obama] continues to view this national security threat as a political conundrum [rather than a national security threat].") [60711, 60712, 60713]

Secretary of State John Kerry, meeting with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad, says, "The future of Iraq depends on decisions made in the next few days and weeks. ...Our support will be intense, sustained." [60738]

BBC.com reports, "The Iraqi government appears to have lost control of its western borders after Sunni militants reportedly captured crossings to Syria and Jordan. Officials said the rebels took two key crossings in Anbar on Sunday, a day after seizing one at Qaim, a town in the province that borders Syria. The strategically important airport in the northern town of Tal Afar has also reportedly fallen to the rebels." [60856]

FoxNews.com reports, "A new book claims ...Obama instructed then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to blame the Benghazi terror attack on a protest over an anti-Islam film, over Clinton's objections. The anecdote is included in the book 'Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas,' by Edward Klein. An excerpt was published Sunday in The New York Post. Klein reported that, according to an unnamed Clinton legal adviser, Obama called the secretary of State late on the night of Sept. 11, 2012. 'Hillary was stunned when she heard [Obama] talk about the Benghazi attack,' the source reportedly said. 'Obama wanted her to say that the attack had been a spontaneous demonstration triggered by an obscure video on the Internet that demeaned the Prophet Mohammed.' According to Klein, Clinton advised Obama that the story 'isn't credible,' but Obama nevertheless told Clinton to put out a State Department release. According to Klein, Bill Clinton also told his wife 'that story won't hold up.' The State Department did put out a statement the night of Sept. 11 that cited 'inflammatory material posted on the Internet.' Clinton herself never has publicly claimed she was pressured into citing the faulty video explanation. Author Ken Timmerman, who reported on the same phone call in his book 'Dark Forces: The Truth About What Happened in Benghazi,' on Monday cast doubt on the latest version of events—he called this account a 'desperate ploy to defend her presidential aspirations.' Timmerman claimed the 'story' about the video was not 'created' on the Obama-Clinton phone call. Rather, he said, 'I think that's where they agreed on the story between the two of them.'" [60693, 60719]

Another chapter in *Blood Feud* relates that Obama and his wife Michelle slept in separate bedrooms during one of their vacations at Martha's Vineyard. According to a hotel staffer, Obama "ate in bed. You had to change the sheets every day. He smoked cigarettes and didn't try to hide it at all. And he snores. I heard him. He ate a lot of junk food, chips and stuff. He loved fudge and bought it from Murdick's Fudge. It was a wonder that he stayed so thin. ...The Obamas seemed like they were bickering a lot, but they whispered so you couldn't exactly hear what it was about. But I can tell when people are pissed off at each other, and they seemed to be pissed a lot. In fact, I didn't see much warmth between [Obama and his wife] at all. They almost seemed to avoid each other. When [Obama] was going on about something, Michelle would put on her earphones and listen to her iPod. She tuned him out. And they didn't do much together. Michelle went out with her friends to lunch or dinner, and he stayed at home or went to the gym to play basketball or had a game of golf." [60732]

According to WashingtonExaminer.com, Klein reveals in his book that "Oprah [Winfrey] feels slighted by the Obamas' but would walk on hot coals for Bill and Hillary Clinton, who she is eager to help in a 2016 presidential election. Klein writes: 'I have a much warmer relationship with Hillary than I do with either Michelle or Barack,' Oprah said. 'The Clintons make me feel at ease 100 percent of the time. But even when the Obamas think they are being charming, they hold you at arm's length. They make me jumpy, even when they obviously don't mean to.' Klein, whose critical book about Obama, 'The Amateur,' was [a] best-seller, writes in his new work that [Michelle Obama] and top aide Valerie Jarrett are needy. 'Being with them over a period of time can be tiresome,' he quotes Winfrey saying. 'They're always badgering you for something,' wrote Klein on page 261. 'I've spent much of my life fending off powerful and not-so-powerful people who want things from me. But these two women are something else again. They're walking agendas. Their wish list never stops.' As a result, he concludes, Winfrey 'feels slighted.' He quotes a friend of Winfrey who said that the Obamas 'have been incredibly thoughtless in the way they have treated her. It's been unfair and hurtful.'" [60761, 60762, 60985]

FreedomOutpost.com reports, "Last Friday, the Sunday Express reported that British jihadist Abu Rashash Britani called for the beheading of Prime Minister David Cameron and Home Secretary Theresa May, tweeting, 'I think when we establish khilafah [or caliphate, a Muslim state], a battalion of mujahadeen shud [sic; should] head to UK and capture davidcameron & theresamay n [sic; and] behead them both.' On Sunday, a US Muslim Jihadist targeted Barack Obama and his family, calling for their beheading. Timothy DeTillio [a jihadist who apparently lives in Vermont] tweeted, 'Obama your days are numbered. You have nowhere to hide. Your family is first on our list. We will find you and remove your filthy heads!'" [60740]

According to a Gallup poll, "Americans' approval of ...Obama's handling of immigration has dropped to 31%, one of the lowest readings since 2010, when Gallup began polling on his handling of the issue. Meanwhile, two in three Americans (65%) disapprove of his handling of immigration." [60694, 60695]

The White House reluctantly releases a memorandum used to justify the administration's policy in drone attacks against U.S. citizens. At DailyCaller.com an anonymous "ranking Department of Defense official" writes that the memo "appears to confirm the worst suspicions of its libertarian critics. The Obama administration had sought to keep the memo secret, and now we know why: Because there are no checks and balances; there are no classified courts. Indeed, the memo reveals that [Obama] ordered the targeting killing of U.S. citizens overseas—in violation of their constitutional right to due process—sans any type of oversight outside of the executive. The 41-page Department of Justice memorandum outlining the administration's attempt to justify the killing of U.S. citizens accused of plotting acts of terrorism abroad was released on Monday under order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York. The court did so in response to a Freedom Of Information Act request submitted by both the American Civil Liberties Union and The New York Times. ...Instead of taking the U.S. citizens the administration accused of conspiring against the U.S. and her interests to court, the administration was looking for an easier way to solve the problem: They sought to kill them, and wanted the legal backing to do so." [60865, 61243]

"But here's an issue: Even if a U.S. citizen were to be tried in absentia and found guilty of conspiring to commit terrorism by a federal court, the punishment for doing so is not death, and certainly not from a missile fired by a Predator drone. ...To date, Anwar al-Awlaki is one of three U.S. citizens to have been killed abroad by the Obama administration without having received due process in a court of law. Another of those was his 14-year-old son, who by all accounts was innocent and was not accused of conspiring to commit terrorism. ...The problem is that the administration is making the accusations against a U.S. citizen, rendering a judgment of guilt or innocence outside of the court system, and then carrying out an extrajudicial killing of American citizens in complete and utter violation of the Constitution. The part of the memo that addresses the right to due process is redacted. At no point in the extralegal process outlined in the memo is the U.S. citizen in question tried or convicted in a court of law for the crimes the administration alleges the individual is guilty of. The administration is making that determination, and exactly who within the administration is still unclear. This is a scary usurpation of power from the judicial branch—and an amazing power grab by the executive. Finally, under the legal reasoning outlined in the memo, there is nothing to prevent [Obama] from ordering a lethal operation against U.S. citizens inside the United States, as the memo does not stipulate that there is a geographic limitation to these operations—only a test of feasibility. Nor is there a single requirement for a federal court of judge to make the determination that a person is a member or leader of a terrorist organization. When this country was created, the Founders may not have anticipated the dangers posed by a terrorist cell capable of killing thousands or more. But they knew well, and carefully guarded against, the dangers of a government gone wild. In this memo, finally made public, we have proof of a White House that considers itself judge, jury and executioner. And that, America, is a clear and present danger." [60865, 61243]

Judge Andrew Napolitano later comments on the drone-defense memo: "It consists of 40 highly blacked-out pages, the conclusion of which is that [a] president can order the CIA

to kill Americans who are present in foreign countries and who, in the opinion of high-level government officials, pose a threat to Americans and may be difficult to arrest. ... Conveniently, the memorandum never mentions the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which famously commands that if the government wants the life, liberty or property of any person, it can only do so via due process. Due process requires a jury trial with its attendant constitutional protections. The only recognized exceptions to this requirement are the individual and collective right to immediate self-defense. Since natural rights trump all positive law, a cop can kill a bank robber who is shooting at him, and soldiers can kill enemy soldiers who are about to shoot at them. At the root of the recognized exceptions to the requirement of due process is the active violence of the perpetrator, such that due process is impossible and such that the threat to life is clear, present and immediate. ... This week marks the anniversary of America's birth as a free nation, when we fought a war against a tyrant and seceded from his kingdom. We thought we had banished tyranny from our shores. We thought we had ratified a Constitution that would compel the government to respect our natural rights. We thought we had established a society based upon the rule of law. We were wrong. We have gone from an inherited tyrant to an elected one. I have never heard... Obama say this, but it seems logical that if he thinks he can lawfully kill Americans abroad, he also thinks he can kill us here. Happy Fourth of July." [61166]

The White House hosts a Summit on Working Families at the Omni Shoreham Hotel to bring together "businesses, economists, labor leaders, policymakers, advocates, and citizens to discuss policy solutions that can make a real difference in the lives of working families and ensure America's global competitiveness in the coming decades." According to Variety.com, summit is sponsored by the far left Center for American Progress, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the White House Council on Women and Girls. Signs at the event include directions to a "Selfie Wall" and a "Lactation Room." Speakers at the event include actress Christina Hendricks, who is known mostly for the size of her breasts. (Whether Hendricks will speak in the lactation room is not clear.) [60697, 60698, 60699, 60700, 60735]

At the White House event, Obama pushes legislation that would force employers to provide workers with paid family leave, saying, "Other countries know how to do this. If France can figure this out, we can figure it out." (WashingtonExaminer.com notes, "France also has an unemployment rate that has hovered above 10 percent for more than two years, well above the rate of unemployed in the United Kingdom and the United States, which are both in the 6 percent range." France—which Townhall.com's Michael Schaus writes "is on the road to being the Detroit of Europe"—has also "figured out" how to be an incredibly unproductive nation.) Obama also whines, "Many women can't even get a paid day off to give birth. There is only one developed country in the world that does not offer paid maternity leave, and that is us. And that is not a list you want to be on, by your lonesome." (Paying people not to work is why other countries are far less productive than the United States. The sudden urge to push "paid family leave" legislation is, of course, prompted by politics. The issue was not on Obama's radar in 2009 and 2010, when the Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate. It is being pushed in 2014 because it forces Republicans to take a stand against it, which the

Democrats can then use to portray them as “anti-woman.” Obama forgets that a company cannot “give” an employee months of paid maternity leave without first generating that income—either by raising prices or expecting the employees who are not on leave to work harder to offset the loss of their co-worker.) [60752, 60753, 60778]

At the Working Families event Michelle Obama tells ABC’s Robin Roberts, “The first thing I tried to do, which was a mistake, was that I tried the part-time thing... I realized I was getting gypped on that front. What happened was I got a part-time salary but worked full time.” (At PJMedia.com David Steinberg notes, “Of course, the term ‘gypped’ is a slur referencing the supposed criminal behavior of Romani, or ‘gypsies,’ though it is often still used colloquially by people who are unaware of the term’s history and connotation. For comparison, imagine Michelle had claimed she was getting ‘Jewed down,’ or had referred to an ‘Indian giver.’ ‘Gypped’ bears the same strand of malevolent history and intention, though the term is still more commonplace. Considering Michelle Obama implored Americans to ban the term ‘bossy,’ and to the myriad non-liberals who didn’t get a pass for their respective ‘binders full of women,’ or who were pilloried for hunting in the vicinity of a racist rock, she has dug her own hole here, and deserves what she metes out.”) Barack Obama has also used the word gypped, telling a 2009 audience he wanted to regulate the health insurance industry so that people would not feel “gypped.” [60774, 61052]

Pushing his Summit on Working Families, CBS’ Norah O’Donnell asks Obama, “I know you said in your State of the Union [address], ‘When women succeed, America succeeds.’ What’s the single most important thing you think you can do to help working women?” Obama replies, “Well, the question is not just what can I do, but I think what we as a society need to do. And this is an issue that’s near and dear to my heart. I was raised by a single mom... and now I’ve got two daughters. So I want to make sure that they’re able to balance family life and the workplace much better.” Obama repeats the falsehood that, “in the aggregate, women are making seventy-seven cents for every dollar that a man’s making. Discrimination is still taking place.” (The statement, “When women succeed, America succeeds,” is meaningless and trite. It is no different than saying America succeeds when men succeed, or when small businesses succeed, or when corporations succeed, or when farmers get enough rain for their crops. Further, Obama was arguably not raised by a single mother. He lived with his mother in Indonesia after she had already married her second husband, Lolo Soetoro. For the rest of his childhood and pre-college years, Obama was raised by his maternal grandparents in Honolulu. The periods when he lived alone with his mother alone were brief.) [60777]

WXMI reports that Hospice House of Holland (Michigan) will close its doors in a few weeks because it has been losing money—and ObamaCare has exacerbated the situation. The facility’s executive director, Torrey Husman, states, “The biggest issue under the Affordable Care Act is that we’re going to see cuts in reimbursement—it’s going to be at least 12 percent. We projected out what those cuts are going to do to the organization long term and we realized that in a short period of time, we’re going to be pulling money from our savings in order to keep the house open.” [60702]

In a lawsuit filed by the utility industry, the Supreme Court partially upholds and partially rejects EPA greenhouse gas regulations for major sources of pollution. (The ruling is arguably a victory for the EPA, which will continue to be able to regulate carbon dioxide emissions as though they are pollutants.) [60734]

Fed up with the federal government dumping immigrants in Springfield, Massachusetts, Mayor Domenic Sarno sends a letter to his Congressman and Senators asking that they put a stop to it. Sarno states, "I'm not cold-hearted at all. I want to help. All I am asking for is accountability from the agencies. You just can't continue concentrating poverty on top of poverty." According to FoxNews.com, "Sarno first demanded last summer that the U.S. government stop sending refugees. But after recent inspections found Somali families living in overcrowded, pest-infested apartments without electricity and sometimes heat, he stepped up complaints, saying resettlement agencies are bringing in 'warm-weather' refugees and dumping them into cold climates only to leave them dependent on the city. 'I have enough urban issues to deal with,' Sarno said. 'Enough is enough.'" [60718]

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott visit Lackland Air Force base, where the Obama administration is housing some of the illegal immigrants that are crossing the border by the thousands. Cruz tells reporters, "We are witnessing a humanitarian crisis unfolding that is the direct consequence of ...Obama's lawlessness. We just toured this Air Force facility, where up to 1,200 children are being cared for... but they have come through harrowing circumstances. ...This is heartbreaking, but we need to act to stop it by, number one, finally securing the border and, number two, by not offering amnesty which only incentivizes more and more people to violate the law and in this instance endanger the safety and lives of their kids. ...When [Obama] prevents the Border Patrol from following the law, and enforcing our immigration laws, when [Obama] announces to the world amnesty for those who have broken the law, the consequence is people respond to that, and the way they respond to that is handing over their children to drug dealers and vicious cartels. ...If we were to take these 90,000 kids and grant amnesty to these 90,000 kids, next year we wouldn't see 145,000, we'd see substantially more." Abbott says, "We're dealing with a human-made crisis. The challenges these children are going through are unprecedented. It's unacceptable to have children housed in facilities like this." [60745]

CNSNews.com reports, "Poland's *Wprost* newsmagazine on Sunday quoted excerpts of what it said was a recording of a conversation between Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski and a Polish lawmaker, in which the Sikorski says the alliance with the U.S. is 'worthless.' The man identified as Sikorski is quoted as saying, 'There is no doubt that the policy pursued by the prime minister and the defense minister is wrong. You know that the Polish-American alliance is worthless. It is even harmful, because it creates for Poland a false sense of security.' The second voice, said to be that of lawmaker and former Finance Minister Jacek Rostowski, asks why. 'Complete bulls\*\*t,' says the first, adding that in the event of a conflict with the Germans or Russians Poland will mistakenly 'think that everything is super' because of the close relationship with the



Americans. ... '[We are] suckers, total suckers,' he continues. 'The problem in Poland is that we have shallow pride and low self-esteem.'" [60725]

Obama has lunch at a Chipotle fast-food restaurant in Washington, D.C. (One photo shows that most of the customers are disinterested. Another photo shows Obama unhygienically leaning over beyond the glass "sneeze guard" while ordering his food—totally ignoring the "Hands Behind the Glass" sign. It does not take long for "Obama crosses red line" jokes and comments to erupt across the Internet, or for questions to be raised about how many germs are on a hand that had just shaken those of many other customers.) [60727, 60817, 60818, 60869, 60870]

Townhall.com reports, "The world's largest medical technology company, Medtronic, has announced plans to move its corporate headquarters from Minneapolis to Dublin, Ireland. With U.S. corporate tax rate at a mighty 35 percent, one of the highest in the world, it is no wonder Medtronic would rather operate from Ireland, where the tax rate is only 12.5 percent. Medtronic is already familiar with the global stage, having reached more than 140 countries with its technology. The company is able to make the move overseas by buying out Dublin-based rival Covidien for \$42.9 billion. Acquisition and corporate takeover are now legally required for a business to relocate its tax base to another country." The Heritage Foundation's Curtis Dubay notes, "We are the only developed country in the world that attempts to tax the foreign earnings of our businesses, and we do so at the highest rate in the industrialized world. U.S. businesses will keep moving abroad as long as Congress fails to move to a territorial system." (Under a territorial system, a business is taxed only on income earned within the country's borders. In contrast, the United States imposes its 35 percent tax rate even on business income earned abroad. That creates an incentive for global companies to move from the United States to countries with much lower corporate tax rates. Additionally, a U.S. citizen who lives and works abroad is obscenely subjected to income taxes in *both* countries; most countries only tax income earned within their borders. U.S. tax rules therefore absurdly encourage Americans to relinquish their citizenship and transfer all their wealth overseas.) Medtronic's action also allows it to avoid the harsh medical device tax imposed by ObamaCare. [60749, 60750, 60784, 60878]

In Sudan, an appeals courts frees Meriam Yehia Ibrahim and cancels her death sentence she received for daring to be a Christian. According to Bloomberg.com, "Ibrahim, 27, was released from jail today and is now with her husband, Daniel Wani, one of her lawyers, Elshareef Ali, said by phone from the capital, Khartoum. ... 'This is a victory the Sudanese constitution and for freedom of faith in Sudan,' Ali said. 'The court canceled all the decisions taken against her, including annulling the marriage and the adultery conviction. She is now free to go anywhere.'" (Ibrahim would be wise to leave Sudan. Even though the court has ruled in her favor, her country is one of the most dangerous in the world for non-Muslims. Muslim members of Ibrahim's own family have stated they would kill her if their government does not.) Ibrahim, her husband, and two children are later arrested at the Khartoum airport—by about 40 security agents—when they try to leave the country. By June 26 the family is reportedly released again, and taking refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum. (So far, Michelle Obama has no Twitter hashtag for

Ibrahim.) [60729, 60763, 60764, 60773, 60790, 60826, 60828, 60897, 60912, 60937, 60938, 61009]

According to CNSNews.com, “Since ...Obama took office on Jan. 20, 2009, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued 2,827 new final regulations, equaling 24,915 pages in the Federal Register, totaling approximately 24,915,000 words. ...The Obama EPA regulations have 22 times as many words as the entire Harry Potter series, which includes seven books with 1,084,170 words. They have 5,484 times as many words as the U.S. Constitution, which has 4,543 words, including the signatures; and 17,088 times as many words as the Declaration of Independence, which has 1,458 words including signatures.” (Nevertheless, businesses, farms, and homeowners across the nation are expected to be in perfect compliance with the regulations.) [60780]

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee convenes an evening hearing to question IRS commissioner John Koskinen. Before the hearing, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), the committee’s chairman, tells *America’s Newsroom*, “We have some serious questions for the Commissioner, the biggest one being, ‘You came before us and said you’d tell the truth and nothing but the truth under oath, do you believe you told the whole truth?’ And of course the answer is, he did not tell the whole truth. I believe Lois Lerner is hiding something. I believe the Justice Department, the IRS and the White House are interested in her succeeding in hiding what she’s hiding, which is her targeting of conservative groups based on their ideology in support of [Obama’s] war on [the Supreme Court decision regarding] Citizen’s United.” Issa says, “I believe Lois Lerner is hiding something. I believe the Justice Department, the IRS, and the White House are interested in her succeeding in hiding what she’s hiding, which is targeting of conservative groups based on their ideology in support of [Obama’s] war on Citizens United, a Supreme Court decision that he didn’t like. This is something he vehemently opposes, and Lois Lerner acted on his opposition.” [60701, 60731, 60733]

Issa tells Koskinen, “I know tonight will be difficult, and it deserves to be difficult for both sides. We have a problem with you, and you have a problem with maintaining your credibility. ...I subpoenaed you here tonight because, frankly, I’m sick and tired of your game-playing in response to congressional oversight. You, commissioner, are [Obama’s] hand-picked man to restore trust and accountability at the IRS. You testified under oath in March that you would produce all of Lois Lerner’s emails subpoenaed by this committee. Mr. Commissioner, at a minimum you didn’t tell the whole truth that you knew on that day. ...You promised to produce documents. You did not. The committee requested all of Lois Lerner’s emails over a year ago. You worked to cover up the fact they were missing and only came forward to fess up on a Friday afternoon after you had been caught red-handed. Did you hope you could run out the clock on this scandal? Perhaps you hoped Congress would never know it was missing emails.” The arrogant Koskinen—who has donated more than \$100,000 to Democrat candidates over the years and none to Republicans—says, “All the emails we have will be provided. I did not say I would provide you emails that disappeared. If you have a magical way for me to do that I’d be happy to know about it. I never said I would provide you emails we didn’t have. ...It is not unusual for computers anywhere to fail, especially at the IRS in light of the

aged equipment IRS employees often have to use in light of the continual cuts in its budget these past four years.” (Some might argue that, “in light of the aged equipment,” the IRS should not routinely destroy its tape backups of important data.) [60742, 60744, 60746, 60747, 60748, 60754, 60758, 60759, 60760, 60766, 60782, 60783, 60789, 60792, 60805]

Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) asks Koskinen, “When Lois Lerner figured out on June 13th (2011) that her computer crashed, and there have been emails showing that she was going to great lengths to try to get that recovered, why didn’t they just go to that six month tape?” Koskinen responds, “Because that six month tape is a disaster recovery tape that has all of the emails on it and is a very complicated tape to actually extract emails for [sic; from], but I have not seen any emails to explain why they didn’t do it, so it would be difficult, but I don’t know why.” Chaffetz: “Did anybody try?” Koskinen: “I have no idea or indication that they did.” Chaffetz: “So you have multiple emails showing she was trying to recover this, it’s the testimony of the IRS that they were trying desperately, in fact you got a forensic team to try to extract this, you went to great lengths, you made a big point over the last week about all the efforts you’re going through, but they were backed up on tape, and you didn’t do it?” Koskinen: “As far as I know they did not.” Congressman Jim Jones (R-OH) wonders, “At what point does it become obstruction of justice? After days, weeks, or months?” Koskinen tells Jones he “cannot remember” who told him Lois Lerner’s emails were destroyed. He also insists there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, which prompts Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC) to ask, “How would you know what elements of the crime existed? You don’t even know what statutes are in play.” Koskinen is forced to admit that he had not reviewed any criminal statutes. [60742, 60744, 60746, 60747, 60748, 60754, 60758, 60759, 60760, 60766, 60782, 60789, 60792, 60805]

On June 24, *Morning Joe* panelist Mark Halperin says, “[W]hen any government agency, particularly one as powerful as the IRS, engages in something that even people sympathetic to the admission says looks weird and suspicious, it’s incumbent on all of the national media to aggressively ask more questions. The Republicans in Congress are asking questions. I think with a different administration, one that was a Republican administration, this [IRS targeting scandal] story would be a national obsession, and, instead, it’s getting coverage here and a few other places. But it deserves a lot more questions. ...I just don’t think we can presume a presumption of innocence just because the White House says the Treasury wasn’t involved.” Joe Scarborough observes, “But you have a situation, again, where somebody was, again, where the chairman of Ways and Means—I find it hard to believe that if the Democratic chairman of the Ways and Means [Committee] sent a Republican administration a letter saying we are going to begin an inquiry about you targeting individual Americans and political groups that don’t like Republicans—and then a week or so later, e-mails from the top leaders at the IRS disappear... I find that hard to believe that would not be on the front page of this [*New York Times*] newspaper every day. Who knows?” [60771, 60772, 60779]

The *Los Angeles Times* calls for an independent investigator for the IRS scandal, writing, “It’s past time to turn over the inquiry to an independent investigator who can dig up the truth and, if possible crimes are revealed, refer matters to federal prosecutors.” [60904]

Conservative entertainer Pat Boone tells leftist radio host Alan Colmes, “What I’m going to predict here is by September of this year, the major smoking gun, which is a high crime, not just a misdemeanor, but a high crime, that supposed copy of the [Obama] birth certificate that is displayed on the White House website as we talk, by many experts has already proven not to be not a copy of anything, of something that perhaps doesn’t exist, which is an actual birth certificate, but it is a Photoshopped fraud created to look like what they wanted it to look like. And I say ‘they’ because I don’t think it was [Obama] himself but those around him. But experts who understand the techniques of these things, including a guy in my own office who knows how things are Photoshopped, and knows the telltale signs of things that have been pasted on to other documents or other things. It is obviously to anyone who knows that process is a fraud. It is not a copy of anything and that is a high crime. ...I’m talking to some people that they are trained detectives and investigators and I’ve been trying to get people in Congress to pay attention to these things and create. We should have to be us citizens saying, ‘Wait a minute, this thing doesn’t look real.’ ...I was in Mombasa [Kenya] just after he was elected and everybody there said, ‘You know [Obama] was born here.’ I brought home a T-shirt that said ‘Birthplace of the President of the United States.’ Either the whole nation was fooled or there was something else going on.” (Boone may be referring to Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s “cold case posse,” which will eventually release its evidence against Obama to the media. Arpaio has not, however, provided a date for a news conference. *The Obama Timeline* believes Arpaio and lead investigator Mike Zullo are “lining up their ducks” to make sure appropriate members of Congress and the law enforcement community are aware of their evidence before they hold a news conference.) [60983]

*The Wall Street Journal* reports, “People enrolled in new plans under the [ObamaCare] health law are showing higher rates of serious health conditions than other insurance customers, according to an early analysis of medical claims, putting pressure on insurers around the country as they prepare to propose rates for next year. Among those health-law marketplace enrollees who have seen a doctor or other health-care provider in the first quarter of this year, around 27% have significant health issues such as diabetes, psychiatric conditions, asthma, heart problems or cancer, the data show. That is sharply higher than the rate of 16% for last year’s individual-consumer market over the same time frame, according to the data, which was supplied by Inovalon Inc., a health-technology firm that receives medical claims directly from nearly 200 insurers that are its clients. It is also more than double the rate among people who held on to their existing individual policies; among those enrollees, the rate was 12%. Those consumers, who kept so-called grandfathered individual plans, are showing by far the lowest rates of use for health-care services such as emergency-room visits, hospital stays and prescriptions.” [60981, 60982]

Asked how many illegal immigrant children crossing the border ever show up for their court hearings, White House press secretary Josh Earnest responds, “I don’t have that

number in front of me.” The skeptical reporter says, “It’s not that you don’t have it. It’s that you don’t want to release it, right?” (According to CNSNews.com, Earnest was asked the same question the previous week.) Earnest: “Well, I don’t have it. Actually, DHS [Department of Homeland Security] may have it. But let me just stipulate something. Without knowing what that number is and without having seen it, I think we can all stipulate that that number is too high. And that’s why you have seen an investment, a surge, in fact, of resources by this administration to try to address what is a large and growing problem along our southern border.” (The Obama administration’s “surge” is, in fact, an effort to push the immigrant children further into the United States—not to send them back home. According to Senator Pete Sessions (R-AL), a leaked Border Patrol memo suggests that only three percent of illegal immigrants from places “other than Mexico” are being returned home.) [60838]

Townhall.com political editor Guy Benson reports, “A new independent investigation charges that internal watchers at the corrupt Veterans Affairs agency sanitized and manipulated their reports to protect the bureaucracy, betraying the current and former service members they’re charged with protecting. In a parade of horrors—from the original Phoenix outrage, to endemic abuses to protect administrators’ performance bonuses, to tales of systemic whistle-blower retaliation, to egregious standards of care, to discarded warning signs—this may be one of the most depressing stories to emerge from the VA saga. It’s somewhat akin to numerous crime victims calling 911 and running into a brick wall of crooked cops at the other end. ...The agency’s self-policing mechanism would quasi-confirm whistleblowers’ complaints, only to assess that the resulting abuse didn’t have any impact. Thus, problems would remain unaddressed, poor practices would remain intact, and... whistleblowers would stand exposed. ...The document includes a number of specific incidents, including an instance wherein a patient was ‘admitted to the facility in 2003, with significant and chronic mental health issues. Yet, his first comprehensive psychiatric evaluation did not occur until 2011, more than eight years after he was admitted.’ Eight years.” CNN’s Drew Griffin says, “Based on everything I know today, I don’t think the VA can fix itself. I don’t know how you fix this... I would blanketly [sic] throw out every senior manager in the VA. I know that sounds harsh, but I don’t know how else you would do this surgically. There is an entire bureaucracy here that has been allowing this to happen for years, and years, and years.” [60755]

CNN.com reports, “Records of dead veterans were changed or physically altered, some even in recent weeks, to hide how many people died while waiting for care at the Phoenix VA hospital, a whistle-blower told CNN in stunning revelations that point to a new coverup in the ongoing VA scandal. ‘Deceased’ notes on files were removed to make statistics look better, so veterans would not be counted as having died while waiting for care, Pauline DeWenter said. DeWenter should know. DeWenter is the actual scheduling clerk at the Phoenix VA who said for the better part of a year she was ordered by supervisors to manage and handle the so-called ‘secret waiting list,’ where veterans’ names of those seeking medical care were often placed, sometimes left for months with no care at all. ...It was one of DeWenter’s roles to call veterans when appointments became available to schedule them to get a consultation. Sometimes when she made those calls, she’d find that the veteran had died, so she would enter that on their records. But at

least seven times since last October, records that showed that veterans died while waiting for care—records which DeWenter personally handled and had entered in details of veterans' deaths—were physically altered, or written over, by someone else, DeWenter said in an exclusive interview with CNN. The changes, or re-writes, listed the veterans as living, not deceased, essentially hiding their deaths. The alterations had even occurred in recent weeks, she said, in a deliberate attempt to try to hide just how many veterans died while waiting for care, by trying to pretend dead veterans remain alive.” [60756, 60765, 60769, 60898]

DailyCaller.com reports, “A failure to scan outsourced medical records has caused an approximate three- to five-month backlog at the Memphis Veteran Administration Medical Center, The Daily Caller has learned. ...A recent audit by the VA flagged the Memphis VA Medical Center after it found the facility had an average wait time for the initial appointment of fifty days. The medical records... are generated when the VA refers a patient to another hospital for further medical procedures. Medical tests like colonoscopies, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and X-rays, are among the tests that can be performed by an outside hospital, said the whistle-blower. The outside hospital then sends their results back to the Memphis VA Medical Center, and those results are supposed to be scanned into the VA system. Instead of being scanned in, the results are piling up, said the whistle-blower, causing further delays beyond the initial wait times. ‘If you’re waiting for the results of a colonoscopy, [the added wait time is] the difference between life and death,’ the whistle-blower told TheDC.” [60757]

In a Washington Post/ ABC poll, only 42 percent support Obama’s handling of the situation in Iraq, while 52 percent disapprove; 65 percent oppose the use of U.S. ground forces in Iraq, while 30 percent approve. [60767]

According to TheDailyBeast.com, “The prime minister of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region [in Iraq], Nechirvan Barzani, says he warned Baghdad and the United States months ago about the threat ISIS posed to Iraq and the group’s plan to launch an insurgency across Iraq. The Kurds even offered to participate in a joint military operation with Baghdad against the jihadists. Washington didn’t respond—a claim that will fuel Republican charges that the Obama administration has been dangerously disengaged from the Middle East. Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki dismissed the warnings, saying everything was under control. The Kurds’ intelligence head, Lahur Talabani, says he handed Washington and London detailed reports about the unfolding threat. The warnings ‘fell on deaf ears,’ he says. Several British parliamentary delegations to Kurdistan in recent months also were warned by Kurdish politicians that Sunni resentment was boiling over and that ISIS was forming alliances apace with Sunni tribal leaders and members of the late dictator Saddam Hussein’s Baath Party.” [60831. 60832]

On CNN’s *New Day*, National Journal’s Ron Fournier, noting the Veterans Administration and IRS scandals, says, “The one thing both these scandals have in common is, for a [Democrat] party that wants to establish the fact that good government can do good things, they’re now giving the public two choices. One, either we’re incredibly incompetent—both the IRS and with the VA scandal—or we’re crooked. Pick

your poison. It's not a good place to be. ...I mean, look... [IRS commissioner John Koskinen] said, 'I'm innocent, but if you have evidence that I'm not, I'd like to see it.' That's not a good position for a public figure to be in. ...A year ago exactly tomorrow, I called for a special prosecutor in this case while giving [Obama] the benefit of the doubt. I now realize how naive I was to give the administration the benefit of the doubt. This needs to be investigated by an independent prosecutor." [60793]

David Ferriero, the "archivist" of the National Archives and Records Administration, testifies before a House committee and is eventually forced to admit that the IRS broke the law with regard to Lois Lerner's lost emails. Congressman Tim Walberg (R-MI) asks, "At any time in 2011, through last Monday, did the IRS report any loss of records related to Lois Lerner?" Ferriero replies, "No." Walberg: "Is it fair to say that the IRS broke the Federal Records Act?" Ferriero: "They are required, any agency is required to notify us when they realize they have a problem that could be destruction or disposal, unauthorized disposal." Walberg: "But they didn't do that?" Ferriero: "That's right." Walberg: "Did they break the law?" Ferriero: "I'm not a lawyer." Walberg: "But you administer the Federal Records Act." Ferriero: "I do." Walberg: "They didn't follow it, can we safely assume they broke the law?" Ferriero: "They did not follow the law." [60785, 60787, 60830, 60839]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters, "When you look at [Obama], his own remarks when this IRS scandal unfolded almost a year ago, he said that he would fully cooperate, he and his administration. They've not only not fully cooperated, they haven't done a damn thing to help us get to the truth of what really happened." [60788]

According to a June 21–23 Fox News poll, 76 percent of Americans believe Lois Lerner's emails were deliberately destroyed. That suspicion is shared across party lines, albeit to varying degrees. "An overwhelming 90 percent of Republicans think the emails were intentionally destroyed, as do 74 percent of independents and 63 percent of Democrats. Overall, just 12 percent of voters believe the emails were destroyed accidentally. Another 12 percent are unsure." Obama's approval rating is a mere 41 percent in the poll. [60808, 60809, 60810, 60824]

In a CBS/New York Times poll, Obama's approval/disapproval rating is 40/54 percent; he is at 41/53 in a Gallup poll. [60902]

In Oregon, a federal judge appointed by Bill Clinton, rules that the U.S. government's "no-fly list" is unconstitutional. Reuters reports, "U.S. District Judge Anna Brown, ruling in a lawsuit filed in federal court in Oregon by 13 Muslim Americans who were branded with the no-fly status, ordered the government to come up with new procedures that allow people on the no-fly list to challenge that designation. 'The court concludes international travel is not a mere convenience or luxury in this modern world. Indeed, for many international travel is a necessary aspect of liberties sacred to members of a free society,' Brown wrote in her 65-page ruling. 'Accordingly, on this record the court concludes plaintiffs inclusion on the no-fly list constitutes a significant deprivation of their liberty interests in international travel,' Brown said. ...The 13 plaintiffs—four of

them veterans of the U.S. military—deny they have links to terrorism and say they only learned of their no-fly status when they arrived at an airport and were blocked from boarding a flight. The American Civil Liberties Union, which brought suit against the policy in 2010, argues that secrecy surrounding the list and lack of any reasonable opportunity for plaintiffs to fight their placement on it violates their clients’ constitutional rights to due process.” [60850]

DailySignal.com reports, “Two years after activists for same-sex marriage obtained the confidential tax return and donor list of a national group opposed to redefining marriage, the Internal Revenue Service has admitted wrongdoing and agreed to settle the resulting lawsuit. The Daily Signal has learned that, under a consent judgment today, the IRS agreed to pay \$50,000 in damages to the National Organization for Marriage as a result of the unlawful release of the confidential information to a gay rights group, the Human Rights Campaign, that is NOM’s chief political rival. [An IRS official in the division Lois Lerner headed—or Lois Lerner herself—illegally provided the donor list to a gay activist in Boston named Matthew Meisel, who then passed it on to the Human Rights Campaign.] ‘Congress made the disclosure of confidential tax return information a serious matter for a reason,’ NOM Chairman John D. Eastman told The Daily Signal. ‘We’re delighted that the IRS has now been held accountable for the illegal disclosure of our list of major donors from our tax return.’” (During the 2012 presidential campaign, the Human Rights Campaign announced on its web site that Mitt Romney’s political committee had donated \$10,000 to the National Organization for Marriage. That donor information came from the IRS leak. Additionally, outgoing Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese was named a national co-chair of the Obama presidential re-election campaign. The IRS leak also led to the forced resignation of Mozilla co-founder Brendan Eich, because it revealed that he contributed \$1,000 to support California’s Proposition 8—a statewide referendum that called for limiting marriage to a man and a woman.) [31177, 45423, [57094, 57095, 57096, 57097, 57109, 57163, 57164, 57181, 57182, 57183, 57184, 57191, 57192, 57201, 57206, 57211, 57220, 57221, 57225, 57241, 57252, 57262, 60796, 60811, 60815, 60956, 60957, 60958]

In the Mississippi GOP primary runoff election, arguably senile, 76-year-old Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) squeaks by Tea Party challenger Chris McDaniel—with the help of heavily-courted Democrat votes, “buying votes with “walking around money,” reminding Democrats he supports the food stamp program, and suggesting the Tea Party is full of racists. (Mississippi “allows” crossover voting in primaries, mostly by not being able to enforce a law that prohibits it. The automated “robocalls” to black households likely convinced some voters that Cochran was a Democrat fighting an evil, racist Republicans named McDaniel.) According to *The New York Times*, “turnout increased by 92 percent in Jefferson County, the county where black voters represent the largest share of eligible voters in the country.” (How much Cochran’s victory cost him is not known.) McDaniel supporters allege voting irregularities and dirty politics. Barry Neyrey, chairman of the South Mississippi Tea Party on the Gulf Coast, states, “That is corruption, that is Washington corruption on full display and that is what Chris McDaniel was trying to fight, is trying to fight against, the corruption of Washington. ... It makes you want to quit being involved. I never believed a third party would work, maybe that’s



the only way to get rid of the corruption of Washington, the corruption of the Democratic Party, the corruption of the Republican Party. These people do not exist to serve the public, they exist to serve themselves and each other.” At NationalReview.com John Fund writes, “[T]he message was the antithesis of conservatism—that only an aging 76-year-old incumbent can bring home pork-barrel projects that largely benefit a business elite while the state’s voters are saddled with more federal debt.” (The message is also that ginning up the black vote can win an election. Cochran and the GOP establishment may be happy that the process worked in their favor in this instance, but it can just as easily be used against them. Cochran has just shown the Democrats how easy it can be to use scare tactics to defeat a Republican.) [60799, 60804, 60813, 60814, 60820, 60822, 60829, 60833, 60834, 60836, 60861, 60944, 61040]

McDaniel, who Cochran had labeled extreme, tells supporters, “I want to be very, very clear: There is nothing dangerous or extreme about wanting to balance a budget. There is nothing dangerous or extreme about defending the Constitution or the civil liberties therein. There is nothing strange at all about standing as people of faith for a country that we built, that we believe in. But there is something a bit strange, there is something a bit unusual, about a Republican primary that’s decided by liberal Democrats. ... So much for principle. I guess they [establishment Republicans] can take some consolation in the fact that they did something tonight by once again compromising, by once again reaching across the aisle, by once again abandoning the conservative movement. I would like to know which part of that strategy today our Republican friends endorse. I would like to know which part of that strategy today our statewide officials endorse. This is not the party of Reagan, but we’re not done fighting and when we’re done it will be. ... As you know today, folks, there were literally dozens of irregularities reported all across this state. You know why. You read the stories. You’re familiar with the problems that we have. Now it’s our job to make sure that the sanctity of the vote is upheld. Before this race ends, we have to be absolutely certain that the Republican primary was won by Republican voters. We will stand with courage, we will stand with judgment, we will stand with integrity. This is our fight, conservatives. This is necessary. We are not prone to surrender, we Mississippians. A strong and sturdy people we are, a brave people we are, a people that can still lead the conservative revival in this country. We will lead the resurgence. That begins right here in Mississippi.” According to Breitbart.com, “There were 24,889 votes cast in Hinds County in the runoff—17,927 were for Cochran and 6,962 were for McDaniel—but only 20,567 Republican voters are listed in Hinds County, according to the well-known Labels and Lists Voter Data Base. The extraordinarily high turnout in Hinds County is much more than what happened in Hinds County in the primary just a few weeks ago, when 16,640 total votes were cast—10,928 for Cochran and 5,621 for McDaniel.” [60822, 60827]

On CNN, Gloria Borger totally misinterprets the situation, telling Anderson Cooper, “If I were a potential Republican presidential candidate looking at what’s going on in the state of Mississippi, I’d have to say, ‘You know what? That Cochran is a conservative Republican. He managed to get out Democrats, many of them African-Americans, some moderate Democrats, and formed a coalition because they could cross over and vote for him in this Republican primary,’ which is kind of a quirk in this state. But if you look at

the coalition that he's established, and I'm a Republican who wants to broaden the tent of the Republican Party, I'd be looking at that and saying, 'You know, that's a very interesting group that he's put together,' and it's something that the Republican Party ought to consider as it heads into 2016." (First, Cochran is not a conservative; he is a big-spending supporter of big government. Second, he did not "form a coalition"—at least not a meaningful and lasting coalition. The black—and white—Democrats who voted for him in the primary run-off election are most certainly *not* going to vote for him on November 4. They were merely convinced by the Cochran team, and cooperative Democrat operatives, that the Tea Party is racist. It is absurd for Berger to suggest there is any "coalition." What Berger is really suggesting is that the Republican Party make itself a "Democrat-light" party—which is another way of saying she wants the GOP to commit political suicide.) [60862]

In the New York Democrat primary, 84-year-old Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) narrowly defeats challenger Adrianno Espaillat, thereby increasing the odds that he will die in office. (Rangel has been in Congress in 1971, when moviegoers were watching *The French Connection*, music fans were buying Three Dog Night's *Joy to the World*, Richard Nixon was in the White House, federal spending was about \$210 billion, a postage stamp cost six cents, and Intel introduced the microprocessor.) [60803]

On *The O'Reilly Factor*, Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, says, "If [Lois Lerner] were willing to proffer through her attorney that she would tell us something meaningful, disclose how these [IRS targeting] crimes were committed, how they sought to and who sought to go after conservative groups because of their values, then we could, and I would ...have a [committee] vote to grant her immunity. ...She has offered only that she is innocent and misunderstood. We've referred criminal charges from Congress because she's not misunderstood. We understood her pretty well." (Of course, Lerner has no incentive to testify because she believes Attorney General Eric Holder will not act on the contempt charges filed against her by Congress. Lerner is protecting Obama by refusing to testify, and Holder is protecting Obama by refusing to prosecute Lerner.) "Right now," says Issa, Lerner "doesn't fear the Justice Department of ...Obama and Eric Holder." At NationalReview.com former prosecutor Andrew C. McCarthy points out that while "Congress has *investigative authority* in connection with its important oversight function... What Congress does not have, however, is *prosecutorial authority*." Relying on the Attorney General to prosecute works only if that person has integrity—something sorely lacking in Eric Holder. McCarthy offers a suggestion: "So, Republicans: Impeach them now, worry about prosecuting them later ...and please stop whining as if you are powerless to do anything." (Congress has the power to impeach government officials, such as IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.) [60816, 60821]

On June 25 the U.S. Department of Commerce reports, "Real gross domestic product—the output of goods and services produced by labor and property located in the United States—decreased at an annual rate of 2.9 percent in the first quarter of 2014 according to the 'third' estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. [The decline is the greatest since the first quarter of 2009.] In the fourth quarter of 2013, real GDP increased

2.6 percent. ...Real GDP declined 2.9 percent in the first quarter, after increasing 2.6 percent in the fourth. This downturn in the percent change in real GDP primarily reflected a downturn in exports, a larger decrease in private inventory investment, a deceleration in PCE, and downturns in nonresidential fixed investment and in state and local government spending that were partly offset by an upturn in federal government spending.” HotAir.com’s Ed Morrissey observes, “This time the news is bad across the board. Exports dropped 8.9% in Q1, a huge drop from 2013, which wasn’t exactly spectacular either. Real final sales of domestic product dropped 1.3%, where in earlier estimates it had remained in positive territory. Business investment also fell... This comes as Barack Obama planned yet another ‘pivot’ to the economy, in the hopes of distracting from bad news in foreign policy and at the VA and IRS. The previously poor Q1 results already had the White House on the defensive, which they tried to brush off as weather-related and anomalous. Clearly, neither is the case. The economy has run aground on Obama’s own policies, and we’ll be lucky to hit positive growth at all this year with the bad Q1 number looming over everything. That calls into question all of Obama’s budget projections, which were based on irrationally sunny projections of economic growth this year and the next few years. We’ve been complaining about stagnation ever since the June 2009 technical recovery. Now we may look at stagnation with some nostalgia in the months ahead. If Q2 GDP ends up in negative territory, that’s a recession no matter what the weather looks like.” [60800, 60801, 60802, 60812, 60825, 60842, 60879, 60880]

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-MI), chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, tells an audience the failure of the Obama administration to recognize the threat of ISIS “is not an intelligence failure, it’s a policy failure. Not responding is a decision, not making a decision is a decision. It’s not like they didn’t get the same stuff [intelligence information] that we got. And some notion that if we don’t do anything really hard, that everything will be just fine, is absolutely—I think it’s a bit naive. It’s a bit politically self-serving, that you’re more concerned about what ratings you have at home than what threats happen overseas. ... We get all the raw intelligence. It was very clear to me that years ago, ISIL/ISIS was pooling up in a dangerous way—building training camps, recruiting, drawing in jihadists from around the world. We saw all of that happening. So some [notion] that we wouldn’t have seen this coming, means that you [the White House] weren’t paying attention to the intelligence that was afforded us.” Particularly troubling to Rogers is the terrorist recruitment of jihadists with passports from the United States or European countries: “That’s the most dangerous thing. You fly to Germany and you’re a German citizen and you’re flying to the United States, you don’t need a visa. That’s a problem. That’s a big problem for us.” [60919, 60920]

Obama asks Congress for \$500 million to train and equip “moderate” rebels in Syria. According to Reuters, “A White House statement said Syrian rebels would be ‘appropriately vetted’ before being given assistance, in what amounts to an effort to assuage concerns that some equipment provided to the Syrian opposition might ultimately fall into the hands of U.S. enemies.” (MinuteManNews.com suggests Obama’s request is meant to spread the blame to Congress if something goes wrong. He can then say, “Well, Congress agreed and authorized the spending. “Obama didn’t ask Congress

for authorization to invade Libya. He told Congress that he wouldn't ask for permission to bomb Iraq. The only reason Obama asks for something is to score political points or to cover his ass. In this case it's the latter because even Obama knows this is a terrible idea.") [60921, 60922, 60973]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) tells reporters he will file a lawsuit against Obama challenging White House abuse of executive powers. Boehner says, "This is not about impeachment, it's about him faithfully executing the laws of this country. ... My view is [that Obama] has not faithfully executed the laws. What we have seen clearly over the last five years is an effort to erode the power of the Legislative Branch." Boehner spokesman Michael Steel states, "[Obama] has a clear record of ignoring the American people's elected representatives and exceeding his constitutional authority, which has dangerous implications for both our system of government and our economy. The House has passed legislation to address this, but it has gone nowhere in the Democratic-controlled Senate, so we are examining other options." (The likelihood that a court would be willing to hear the case is close to zero. Even if a court were to rule against Obama, such a ruling would be meaningless because Obama would ignore it—just as he has ignored the U.S. Constitution.) [60806, 60807, 60819, 60837, 60892]

Boehner claims, "There is no one else who can challenge [Obama's] failure, and harm is being done to the general welfare and trust in faithful execution of our laws," and "There is no legislative remedy..." Both claims are nonsensical, as pointed out by Andrew C. McCarthy at NationalReview.com: "If no one is in a position to 'challenge [Obama's] failure' to follow the law, that is because no one has suffered a concrete personal injury that would provide the standing necessary for a court case—judges are not there to resolve power disputes between the political branches. There is an institution that 'can challenge [Obama's] failure' to execute the laws faithfully: It is the Congress. And there is a legislative remedy: Congress has the power to defund executive-branch activities and impeach lawless executive-branch officials, including [Obama] himself. ... Boehner's problem is not that Congress lacks a responsive arsenal. It is that he is afraid of the administration and press criticism attendant to using it. That's a political problem, not a legal problem." (The lawsuit is intended by Boehner to get conservatives to stop criticizing him for being gutless and refusing to do anything of consequence to stop Obama.) [60806, 60807, 60819, 60837, 60892]

Although Boehner's lawsuit will likely not get far, liberal law professor Jonathan Turley tells MSNBC the case has some validity. Turley says, "I think there is a case against [Obama] for exceeding his authority. I happen to agree with [Obama] on many of his priorities and policies, but as I testified in Congress I think he has crossed the constitutional line." Host Steve Kornacki asks, "So where has he crossed it? Like, what specific issue has he crossed it on?" Turley responds, "Well, when [Obama] went to Congress and said that he was going to go it alone, it obviously raises a concern, because there's no license for going it alone in our system." According to DailyCaller.com, "The law professor noted the unprecedented changes made to the Affordable Care Act—including the shift of nearly half a billion dollars to a purpose unspecified by Congress—as well as his deliberate disregard of existing law on immigration and the effective

rewriting of other laws.” Turley observes, “So the first hurdle [for Boehner] is going to be that standing issue, and it’s a high one. But it’s not necessarily insurmountable. The court has never truly closed the door on what’s called ‘legislative standing,’ particularly if it’s based on the institution—if the House of Representatives empowers the group that litigates this case.” (The courts normally shy away from disputes between Congress and the White House, believing they are issues that should be resolved via elections. But if the courts believe Obama has seriously exceeded the power granted to him by the U.S. Constitution, there is a possibility—however slight—that the lawsuit may be heard.) [60875]

In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that police cannot examine a person’s cell phone data without a warrant. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. writes, “The fact that technology now allows an individual to carry such information in his hand does not make the information any less worthy of the protection for which the Founders fought. Our answer to the question of what police must do before searching a cell phone seized incident to an arrest is accordingly simple—get a warrant.” According to *WashingtonTimes.com*, “The chief justice cited court precedent that found a difference between asking someone to turn out his pockets versus ‘ransacking his house for everything which may incriminate him’—and the court found that a cellphone falls into that second category.” [60835, 60843, 60873]

On *The Daily Rundown*, NBC’s Chuck Todd defends the Obama administration and suggests the IRS scandal is not really a scandal because he wonders whether “there are any actual real victims’ of the IRS targeting of conservative groups.” (Todd has apparently never heard of Catherine Engelbrecht, who formed the groups True the Vote and King Street Patriots. According to *Breitbart.com*, “True the Vote applied to the IRS for their 501(c3) non-profit status in July 2010, and almost immediately their problems began. Within two years, multiple federal agencies, along with an EPA-affiliated Texas state agency, began auditing True the Vote and its founders, visiting their group, their businesses, and asking questions of people who knew them. The IRS was not the only governmental agency involved.” Engelbrecht states, “We applied for nonprofit C-3 status early in 2010. Since that time the IRS has run us through a gauntlet of analysts and hundreds of questions over and over again. They’ve requested to see each and every tweet I’ve ever tweeted or Facebook post I’ve ever posted. They also asked to know every place I’ve ever spoken since our inception and to whom, and everywhere I intend to speak in the future.” The IRS and OSHA audited an Engelbrecht family business and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms demanded to see her family’s firearms. According to *Breitbart*, “The Democratic Party of Texas filed a lawsuit against her, as did an ACORN affiliated group. Both the FBI and the BATF continued to poke around her life, the lives of people in her Tea Party group, and her businesses.” Engelbrecht says, “This is what the beginning of tyranny looks like. My family and I have lived with great concern that we would be subject to even greater government abuses if we were vocal about what they were doing to us because of our political views and our efforts to increase governmental accountability. We are now convinced the only way to protect ourselves from our government is to speak out and bring our story straight to the American people. If such politically-motivated governmental abuses of power can

happen to us, they can happen to anyone.” An example of an IRS letter that makes outrageous demands of an applicant can be found at Gardner.House.Gov. [44852, 44903, 45091, 45092, 60885, 60886, 60911]

At TheBlaze.com, Benjamin Weingarten lists some revelations from Edward Klein’s book, *Blood Feud*. Among his conclusions: “1. Valerie Jarrett runs the White House. ...Jarrett is so close to the Obamas that she reportedly ‘moved permanently into a room in the family’s private quarters, referred to by the White House staff as ‘the Residence.’ ...Jarrett apparently would help run any Michelle Obama campaign, and has repeatedly pushed her to seriously consider such a run for the Senate seat held by [Republican] Mark Kirk in Illinois. As for the here and now, Jarrett has power that reaches ‘into the remotest corners of the federal government,’ and also plays a key role in promulgating American foreign policy... 2. Hillary attempted to physically intimidate Obama as Secretary of State. Klein writes that Michelle Obama and Valerie Jarrett both opposed Hillary Clinton’s nomination as Secretary of State. ...‘Once, according to a source close to Valerie Jarrett, Hillary jabbed Obama’s chest with her finger to make a point.’ ...4. America’s foreign policy is run by ...David Axelrod, John Brennan and Valerie Jarrett?” (Axelrod is nothing more than a political strategist, not a foreign policy expert; Jarrett’s experience includes being a slumlord in Chicago; and CIA director Brennan, allegedly a closet Muslim, ran the security company that illegally accessed Obama’s passport records during the 2008 campaign.) “...5. The Obamas plan to build a political dynasty. ...10. Bill Clinton is penning political playbooks for Hillary in the event he is indisposed during the 2016 presidential race; if his health truly fails, Bill wants Hillary to capitalize on his funeral.” [60844]

Testifying before Congress, Environmental Protection Agency head Gina McCarthy downplays the fact that new regulations will make electricity more expensive, saying, “It’s actually about providing [consumers with] more opportunities to reduce waste.” In other words, faced with higher utility bills, Americans will be forced to better insulate their homes, etc. (Artificially doubling the cost of gasoline might prompt many Americans to save money by canceling summer vacations as well, but that does not mean raising the price is a good idea.) McCarthy has also made the absurd claim that the strict, anti-coal regulations will result in “up to 100,000 [fewer] asthma attacks and 2,100 [fewer] heart attacks,” because the air will be cleaner. (She fails to understand that the rising cost of electricity may actually result in more deaths, as Americans do without air conditioning and heat because they cannot afford to pay their utility bills. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) notes on the floor of the Senate that coal saved lives when the nation suffered an extreme cold spell at the beginning of 2014: “If our reliability had failed during the polar vortex, there’s no question people would have died. During that time, coal provided 92 percent of the increase in energy needed to survive the disaster. If coal was not able to go online to back up the grid—92 percent of it was driven by coal because it is dependable, reliable and is affordable.”) [60907, 60917]

Emails released by the House Ways and Means Committee show that former IRS official Lois Lerner tried, with no justification, to investigate Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA). Katie Pavlich reports at Townhall.com writes, “Lerner mistakenly received an invitation

to speak at event that was intended for Grassley, opened it, didn't forward it to the proper recipient (Grassley) and then asked that he be referred for to the IRS for examination (audit). 'We have seen a lot of unbelievable things in this investigation, but the fact that Lois Lerner attempted to initiate an apparently baseless IRS examination against a sitting Republican United States Senator is shocking,' Chairman Dave Camp [R-MI] said in a statement. 'At every turn, Lerner was using the IRS as a tool for political purposes in defiance of taxpayer rights. We may never know the full extent of the abuse since the IRS conveniently lost two years of Lerner emails, not to mention those of other key figures in this scandal. The fact that DOJ refuses to investigate the IRS's abuses or appoint a special counsel demonstrates, yet again, this Administration's unwillingness to uphold the rule of law.'" [60845, 60846, 60853, 60876, 60881, 60883, 60884, 60894, 61125]

"An email dated December 4, 2012 from Lois Lerner to Matthew Giuliano shows Lerner questioning what she called possible 'inappropriate' offerings from a group to 'pay for his [Grassley's] wife.' Lerner came to this conclusion after opening mail that didn't belong to her in the first place. 'Perhaps refer him to exam?' Lerner wrote. In response, IRS official Matthew Giuliano shot down Lerner's idea saying, 'Not sure we should send to exam. I think the offer to pay for Grassley's wife is income to Grassley, and not prohibited on its face.'" If Grassley was asked to speak at an event and the event's organizers offered to host Mrs. Grassley as well, no law would have been broken if Grassley accepted the offer and reported the paid expenses as taxable income. The IRS could hardly go after Grassley for something he did not do and might never have done—especially if he never even received the invitation. (In fact, Grassley never attended the event.) Lerner was clearly abusing her power—and Giuliano properly called her on it. (Lerner's attempt to harass Grassley was likely retaliation for his successful move to block Obama's appointment of Mary L. Smith to head the Department of Justice's tax division—a position that Grassley believed should go to a career official and not a political appointee. According to DailyCaller.com, "Grassley's opposition to Smith infuriated top officials at the IRS.) [60845, 60846, 60853, 60876, 60881, 60883, 60884, 60894, 61125]

It is reported that some of Lois Lerner's email were sent not from her office PC but from her Blackberry device. Copies of those emails would be available as they would not have been affected by her alleged PC crash. [60847, 60848, 60849]

Sales of Hillary Clinton's book, *Hard Choices*, plummet from 85,000 in the first week to 48,000 in the second. (The figures do not include electronic books sales.) [60908, 60909]

NewsmaxWorld.com reports, "Al-Qaida's Syrian franchise formed a local alliance Wednesday with the powerful jihadists leading a major offensive in Iraq, as the first of up to 300 U.S. military advisers moved to Baghdad. ... The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said the Al-Nusra Front, al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, on Wednesday made a local pledge of loyalty at the Iraq-Syria border to ISIL, a group that it has battled for months. The move clears the way for a joint push by the two groups to take control of both sides of the frontier between eastern Syria and western Iraq, and removes a threat to ISIL." [60854]

Pamela Geller, noting reports that U.S. citizens have gone to the Middle East to engage in jihad and may return to do the same in America, writes, “The Obama administration says that they were ‘caught off guard.’ John Kerry has repeatedly said that ‘no one expected’ what happened in Iraq. So they got Syria wrong. They got Libya wrong, They got Egypt wrong. They got the Hamas-Fatah unity government wrong. They got Afghanistan wrong. They got Boko Haram wrong. And it’s safe to say that the Obama administration got it wrong in the homeland, especially when they scrubbed jihad and Islam from counter-terror training material. And Obama’s DoJ [Department of Justice] refused to prosecute Muslim Brotherhood groups (like CAIR, ISNA, ICNA, MSA, etc.) named as co-conspirators in the largest terrorist funding trial in our nation’s history. So it’s safe to say that the Obama administration got it wrong importing whole Muslim communities.” [60866, 60867]

Meanwhile, ABC News reports that terrorists “are trying to build bombs that are virtually undetectable to airport security. One official now calls Syria the new university for terrorism training and bomb making. Sources say the radicals are trying to make non-metallic bombs that could be hidden in everyday objects, molded into toothpaste, woven into clothing, or placed in cosmetics. The fear among intelligence officials is that one of the thousands of foreign fighters in Syria, many of them from Western countries [and some with U.S. passports], could try to smuggle one of these new generation bombs onto a plane headed for Europe or the U.S.” [60900, 60901]

The city of Escondido, California’s Planning Commission votes unanimously to reject a plan by the Obama administration to house as many as 100 illegal immigrant children in an area facility. Ryan Lovelace reports at NationalReview.com, “Several hundred people filled the chamber hall to make their voices heard, and people at the meeting say the overwhelming majority opposed the application. The standing-room-only crowd spilled over into an adjacent room and nearby hallways, and onto the grass outside.” Mayor Sam Abed, who emigrated to the United States from Lebanon, states, “The Republican wants cheap labor and the Democrat wants more votes. We want people to come and work hard and realize the American Dream and contribute to the success of America versus just crossing the border and depending on government for help. If you are an immigrant and your loyalty continues to be somewhere else, I don’t think it’s a good idea to come to America.” [60893, 61037]

On June 26 a Mexican military helicopter crosses about eight miles into Arizona and its troops fire on U.S. Border Patrol agents. KVOA.com reports, “It happened in the early morning hours Thursday, west of the San Miguel Gate on the Tohono O’Odham Nation. The chopper fired on the agents but missed them. The chopper then flew back into Mexico.” National Border Patrol Council Spokesman Shawn Moran tells Townhall.com, “Mexican military are oftentimes working hand in glove with the cartels. The Mexican military has routinely crossed the border in areas that Border Patrol agents are actively tracking or seizing drug loads. Inevitably the Mexican military claim they got lost, that the border was not clearly marked, or in extreme cases fire on agents to cover their retreat. Ajo, Arizona Border Patrol agents have had several incidents like this over the



years where they have taken shots from the Mexican military. The [drug] cartels' resources are nearly limitless and it would not surprise me if they 'rented' the cover by the Mexican military helicopter in this incident." [60928, 60929, 60931, 60964]

MiamiHerald.com writes, "Iraq's dire situation has gone from bad dream to nightmare in two weeks of fighting that have seen Sunni Muslim gunmen assert control over a growing area, including, Kurdish officials said Tuesday, at least two towns that lie on a crucial supply route linking Baghdad, the capital, with the mostly Shiite Muslim south. The fall of towns in an area that American troops knew as the 'triangle of death' because of its propensity for violence provided an ominous signal, the Kurdish officials said, that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and its Sunni allies are working to encircle Baghdad. 'The picture is no longer scary,' said Shafin Dizayee, the spokesman for the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government in Irbil. 'It has become close to a nightmare scenario, where we see Daash expanding and taking control of its borders.' 'Daash' is the Arabic acronym for ISIS. Another Kurdish official, Jabbar Yawar, the spokesman for the Kurdish peshmerga militia, said ISIS fighters apparently had seized control of the towns of Iskandariya and Mahmoudiya, south of Baghdad, and were reported in some instances to be just six miles from Baghdad." [60868]

The Defense Department confirms that there are about 500 U.S. troops in Iraq, not the 300 Obama said he was sending. Pentagon spokesman Steve Warren tells reporters, "Some of them are conducting an advise and assist mission, some are manning the joint operations center, some of them are part of the [Office of Security Cooperation] and yet others are Marines that are part of a [fleet anti-terrorism security team] platoon." [60988]

In *McCullen v. Coakley*, the Supreme Court rules unanimously against so-called "buffer zones" on public space around abortion centers in Massachusetts where free speech has been prohibited. (Leftists predictably shriek that the world is ending. Activist Sandra Fluke calls the decision "One more attack on women's rights"—apparently not comprehending that women also have the right to protest abortions.) [60877, 60910, 60952]

The Supreme Court also rules unanimously, in *Noel Canning v. NLRB*, that Obama's 2012 "recess" appointments of members to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)—Terence Flynn, Richard Griffin and Sharon Block—are invalid because the Senate was not, in fact, in recess. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) observes, "Not every case in which [Obama] has exceeded his authority has made it all the way to the Supreme Court. The fact that his track record is as bad as it is in the Supreme Court ... is yet another indication of the fact that we've got a [person] who is playing fast and loose with the Constitution." Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) states, "This marks the twelfth time since January 2012 that the Supreme Court has unanimously rejected the Obama administration's calls for greater federal executive power." At NationalReview.com Joel Gehrke notes an April 2013 statement by Cruz: "If the Department of Justice had won these cases, the federal government would be able to electronically track all of our movements, fine us without a fair hearing, dictate who churches choose as ministers, displace state laws based on the president's whims, bring debilitating lawsuits against

individuals based on events that occurred years ago, and destroy a person's private property without just compensation. When ...Obama's own Supreme Court nominees join their colleagues in unanimously rejecting the administration's call for broader federal power nine times in 18 months, the inescapable conclusion is that the Obama administration's view of federal power knows virtually no bounds." [60882, 60895, 60896, 60906, 60913, 60923, 60997]

CNN's Carol Costello struggles to accept the Court decision, saying to network legal analyst, Jeffrey Toobin, "So as usual, Jeffrey Toobin, this is a more complicated decision. It's just not black and white. 'Cause I guess you could say [Obama] lost... but did he?" Toobin replies, "Yeah, he lost. There's no doubt." Costello tries again: "Well he lost in this particular case, but overall, right?" Toobin: "Well, no, he lost overall. I mean, there's no question this is a win for Congress and a defeat for ...Obama." [60916, 61093]

Georgetown University law professor Jonathan Turley, a liberal writes, "The decision is an important victory for the separation of powers. It will also further magnify the growing controversy over ...Obama's unilateral actions in various areas—part of his pledge to circumvention [sic; circumvent] Congress to get things done. I recently testified... and wrote a column on ...Obama's increasing circumvention of Congress in negating or suspending U.S. laws. Obama has repeatedly suspended provisions of the health care law and made unilateral changes that were previously rejected by Congress. He has also moved hundreds of millions [of dollars] from one part of the Act to other parts without congressional approval. Now, his administration is reportedly changing key provisions of the ACA [Affordable Care Act] to potentially make billions of dollars available to the insurance industry in a move that was never debated, let alone approved, by the legislative branch. I ran another column this month listing such incidents of executive over-reach that ideally would have included this potentially huge commitment under Obama's claimed discretionary authority. The Court finally defended the lines of separation in one of these disputes. The Court specifically rules out the type of 'going it alone' approach of [Obama] in the use of recess appointments and other Executive powers." [60889, 60890]

The Supreme Court ruling will please more than a few employers across the country because it may mean the rollback or end of many absurd NLRB rulings that have caused them nothing but headaches. According to FoxNews.com, "Over the last year, the National Labor Relations Board has made 341 rulings, including some that have prompted critics to call it the most activist, pro-worker board ever. And now that a federal court has ruled the current board was put together with unconstitutional recess appointments by ...Obama, those holdings are suddenly in question. 'At no time have I seen an NLRB more aggressively overrule long-standing precedent,' said Mark Carter, a West Virginia-based labor law attorney with nearly three decades of experience. 'They have taken 'change' to an aggressive level beyond anything I've seen.'" [60905]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, "National Labor Relations Board Chairman Mark Gaston Pearce said Thursday the federal labor-law enforcement agency was still trying to determine the impact of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Noel Canning v. NLRB*. Pearce

issued a terse statement, which said in part: ‘We are analyzing the impact that the Court’s decision has on Board cases in which the January 2012 recess appointees participated. ...The Agency is committed to resolving any cases affected by today’s decision as expeditiously as possible.’ The court ruled unanimously that the board lacked a proper quorum from January 2012 through January 2013, retroactively invalidating all of the board’s actions during that period.” [60915]

The U.S. Army states there is no evidence that Bowe Bergdahl engaged in any misconduct during his five years in captivity. (The Army may have missed the August 22, 2010 story in the *Daily Mail*: “A captured American soldier is training Taliban fighters bomb-making and ambush skills, according to one of his captors and Afghan intelligence officials. Private Bowe Bergdahl disappeared in June 2009 while based in eastern Afghanistan and is thought to be the only U.S. serviceman in captivity. The 24-year-old has converted to Islam and now has the Muslim name Abdullah, one of his captors told The Sunday Times. A Taliban deputy district commander in Paktika, who called himself Haji Nadeem, told the newspaper that Bergdahl taught him how to dismantle a mobile phone and turn it into a remote control for a roadside bomb. Nadeem claimed he also received basic ambush training from the U.S. soldier.”) [59421, 60887, 60888]

Bill Pascoe, a political consultant for Independent Women’s Voice, states that Tea Party candidate Chris McDaniel may be able to force a new election if he can prove that people illegally voted in both the Democrat primary and the Republican run-off election. According to DailyCaller.com, “McDaniel took the first step June 26 to reverse his defeat by asking the Mississippi GOP Chairman Joe Nosef to help McDaniel’s volunteers inspect the so-called ‘pollbooks.’ Those books record who cast a ballot in the June 3 Democratic primary and in the June 24 Republican primary runoff. If the number of voters have cast ballots in both elections is greater than [Senator Thad] Cochran’s margin of victory, Pascoe said, the court will schedule a third election. ...Six-term Cochran won the June 24 runoff, by 50.8 to 49.2 percent, with a margin of less than 7,000 votes among 375,000 votes cast. ...A June 24 survey showed that McDaniel—a small-government reformer—got only 11.8 percent of votes from people who describe themselves as Democrats, while Cochran got 70.6 percent of the self-declared Democrats’ votes. ...County-level data shows that turnout in mostly-black counties jumped up 40 percent on June 24. In mostly-white counties, turnout rose only 16 percent.” On *Hannity*, McDaniel tells Sean Hannity, “We’re looking into the issue of whether or not people who participated in the June 3rd Democratic primary crossed over into the Republican primary this Tuesday night, and we’ve already found more than 1,000 examples of that in one county alone.” (Several counties are playing hardball, illegally denying McDaniel volunteers access to voter rolls.) [60932, 60934, 60945, 61007, 61008, 61033, 61035]

Meanwhile, Republican establishment operatives in Virginia’s 7th Congressional District vote to transfer district campaign funds to state and national committees, effectively bleeding dry the campaign coffers of David Brat—who defeated Congressman Eric Cantor (R-VA) in the primary election. (In other words, the vindictive Cantor and his

RINO pals would rather Brat lose to the Democrat in November than have him use any district campaign cash to win the Congressional seat.) [60940]

CBS.com reports, “The anti-amnesty group, Americans for Legal Immigration PAC (ALIPAC), is calling on Americans to mail their ‘gently used underwear’ to ...Obama and House Speaker John Boehner in response to a government request for new briefs for the recent surge of illegal immigrants being held by border patrol. ALIPAC is responding to a Department of Homeland Security solicitation seeking thousands of pairs of ‘White 100% Cotton Men’s Briefs’—ranging from medium sizes to hundreds of 6X-large pairs—to meet the basic clothing needs of thousands of immigrants detained by Immigration & Customs Enforcement. ‘Obama and Boehner have proven once and for all that their talk of passing immigration reform amnesty, instead of enforcing America’s existing border and immigration laws, only brings more unwanted and destructive illegal immigration!’ said William Gheen, president of ALIPAC, on the group’s website. ‘Instead of using our tax money to buy illegals 42,000 pairs of new underwear, we would like to send the illegals and DC politicians a message by mailing them our used underwear, and some of our pairs are in really bad shape due to the bad economy and all of the jobs illegal immigrants are taking from Americans.’ ...The message concludes: ‘Americans who want to help the illegals and Americans who are upset that John Boehner and Barack Obama are throwing the future for American children under the bus along with their Oaths of Office, the US Constitution, the outcome of our elections, and the current laws of Congress, are encouraged to mail their used underwear to Barack Obama at The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500, and John Boehner at Office of the Speaker, H-232 The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515.’” [60914]

Senate Democrats block GOP-proposed legislation that would require employers to verify the legal status of immigrant job applicants and deny child tax credits for illegal immigrant families. (More than \$4 billion per year in such tax credits are doled out to illegal immigrants.) [60918]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells MSNBC’s Chuck Todd that Obama may act without the consent of Congress if it does not pass illegal immigrant amnesty legislation. Earnest says, “[W]e’re not just going to sit around and wait interminably for Congress. We’ve been waiting a year already. [Obama] has tasked his Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson with reviewing what options are available to [Obama], what is at his disposal using his executive authority to try to address some of the problems that have been created by our broken immigration system.” (There is arguably little Obama can do that is meaningful that would not also be an illegal action on his part. But he may not care, assuming he is immune to impeachment because the Democrats control the Senate and the mainstream media supports him.) Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) says, “We’re not bluffing by setting a legislative deadline for them [House Republicans] to act. Their first job is to govern, and in the absence of governing, then you see executive actions.” (Menendez once employed an illegal immigrant sex offender, Abraham Sanchez Zavaleta, in his Senate office. The Obama administration ordered officials to delay the arrest of Zavaleta until after the November 2012 election. Also in

2012, two women in the Dominican Republic claimed that Menendez offered them \$500 for sex at wealthy campaign donor Salomon Melgen's Casa de Campo resort, and then paid them only \$100.) [39548, 39549, 39550, 39556, 39558, 39592, 39802, 40005, 40803, 40821, 41608, 41609, 42013, 60924, 60925, 60933]

“Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) says, “I don't know how much more time he thinks he needs, but I hope that Speaker [John] Boehner [R-OH] will speak up today. And if he does not, [Obama] will borrow the power that is needed to solve the problems of immigration.” (Durbin does not explain what he means by Obama “will borrow the power”—or where he found authority for it in the U.S. Constitution.) Boehner responds, “[Obama's] making this harder and harder every day for us to try to deal with this in a responsible way. We've got a humanitarian disaster on the border. Most of it, at [Obama's] own making, in my opinion, and so it makes our jobs much more difficult because of the actions he's taken or not taken with regard to the border.” (The Democrats know that no “comprehensive” immigration reform legislation will not pass the House in 2012. Their strategy is to push the issue as a means of suggesting to voters that the Republicans are anti-Hispanic.) [60924, 60925, 60933, 60949]

After meeting with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Secretary of State John Kerry says, “[On] Ukraine, we are in full agreement that it is critical for Russia to show in the next hours—literally—that they are moving to help disarm the separatists, to encourage them to disarm, to call on them to lay down their weapons and begin to become part of a legitimate political process.” (A few hours later, a State Department official tells reporters not to take Kerry's use of the word “literally” literally: “I think he was making a point that, as quickly as possible, the armed separatists should put down their arms and the Russians should play a role in that, I think he was making a point about urgency. It wasn't—it shouldn't be taken literally, but making a point about urgency, as he referenced yesterday, right, about steps that they could take to show the Europeans, to show the United States that they're serious about the peace process.”) [60942]

Campaigning for his agenda in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Obama whines that his opponents are using “phony scandals” to attack him. “[S]ometimes the news that's being reported on is really important. I mean, what's happening in Iraq is relevant. We got [sic; have] to pay attention to the threats that are, that are emanating from the, the chaos in the Middle East... But sometimes, the news that's coming off is just, these are just Washington fights. They're fabricated issues, they're phony scandals that are generated. It's all geared towards the next election or ginning up a base. It's not on the level. And that must feel frustrating, and it makes people cynical, and it makes people turned off from the idea that anything can get done.” (Obama does not explain how Republicans were able to destroy Lois Lerner's emails in an effort to discredit his administration, or how they managed to force the GDO to decline by 2.9 percent to make him look like a failure.) [60939, 60941, 60943]

In a long and rambling “speech” to the crowd of supporters, Obama says, “I've been really looking forward to, to getting out of D.C. Our agenda's still a little loose. You

know, I might pop in for some ice cream or visit a small business. I don't know, I'm just going to make it up as I go along. ...And I, I'm feeling super loose today. So, so you don't know what I might do. You don't know what I might do. Who knows? ...You're the reason I ran for office. You're, no, no, I'm not looking for applause. I want to make this point. I grew up not in tough circumstances but, you know, I was [one of] you guys. You know, somebody out here is going through what my mom went through. Somebody out here is going through what my grandma went through. Somebody out here is going through what Michelle and I went through when we were first married and our kids were first born. It's not like I forget." [60943, 60970]

According to DailyCaller.com, at an evening fundraiser, Obama tells of Rebekeh Erler, a Minnesota woman he met whose family has been going through some difficult times because her carpenter husband lost his job as a result of the housing industry collapse. He was then injured on another job, while she amassed \$12,000 in debt from education loans. Obama states, "I told her this. I said, 'You may not hear it because the press will not report it—the only reason I'm in politics is because of you. When I see you, I'm reminded of when Michelle and I were starting off early on, and Michelle calling me in tears because we had just lost the nanny and we had no idea whether we were going to be able to replace her with somebody.'" (Only days after Hillary Clinton whined that she and her husband were "dead broke" when they left the White House, Obama should know better than to compare the loss of his children's nanny to the plight of a desperate family enduring injuries and debt. It is worth noting that while Obama was willing to meet with a Minnesota woman whose family is having financial difficulties, he has refused to meet with the mother of Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi—who languishes in a Mexican prison because he took a wrong turn at the border.) [60950, 60965, 60970, 61054]

ABC's George Stephanopoulos asks Obama, "There's a humanitarian crisis on the border. Some of your critics have said you need to speak out more directly to the people of Central America and say, don't come. If you come, you will be deported." Obama replies, "We actually, we've done that. The problem is that, under current law, once the kids come across the border, there's a system in which we're supposed to process them, take care of them, until we can send them back. ...[O]ur message absolutely is don't send your children unaccompanied on trains or through a bunch of smugglers. That is our direct message to families in Central America. Do not send your children to the borders. If they do make it, they'll get sent back. More importantly, they may not make it." (Obama is lying. Most of the children will not be sent back. They will be sent by his administration to live with their immigrant—illegal or legal—relatives who already reside in the United States. Even before the current border crisis, the government had a backlog of tens of thousands of potential deportation cases. Since Obama essentially announced in 2012 that he would not deport children, the numbers crossing the border have increased dramatically. In 2009 there were a reported 6,089 unaccompanied alien minors; in 2010, 7,383; in 2011, 6,560; in 2012, 13,623; in 2013, 24,658; 90,166 are anticipated in 2014, and 142,000 in 2015. The crisis was intentionally created by Obama. His "solution" will have nothing to do with making the border more secure. It will

involve granting amnesty to illegal immigrants already in the United States.) [60936, 60953, 60955]

On *On the Record*, Charles Krauthammer gives Greta Van Susteren his opinion on the Supreme Court's decision in *Noel Canning v. NLRB*: "I think he [Obama] knows he's way beyond the bounds. No one can read this decision and not know that there was a major abuse of power, but I don't think he cares. He's in his second term, he's not running again, they will never impeach him. ...He has an ideological agenda that he wants to enact. ...The worst part about it is that he doesn't care about the Constitution. There will be presidents after him and if he gets away with all of this overreach, creating laws, rewriting laws, ignoring laws it will be a terrible defeat for the country and for the rule of law. And I think that's the worst part of this. If this were a Republican he'd be impeached now over all of these abuses." [60930]

On June 27 Obama issues a Ramadan message: "On behalf of the American people, Michelle and I extend our best wishes to Muslim communities here in the United States and around the world on the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan. A time for self-reflection and devotion through prayer and fasting, Ramadan is also an occasion when Muslims around the world reaffirm their commitment to helping the less fortunate, including those struggling because of economic hardship and inequality. Here in the United States, we are grateful to the many Muslim American organizations, individuals, and businesses that are devoted to creating opportunity for all by working to reduce income inequality and poverty, not only through their charitable efforts, but also through their initiatives to empower students, workers and families with the education, skills and health care they deserve. Ramadan also reminds us of our shared responsibility to treat others as we wish to be treated ourselves and the basic principles that bind people of different faiths together: a yearning for peace, justice, and equality. At a moment when too many people around the world continue to suffer from senseless conflict and violence, this sacred time reminds us of our common obligations to pursue justice and peace and to uphold the dignity of every human being. As I've done every year... I look forward to welcoming Muslim Americans from across the United States to the White House for an iftar dinner. It will be another opportunity for me to convey America's appreciation for the contributions of Muslim Americans to our country and to wish Muslims around the world a month blessed with the joys of family, community, peace and understanding. Ramadan Kareem."

Townhall.com's Daniel Doherty reports that legislation introduced by Congressmen Louie Gohmert (R-TX) and Bill Flores (R-TX) "would set aside funds for a \$1 million cash prize to anyone or any entity that can furnish Congress with Lois Lerner's 'missing' emails. What's more, the bill also stipulates that the government would pay \$500,000 to any person or party that provides information to prosecutors that would be admissible in a court of law. The best part? The reward itself would be paid for with funds from the IRS' own budget. The Identify and Recover Sent E-mails (IRS) Act (H.R. 4958) is already making its way through the federal legislature." Gohmert states, "It seems that each time the IRS has evidence that will either prove with certainty its guilt or innocence, the evidence disappears... It is time the IRS either comes clean, or has a special prosecutor

to clean it up. This bill should help in the interim.” Flores states, “I find it very hard to believe that the emails from Lois Lerner are lost and unrecoverable. It is very convenient that the IRS is unable to turn over any of the communications from the central figure responsible for the inappropriate targeting of conservative groups. We will not sit idly by as the IRS continues to work to cover up its blatant abuse of government power. Lois Lerner’s involvement in the planning and execution of beliefs-based IRS targeting can only stay hidden for so long. By providing these incentives we can get people to reveal the hidden truths behind this egregious cover up. It is time to hold the IRS’ feet to the fire and for them to come clean about Lois Lerner’s involvement. I remain committed to uncovering the truth and ensuring that all federal agencies are working to serve the American public with integrity and fairness.” (Some might argue that Obama operatives have already paid someone a lot of money to destroy the emails. Of course, even if the bill passes in the House, the Democrat-controlled Senate will let it die. But the proposal may create an incentive for someone like Donald Trump to offer his own reward.) [60948]

Obama holds what DailyCaller.com calls “a demoralizing pity party,” in which he tells supporters at an event in Minnesota that Republicans “don’t do anything except block me and call me names. ...If we make some basic changes, we can create more jobs and lift more incomes and strengthen the middle class... I know it drives you nuts that Washington isn’t doing it. It drives me nuts. ...It’s easy to be cynical; in fact, these days it’s kind of trendy. ...Sometimes when I get stymied [in Washington] you’d think... maybe it’s just too tough, maybe things won’t change. And I get that frustration. And the critics and the cynics in Washington, they’ve written me off more times than I can count. ...What we’re fighting for every day, is designed not to solve every problem, but to help just a little bit. ...I ran for office to make sure that anybody who is working hard to meet their dreams has somebody in Washington that [sic; who] is listening. I’m always going to keep listening, and I’m always going to keep fighting. Your cares and your concerns are my own, and your hopes for your kids and your grandkids are my own... I am not going to get cynical; I’m staying hopeful, and I hope you do too.” [60951, 60968, 61006]

*The Obama Timeline* believes Obama is in need of psychological counseling. His comments would be viewed as alarming if they came from a CEO; coming from the person who occupies the Oval Office, they are alarming. Obama’s skills are essentially limited to what he learned as a community activist. He knows how to rile up a crowd and make them focus their anger on other people or entities (Mitt Romney, Republicans, the wealthy, the successful, banks, and corporations). He also knows how to shift blame and act with vindictiveness. *Beyond that, he has few talents.* As a result, when he fails at something he is almost completely devoid of coping mechanisms. He grew up never having to be responsible for anything significant and never being held accountable for his own failures. Thus, when he *does* fail, he must necessarily make it someone else’s fault (the GOP, the media, the polls, the Israelis, the Supreme Court, etc.)—because he cannot accept in his own mind that he has failed, and wouldn’t know how to deal with it if he admitted that he failed. The media and his fellow Democrats are finally tiring of covering for him, and that is making Obama desperate. He is a child who never grew up. When he



finally has a mental breakdown, it may be very big and embarrassing—or even dangerous.

Obama also says, “By every economic measure, we are better off now than we were when I took office. You wouldn’t know it, but we are. ...Over the past 51 months, our businesses have created 9.4 million new jobs. Our housing market is rebounding. Our auto industry is booming. Our manufacturing sector is adding jobs for the first time since the 1990s. We’ve made our tax code fairer. We’ve cut our deficits by more than half. More than 8 million Americans have signed up for private insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act.” (At WashingtonTimes.com Joseph Curl later issues the necessary corrections to Obama’s claims: “In 2007, there were 146.6 million Americans employed. Last month, there were 145.7 million people in the workforce. ...The labor force participation rate dropped more than 3 percentage points, which equals nearly 8 million people. Now, just 62.8 percent of working-age Americans hold jobs, a dismal number that’s the lowest in 35 years. ...While his minions now cooking the books claim the [unemployment] rate is 6.3 percent, millions of Americans have simply fallen out of the workforce—disappeared. The number of ‘underemployed’—those who want to work full time but can find only a part-time job—is 16 percent, Gallup says. Meanwhile, home sales nationwide have fallen 5 percent versus last year, according to the National Association of Realtors. ...The number of employees in the auto industry, while rising, is still below those in 2008. That year, there were 880,000 workers in auto manufacturing; today, there are 850,000. ...‘More than 8 million Americans have signed up for private insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act.’ While no administration official has ever provided proof of that claim, millions were forced out of their insurance plans.” Of course, Obama’s claim that he cut the deficit “by more than half” conveniently ignores the fact that he first tripled it.) [61034]

According to WatchDog.org, “Veterans Administration hospitals have spent at least \$420 million on solar panels and windmills while vets wait months—or even lay dying—to see a doctor. ...A whistleblower revealed Tuesday [June 24] that seven of the patients listed on the Phoenix VA hospitals waiting list are already dead. That same Phoenix facility spent \$20 million to build the nation’s largest solar carport. Phase one of the project was completed in 2011. The hospital also had an \$11.4 million shortfall that year, an Inspector General’s report stated. ...The Phoenix hospital is not the only VA hospital to have installed solar panels while hiding long wait times. Millions in stimulus funds were used to install panels on two facilities, one Albuquerque, N.M., and another in nearby Tucson, Ariz.. With the latter, the VA spent \$14.7 million between 2010 and 2012 to install solar panels on the roof of its medical center. The contract was awarded to REC Solar, the sixth-largest recipient of stimulus funds from the VA. ...During the time the VA was made aware that wait times were being falsified, it was spending nearly \$15 million to fund solar panels for the hospital.” [60959]

WashingtonExaminer.com reports, “Internal Revenue Service officials will have to explain to a federal judge July 10 why the tax agency didn’t inform the court that Lois Lerner’s emails had been lost. U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Emmett G. Sullivan quickly granted a motion filed earlier today by attorneys for Judicial

Watch seeking a courtroom status conference ‘as soon as possible to discuss the IRS’s failure to fulfill its duties to this court under the law, as well as other ramifications of this lawsuit.’” At Observer.com Sidney Powell notes that Sullivan is “a federal judge who has the integrity and fortitude to seek Justice—and this isn’t his first whack at the Department of Justice either. ...Mark July 10 in RED on your calendars. ...Judge Sullivan is the judge who [has previously] held federal prosecutors in contempt, dismissed an unjust indictment against a United States Senator, and publicly excoriated the Department of Justice. He also had the moral conviction, courage and gumption to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the Justice Department and the individual prosecutors. ...Yesterday, Lois Lerner’s troubles seemed so far away, goes the old song. Now it looks as though they’re here to stay. ...Emmet G. Sullivan is one judge who knows a cover-up when he sees one. He has seen this movie before. On July 10, someone should sell admission to the courtroom and set up concession booths outside.” [60974, 60975, 60976]

It is worth noting that in 2008 the Democrats used trumped-up charges of federal corruption to attack Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK). The charges led to his indictment. After additional evidence came out, Stevens was vindicated and the indictment against him was dismissed—but that did not happen until *after* the November 2008 election, in which Stevens was narrowly defeated by Democrat Mark Begich. The charges were phony, but the Democrats, Obama, and Attorney General Eric Holder got what they wanted: the 60th Democrat vote in the Senate for ObamaCare. Judge Emmet Sullivan excoriated the Department of Justice, which was found to have engaged in gross prosecutorial misconduct. In August 2010 Stevens was killed in a plane crash in Alaska. (Begich is seeking reelection in November 2014 and may very well lose—probably because of his vote for ObamaCare.) Sullivan will not have forgotten the shady dealings of the Department of Justice in the Stevens case, and is unlikely to accept weak excuses from that agency and the IRS about Lois Lerner’s lost emails. [60974, 60975, 60976]

NYPost.com reveals additional revelations from Edward Klein’s book, *Blood Feud*. “Scathing attacks” on Obama came from Hillary Clinton “as the wine was flowing at a May 2013 dinner at Le Jardin Du Roi, a cozy French bistro near the Clinton family home in Westchester [New York]” according to Klein. “When her friends asked Hillary to tell them what she thought—really thought—about [Obama], ...she lit into Obama with a passion that surprised them all,” writes Klein. Clinton told friends, “The thing with Obama is that he can’t be bothered, and there is no hand on the tiller half the time. That’s the story of the Obama [administration]. No hand on the f–king tiller. Obama has turned into a joke. The IRS targeting the Tea Party, the Justice Department’s seizure of AP phone records and [Fox reporter] James Rosen’s e-mails—all these scandals. Obama’s allowed his hatred for his enemies to screw him the way Nixon did.” According to Klein, Clinton referred to Obama’s foreign policy as “incompetent and feckless.” Clinton also observes, “Obama has treated Bill and me incredibly shabbily. And we’re angry. He agreed to the arrangement [for us to help him get reelected in 2012 if he helped me get elected in 2016] but then he reneged on the deal. His word isn’t worth s–t. The bad blood between us is just too much to overcome.” (Some might suggest that Clinton be invited to

as many parties as possible and continually served liquor in order to get her to reveal the complete truth about Benghazi.) [60966, 60967, 60969, 61978]

In Montana, the *Billings Gazette* apologizes for having endorsed Obama, writing, “Sometimes, you have to admit you’re wrong. And, we were wrong. We said that things couldn’t get much worse after the sub par presidency of George W. Bush. But, ...Obama’s administration has us yearning for the good ol’ days when we were at least winning battles in Iraq.” After listing some of Obama’s failures and abuses of power, the *Gazette* concludes, “These are all signs—none of them definitive on their own, necessarily. However, when taken in completely, these demonstrate a disturbing trend of incompetence and failure. It’s not just that Americans are in a sour mood about national politics. That’s probably part of it. Instead, Obama has become another in a line of [leaders] long on rhetoric and hopelessly short on action. Obama’s hope and change have left liberals and conservatives alike hoping for real change, not just more lofty rhetoric.” [60978, 60979, 60980, 61031, 61132]

ABC News reports, “More than 30 soldiers in the Mexican Army crossed the border into Texas in Humvees on Tuesday [June 24] before being processed and allowed to return to Mexico. According to Customs and Border Patrol [CBP] spokesman Rick Pauza, the accidental invasion occurred when 33 soldiers in four Humvees started crossing a bridge across the Rio Grande at Donna, Texas, and then realized they couldn’t turn their vehicles around without entering the U.S. A local newspaper, the Monitor of McAllen, Texas, reported that the Mexicans were chasing a resident of South Texas when they drove onto the bridge. Without addressing the reason for the crossing, Pauza confirmed to ABC News that the incident had occurred and called it ‘inadvertent.’ ‘There are times when an incident such as this occurs,’ said Pauza. ‘CBP has established protocols in place to handle such incident and all personnel have been processed as per those protocols. They returned to Mexico without incident.’ In a statement, Mexico’s National Ministry of Defense also confirmed that the incident had occurred, calling it ‘involuntary,’ and said it had happened ‘due to the vehicle turnaround being on the American side.’ The statement did not say why the Humvees drove onto the bridge.” [61004]

The U.S. Air Force threatens InfoWar.com journalist Kit Daniels with fines and imprisonment if he again attempts to photograph the illegal immigrant holding facility at Lackland Air Force Base. [61217]

On June 28 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) tours a Border patrol facility in Brownsville, Texas and then holds a press conference to push “comprehensive immigration reform.” She says, “What we just saw was so stunning, if you believe as we do, that every child, every person, has the spark of divinity in them, and is therefore worthy of respect, what we saw in those rooms was [a] dazzling, sparkling array of God’s children, worthy of respect. ... We are all Americans in this hemisphere—North and South America. ... We have to use the crisis—that some view as a crisis, and it does have crisis qualities—as an opportunity to show who we are as Americans.” Pelosi also claims it is incorrect to say the border is insecure, and says, “wish that I could take all those

children home with me.” (Of course, if the border were secure there would be no children for her to feel sorry for.) [60961, 60962, 60984, 60987, 61051]

Barack “Your cares and your concerns are my own” Obama plays golf at Fort Belvoir—his eighth golf weekend in a row. [60963]

Benghazi attacker Ahmed Abu Khatallah arrives in the United States aboard the USS New York and is taken to federal court in Washington, D.C., where he pleads not guilty. [60971, 60972]

In his weekly radio/Internet address, a whiny Obama says, “Republicans in Congress keep blocking or voting down almost every serious idea. This year alone they’ve said no to raising the minimum wage, no to fair pay, no to student loan reform, no to extending unemployment insurance. This obstruction keeps the system rigged for those at the top and rigged against the middle class. And as long as they insist on doing it, I’ll keep taking actions on my own—like the actions I’ve already taken to attract new jobs, lift workers’ wages and help students pay off their loans. I’ll do my job.” The GOP counters with an address by Congressman Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who says Obama “continues to oppose job-creating projects, such as [the] Keystone [XL pipeline]. Sadly, Democrats in Washington stand with ...Obama rather than standing with hardworking families in Louisiana and elsewhere. They would rather your family struggle than offend their political base. ...Obama and his allies like Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid are more interested in rolling out the red tape than the red carpet for these jobs.” [60986, 61000]

The White House announces that Obama will request \$2 billion from Congress in emergency funds for dealing with the border crisis. According to HotAir.com, “There aren’t a lot of specifics being offered yet, but they include sending more immigration judges to Texas and building new detention facilities for those who have been caught already and are awaiting a court hearing. There was no mention of additional enforcement personnel, border strengthening or electronic surveillance improvements.” (In other words, Obama doesn’t want to stop people from crossing the border, he just wants more money to deal with them after they do. More judges for court hearings means little when most of the illegal immigrants fail to show up in court.) If 100,000 children cross the border during the year, Obama’s \$2 billion request represents \$20,000 per child. It also represents about \$1 million for each mile of border between the United States and Mexico. [61001, 61042]

TheGatewayPundit.com notes, “The US Air Force kicked Christian Gideon’s volunteers off base in March. The Bibles were too offensive and violated the separation of church and state rule. But US military personnel are expected to adhere [to] Islamic practices during Ramadan. Stars and Stripes reported: ‘U.S. personnel [stationed in Bahrain who are] accustomed to drinking their coffee on the drive to work will have to put that habit on hold for about a month. It’s one of a few lifestyle changes Americans will have to make during the holy month of Ramadan. ...While not required to fast during Ramadan, in Bahrain, Americans can be fined or detained by local authorities for eating, drinking or smoking in public when off-base during daylight hours. Navy officials are requiring U.S.

personnel to dress more conservatively off-base during Ramadan. Although not a requirement by Bahraini authorities, the Navy is demanding that men wear long-sleeved shirts and women wear sleeved blouses that cover their elbows. Also, men must wear long trousers, and women should wear pants or skirts that cover the knees.” [60989]

On *Justice With Jeanine*, Judicial Watch’s Chris Farrell comments on a July 10 hearing at which the IRS will have to explain to Judge Emmet G. Sullivan why it did not previously inform the court that Lois Lerner’s emails had been destroyed. Farrell states, “We’ve been involved in litigation for months now. And in fact, the revelations that have come about are because of our litigation to force the IRS to produce records... They never mentioned... to us or the court about the supposedly lost emails. So, we forced them into court. They need to appear on July 10... The real problem with the IRS in this case is they’ve been in communication with the court and they have *never* told the court about these missing or lost emails. So they’ve made what appear to be false and misleading statements to the court about the records themselves and how they’re producing them to us. They’ve pinned themselves in a corner. They are in real trouble.” [60974, 60975, 60976, 61003]

On June 29, the first day of Ramadan, Sunni militants in ISIS declare the establishment of their Muslim caliphate. Group spokesman Abu Mohammed Al Adnani renames ISIS the “Islamic State,” and says, “We have had all the requirements of the Islamic state like fundraising, almsgiving, penalties, and prayers and still have only one thing which is the caliphate. The legality of all emirates, groups, states, and organizations, becomes null by the expansion of the caliph’s authority and arrival of its troops to their areas.” Adnani says the action signifies “a new era of international jihad.” According to *The Wall Street Journal*, “The spokesman also declares the group’s leader, Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, as the new Islamic State’s caliph. [Al Baghdadi was released from U.S. custody in 2009.] The recorded message was recorded on an Mp3 audio file and distributed through the group’s expansive social media presence.” Pamela Geller warns, “In Sunni Islamic law only the caliph is authorized to declare offensive jihad against non-Muslim states. Right now all jihads have to be defensive, which is why jihadis always haul out a laundry list of bogus grievances when they’re explaining why they kill. But now no such justifications will be needed. Expect the jihad against the West to step up in intensity.” [69015, 69016, 61044, 61050, 61070, 61071, 61150]

Meanwhile, Boko Haram in Nigeria celebrate what Obama calls “the blessed month of Ramadan” by burning five churches and killing as many as 100 Christians in the village of Kwada. (Obama has no comment.) [61017]

*The New York Times* reports on the battle that pits Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) against Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) in the contest for Schatz’s senate seat. After the death of Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) in 2012, Democrat Governor Neil Abercrombie selected Schatz to complete the remainder of Inouye’s term, *even though* the revered Inouye had made it known he preferred Hanabusa. The *Times* writes, “Eighteen months later, the decision to defy one of the most popular politicians in Hawaii history [Inouye] has come back to rock Mr. Abercrombie and the Democratic Party,

setting off a backlash that threatens to topple both Mr. Schatz and the governor—who had already been struggling during an occasionally tumultuous first term—in the Democratic primary on Aug. 9. ...To add to the intrigue, ...Obama, who grew up in Honolulu, has made a rare intervention in a Democratic primary. He has endorsed Mr. Schatz, who supported him in the 2008 Democratic presidential contest; Ms. Hanabusa and Mr. Inouye backed Hillary Rodham Clinton. As a result, the primary vote is shaping up as test of clout between [Obama] and a dead senator. Mr. Abercrombie's primary opponent is David Ige, a longtime member of the State Senate. In a poll released this month by Honolulu Civil Beat, an online news organization, Mr. Ige led Mr. Abercrombie 48 percent to 37 percent, a particularly stunning result, given that the governor's spending on television advertising had dwarfed that of Mr. Ige. The news organization said it had been so surprised to find Mr. Ige with a double-digit lead when it first polled in May that it polled again in June." [61032]

What *The New York Times* fails to do is to tell the rest of the story with regard to Abercrombie and Schatz. Abercrombie was a friend of Barack Hussein Obama, Sr. when he attended the University of Hawaii in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Over the years, Abercrombie, who has worked openly with the Democratic Socialists of America and has been linked to the same Marxist New Party to which the younger Obama belonged, has claimed that he never saw Obama, Sr. with Stanley Ann Dunham. At other times he has stated that he did see them together with their infant. (Abercrombie's wife, Nancie Caraway, is a member of the Democratic Socialists of America's Feminist Commission. In 2006, then-Congressman Abercrombie was the only member of Congress to vote against suspending aid to the terrorist group Hamas.) Abercrombie has also claimed, "I was here when that baby [Obama] was born." As the new governor of Hawaii, Abercrombie promised to provide proof that Obama was born in Hawaii. He never did, citing "privacy laws" as an excuse. Abercrombie has claimed that he remembers "seeing Obama as a child with his parents at social events" and "I remember him playing in a Tee-Ball league" at age 5 or 6. That is a lie, because by that time Obama, Sr. had already left Hawaii, attended Harvard, and returned to Kenya, while the child Obama was living in Jakarta, Indonesia with his mother and step-father, Lolo Soetoro.

BirtherReport.com has reported, "During an interview on the KQRS morning radio show on January 20, [2011] Mike Evans, a long-time friend of Hawaii governor Neil Abercrombie, shared a conversation he had with the governor the day prior. ...Evans, Honolulu born and now a Hollywood-based celebrity journalist, claimed that Abercrombie had promised him that he when he became governor, he planned to find absolute proof that Obama was born in Hawaii. When Evans spoke to Abercrombie on January 19, Abercrombie reportedly told him that he searched the relevant Hawaii hospitals using his powers as governor, and concluded, according to Evans, 'There is no ...Obama birth certificate in Hawaii, absolutely no proof at all that Obama was born in Hawaii.' After Abercrombie made such a fuss about finding the birth certificate, Evans concluded of his friend that he has 'got some egg in the face.'" Meanwhile, WND.com reported, "Former [May–September 2008] Hawaii elections clerk Tim Adams has now signed an affidavit swearing he was told by his supervisors in Hawaii that no long-form, hospital-generated birth certificate existed for Barack Obama Jr. in Hawaii and that

neither Queens Medical Center nor Kapi'olani Medical Center in Honolulu had any record of Obama having been born in their medical facilities.” Adams states in the affidavit, “During the course of my employment, I became aware that many requests were being made to the City and County of Honolulu Elections Division, the Hawaii Office of Elections, and the Hawaii Department of Health from around the country to obtain a copy of then-Senator Barack Obama’s long-form, hospital-generated birth certificate. ...Senior officers in the City and County of Honolulu Elections Division told me on multiple occasions that no Hawaii long-form, hospital-generated birth certificate existed for Senator Obama in the Hawaii Department of Health, and there was no record that any such document had ever been on file in the Hawaii Department of Health or any other branch or department of the Hawaii government.” Adams relates to WND.com, “My supervisor came and told me, ‘Of course, there’s no birth certificate. What? [Are] You stupid?’”

Abercrombie’s lieutenant governor was Brian Schatz. Ten major candidates in the state ran for that office. Schatz received endorsements from top Democrat leaders—and from *Maya Soetoro-Ng, Obama’s half-sister*. Some might ask what made Schatz stand out from the rest of the field. The answer is that Schatz had been the chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawaii and he had signed Obama’s certificate of state party nomination in 2008. Paul R. Hollrah has noted, “Because Hawaii has specific certification requirements under Hawaii Revised Statutes §11-113,” the Democrat National Committee certification sent to the State of Hawaii read, “THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the National Convention of the Democrat Party of the United States of America, held in Denver, Colorado, on August 25 though (sic) 28, 2008, the following were duly nominated candidates of said Party for President and Vice President of the United States respectively, and that the following candidates for President and Vice President of the United States are legally qualified to serve under the provisions of the United States Constitution.” The certifications to the other 49 states intentionally *omitted* the phrase: “... and that the following candidates for President and Vice President of the United States are legally qualified to serve under the provisions of the United States Constitution.” But Hawaiian law *forced* the Democrats to insert language they knew to be false in the certification for that state. Some assume that Schatz knew Obama had no legitimate Hawaiian birth certificate and agreed to support the false certification on the condition that he receive promises of “career support.” Thus, the Democrat Party of Hawaii and Abercrombie (and Obama) owed Schatz a substantial favor, and that favor meant ignoring Senator Inouye’s dying wishes to support Hanabusa.

It is worth reminding readers that it was Abercrombie who unexpectedly removed Dr. Neal A. Palafox from the position of Director of the Department of Health in Hawaii. Abercrombie had made Palafox the director on December 18, 2010. On December 27, 2010 Abercrombie announced he would resolve the “birther” issue. On January 20, 2011 Abercrombie announced that he could not find the birth certificate but that information “actually exists in the archives, written down.” On January 26, 2011 Abercrombie replaced Palafox with Loretta Fuddy. On April 25, 2011 Fuddy miraculously “found” the birth certificate document Abercrombie could not locate and released it to attorney Judith L. Corley of Perkins Coie—the high-profile law firm that had, at substantial cost, been

defending Obama eligibility lawsuits in court. In December 2013, Fuddy was killed in a bizarre plane crash in which no one else was even injured. At AmericanThinker.com Dr. Jason Kissner, associate professor of criminology at California State University, Fresno, noted that Fuddy was a leader of a small cult called “Subud” that has roots in Indonesia and connections to Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham. The name “Barry Soebarkah” appears on one of Obama’s mother’s passport documents in a section for her children. It is suspected that Soebarkah may be a Subud name given to Obama. (Loretta Fuddy’s Subud name was “Deliana.”) Interestingly, Obama bears a *striking* resemblance to Bapak (“Father”) Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo (1901–1987), the founder of Subud. [72, 239, 243, 244, 253, 388, 408, 422, 431, 432, 508, 562, 719, 746, 783, 1280, 1282, 1362, 1987, 4624, 4631, 4632, 4633, 4705, 4812, 7873, 7874, 7875, 10896, 13046, 13068, 13624, 13636, 13647, 13667, 16403, 16793, 16603, 16607, 16612, 16613, 16614, 16641, 16649, 16667, 16793, 16990, 16991, 17016, 17019, 17026, 17030, 17038, 17039, 17044, 17045, 17049, 17053, 17059, 17062, 17071, 17076, 17078, 17084, 17088, 17089, 17090, 17091, 18289, 18290, 20083, 20129, 20179, 20180, 20181, 20182, 20272, 41059, 41065, 41075, 41374, 52380, 52381, 52399, 52400, 52404, 52414, 52415, 52422, 52464, 52465, 52469, 52471, 52478, 52527, 52723, 52760, 52772, 52812, 53394, 53396, 53899, 53900, 53901, 53902, 53918, 53919, 53920, 53921, 53922, 53923, 53945, 54084, 54085, 54209, 54391, 54392, 54393, 54395, 54396, 54397, 54398, 54399, 54400, 54401, 54402, 54403, 54418, 54440, 54469, 54470, 54473, 54480, 54635, 54726, 55907, 58792, 59126, 67745]

Mike Adams warns at NaturalNews.com, “The federal government’s policies of allowing the mass migration of infectious disease-carrying people into the United States while transporting them to America’s largest cities is a ‘perfect blueprint’ for seeding a deadly pandemic. Right now, we are witnessing the engineering of a public health and humanitarian disaster optimized for rapid disease transmission that puts all Americans at risk.” There are “Over 30,000 illegal immigrants... flooding into Texas each month” and “virtually none of these immigrants are being properly screened for infectious disease. ...Some of these immigrants have already been found to carry swine flu, AIDS, influenza, scabies, lice and other diseases that are made worse by the highly unsanitary conditions in which these immigrants are living during their travels. ...There is no quarantine in place, and there is no plan to require medical screening of these people. ...Instead, these immigrants are loaded onto buses and shipped to other large U.S. cities (like Phoenix, Arizona) to be dumped onto the open streets, regardless of what infectious diseases they carry. ...[T]his [is] the ‘perfect storm’ of infectious disease. And the White House stance of standing down while this public health crisis worsens is beyond reprehensible... it is negligent and dangerous to us all. It almost seems as if a runaway pandemic is what this administration wants. Unable to accomplish anything based on its failed philosophies of usurpation and despotism, this administration’s only remaining tool seem to be fomenting crisis, then exploiting that crisis for political gain.” Adams points out the hypocrisy of the government’s demands that “even a healthy child with excellent hygiene and zero symptoms of any sickness must be denied a public education if they refuse to be vaccinated against diseases that haven’t existed in America for decades (such as polio)” while administration officials “openly welcome massive waves of illegal immigrant children flooding across the border in the United States regardless of what



diseases they may be carrying: AIDS, swine flu, tuberculosis, influenza and others. After all, those are future Democratic voters!” [60990]

Adams writes, “If you wanted to cause a disease epidemic across the United States, how would you accomplish that? You’d find a group of infected people and then transplant them to the large population centers across the country so that they could infect as many others as possible. If possible, you’d use airports to accelerate the multiplication effect of infectious disease, too. ...And if you look at where these immigrants are being ‘dumped’ across America, it’s not in rural areas with low population density. No, they are being let off the buses in some of America’s highest-population-density cities like Phoenix, Houston and San Antonio. ...Even if the spread of infectious disease is not the deliberate intention of these actions, it is nevertheless an unintentional effect of them. That this is allowed to happen in America today is highly irresponsible and beyond medical negligence. The Obama administration, through its refusal to halt this wave of immigrations and secure the border, is putting the health of all Americans at risk and punishing all those immigrants who followed the rules and obtained immigration legally. ...Obama is now exposing EVERYONE in America to infectious disease risk by refusing to enforce immigration law. We are quite literally under a human wave biological attack, intentional or otherwise. Under orderly immigration, there are rigorous medical checks required for each new immigrant. Those medical requirements do a good job of screening out most infectious disease. But under this human wave of immigration chaos that’s now invading Texas and overrunning small towns, there are no legitimate medical checks being conducted at all.” [60990]

At the White House, leftist immigration advocates meet with Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett and Cecilia Munoz, head of the Domestic Policy Council. (Munoz has previously stated that deportation should only be for “people who have been convicted of crimes or pose a security risk.” In Munoz’s first year in the White House, government cash to the influential and politically-connected [and racist] National Council of La Raza more than doubled from \$4.1 million to \$11 million.) Obama joins the meeting in progress and, according to Major Garrett at NationalJournal.com, Obama stated that he had told House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), “I’m going to keep my promise and move forward with executive action [on illegal immigration issues] soon.” Obama “made it clear he would press his executive powers to the limit. He gave quiet credence to recommendations from La Raza and other immigration groups that between 5 million to 6 million adult illegal immigrants could be spared deportation under a similar form of deferred adjudication he ordered for the so-called Dreamers in June 2012.” (Obama actions may please leftist pro-amnesty groups in the United States, but they will make it more difficult for Democrat Senators in swing states to win reelection. Obama apparently does not care. He may feel that losing a few Democrat legislators in 2014 is a small price to pay for millions of additional Democrat voters in the future.) [227, 228, 337, 5081, 5082, 21615, 23636, 23638, 23642, 23658, 23662, 25500, 28075, 28101, 28171, 61323]

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, a Democrat, announces a plan for the county to house and care for about 2,000 illegal immigrant children. According to DallasNews.com, “Jenkins put together the proposal with federal officials. The feds will pay for the cost of

housing the children in two cities and potentially three facilities. Jenkins did not seek a vote from fellow [county] commissioners... [Jenkins is] an unabashed loyalist of ...Obama. He's one of the biggest cheerleaders of his fellow local Democrats, most notably Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins. Jenkins is one of the few Democratic elected officials who have said, without qualification, that Wendy Davis will beat Greg Abbott for governor in November's general election." (Whether Jenkins is aware of plans for monumental vote fraud to get Davis elected is unclear.) [61239, 61240]

The White House confirms that Obama will nominate former Procter and Gamble executive Robert McDonald to head the Department of Veterans Affairs. [60996]

According to WashingtonTimes.com, "more than 50 whistleblowers... say the Veterans Affairs Department retaliated against them for trying to do their jobs." [61039]

Lois Lerner's attorney, William Taylor III, appears on CNN's *State of the Union* to defend her against charges of complicity in the IRS scandal and to argue, "This is election-year politics; it's convenient to have a demon that they [Republicans] can create and point to." [60998, 61036]

On ABC's *This Week*, Obama says, "We have seen Europeans sympathetic to their [jihadists'] cause traveling into Syria and [who] may now travel into Iraq, getting battle-hardened. Then they come back. [They] "have a European passport[s]. They don't need visas to get into the United States. Now, we are spending a lot of time, and we have been for years, making sure we are improving intelligence to respond to that. We have to improve our surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence there. Special forces are going to have a role. And there are going to be times where we take strikes against organizations that could do us harm." (Obama neglects to mention that there are also holders of U.S. passports who have traveled to the Middle East to join the terrorists, and they will be even more difficult to stop if they decide to return home and commit acts of terrorism. According to Congressman Peter King (R-NY), a member of the Homeland Security Committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, "Not only are there thousands of Europeans who have visas to get into the United States going to Syria, but there are 100-plus Americans over there in Syria right now." On Twitter, Nasser Muthana, a Muslim from Great Britain, posts photos of bombs he has made in Syria, and warns, "UK is afraid I come back with skills I've gained.") [61014, 61164]

In an NBC puff-piece on Obama advisor Valerie Jarrett, the camera reveals a photograph of Jarrett in her office that has three plastic figurines bowing down to worship her image. (Jarrett is known for her dictatorial and abusive style. She responds to criticism with a Twitter message: "Don't worry friends, it was a gag gift. Us [sic; we] strong women don't need worship—just an economy for the 21st century.") [61084, 61085, 61086, 61111, 61131, 61142]

In Tel Aviv, tens of thousands gather in support of three teenagers abducted by Muslims, carrying signs that read, “Bring Back Our Boys,” “Obama, Where Is Your Support Now?” and “USA: Stop Support 2 [for] Terror.” (Meanwhile, the jihadists of ISIS gain a stronger foothold in Gaza, closing in on Israel.) [61010, 61011, 61012, 61013]

On June 30 members of the Israeli army find the bodies of Gilad Shaar, Eyal Yifrach, and Naftali Frankel, the three teenagers kidnapped by Hamas. (Frankel is a U.S. citizen.) Without using strong terms at all, White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “We obviously condemn in the strongest possible terms violence that takes the lives of innocent victims.” (Palestinians attack the ambulances carrying the bodies, smashing windows and spray painting the vehicles.) [61018, 61019, 61072, 61073]

The Supreme Court rules 5–4 in *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby* that for-profit employers with religious objections can opt out of providing contraception coverage under Obamacare. According to WhiteHouseDossier.com, “The five to four decision in the case... has Justice Anthony Kennedy as the swing vote siding with conservatives Alito, Thomas, Scalia and Roberts. The decision means that employers can opt out of the contraception requirement because of religious objections. ‘The Court says that the government has failed to show that the mandate is the least restrictive means of advancing its interest in guaranteeing cost-free access to birth control,’ according to ScotusBlog. The decision hardly guts Obamacare, but it complicates the application of the law and provides yet more evidence of the Obama administration’s overreach and willingness to wade into private lives in order to advance its agenda.” [61005, 61020, 61022, 61025, 61028, 61030, 61043, 61048, 61049]

Leftists are predictably outraged, posting Twitter messages such as, “Fuck you, Hobby Lobby, you narrow-minded, anti-women pieces of shit!!!!!!” “I will not take my dollars or my lesser-than uterus to Oklahoma-based company #HobbyLobby ever again. FUCK YOU GUYS.—” “Fuck SCOTUS. Fuck Hobby Lobby. Fuck religion. Fuck America.—” “Fuck you Hobby Lobby, I hope all your stores burn to the ground. Fuck you, fuck you, FUCK YOU!!!!!!—” “Hobby Lobby. Time to burn that shit down.—” Leftist activist Sandra Fluke tweets, “Supreme Court rules that bosses can deny employees coverage of birth control. #HobbyLobby #NotMyBossBusiness—” The ruling denies no one birth control; it merely states that employers cannot be forced to pay for it if they object on religious grounds. Fluke does not comprehend the irony of the Twitter handle, #NotMyBossBusiness. One’s boss should not have to pay for something that is not his or her business. (Placards quickly sprout up that read, “Birth Control: Not My Boss’s Business”—carried by mindless protesters who believe birth control is nevertheless their boss’s responsibility.) [61005, 61020, 61022, 61025, 61028, 61030, 61043, 61048, 61049, 61090, 61229]

Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) tweets, “Can’t believe we live in a world where we’d even consider letting big corps [corporations] deny women access to basic care based on vague moral objections,” and “The current Supreme Court has headed in a very scary direction.” (Hobby Lobby is not “denying women access to basic health care.” The company’s employees have health insurance that covers 16 types of contraceptives, but

does not cover abortifacients—“morning after” pills. No employee is, of course, prohibited from obtaining such drugs on her own. Should Warren run for president in 2016 she may be the darling of the leftist Democrat Party base, but using the words “vague moral objections” to those who oppose abortions will cause her to lose the votes of many reasonable people.) [61056, 61057]

Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) says, “Since the Supreme Court decided it will not protect women’s access to health care, I will. Your health care decisions are not your boss’s business—period. In the coming days, I will work with my colleagues and the administration to protect this access, regardless of who signs your paycheck.” (What legislation Murray has in mind is not clear.) [61095]

White House press secretary Josh Earnest tells reporters, “Today’s decision jeopardizes the health of the women who are employed by these companies. As millions of women know first hand, contraception is often vital to their health and well-being. That’s why the Affordable Care Act ensures that women have coverage for contraceptive care, along with other preventative care like vaccines and cancer screenings. We will work with Congress to make sure that any women affected by this decision will still have the same coverage of vital health services as everyone else. ...So that’s what we’re—that’s what we’re focused on. And we believe that this, because of the Supreme Court decision today, that Congress should act to address the concerns of the women who are affected by this decision.” (If Earnest believes the health of women is jeopardized, how does he explain how they received health care prior to the passage of ObamaCare? Had Hobby Lobby employees been dropping dead in the streets before ObamaCare was passed, the media would surely have reported it. Shamelessly, Earnest tosses in a reference to vaccines and cancer screenings, to plant a subliminal message that anyone who supports the Supreme Court’s Hobby Lobby decision wants to deny women vaccines and cancer treatment. The decision, of course, does not jeopardize anyone’s health; it merely changes the identity of the payer of some health services.) [61095]

While leftists and abortion supporters voice outrage at the Hobby Lobby decision, many others call it victory for religious freedom. Those who rejoice in the decision also exaggerate the importance of the ruling, forgetting that the Supreme Court did *not* rule against ObamaCare altogether. Left standing is the unconstitutional legislation that forces employers to provide employees with particular benefits, and forces individuals to buy insurance they may not want or need. The Supreme Court did *not* rule that freedoms cannot be infringed; it ruled only on the *degree* to which they can be infringed. (If the issue were a military draft, for example, those who advocate freedom would argue that the government cannot force young men to serve in the armed forces for two years. If the Court were to rule that a one-year service requirement could be imposed, that would hardly “strike a blow for freedom.”) Additionally, all the Court ruled was that Hobby Lobby does not have to pay for abortifacients for its employees. It did not rule that ObamaCare’s regulations cannot continue to force insurers to provide abortifacients in their ObamaCare-compliant plans. Thus, Hobby Lobby employees will still be able to get abortifacients, but the insurance company will not “officially” include those costs in its Hobby Lobby premiums. Obama has already “decreed” that insurers provide

abortifacients to employees of religious institutions who are exempt from the ObamaCare rule. He can just as easily demand that Hobby Lobby's insurer do the same. Obama probably will do so—but not until after he and his fellow Democrats have milked the issue for all it is worth and collected as much as they can in campaign contributions from voters who are being intentionally misled about the reality of the court ruling. [61141]

Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz calls the Hobby Lobby lawsuit “a monumentally insignificant case. Why is it insignificant? First of all, it was not a constitutional decision, it was a construction of a statute. Second, the effect will be that not a single woman will be denied contraceptive care, birth control care, the opinion made it clear that there are alternatives by which the women can get adequate contraceptive care, and won't be burdened in any way.” [61089]

Reuters reports, “White House will consider whether [Obama] can act on his own to mitigate effect of Supreme Court contraception ruling.” (Obama's “solution” may be to have the Department of Health and Human Services formulate a regulation that calls for the federal government—that is, the taxpayers—subsidize the cost of contraceptives and abortifacients provided by insurance companies when employers choose not to include them in their policies.) [61026, 61027]

In *Harris v. Quinn* the Supreme Court rules against a labor union in Illinois that claimed home health care workers are “government workers” and should pay union dues even though their “employer” is the disabled relative who receives payments from the state or federal government. [61023, 61024, 61030, 61043, 61055, 61092, 61770]

Obama announces that he will take executive action with regard to the immigration crisis—but does not provide any details. He says, “I'm beginning a new effort to fix as much of our immigration system as I can on my own, without Congress,” and says his staffers will make a list of “actions my administration can take on our [sic; its] own, within my existing legal authorities, to do what Congress refuses to do and fix as much of our immigration system as we can. I expect their recommendations before the end of summer and I intend to adopt those recommendations without further delay. ...I would greatly prefer Congress actually do something. I take executive action only when we have a serious problem, a serious issue, and Congress chooses to do nothing. And in this situation the failure of House Republicans to pass a darn bill is bad for security, its bad for our economy, and its bad for our future.” (Of course, the “serious problem” is Obama's doing, as it is his administration that has refused to control the border and properly enforce existing immigration laws.) Obama has the opportunity during the address to mention the three teenagers murdered by Hamas in Israel; he says nothing, even though one of the victims is a U.S. citizen. [61021, 61046, 61077, 61387]

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) responds, “[Obama's] own executive orders have led directly to the humanitarian crisis along the Southern border, giving false hope to children and their families that if they enter the country illegally they will be allowed to stay. Additional executive action from [Obama] isn't going to stem the tide of illegal crossings, it's only going to make them worse. ...In our conversation last week, I told

[Obama] what I have been telling him for months: the American people and their elected officials don't trust him to enforce the law as written. Until that changes, it is going to be difficult to make progress on this issue... It is sad and disappointing that—faced with this challenge—[he] won't work with us, but is instead intent on going it alone with executive orders that can't and won't fix these problems.” [61077, 61087]

Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX states, “If [Obama] insists on enacting amnesty by executive order, he will undoubtedly face a lawsuit and will find himself, once again, on the wrong side of the Constitution and the law.” [61087]

Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) states, “The crisis at the border is at least partially due to the Obama administration's lack of enforcement and [Obama's] own policies. If the Obama administration rewards illegality and fails to enforce the laws or secure the border, we're going to be back at this same place in 20 years.” [61077]

According to a Gallup poll, “Americans' confidence in all three branches of the U.S. government has fallen, reaching record lows for the Supreme Court (30%) and Congress (7%), and a six-year low for the presidency (29%). The presidency had the largest drop of the three branches this year, down seven percentage points from its previous rating of 36%.” (In every year in office except his first, Americans have had less confidence in Obama than they had in George W. Bush.) [61029]

Hillary Clinton's popularity falls according to a Zogby poll. WashingtonExaminer.com writes, “In his latest Zogby Analytics survey taken June 27–29, for example, her commanding leads over former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie have shrunk greatly, and she doesn't even receive 50 percent of the vote. Worse, her support among married and wealthy voters has plummeted.” Zogby observes, “Even more than her dwindling leads over GOP contenders is that while she is pretty much running against herself, in a very high-profile book tour, she is losing ground. Her biggest problem, I have always felt, is the inevitability factor. It helped do her in 2007–2008 and right now looks to be her major nemesis. She has this whole playing field to herself and is [nevertheless] declining in the polls. ...It is significant that in every case the runaway favorite again polls under 50 percent and that both Governor Bush and Senator Paul continue to increase their support among key groups. Clinton has almost universal name recognition among likely voters and it is unlikely that she could say or do anything to increase her support base.” (In other words, Most people have already decided they either like or dislike Clinton, while many Americans still know little, for example, about Rand Paul. Clinton may have nowhere to go but down.) [61038]

D. W. Ulsterman writes, “It was an out to the woodshed moment for the Obama White House following a series of recent Supreme Court rulings that have pushed back against the Imperial Presidency and left the administration gnashing its teeth in anger over an ongoing trend that threatens to place them into irrelevant status. (President Jarrett and company are stunned at the forces now aligning against them...) ...We are now witnessing the true turning of the political tide, and hopefully after the 2014 Midterm

Elections, much of the corrupting nature of the current crop of leaders in D.C. will be washed away for good. Word is the mood within the White House is none too pleasant today. (Seething was actually the term used.) Let's hope they are served many more platters of unpleasantness in the coming weeks and months..." [61053]

The next significant ObamaCare-related ruling may come in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The lawsuit, *Halbig v. Sebelius*, challenges the federal government's insurance premium subsidies to taxpayers. The Affordable Care Act states that subsidies are available for those who enroll in insurance plans through exchanges "established by the state." Obama's problem is that 34 states did *not* establish ObamaCare exchanges. Therefore, subsidies should not be provided to anyone in a state that did not establish an exchange. The Obama administration argues that its intention was to make subsidies available to everyone—but that is not what the law states. Judges are supposed to rule on the letter of the law, *not* on intentions. If the Appeals Court (and then the Supreme Court) rules against the administration in *Halbig*, ObamaCare is effectively eliminated in 34 states—because almost no one will be able to afford the insurance without the federal subsidies. [61154, 61309, 61481, 61574]

At WesternJournalism.com Bill Robinson quotes a Pentagon official and soldiers "Jimmy" and "Ron," who note how the Obama administration has pressured troops and officials to keep quiet about deserter Bowe Bergdahl. The Pentagon official states, "This White House and its State/Defense Departments actively silenced our troops and the Pentagon through threats, intimidation, and smear campaigns. They never stopped. ... This government has inflicted a terrible campaign of threats and intimidation on the infantrymen, officers, and commanders in AFG [Afghanistan] at the time of Bergdahl's defection; CIA and intelligence officers and military brass at the Pentagon have been forced to sign egregious NDAs [non-disclosure agreements], gag orders and to take polygraphs on a regular basis to ensure their silence. It's been Draconian and Kafkaesque. ... These brave Americans were made to sign—literally forced to sign—unusually restrictive non-disclosure agreements. It was obvious to them and obvious to us at the Pentagon, that this administration was silencing our soldiers who knew the truth about Bergdahl. They were constructing their own false narrative at that time to sell to the American people. It just wasn't true and twisted the facts 180 degrees. ... The Army brass and Pentagon quickly moved to shut us all up by forcing us to sign NDAs and let us know what would happen if we spoke to civilians or the news media about what happened with Bergdahl. They have continued to contact soldiers who were there with phone calls from unknown numbers and making threats. Even now, as so many brave soldiers who were in Bergdahl's platoon are coming on TV and telling their truths, there are so many more who are afraid to speak out against this White House's interests." [61058, 61059, 61060, 61061]

"All that remains now," the Pentagon official continues, "is for all of us honest Americans who know the truths of this outrage, to come forward aggressively and honorably. We need to come forward about Bergdahl and Benghazi now. We know what the word 'honor' means; we've lived it through our service to America. Though we're all afraid, we now need to speak out, without fear. Though this administration has made

terrible threats to us, there's nothing they can do to stem the tide of decent people who know the truth coming forward. Once we all tell our truths, the game will be over and this government will be removed. As they should be. ...The threats against them and their families have been consistently relayed at these times and more recently, as the WH was preparing for their big Rose Garden press conference announcing Bergdahl's exchange. They've been saying 'Tell all your people at the Pentagon and in the field that they must not speak to other military, the news media or civilians under any circumstances.' They were preparing to spring this big lie about 'bringing one of our own home.' You cannot imagine the chilling effect this had on Americans who had risked their lives for our flag. ...The special forces and CIA guys in Afghanistan at the time Bergdahl defected, and ever since then came under extra close scrutiny by this administration and were given regular polygraphs during all this time. Can you imagine your government doing this to you? ...They threatened the military careers of the soldiers who knew the truth. They threatened the military careers of us in the Pentagon. We were told that we could 'be thrown in Leavenworth to rot' by mysterious voices calling from restricted numbers. They would make threats about 'what might happen to' our families or friends in the military or Pentagon. It was like the Mafia." [61058, 61059, 61060, 61061]

"What the American people really don't know is the awful extent to which this White House and [Obama] have been going around threatening anybody involved in any of the real scandals he's instigated. If journalists Bob Woodward, Ron Fournier, and former Clinton' White House official Lanny Davis are being threatened, can you imagine what [Obama] will do, the lengths he'll go to, to silence soldiers, our military, or ordinary citizens? ...The use of their lapdog news media in America has been one hallmark of the Obama administration. When they can't contain a scandal and their lies start coming out, they simply instruct the media not to cover these stories. Once they have the news media actively covering up their scandals, then they use the media to smear the whistleblowers and truth-tellers. This is one central reason the three of us can't speak out under our own names—Obama's media apparatus will try to discredit, then destroy us." [61058, 61059, 61060, 61061]

Soldier Ron states, "To really understand the threats we received, you only have to look as far as what this White House does to those who dare contradict it. They go right to destroy mode. They use the IRS to destroy opponents, as we've seen in the recent IRS scandal. They use the NSA to spy on regular citizens; you don't think they'll spy on us in the military? Hell, they think they own us. ...It's commonly known in the military, that this White House did the same things post-Bergdahl that they did post-Benghazi. They attempted to scare and silence us using the same tactics. So much is there a connection that there's now an informal group of ex-military and intel service guys who are in touch and talk about the similarities in the two scandals and the fact that we must all speak out and blow the whistle on this administration. ...The troops know that this news media loathes us. Sure, on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, you'll see the occasional news story about the military or veterans; but they serve [Obama] more than anybody. We know they are against us whenever they try and discredit us as we're telling the truth. Not only do the Obama press actively support this administration politically, but they are sent out to destroy anybody who speaks out or has a differing viewpoint. ...All this, was the



same d\*\*n thing they did in Benghazi. They screwed everything up and then built a huge lie about what had transpired, intimidating and threatening the forces that were there, in person and by phone calls from 'restricted' numbers. It's un-American." [61058, 61059, 61060, 61061]

Soldier Jimmy states, "I and my entire family were audited by the IRS. It was suspicious and devastating. They scared us all so much. They levied fines on us without cause and tried to seize assets. We believe they did this only because I knew the truths about Bergdahl. Is this tied-in to the bigger current IRS scandal? I'm certain it is. ... There's no doubt the press works against those of us out risking our lives. It'd be like if you said, 'sure, I'll go out and risk my life for my country and other Americans'; and as soon as you're in combat, you start hearing your own press saying the worst things about you. You can't imagine how that makes us feel. ... This was terribly ironic and betraying. Here we had brave American soldiers, who were risking and had risked their lives for our flag and country, and they're being threatened by the same government that sent them to fight? Horrible." [61058, 61059, 61060, 61061]

ISIS releases an English-language video mocking the United States and Obama that shows jihadists driving around in U.S. military vehicles, brags "Look how much money America spends to fight Islam, and it just ends up in our pockets," and asks, "Obama, did you prepare diapers for your soldiers?" [61074, 61075]

NBC's Richard Engel tweets, "Multiple US intelligence officials tell NBC News that the current terror threat against US targets from #ISIS is 'extremely high,'" and "Americans in #isis. US officials say about seventy US fighters have passed through Syria and about a dozen are currently active there." [61102]

Obama hosts a White House reception to observe LGBT Pride Month. Obama singles out Lawrence Goldyn, one of his gay professors at Occidental College, for praise: "I just wanted to acknowledge him, because he helped shape how I think about so many of these issues, and those sort of quiet heroes that sometimes don't get acknowledged." During the event, Obama also praises the White House's retiring pastry chef, Bill Yosses, saying, "We, we, we call Bill the 'crustmaster,' because, uh, his pies, I don't know what he does, whether he puts crack in them... or... uh... but..." Michelle Obama interrupts, "No he doesn't. There is no crack in our pies." (What prompts Obama to joke about crack cocaine is not known, but it most certainly is another example of his denigrating the office he holds.) [61082, 61083, 61094, 61099, 61156]

On *Special Report*, law professor Jonathan Turley, a liberal, comments on Obama's threat to act without Congress on immigration issues: "For him now to double down makes him look like a bad gambler at Vegas. At some point this is going to cause serious problems for his administration. He's going to start to lose Democrats. [Obama] can't say the solution to gridlock is you simply have to resolve it on my terms. ... Congress is divided because the public is divided in these areas. ... [Obama] was found to be in violation of the Fourth Amendment on privacy, then another case found him in violation

of separation of powers. Now he's been found in violation of religious rights in the First Amendment [in the Hobby Lobby case]. It doesn't get much worse than this..." [61088]

On *The Kelly File*, Megyn Kelly interviews a supercilious, combative, and evasive William Ayers—Obama's terrorist pal and founder of the radical, bomb-planting Weather Underground. (Obama and Ayers both deny that they ever knew each other well and both lie about how long they have known each other. In 2012 WND.com's Jerome Corsi reported that Allen Hulton, the mailman for Ayers' wealthy parents, Thomas and Mary Ayers, once met Obama outside their home in the 1980s—far earlier than Obama admits to having known Ayers. Additionally, Mary Ayers told Hulton that they were helping Obama financially with his education expenses. That would not be surprising, as Thomas Ayers was a close friend of Frank Marshall Davis, Obama's communist mentor in Honolulu during his high school years. William Ayers and Obama also served on the board of the Woods Fund, which was established by Frank Woods, Jr., who owned Sahara Coal. Sahara Coal was the main supplier to Commonwealth Edison, whose CEO was Thomas Ayers. It was the Woods Fund that gave Saul Alinsky's Industrial Area Foundation a \$25,000 grant to hire Obama as a community activist.) [33, 35, 45, 46, 47, 190, 192, 204, 229, 259, 346, 842, 1282, 1283, 61062, 61076, 61081, 61105]

At GotNews.com Charles C. Johnson reports, "A black reverend stiffed by the [Senator Thad] Cochran campaign has exposed an alleged criminal conspiracy by Cochran staffers to commit massive voter fraud ahead of Tuesday's controversial U.S. Senate Republican runoff election in Mississippi. Reverend Stevie Fielder, associate pastor at historic First Union Missionary Baptist Church and former official at Meridian's redevelopment agency, says he delivered 'hundreds or even thousands,' of blacks to the polls after being offered money and being assured by a Cochran campaign operative that Chris McDaniel was a racist. 'They [the Cochran campaign] told me to offer blacks fifteen dollars each and to vote for Thad.' It is illegal under several provisions of Mississippi law and federal law for campaign officials to bribe voters with cash and punishable up to five years in jail. ...At the direction of the Cochran campaign, Reverend Fielder went 'door to door, different places, mostly impoverished neighborhoods, to the housing authorities and stuff like that,' telling fellow blacks that McDaniel was a racist and promising them \$15 per vote. 'They sold me on the fact that he was a racist and that the right thing to do was to keep him out of office,' Fielder says. Text messages released to Got News and a recorded interview with Reverend Fielder confirmed that Saleem Baird, a staffer with the Cochran campaign and current legislative aide to U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, and Cochran campaign manager, Kirk Sims, were involved in a \$15-per-vote cash bribery scheme to target members of the black community." (The Cochran campaign denies the charges.) [61063, 61064, 60165, 61066, 61078, 61110]

"...Fielder said he received thousands of dollars in envelopes from Baird and distributed them accordingly. Fielder also says he went to the campaign office on another occasion to pick up \$300 in cash and was among a room full of people who were doing the same thing he was. Fielder said that Saleem Baird was doing the same thing with people all over the state. Fielder believes that the racism charge against McDaniel and the promise of \$15 a vote motivated 'thousands' of black Democrats like him to vote for Cochran in

the runoff. When asked if Fielder would have been more suspicious of Baird's promises had he been white, Fielder replied, 'Yes, definitely.' For his efforts, Fielder says the Cochran campaign and Baird promised him \$16,000 for paying black voters \$15 a vote, but Baird wound up stiffing him. Baird even asked him to delete all texts between the two of them. In addition to Baird, Fielder says he spoke with Kirk Sims, the Cochran campaign manager, and a woman named "Amanda" with the campaign, most likely Amanda Shook, director of operations to re-elect Thad Cochran. All refused to pay him the agreed upon amount of \$16,000." (The vote-buying scheme may result in another run-off election between Cochran and McDaniel, and one or more Cochran operatives going to jail.) [61063, 61064, 60165, 61066, 61078]

The Israeli Air Force conducts "precision strikes" against 34 Hamas and jihadist targets in Gaza in response to the terrorist organization's murder of three Israeli teenagers. (Obama states, "I also urge all parties to refrain from steps that could further destabilize the situation"—ignoring the fact that the situation was hardly stable in the first place. He does not mention Hamas, or Hamas' Khalad Mashaal, who said, "Blessed be the hands that captured them [the three Israeli teenagers].") [61067, 61068, 61069, 61119, 61120]

In Los Angeles, Dinesh D'Souza has a red-carpet premier for his new patriotic film, *America: Imagine The World Without Her*. (The movie is almost guaranteed to provoke severe criticism from the political left and Obama supporters, while earning substantial box office receipts from conservatives. Like his first film, *2016: Obama's America*, his new film is also likely to get under Obama's thin skin.) [61185]